BYUPAS: BYU Provo Chapter

The 2012-2013 school year ended with a lovely dinner at the Hinckley Alumni Center with a keynote from Governor Herbert. Students relived an exciting school year that included a Presidential election, visits to the Capitol, and numerous guest visitors.

Professor of the Year

Every year, BYUPAS/PSA awards one professor the “professor of the year” award. This professor is selected solely based on a student vote, and thus reflects students’ appreciation for that professor. This year, Professor Scott Cooper was the clear winner of this award. Students were asked to write a little bit about why they voted for the professor they did. Students’ many positive remarks show that Dr. Cooper is both an entertaining and challenging teacher:

“Professor Cooper really puts effort into getting students engaged with the ideas he presents to them. He draws real-world analogies as well as parallels to the world of popular culture to help students understand the material. He’s a friendly, world-class professor.”

“Very clear and organized style of teaching. Demanding courses but you retain a lot of what you learn in Professor Cooper’s classes. I looked forward to attending his classes as the subject material was always discussed in a way that showed its overall importance in political science and the world today and student’s opinions were always treated respectfully.”

“Professor Cooper is very compassionate and passionate in his teaching. Although I didn’t excel in his class, I still felt he cared about my success. I felt he embodied Christlike attributes in trying to help me understand the material and feel confident.”

Student of the Year

This year, BYUPAS/PSA instituted a new award, the “student of the year” award, an award chosen and awarded by the department chair. This year, Brandall Nelson was the well-deserved winner of this award. During his undergraduate career, Brandall has maintained a 4.0 GPA (graduating summa cum laude), completed several legal internships, and participated heavily in student organizations, including BYUPAS/PSA. This upcoming year he will start graduate school in the University of Cambridge’s Master of Public Policy program.

Personally, Brandall is known as a friendly, responsible student. Those with whom he has interacted during his research and tutoring work have been impressed with his strong work ethic. David Romney, the 2013 BYUPAS/PSA President, has this to say about Brandall’s involvement in BYUPAS/PSA:

“Throughout my time in BYUPAS/PSA, Brandall has been one of my most responsive officers. He was always willing to help, whether the task was something he was familiar with or a new challenge to overcome. Most amazingly, in spite of Brandall’s extremely busy schedule, he always completed these tasks in a timely manner, often the same day that I asked him. No matter what I needed, I always knew that I could go to Brandall for help.”
At the conclusion of the 2012–2013 school year, I am so grateful to my officers for helping us organize and carry out a series of truly remarkable events and activities.

This year, we made BYUPAS/PSA history with our Election Night Party, attended by over 600 students. The local and national media coverage that our club obtained as a result of this event were unprecedented, helping BYUPAS/PSA stand out both on and off campus.

The Capitol Trip was also notable for its excellent organization and for the star-studded list of government officials that students got to meet, which included Governor Herbert and the Honorable Thomas Lee of the Utah Supreme Court.

Personally, I would like to thank my vice presidents, Kyrene Gibbs and Brandall Nelson; the special events officers, Blake Day and Stetson Drolet; the publicity officers, Bethanie Thatcher and Cameron Christensen; the historian and social media specialist, Taylor Berhow; the BYUPAS liaisons, Tanner Camp and Kelsey Clark; the Welch’s and Cheese coordinator, Ben Ader; the Sigma staff, David Sturgess, Jade Herrick, and Andy Gonzalez; and the Political Review publisher, James Juchau.

I would also like to thank the faculty advisor, Dr. Chris Karpowitz, for all of his advice and help with the club this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank those in the political science department—Professor Darren Hawkins, Carina Alleman, Kellie Daniels, and the secretaries—who were always willing to give support to our events.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you,

David Romney
2012–2013 BYUPAS/PSA President
At the BYUPAS Dinner this year the following students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society:

Ben Ader
Tanner Camp
Karolyn Campbell
Jadd Carleton
Alex Chandler
Cameron Christensen
Justin Curtis
Kenneth Daines
Blake Day
Ross Garner
Andres Gonzalez
Jordan Hamzawi
Skye Herrick
Neal Hoopes
Nicholai Vania Lazarey
Samuel Lyman
Luke MacDonald
Jeremy Moore
Zachary D. Smith