AMERICA’S GRAND EXPERIMENT WITH SELF GOVERNMENT

A distinguishing characteristic of the United States of America is our experiment with self-governance. From the time when freemen aboard the Mayflower wrote and signed the Mayflower compact, through the opening words of the U.S. Constitution, “We the people . . .,” through the dramatic expansion of self-government in the last century with women’s suffrage, extending the long-delayed rights of citizenship to African Americans, to extending the right to vote to those over 18 years of age, our ethic has been that we govern ourselves. And who is included in those doing the governing has become more inclusive. The most memorable expression of this view is probably Abraham Lincoln’s words from the Gettysburg Address when he asked the nation “to rededicate themselves and to resolve that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.” Underlying this experiment in self-government is what we might call the idea of America, which includes individualism, a desire for self-government, the pursuit of opportunity, as well as a commitment to equality of opportunity, to freedom of religion, and to the importance of economic liberty. BYU Professor David Magleby’s professional life has focused on issues related to elections, participation, and institutions related to self-government. His early work was on the ballot initiative and popular referendum, which were intended to “let the people decide” laws and constitutional amendments. Direct democracy, as the Framers of the Constitution knew, had its limitations. Sometimes the majority has voted to limit the rights of minorities. Sometimes the process has been captured by special interests. But at other times the process has been used to hold accountable state and local governments, especially in cases where one party has been dominant. The American experiment with direct legislation has spread to other countries, notable in the United Kingdom and the recent controversial Brexit vote.

[continued on page 15]
The BYU Department of Political Science, consistent with the aims of a BYU education, intends to foster “Lifelong Learning and Service.”

We hope to provide our alumni with intelligent, thoughtful and sophisticated analysis of important issues, and to act as a catalyst for service in our communities, neighborhoods, nations and the world.

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS

WOMEN WHO RUN ON NOVEMBER 28, 2018
Representatives Becky Edwards, Angela Romero, and Senator Luz Escamilla spoke to the BYU Women in Politics chapter about how they ran for office on Wednesday, November 28th. They also gave advice on any future campaigns.

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS: IMMIGRATION UNDER TRUMP ON DECEMBER 4, 2018
The Civic Engagement Leadership Association hosted a forum called “Crucial Conversations: Immigration Under Trump” on Tuesday, December 4th.

BYU TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY ON DECEMBER 6, 2018
The BYU Tocqueville Society met Thursday, December 6, and discussed superhero movies and how it relates to the millennial identity.

DURHAM LECTURE WITH SENATOR JEFFRY FLAKE ON JANUARY 24, 2019
On Thursday, January 24th, Former United States Senator from Arizona Jeffry Flake presented the Durham Lecture. More info continued on page 5.

UTAH STATE CAPITOL SPEED MENTORING EVENT ON JANUARY 31, 2018
On January 31, 2019, approximately 50 students and 20 mentors participated in the “Utah State Capitol Speed Mentoring Event.” The “Event” occurs on the afternoon and evening, wherein BYU Political Science students received career instructions from a panel of Utah government executives, they took a tour of the beautiful Capitol Building, and then, in a matter of an hour, from 4 to 5 PM, received mentoring advice from 20 different mentors in different offices of the State Capitol, from the Office of General Counsel, to the Public Relations office. The “Speed Mentoring Event” is always exciting and informative and we send a strong thank you to Mike Mower and his family for coordinating and executing this extraordinary experience. Thank you to all the mentors and executives who participating and offered their time and experience to our students.
WINNERS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Thank you to all who participated in the 2nd Annual Political Science Poster Conference on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from noon to 3 PM! We had over 70+ posters and over a hundred student participants. Congratulations to the following award winners:

**First prize ($300):**
Chloe Roblyer and Shae Johnston, “Love of Nation: The Difference between Patriotism and Nationalism”

**Second prize ($200):**
Samantha Frazier and Connor Kreutz, “#MeToo: Analyzing Partisan Behavior in Response to Sexual Misconduct”

**Third prize ($100):**
Abbey Higham and Ashlyn Bodily, “Environmental Attitudes Decoded: How Moral Values Influence Conservative Environmentalism”

**Honorable mention** (in alphabetical order by last name):
Matthew Baldwin, “Mind the Gap: Unequal Political Participation on Social Media”
Madeline Beck, “Don’t Talk to Strangers: Linguistic Diversity and Hostility Towards Refugees”
Kelly Duncan, “Diverging Identities: How Latter-Day Saint Republican Caucus Participants in Utah have Shifted their Perspectives on Religion and Party”
Matthew Easton, “The Democracy of Dating: A Look at Ideology and American Dating Preferences”
Dani Hogan, “The Power of the Pen”
Durham Lecture: Former Senator Jeffry Flake

Senator Jeffry Flake spoke on January 24, 2019, for the Durham Lecture, on themes similar to those in his book: “The Conscience of a Conservative,” which is a rejection of the destructive politics and a return to principal. He said that everyone in Congress pledges to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and that they have a weekly prayer at the Senate. Each week a Senator is asked to talk about their faith journey at a special meeting and they select a song. Senator Flake chose: “I am a Child of God.” If we are going to maintain the vision of our forefathers, then we need to be unified, he said. “Assume the best, look for the good,” was posted on his refrigerator growing up, which was a gentle reminder from his mother to coax out the better angels in her children. Bickering and quarrelling is extensive in Washington. Vitriol and cruelty generally accompanies debate in Congress. Inter-party magnanimity is rarely found today, piling on is encouraged. Senator Flake has wanted to change this feeling in Congress. Hatred is unhealthy for the country as a whole.” We need to return to a healthy government with healthy parties. Understanding and compromise, shared values is essential.

Thank you, Senator Flake, for your inspirational message.

Watch here for the full speech.

Public Affairs Lecture series on Thursday, March 28, at the Kennedy Center’s room, HRCB 238.

Jen Christensen is a Utah-native, with deep roots in her community. She has owned a small business, chaired a charter school board, and worked on a congressional campaign. In the fields of business, government, and education she has development and management experience. After graduating from BYU with a degree in political science Jen worked in the Utah Lt. Governor’s Elections Office. She has experience in fundraising, event planning, and volunteer work. She’s organized large-scale humanitarian projects and small scale service projects closer to home. Jen is active in her church community, teaching, mentoring, and organizing for both youth and adults.

Jen is the Political Director for Better Days 2020. She manages their legislative agenda and relationships with elected officials. She also serves as the Committee Chair for the Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Selection Committee. They have recently selected Utah artist Ben Hammond, for the commission and are eagerly anticipating the installment of the statue in August of 2020 when the nation celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

An avid lover of the outdoors she’s crisscrossed Utah by jeep, by boat, on foot, and by bike. Traveling, seeing new places, and nature make her happy. It’s not uncommon to find her lost in a book or taking charge of the kitchen. Jen is raising three amazing daughters. They thrive on crepes, mostly-healthy home-cooked meals, family traditions, regular get-aways, and adventure.
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Henry David Thoreau (July 12, 1817 – May 6, 1862) was an American essayist, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, development critic, surveyor, and historian. Thoreau graduated from Harvard College in 1837. A leading transcendentalist, Thoreau is best known for his book Walden, a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay “Civil Disobedience” (originally published as “Resistance to Civil Government”), an argument for disobedience to an unjust state.

Thoreau’s books, articles, essays, journals, and poetry amount to more than 20 volumes. Among his lasting contributions are his writings on natural history, philosophical austerity, and Yankee attention to practical detail. He was also deeply interested in the idea of survival in the face of hostile elements, historical change, and natural decay; at the same time he advocated abandoning waste and illusion in order to discover life’s true essential needs.

He was a lifelong abolitionist, delivering lectures that attacked the Fugitive Slave Law while praising the writings of Wendell Phillips and defending the abolitionist John Brown. Thoreau’s philosophy of civil disobedience later influenced the political thoughts and actions of such notable figures as Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. Resistance to Civil Government (Civil Disobedience) was first published in 1849. In it, Thoreau argues that individuals should not permit governments to overrule or atrophy their consciences, and that they have a duty to avoid allowing such acquiescence to enable the government to make them the agents of injustice. Thoreau was motivated in part by his distaste for slavery and the Mexican–American War (1846–1848).

In 1848, Thoreau gave lectures at the Concord Lyceum entitled “The Rights and Duties of the Individual in relation to Government.” This formed the basis for his essay, which was first published under the title Resistance to Civil Government in an 1849 anthology by Elizabeth Peabody called Aesthetic Papers. The latter title distinguished Thoreau’s program from that of the “non-resistants” (anarchopacifists) who were expressing similar views. Resistance also served as part of Thoreau’s metaphor comparing the government to a machine: when the machine was producing injustice, it was the duty of conscientious citizens to be “a counter friction” (i.e., a resistance) “to stop the machine.”

The word civil has several definitions. The one that is intended in this case is “relating to citizens and their interrelations with one another or with the state”, and so civil disobedience means “disobedience to the state.” Sometimes people assume that civil in this case means “observing accepted social forms; polite” which would make civil disobedience something like polite, orderly disobedience. Although this is an acceptable dictionary definition of the word civil, it is not what is intended here. This misinterpretation is one reason the essay is sometimes considered to be an argument for pacifism or for exclusively nonviolent resistance. For instance, Mahatma Gandhi used this interpretation to suggest an equivalence between Thoreau’s civil disobedience and his own satyagraha.
Brent Taylor, 39, North Ogden City Mayor, an alumni of the BYU Political Science Department, died in Afghanistan on Saturday, November 3, 2018 on his fourth deployment. The Utah National Guard said in a statement Saturday that a service member died in an “insider attack” in Kabul on Nov. 3 apparently by one of those he was there to help. Initial reports indicated that the attacker was a member of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, the statement said.

Senator Orrin Hatch wrote on the death of North Ogden Mayor Brent Taylor: “Brent was a hero, a patriot, a wonderful father, and a dear friend. News of his death in Afghanistan is devastating. My prayers and love are with Jennie and his 7 young children. His service will always be remembered.” Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, confirmed that the person who opened fire on Taylor was killed immediately. Taylor is survived by his wife, Jennie, and their seven children who range in age from 11 months to 13 years old.

On May 23, 2019, the Brigham Young University Army ROTC honored Major Brent Taylor’s life and legacy by adding his name to the Wilkinson Student Center Reflection Room’s Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall is a tribute to BYU’s fallen soldiers and includes the names of BYU veterans (students and alumni) who have sacrificed their lives serving their country, from World War I to more current conflicts. Taylor’s name will join 210 other names on the Memorial Wall.

Brent and Jennie Taylor Family Endowed Scholarship
Additionally, the Taylor family announced the new Brent and Jennie Family Endowed Scholarship, awarded each year to an undergraduate political science student at BYU.

“Nearly two decades ago, Brent and I entered this campus with a determination to learn, and we have since gone forth with a lifelong commitment to serve,” said Jennie Taylor. “Please join me, my seven young children and the rest of our family in helping future students of political science carry on Brent’s legacy of sacrifice, statesmanship and service-centered leadership.” If you would like to contribute to the Taylor Family Endowed Scholarship, please contact http://majorbrenttaylor.com/
In October of 2018, David B. Barlow, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah (2011-14), joined the Firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP as a Partner in its Trial Group and Government Enforcement & Corporate Investigations Practice Group in Salt Lake City. He also works regularly from Dorsey’s Washington, D.C., office.

Mr. Barlow’s practice focuses on government and internal corporate investigations as well as business litigation, with particular emphasis on pharmaceutical, medical device and mass tort matters. He joins Dorsey from Walmart, where he served as Vice President, Compliance for Walmart’s $40-billion Health and Wellness business, including more than 8,000 pharmacies, vision centers and medical clinics throughout the United States. Before joining Walmart, he was a partner in Sidley Austin LLP for more than a decade, where he handled government and internal investigations across the United States, Europe and Asia, represented clients in both civil and criminal matters in state and federal courts and litigated a wide range of cases.

He was nominated by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the Senate as U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah in September 2011. Immediately prior to his service as U.S. Attorney, he served from 2010 to 2011 as Senator Mike Lee’s Chief Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In his role as U.S. Attorney from 2011 to 2014, Mr. Barlow led an office of approximately 85 personnel, including 40 Assistant U.S. Attorneys who represented the United States in criminal prosecutions and civil litigation. During his tenure, the office conducted thousands of investigations and prosecutions together with the FBI, IRS, Secret Service, DEA, ATF and many other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. He personally participated in investigations, Grand Jury indictments, plea negotiations and criminal trials during his service as U.S. Attorney. He also served on the DOJ’s national White Collar Crime Subcommittee and Healthcare Fraud Working Group and chaired the Local Government Coordination Working Group. Mr. Barlow also was asked to serve on the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee, the leadership team of U.S. Attorneys across the country, where he represented other U.S. Attorneys in the 10th Circuit and advised on DOJ policy, management and operational issues.

Mr. Barlow has a B.A. degree summa cum laude from Brigham Young University and a J.D. degree from Yale Law School.
KELLY DUNCAN

Graduated April 2019 and about to go on to work at Y2 Analytics.

Kelly Duncan is from Salt Lake City, Utah and graduated BYU studying Political Science with an emphasis in Research and Analysis and minors in Spanish and Communications. Kelly has loved being involved within the department in her roles as a Research Assistant and as the Political Affairs Society Vice President this past school year. Kelly has also been involved within BYU’s Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy (CSED) as a Research Fellow where she works closely with faculty and other students in researching the latest political science data and practicing new research methods. Kelly has a passion for econometrics and recognizes that statistics can be powerful and multilayered when used in political discourse. For that reason, Kelly spent most of 2018 as an intern managing the voter database for the Romney for Utah campaign and after graduation she will be working for a market research firm called Y2 Analytics. Eventually, Kelly plans to earn a Master’s degree in Data Science or Applied Statistics where she hopes to help shape policy that will positively influence people’s lives.

SAMANTHA FRAZIER

Graduated April 2019 and about to go on to work at McKinsey in Los Angeles.

Samantha Frazier is from Highland, Utah and just graduated BYU studying Political Science and Communications. She spent the summer and fall of her sophomore year at Hillary Clinton’s campaign headquarters in New York City working as a Press Advance assistant, traveling with the campaign to press events, media interviews, and campaign rallies around the East Coast. Last summer, Samantha worked on the Corporate Services and Real Estate team at Goldman Sachs’s New York office. A highlight of this experience was assisting with the company’s global environmental and social governance efforts, which allowed Samantha to combine her passion for policy and environmentalism with corporate social responsibility. On campus, Samantha has been involved with a variety of student organizations such as BYU Women in Politics and BYU College Democrats, where she served as President for a year. After graduation, Samantha will be heading to work as a consultant at McKinsey & Company’s Southern California office, where she hopes to focus on solving problems in the public and social sectors. In her free time, you can usually find Samantha running, listening to show tunes, or coming up with absurd conspiracy theories about her favorite reality television shows.
MATT EASTON
Graduated April 2019 as our Valedictorian

Matthew Jeffery Easton, a Political Science graduate, is the son of Jeff and Liz Easton and the third of four children. He grew up in Cottonwood Heights, Utah and served a mission in Sydney, Australia speaking Korean. While at BYU, Matt has worked as a teaching and research assistant in the department, which included conducting public policy research in New Delhi, India. He spent last summer interning at the United Nations in Switzerland, where he developed a strong passion for human rights and equality. He is currently co-authoring original research on dating behavior and partisanship with Dr. John Holbein and is a research fellow with the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy. Matt has served as the President of the BYU Political Affairs Society, Primary Editor for the undergraduate journal Sigma, and Advertising Chair with Students for International Development. In his spare time, Matt enjoys skiing, facial care, and eating popcorn. He is incredibly grateful to his family, friends, and mentors for giving him confidence to achieve his goals. Matt would also like to thank the deer that hit him on campus his freshman year, as it gave him the fire to persevere.

RACHEL FINLAYSON
Graduated April 2019, Salutatorian, and is going to work at McKinsey & Company in San Francisco

Rachel Finlayson graduated as one of Political Science’s salutatorians in August of 2019. Senior year was an incredible and fulfilling experience; Rachel was a national finalist for the 2019 Rhodes Scholarship, served as Editor-in-chief of Sigma (BYU’s journal of politics and international studies), embarked on road trips to LA and Santa Fe, and tried her hand at ice hockey. She will spend the summer months studying abroad in the Baltic States and London, examining Nazi and Soviet influence on national identity as well as British history, politics, and literature. In the fall, she will depart for McKinsey & Company in the Bay area as a business analyst, where she plans to specialize in public and social sector work. She hopes to make her way back to school in the coming years to pursue graduate studies in law, ethics, and foreign policy.
David Blyth Magleby (born October 20, 1949) is a distinguished professor of political science at Brigham Young University (BYU) and formerly the dean of the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. He is an expert on direct democracy and campaign finance.

David grew up in Salt Lake City and his AP High School teacher Garn Coombs helped give him his academic focus. In 1968, David won a national scholarship which took him to Washington, DC as a high school student, and while there he went through a receiving line at the White House where he shook hands with President Lyndon B. Johnson. President Johnson asked him where he was from, and David told him Utah. Then President Johnson said: “Well, I speak to your Prophet from time to time.” In the summer of 1968, David also went to the Democratic National Convention, shortly after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, which had been the night of his high school graduation. There were riots in Chicago, where the Convention occurred, and they were bussed into and out of the Convention Center.

He and his high school debate partner stayed at the YMCA in downtown Chicago, a block from the headquarters for the Humphrey Campaign in the Conrad Hilton Hotel. David and his friend provided reports from the convention for the Deseret News. When he called his parents the second night of the convention, they were concerned about his safety. He persuaded them he would be ok. While chaotic, the experience reinforced his interest in studying elections and democracy.

After coming to BYU as a professor, Magleby was named a Congressional Fellow of the American Political Science Association. This distinction meant he worked for a year with the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Robert C. Byrd. During that year Magleby provided staff support for the leader, focusing primarily on legislation to reform campaign finance.

Magleby is the author of several books. His first, Direct Legislation, is considered the seminal work on initiatives and referenda. Along with the other works Magleby has written, he is the lead editor of a series on presidential election finance, including Financing the 2016 Election. He has also written several works on issues related to soft money in campaigns. In 1990, he served on a bipartisan Senate task force on campaign finance reform and his book on the subject, The Money Chase, was published by the Brookings Institution.[2] In addition, Magleby authors a best-selling American government textbook, Government by the People, which, as of early 2019, was in its 28th edition.

Prior to joining the faculty of BYU, Magleby was a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the University of Virginia. Magleby received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.
Lisa grew up in Idaho Falls and maintains a deep love of potatoes. Lisa’s love of political science began in high school when she went to Idaho “Girl’s State,” sponsored by the American Legion where she participated in a mock government. There, she was elected the “governor” at the end of a weeklong event with about 100 girls. She also won a speech competition for the Union Pacific railroad and at the award dinner, sat with Democratic Governor of Idaho Cecil Andrus. He told her he won so many terms as Governor “because he picked his competition,” an idea that Lisa wanted to understand. She feels Andrus tried to get the Republican opponent to be weak so he would gain more votes.

She studied at BYU and majored in Political Science with a minor in Latin American Studies. She met her husband in Dan Neilsen’s Poli 200 when they were freshmen. Both were frantically trying to finish a term paper and swapped and edited each other’s papers. They continue to swap their scholarly papers today. She finished her bachelors in 3 years and worked with Chris Karpowitz, Quin Monson, and Kelly Patterson developing a love of research and statistics. As a Utah State Legislative intern working with Jim Dunnigan, she worked on health care issues before Obamacare. She and her husband both applied to graduate school and attended UC Santa Barbara, with a beautiful campus on the beach.

They had fun but worked hard. Their two children were both born in Santa Barbara, a boy and a girl. They enjoyed many barbecues on the beach. Her favorite thing to barbecue: pineapple. They lived on campus and she graduated in 2016 and he in 2014. Then she worked and moved to DC in 2014 as a post doc with Tali Mendelberg at Princeton. They spent four years in DC and she continued her love of research. She began working at BYU in 2018 and loves teaching a class on Race, Ethnicity and Gender in American politics. She is currently working on a study of “Political Conversations” to understand how people talk about politics in everyday living. Lisa loves to play games in her free time, even though her husband usually wins. Her current favorites are Pinochle and Azul.
Government by the People, 2016 Presidential Election, 26th Edition  
COWRITTEN BY DAVID MAGLEBY, PAUL LIGHT, AND CHRISTINE NEMACHEK

Government by the People, 2016 Presidential Election, 26th Edition, provides a thorough, Constitution-based introduction to the foundational principles, processes, and institutions of American government. Throughout, authors David Magleby, Paul Light, and Christine Nemacheck highlight the central role that people play in a constitutional democracy, inspiring students to see how similarities and differences in political beliefs continue to shape government to this day. The 2016 Presidential Election Edition includes coverage of the major issues in today’s headlines to engage students in learning, as well as to boost the relevance of course material to students’ lives.

Financing the 2016 Election  
BY DAVID MAGLEBY

Beginning with the 1960 election, readers could turn to one book for an authoritative and comprehensive examination of campaign finance at the federal level. Now, the latest in this respected series, Financing the 2016 Election, explores the role of money in one of the most unconventional elections in modern American history. A team of leading scholars has dug into the roles played by political parties and special interest groups (including their “Super PACS”) in the presidential and congressional elections of 2016.

David Magleby and his team of experts examined Federal Elections Commission reports and interviewed dozens of key participants, including representatives of virtually all the major interest groups active in the 2016 election cycle. They place that election in the context of how U.S. elections have been financed during recent decades—a context that illustrates how dramatically different campaign finance is today from the past. Among the most important changes has been the growth of so-called Super PACS, which have become increasingly important both in the financing they provide candidates and in their ability to act independently, both for and against candidates. Overall, Super PACS doubled their spending in 2016 from four years earlier.

Taking a comprehensive approach, this book helps readers understand how the financing of elections—including the increasing reliance by candidates on outside special interest groups—ultimately affects politics and public policy.

Trust and Hedging in International Relations  
BY KENDALL STILES

Do states trust each other? What are the political and ethical implications of trust? Drawing from a wide range of disciplines, Trust and Hedging in International Relations adds to the emerging literature on trust in international relations by offering a systematic measure of state-to-state trust. Looking at how relationships between European microstates and their partners have evolved over the past few centuries, Stiles finds that rather than trusting, most microstates are careful to hedge in their relations by agreeing only to arrangements that provide them with opt-out clauses, heavy involvement in joint decision-making, and sunset provisions. In the process, Stiles assesses the role of rationality, social relations, identity politics, and other theories of trust to demonstrate that trust is neither essential for cooperation nor a guarantee of protection and safety. Finally, he explores the ethical implications of a foreign policy founded on trust—in particular whether heads of state have the right to enter into open-ended agreements that put their citizens at risk.
Julie Rose’s Top of Mind

JANUARY 22, 2019

The shutdown has now lasted a full month. The Republican-controlled Senate is expected to vote this week on a proposal President Trump announced over the weekend to offer temporary protection to undocumented immigrants brought to the country illegally as children. That would be in exchange for funding Trump’s $5.7 billion request for a border wall. But the bill is unlikely to pass because Democrats in both the Senate and House say they will not negotiate until the government is reopened.

Here’s the link to the interview:
http://tiny.cc/nqtib8y

JANUARY 24, 2019

Former Republican Senator Jeffry Flake guest starred on Julie Rose’s Top of Mind. “With the longest government shutdown in US history dragging on, recently retired Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake visits Top of Mind to discuss what has gone wrong with our political discourse and whether his public criticism of President Trump achieved what he’d hoped.”

Here’s the link to the interview:
http://tiny.cc/motb8y

MARCH 20, 2019

British Prime Minister Theresa May has asked the European Union to delay the UK’s exit until June 30 so she has some more time to try and find a Brexit deal her own parliament can agree to. As it stands, the divorce will happen next Friday at midnight. The European Commission will meet Thursday to consider whether to agree to the request for a Brexit delay.

Here’s the link to the interview:
http://tiny.cc/lnrb8y
AMERICA’S GRAND EXPERIMENT
WITH SELF GOVERNMENT

Magleby participated years before Brexit as an Oxford University Fulbright Scholar in discussions and drafts of proposed rules for national referendums in the UK.

A second major emphasis of Magleby’s scholarship has been partisanship, especially regarding the Independent voter. In a journal article and later a book, Magleby and a group of graduate school classmates and their professor demonstrated that most self-classified Independents vote like partisans and share the same ideological views. This widely cited book, The Myth of the Independent Voter, will form a primary focus of a conference being held at BYU in early June on partisanship. Several prominent scholars from across the country will present papers, including Magleby and his graduate school classmate, Candice Nelson.

How America finances election campaigns has been a third emphasis of Magleby’s research. He is widely recognized as an authority on the topic, having edited a dozen books on the subject. The question of who donates is also the topic of a new book Magleby has published with Professor Jay Goodliffe of the Political Science department and Joseph Olsen, Assistant Dean in the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The Book Who Donates: The Importance of Message, Messenger, Medium, and Structure has broken new ground in its thorough examination of small donors, new donors, and the role of the Internet in fundraising to begin explaining why people participate in this way.

A central theme of Magleby’s teaching has been self-government. In his final lecture to POLI 110 last December, he emphasized that the structure of American government protects liberty and limits the impact of passion and hatred. It does this through separation of powers, checks and balances, protections given to civil liberties and civil rights, and federalism. Also important are a free press, political parties, and free elections. Magleby taught that each citizen’s responsibility is to sustain our experiment with self-government. How do busy people do this throughout their adult lives? He shared a formula: knowledge + participation = power or impact.

He recommended that students specialize in an area important to them, like education, the environment, agriculture, health care. As specialists in these areas, they can converse with others who know the topic. The second part of the equation is to participate. Knowledge without participation will matter very little, and participation without knowledge will not be accepted by decision makers and the public. If, however, you combine knowledge and participation, you have power and the ability to have an impact.
ENGAGED LIVING

Serving our communities and country can bring fulfillment and can easily be part of a well-rounded life. Take advantage of the local and national opportunities to serve. Local BYU Political Science Alumni Chapters, such as those in New York City, Washington, DC, and in the Bay Area can help assist in the desire to serve.

FACULTY QUOTE

The Spirit, or Light of Christ, is given to everyone to provide guidance and encouragement in those important domains of moral action where reason and experience are demonstrably inadequate guides. It is a simple fact of modern philosophy that reason has not even come close to providing anyone with a single true and persuasive set of moral principles. Even if we had such a complete set of moral guidelines, our reasoning abilities would not be adequate to use them in particular situations to always know what we should do. We are therefore all in need of an omniscient friend who knows what courses of action will have the best implications for the future. As this friend gives us spiritual guidance and tells us what is right, we will come to rely on it if we are honest in heart and as we recognize the reliability of that guidance. Thus, by being rigorously honest in pursuing what is right and true, even when it requires sacrifice on our part, we can come to have faith—to act as Christ directs.

-Noel B. Reynolds

Professor Reynolds is an emeritus professor of political science at Brigham Young University (BYU), where he has also served as an associate academic vice president and as director for the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS). He was a member of the BYU faculty from 1971 to 2011. He has also written widely on the theology of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Reynolds was born in Los Angeles, California. He grew up near Cody, Wyoming where his father had received a homestead in 1948. Reynolds served an LDS Church mission in Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay from 1961 to 1964. Reynolds earned a bachelor’s degree at BYU, followed by M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, Edinburgh University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In the 1970s, Reynolds was chair of BYU’s department of philosophy. He also coedited Religious Liberty in Western Thought with Cole Durham Jr. Reynolds was one of the editors of the Encyclopedia of Mormonism, published in 1992 by Macmillan. Reynolds is married to the former Sydney Sharon Smith (now Sydney S. Reynolds). She was a member of the LDS Church’s Primary General Presidency from 1999 to 2005. They are the parents of eleven children.