

# the political science post

*Newsletter of the BYU Political Science Department*



PICTURED ABOVE: BANFF NATIONAL PARK, LOCATED IN ALBERTA, CANADA

## New Horizons for our Closest Partner: Canada

For most of the post-World War II period, the United States and Canada maintained the largest and most diverse bilateral trading relationship in the world. Currently, 35 U.S. states export more to Canada than any other country, and U.S. exports in goods to Canada are equal to total U.S. exports to the 28-member European Union.

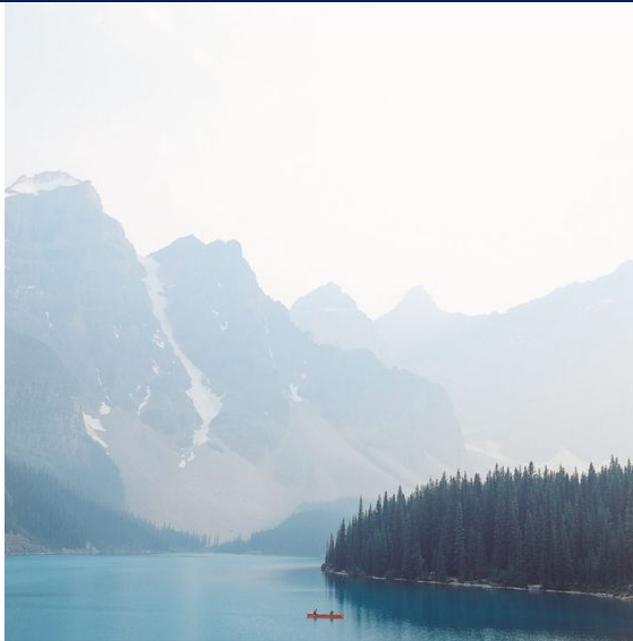
BYU Political Science Professor Earl Fry has spent nearly 40 years researching and writing on Canadian politics, and has recently expressed concerns about changes in NAFTA and in the robust trade relations between the two countries. In a recent speech, Professor Fry quoted Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's pithy comment at the Washington Press Club in 1968:

"Living next to you is in some ways like [a mouse] sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast ... one is affected by every twitch and grunt."

In the year 2017, Canada celebrated its 150th anniversary as a sovereign nation. For Canada, surviving and prospering next to the American elephant has been both joyful and problematic. During his 2017 Palmer Lecture, Professor Fry stated that Canada enjoys many strengths that the United States can observe and perhaps adapt. Canada's health care system, although far from perfect, can offer coverage to its entire population at half the price per capita of the U.S. system,

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*The BYU Department of Political Science, consistent with the Aims of a BYU Education, intends to foster “Lifelong Learning and Service.”*

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## People

Spotlights on students, professors, and alumni alike. Hear more about professor publications in the news.

*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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## Politics

Read more concerning U.S. - Canada relations and politics.

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## Engaged Living at BYU

Learn how to become more involved with the aims and mission behind BYU Political Science.

 [BYU Political Affairs Society](#)

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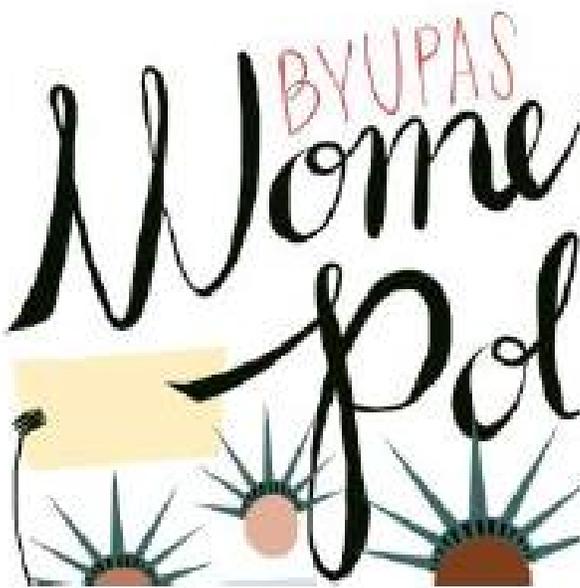


# Events and Programs

## Palmer Lecture

The 2017 Asael E. and Maydell C. Palmer Distinguished Lecture Series in Canadian Studies, known as “The Palmer Lecture,” occurred at noon on Wednesday, October 4. Dr. Earl H. Fry presented a speech entitled: “Are Seismic Changes Now Disrupting Canada-U.S. Relations and the Future of NAFTA?” Professor Fry provided reflections on the development of Canada-U.S. relations over the past four decades, and pinpointed special challenges now faced during the Trump administration. He also provided reflections on his 37-year career at BYU. (see Faculty Spotlights below)

## BYU Women in Politics



BYU Women in Politics met for a “Ted-Talk” style presentation with five female BYU professors offering fascinating lectures. Attendance was well over 100 people. Each professor gave summaries of their recent research related to women in the world today: participants included Dr. Celeste Beesley, Political Science; Dr. Stacey Shaw, Social Work; Dr. Diana Duan, History; Professor D. Carolina Nunez, JD, Law; and Professor Carrie Moore, News Media. Conducted by current WIP President Eliza Riley, and past WIP President Rachel Finlayson, Women in Politics is an amazing organization that inspires BYU students to become involved, both here on campus and in their future lives. Congratulations to the leaders and members of BYU Women in Politics.

## WomenStats Project

Professor Valerie Hudson from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M, along with Professor Donna Lee Bowen from BYU Political Science, conducted the annual WomanStats “Investigator” meeting at the Kennedy Center. For two days, scholars and researchers in women’s issues presented findings from their work. Valerie Hudson, Donna Lee Bowen and Lynne Nielsen, Associate Professor from BYU Statistics, presented the theory, analytical framework, and preliminary empirical analysis for their book, “The First Political Order: Sex, Governance, and National Security,” which is a product of a three year grant from the prestigious Minerva Initiative sponsored by the Department of Defense.



# PEDL Summer 2017

WITH PROFESSORS NIELSON AND HAWKINS

During the Summer of 2017, BYU Political Science Professors Dan Nielson and Darren Hawkins led a group of 21 BYU students to three difference countries—Peru, Tanzania and India—to engage in substantive research on current issues. Funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and by USAID, these programs are part of the BYU Political and Economic Development Labs (PEDL).

In Tanzania, 6 BYU students conducted a survey resulting from distribution of cell phones to rural, urban and peri-urban individuals in poverty. The study found that cell phones make a significant difference in the income and standard of living of a third-world individual. The group distributed free cell-phones and found that use of a cell phone contributed to better business, income and overall well-being.

In Peru, 5 BYU students conducted a study into what motivates government officials to learn in order to make informed decisions in the country, with the end goal of increasing the effectiveness of government programs. They introduced government officials to a new website that summarizes high-quality studies of policies that improve education, health, and similar outcomes in developing countries. They found that invitations to explore the website worked much better if issued by BYU students than by local students.

In India, 10 BYU students conducted the same study on government official learning curves. Not only did each of the three studies produce important scholarship, they helped students find and document evidence that can help change the world and make it a better place.





*"I think; therefore I am." - Rene Descartes*

When Professor Earl Fry was lecturing at the Sorbonne in Paris, France early in his academic career, he became intrigued with the foundational western philosopher Rene Descartes (31 March 1596 – 11 February 1650). Descartes was a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist. Dubbed the father of modern western philosophy, much of subsequent Western philosophy, and political theory, is a response to his writings, which are studied closely to this day. Descartes laid the foundation for 17th-century continental rationalism, later advocated by Baruch Spinoza and Gottfried Leibniz, and opposed by the empiricist school of thought consisting of Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.

For Descartes, ethics was the highest and most perfect science. Like the rest of the sciences, ethics had its roots in metaphysics. In this way, he argues for the existence of God, investigates the place of man in nature, formulates the theory of mind-body dualism, and defends free will. However, as he was a convinced rationalist, Descartes clearly states that reason is sufficient in the search for the goods that we should seek, and virtue consists in the correct reasoning that should guide our actions. Nevertheless, the quality of this reasoning depends on knowledge, because a well-informed mind will be more capable of making good choices, and it also depends on mental condition. For this reason, he said that a complete moral philosophy should include the study of the body. He discussed this subject in the correspondence with Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, and as a result wrote his work *The Passions of the Soul*, that contains a study of the psychosomatic processes and reactions in man, with an emphasis on emotions or passions.

## Rene Descartes, Foundational Political Philosopher

Humans should seek the sovereign good that Descartes, following Zeno, identifies with virtue, as this produces a solid blessedness or pleasure. For Epicurus the sovereign good was pleasure, and Descartes says that, in fact, this is not in contradiction with Zeno's teaching, because virtue produces a spiritual pleasure, that is better than bodily pleasure. Regarding Aristotle's opinion that happiness depends on the goods of fortune, Descartes does not deny that this good contributes to happiness but remarks that they are in great proportion outside one's own control, whereas one's mind is under one's complete control. The moral writings of Descartes came at the last part of his life, but earlier, in his *Discourse on the Method* he adopted three maxims to be able to act while he put all his ideas into doubt. This is known as his "Provisional Morals".

# Alumni Spotlights



## Kelsey Kerr Zarbock

Kelsey Zarbock is a policy analyst for Provo City who helps City Council members make informed decisions concerning proposed legislation and budgetary matters. Originally from Puyallup, WA, Kelsey moved to Utah to attend Brigham Young University where she earned a BA in political science and a master's degree in public administration (MPA). As a student, she worked for Congressman Darrell Issa in the U.S. House of Representatives and for the Orem City Manager's Office. She also spent time volunteering in Latvia and Ghana. In her free time, Kelsey enjoys running with her husband, jamming on the violin, and making jumbo chocolate chip cookies.



## Bud Scruggs

Herbert E. "Bud" Scruggs is a founding partner of The Cynosure Group, a Salt Lake City based company which makes long-term equity investments in private companies across a range of industries. Mr. Scruggs played a key leadership role as a senior executive at Leucadia National Corporation for over a decade. He has an extensive background advising some of the wealthiest families in the world, including working in Perth, Australia as CEO of The Metal Group, the private holding company of Andrew Forrest. In addition to his role at Cynosure, Mr. Scruggs is Chairman of Crystal Peak Resources (a Utah potash project), and a director of Linkem (an Italian internet provider), Snowbird Ski Resort and University of Utah Health Insurance Plans. Previously, Mr. Scruggs served as Chief of Staff to Governor Norman Bangert and was a co-founder and partner with Governor Michael Leavitt of the Public Affairs Advisory Group. He received his JD from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School and a degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University.

# Student Spotlights

## *Rachel Finlayson*

Rachel Finlayson grew up in Hanover, NH and came to BYU as a Viola Performance major. However, she soon realized that her favorite classes and work were in Political Science. After a mission in Taiwan, she switched to Political Science with minors in Chinese and Women's studies. As a Political Science major, she has enjoyed diverse coursework and opportunities. In Dr. Magleby's politics and journalism course, she had the chance to travel to Las Vegas to cover the 3rd presidential debate for KBYU and speak as a regional analyst on election night. She attended a conference on US-Chinese relations at Stanford University, and last summer lived in Tanzania helping run a research project for 6 weeks for Dr. Nielson. She currently works as a research assistant for Dr. Barber in American Politics, Dr. Ryan Davis in Political Philosophy, and is working on a paper with Dr. Nielson on gender in development. In addition to these opportunities, Rachel has enjoyed working with BYUPAS and particularly the Women in Politics group within it. She is grateful for the many gifts a Political Science education has given her: clear reasoning ability, quantitative analytical skills, empathy, and curiosity. She hopes to use these skills to promote understanding between diverse groups, understand complex problems pertaining to justice, and advocate solutions either through journalism, academia, or political office.



## *Collyn Mosquito*

Collyn Mosquito and is a student from Anchorage, Alaska. He is a senior at BYU and on the political strategy track in the political science major. Growing up, Collyn was always been fascinated with politics and government and in high school knew he wanted to study political science. Collyn is involved with Provo's city council, where he helps with policy research and currently working on an engagement plan. Collyn hopes to be a staffer in a legislature and also work on cutting edge government engagement efforts, because smart governments listen to their citizens. Alaska has ingrained a love for the outdoors for Collyn. Anchorage is right by ocean and mountain, which is the perfect mix. Most of Collyn's hobbies include hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, and bicycling. Collyn hopes to work in D.C. for a time, as well as visit Southeast Asia because he has been fascinated by it for quite some time.



# Faculty Publications

## *Supreme Democracy*

BY RICHARD DAVIS

In *Supreme Democracy: The End of Elitism in the Supreme Court Nominations*, Professor Richard Davis, an eminent scholar of American politics and the courts, traces the history of nominations from the early republic to the present. He examines the component parts of the nomination process one by one: the presidential nomination stage, the confirmation management process, the role of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the increasing involvement over time of interest groups, the news media, and public opinion. (Oxford University Press, 2017)

## *Justices and Journalists*

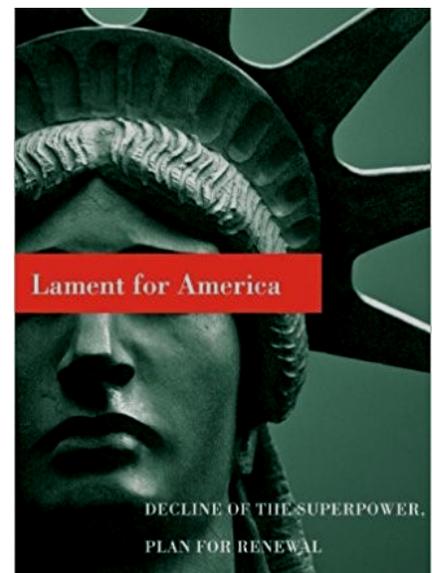
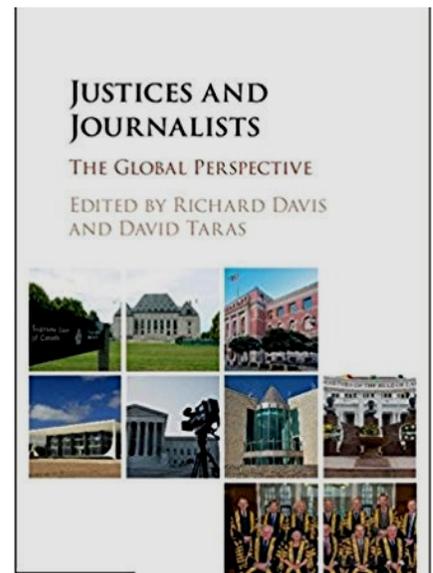
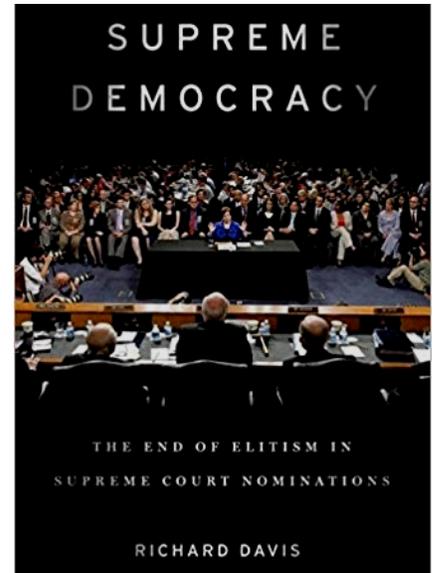
EDITED BY RICHARD DAVIS AND DAVID TARAS

A key intermediary between courts and the public are the journalists who monitor the actions of justices and report their decisions, pronouncements, and proclivities. *Justices and Journalists: The Global Perspective* is the first volume of its kind: a comparative analysis of the relationship between supreme courts and the press who cover them. Understanding this relationship is critical in a digital media age when government transparency is increasingly demanded by the public and judicial actions are the subject of press and public scrutiny. (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

## *Lament for America*

BY EARL H. FRY

*Lament for America* (2009) explores the major challenges to the status of the United States as a world superpower. In delving into the fundamental question of whether or not a relative decline is inevitable, the author recognizes that the changes faced over the next few decades will be more rapid and transformational than at any other period in American history. *Lament for America* offers concrete recommendations for renewal in areas such as defense policy, health care, education, and the environment, and serves as a useful guide to understanding how decisions will shape both the U.S. and global landscapes.



# Professor Spotlights

## Professor Earl Fry

Earl Fry is Professor of Political Science and Endowed Professor of Canadian Studies at BYU. He is a former Special Assistant in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, part of the Executive Office of the President of the United States during the Reagan Administration. He also served as President of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). His most recent book is *Revitalizing Governance, Restoring Prosperity, and Restructuring Foreign Affairs: The Pathway to Renaissance America* (2014). Dr. Fry received his PhD from UCLA and holds a BA and MA from BYU. He arrived at BYU in August 1980 and has been here ever since. He also served as a Fulbright Lecturer at the Sorbonne in 1974-75, Fulbright-Bissell Professor at the University of Toronto in 1995-96, and Fulbright Bicentennial Chair in American Studies at the University of Helsinki in 2011-12. He has also been the Enders Fellow at McGill University in Montreal and visiting professor at the University of Montreal. He is married to Elaine Fisher and they are the proud parents of 6 children and 17 grandchildren.



*“It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.”-Rene Descartes*



## Prof. Richard Davis

Richard Davis is a professor of Political Science and director of the Office of Civic Engagement Leadership. He is the author of several books on American politics. The most recent are *Supreme Democracy: The End of Elitism in Supreme Court Nominations* (Oxford University Press, 2017), *Justices and Journalists: The Global Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2017 – edited with David Taras), and *Twitter and Elections Around the World: Campaigning in 140 Characters or Less* (Routledge, 2016 – edited with Marion Just and Christina Holtz-Bacha). He has served as chair of the Political Communication section of the American Political Science Association. He has taught at BYU since 1992. Prior to that, he taught at the United States Coast Guard Academy. When he was a college student, he got his first taste of politics as a volunteer for the George McGovern for President campaign in 1972 and then volunteered two years later for Wayne Owens U.S. Senate bid. Since then, he has favored the underdog in elections. He and his wife, Molina, have five children and 13 grandchildren. A favorite quote of Professor Davis is: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” – Matthew 10: 16.



# Faculty in the News

## *Julie Rose's Top of Mind*

WITH PROFESSOR KELLY PATTERSON

He spoke with Rose on October 5th about the NRA's political influence, especially in the aftermath of the mass shooting in Las Vegas in late September, 2017. Here's the link to our conversation: [goo.gl/Y8AGxz](http://goo.gl/Y8AGxz)

WITH PROFESSORS CHRIS KARPOWITZ AND GRANT MADSEN

They spoke about Trump dealing with emergencies and natural disasters on Thursday, October 12 . Here's the link: [goo.gl/xCnFQU](http://goo.gl/xCnFQU)

WITH PROFESSOR DAN NIELSON

Professor Dan Nielson joined Julie Rose to talk about what's at stake in the Kenyan presidential election being held October 26, 2017. Here's the link to the interview: [goo.gl/8MrfvX](http://goo.gl/8MrfvX)

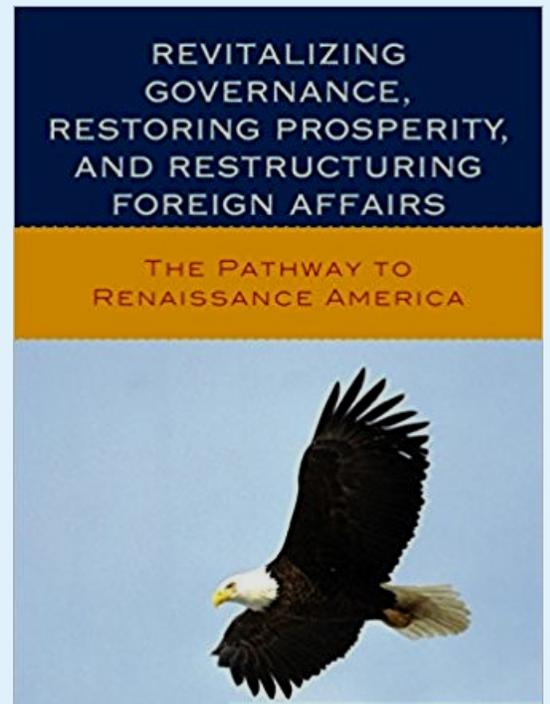
*Pictured left: Kenyan voters during a tumultuous election cycle; Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria.*

## Faculty Publications (Cont'd)

### *Revitalizing Governance*

BY EARL FRY

*Revitalizing Governance*, (2014) by Professor Earl H. Fry, squarely tackles the list of "fault lines" currently facing the United States, including, among others, Beltway dysfunctionality, concentrated wealth and income not seen since the late 1920s, an ultra-expensive and inefficient health-care system, runaway entitlement spending, stagnant upward mobility, debilitating "crony capitalism," and incoherent foreign policy. Even more importantly, the book offers explicit policy recommendations for solving each fault line, relying extensively on "best practices" in the public and private sectors both at home and abroad.



# Faculty in the News (Cont'd)



## *Featured in The New York Times*

PROFESSORS JEREMY POPE  
AND MICHAEL BARBER

Research conducted by BYU Professors Michael Barber and Jeremy Pope was featured prominently in an article in the *New York Times* on September 14, 2017. The article was written by New York Times Opinion and Contributing Op-Ed writer Thomas B. Edsall entitled: “Trump Says Jump. His Supporters Ask, How High?” The article stated that three prominent teams of US political scholars, including Barber and Pope, all agree in their recent studies that, “politics is less a competition of ideas and more a struggle between two competing teams.” According to Barber and Pope many Republican voters are, “malleable to the point of innocence, and self-reported expressions of ideological fealty are quickly abandoned for policies that—once endorsed by a well-known party leader—run contrary to that expressed ideology.” The Barber–Pope study suggests that, for many Republicans, partisan identification is more a tribal affiliation than an ideological commitment. While elites – elected officials and party activists—are ideologically polarized, the best the general public “can manage is a kind of tribal partisanship that does not really reflect the content of the elite discussion.”

For more information regarding how the study was conducted and its subsequent results, read the article following the link below:  
[goo.gl/jqVFze](http://goo.gl/jqVFze)



## *Published in NY Magazine*

PROFESSOR JOHN HOLBEIN

Congratulations to Assistant Professor John B. Holbein of Political Science at BYU, for the mention in *New York Magazine* on August 11, 2017, of his study, published in the *American Political Science Review* in June 2017, entitled “Childhood Skill Development and Adult Political Participation,” Volume 111, Issue 3, August 2017, pp. 572-583. The study found that kids who received help with their social skills, including voting and political participation, were better off than those who hadn’t. The psychosocial or noncognitive skills that children develop in early education—including the ability to self-regulate and integrate in social settings—are important for success in school and beyond.



# New Horizons for our Closest Partner: Canada (Cont'd)

PICTURE RIGHT: BANFF NATIONAL PARK

However, Canada struggles to provide solutions to the plight of some First Nation's settlements plagued by intense poverty, substance abuse, and high suicide and homicide rates. Canada's spending on defense is still far below goals of NATO member countries and its contribution to peacekeeping missions around the world has diminished over the past few decades.

The United States and Canada share the longest common border in the world, running over 5,500 miles along the 49th parallel and separating Alaska from British Columbia and the Yukon. For almost every year since the end of World War II, the U.S. and Canada enjoyed the largest bilateral trading relationship on the planet.

Billions of dollars have been spent on fortifying the border since 9/11; however, the U.S. Government Accountability Office has concluded that with all of this spending, the United States can now effectively monitor  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 percent of the entire joint border.

This shows why cross-border cooperation is so important. In addition, it may be better to modernize NAFTA than to end it, and better to work toward even greater coordination and a "smart border" with our only neighboring country to the north.

As John F. Kennedy stated in his address to the Canadian Parliament in May 1961, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder."

Canada and the United States should remain sovereign independent nations, working together to benefit their citizens and to solve common problems with mutual respect and understanding.



# 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, D.C., and in the Bay Area can help assist the desire to serve.*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BYU PHOTO

## faculty quote:

“All of us hunger and thirst for life and want to escape from death. Some of us, for a time, may seek—through fame or fortune, through power or wealth, through education or scholarship, through material and physical satisfaction—the life we do not yet have. But these ways of pursuing life will all [ultimately] fail. The promises of life these ways offer are false promises. To gain life—life full and without end—we must fully embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ and be reborn and become people of pure love. There is no other way.”

--Dr. A. Don Sorenson

*In a speech given at a BYU Devotional on 14 July 1987 entitled “Some Observations on the Law of the Harvest.”*

