

SPRING | 2017

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE POST

Newsletter of the BYU Political Science Department



WOMEN IN POLITICS TODAY

Cont'd Page 11

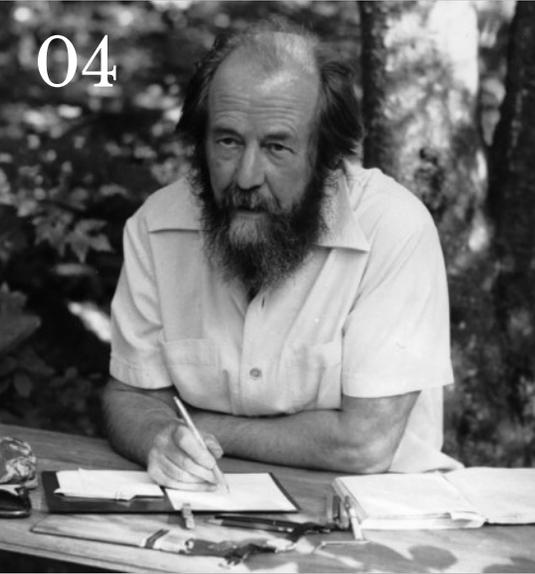
Professor Jessica Preece's research concerning women and political office.

They are a majority in the U.S. population, but women hold only 20 percent of the seats in Congress and 24 percent in state legislatures. This prominent disparity has inspired BYU Political Science Professor Jessica Preece to conduct real-world experiments that help understand and perhaps fix the problem (Hadfield). Her research—including a forthcoming study in *Political Behavior*, a top journal in political science—shows how a political party can better recruit women to run for office.

According to Preece's research, men generally respond to recruitment for political positions better than women do. Preece has written: "In two different studies with different outcome measures, men were significantly more likely than women to respond positively to elite recruitment . . . This complicates the existing explanations that center on recruitment as a reason for women's under representation. No doubt the gendered nature of political networks and recruitment appeals matter...(cont'd page 11)

Table of Contents

04



03



07



03

Events and Programs

Read about the recent events on and off of BYU campus.

05

People

Spotlights on students, professors, and alumni alike. Hear more about professor publications and student achievements.

11

Politics

Read more concerning Professor Jessica Preece's work regarding women in politics.

12

Engaged Living at BYU

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

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.

Connect with us on social media:

-  [BYU Political Affairs Society](#)
-  [@byupasexperience](#)
-  [@byupas](#)
-  [byupoliticalscienceblog.com](#)

Events and Programs

2017 Durham Lecture



Each year the BYU Political Science Department hosts a special lecture known as the G. Homer Durham Lecture. This year the Department welcomed Hannah C. Smith, Senior Counsel at The Becket Law Firm, to come speak to students and faculty.

Smith spoke about religious liberty, and said the real work of defending religious liberty begins with us, each one of us, and that we all have a role to play in defending it.

BYUPAS Speed Mentoring Event



BYUPAS Salt Lake City chapter gathered together an incredible group of mentors from a wide variety of career paths to meet with a group of about fifty BYU students in the Utah State Capitol Building on January 26th, 2017.

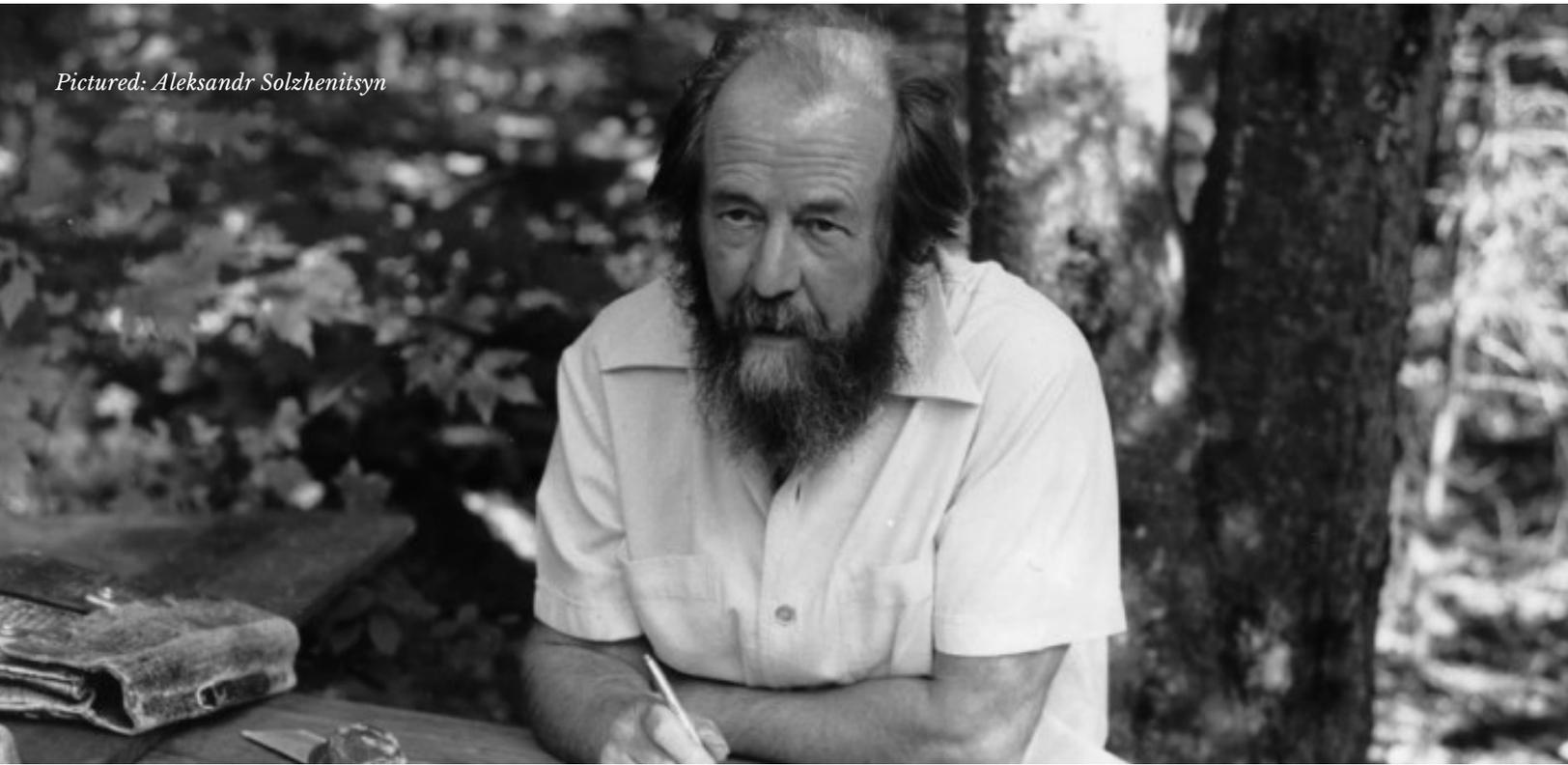
The students took part in a "speed mentoring event" that involved quickly rotating through a group of accomplished mentors to receive career advice and counsel with them on a variety of different career options. The event was incredibly successful and BYUPAS would like to thank all mentors who were involved in meeting with students of the BYU Political Science Department.

Political Science Closing Banquet



During the annual Political Science Closing Banquet and induction to Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society on March 28th, 2017, at the BYU Hinckley Center Assembly Hall, keynote speaker Evan McMullin, a former CIA operations officer who ran as an independent during the 2016 United States presidential election, spoke on how we can effect change on issues that matter to us. He encouraged the banquet attendees to reach out to their local representatives by calling, writing, and utilizing social media.

Pictured: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY EVENT

Dr. Daniel Mahoney and Dr. Guy Burnett presented during the discussion called: "Communism Then and Now," for the Tocqueville Society event on March 9, 2017. This year, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of the "Bolshevik Revolution," which began on the 8th of March, 1917, and ended on the 8th of November, 1917.

Dr. Daniel Mahoney, a Professor of Political Science from Assumption College, spoke about the late Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), a survivor of the Gulag forced labor camp system under Stalin's Soviet Russia.

Solzhenitsyn wrote perhaps the greatest critique of ideological despotism, a book called *The Gulag Archipelago*, written between 1958 and 1968, and published in the West in 1973.

Mahoney spoke about Solzhenitsyn's belief that despite the cruelty and transparent mendacity of Russia under Lenin, the architect of Soviet terror, and Stalin, who referred to certain people as "insects," he believed the labor camps could bring about good in the human soul.

Solzhenitsyn believed that the only way forward was to tell the full truth about communism, and that the camp survivors learned during their trials at the camp that the quest for truth and justice could preempt the desire for self-preservation.

Mahoney's address was an important reminder that under even the worst conditions, Stalinism never succeeded in defeating the human sense of good and evil. Mahoney recommended that we read at least two Chapters in *The Gulag Archipelago*: "The Ascent," and the account of "Forty Days at Kengir."

"The battle line between good and evil runs through the heart of every man."

-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Ryan Martin



Ryan Martin works for the House Ways and Means Committee and recently had a story written about him in *Politico* regarding efforts to help LDS connect on Capitol Hill. He is a Professional Staff member with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means. In this role, he is responsible for the development and review of legislation in the House of Representatives on issues such as welfare, child welfare, foster care, and adoption. He also is responsible for planning and carrying out hearings on domestic social policy issues for the Committee. Prior to joining the Committee in 2011, he was the Executive Officer for the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. OFA administers Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the primary U.S. cash welfare program focused on helping low-income families achieve self-sufficiency. Ryan's duties included supervising budget formulation and execution for the program, managing office administrative operations and staffing, as well as overseeing administrative policies for over 140 employees in 11 cities across the country. He also worked closely with senior agency staff to draft policy and program guidance for use by agency leadership, Congress, the media, and the public. Ryan has a Master's in Public Policy and a BS in Economics from BYU, and has completed additional education at Georgetown and Duke Universities.

Rachel Scudiere Vitt

Rachel Scudiere Vitt graduated with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Geography from Brigham Young University in 2015. Vitt went on to graduate with merit from King's College London with a Masters in Religion in Contemporary Society, with an emphasis on Politics and Religion. She was the campaign manager for the campaign to re-elect Representative Carol Spackman Moss in 2012 in Utah and was the campus coordinator for the Casey for Congress campaign in West Virginia in 2014. She worked in the West Virginia House of Delegates as an analyst for the Judiciary Committee before transitioning to the non-profit sector. Vitt was the Executive Director of the Childhood Language Center in Charleston, WV for one year before moving to her current position of Director of Advancement for St. Francis Central Catholic School in Morgantown, WV.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS:

Laura Boyer



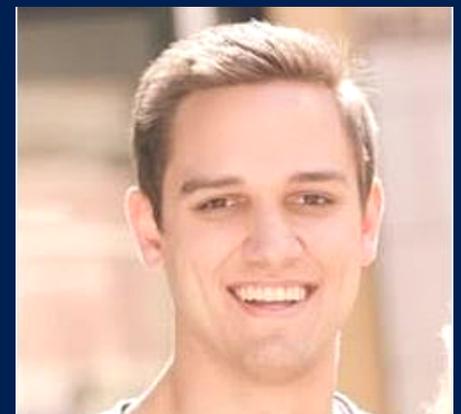
Laura received the 2016 MPSA award for Best Undergraduate Paper in a Poster Format, and was honored at the 2017 MPSA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Laura worked at BYU Public Health and prepared lessons for Liahona Children's Foundation, an LDS foundation that networks with developing countries to provide nutritional supplements and health education to impoverished communities. As part of her work with Liahona Children's Foundation, Laura went to the Philippines in February to help provide aid, and is on the Global Development track in her pursuit of a Political Science degree. In addition to her track, Laura has two minors in International Development and Environmental Science.

In the summer of 2015, Laura traveled to Thailand and worked closely with a team of research assistants and Dr. Joel Selway to conduct an experiment in Northern Thailand. Her research largely focused on local support for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Her goal was to see if the Thai people would be more willing to donate to and volunteer at organizations with an all-Thai staff, an all-AngloSaxon American staff, or a mixture of the nationalities. From there, Laura was able to present her research at MPSA in Chicago and was later selected as a winner for the Best Undergraduate Paper.

I am a Political Science major and a Global Business and Literacy minor. Beyond the classroom I've been involved in the Utah Colleges Exit Poll and I interned for Senator Jeff Flake as a part of Washington Seminar. Right now I'm working as a research assistant for Dr. David Magleby. Dr. Magleby's Exit Poll class was an incredible experience. It's a great way to get involved in politics at a very intimate level and the work you do in that class can lead you to other opportunities like presenting your work at a research conference or even on local television. Personally, I enjoyed being a part of such a monumental project like an exit poll because it exposed me to the challenges and difficulties that you can only try to imagine if they are explained in a normal classroom setting.

Blake Ringer



Professor Spotlights



Dr. Jessica Preece

Jessica grew up on the North Shore of O'ahu in Hawai'i. She came to BYU and studied political science, with a minor in chemistry. She also picked up a love of skiing. Her decision to pursue a Ph.D. at UCLA was influenced by many of the professors who are now her colleagues. She lived in Los Angeles for seven years and desperately misses the ocean. These days, she channels her love of nature into spending as much time as she can in the beautiful Utah wilderness. Her research focuses on how candidates get on the ballot--in other words, who wants to run for office and who gets party support when they run. She is particularly interested in why so few women run for office and how that can change. She also has expertise in partnering with organizations to run real-world interventions to increase women's representation.

Dr. Ryan Davis

Although Ryan grew up in Arizona, his family hails from Idaho's Snake River valley, and he sometimes lays claim to both places. Ryan was a missionary in the Utah Ogden Mission from 2001-2003, spending time in rural Utah and Western Wyoming. He arrived at BYU in 2014, after receiving a PhD from Princeton University's Program in Political Philosophy and then doing four years of further graduate study at Harvard University's Philosophy Department and Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics. His academic writing focuses on the moral significance of autonomy, or the control that individual agents have over their own choices. In a series of papers, Ryan tries to show that most political rights can be explained in terms of the autonomy of persons. He is also interested in questions about political toleration, paternalism, and the conditions under which people acquire special moral obligations to fellow members of their political communities. Ryan's less academic interests include fly fishing, competitive debate, Pioneer Day, and the Greater Sage-Grouse. Another hobby is inciting jealousy among other academics with stories about BYU's extraordinary student administrative staff and Teaching Assistants. He regularly teaches an introductory course in political philosophy in which students read historical philosophical texts—which they quite often enjoy, and also see occasional comparisons from these texts to Taylor Swift videos—which they enjoy even more often.



“Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily we reflect upon them; the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.”

-Immanuel Kant

Faculty In the News

BYUradio's Top of Mind
with Julie Rose



- On Tuesday, February 14, Professor Adam Dynes spoke with Julie Rose on policy diffusion and municipal partisanship research. Link here: goo.gl/7rYDTw



- On January 23, 2017, Quinn Mecham spoke on Top of Mind and offered some predictions for 2017 World Events. Link here: goo.gl/SFfwzY

- Professor Jeremy Pope spoke on Top of Mind on March 1, 2017, on President Trump's first speech to the joint session of Congress. Link here: goo.gl/re6b89

- Professor Quinn Mecham discussed on air the Dutch/Netherlands general elections, and how the elections can test the current leanings of Europe. Link here: goo.gl/lwnR12

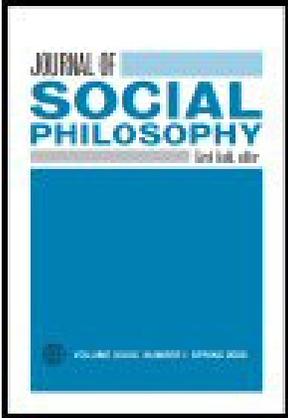
- Check out the most recent issue of Connections, the FHSS Magazine. You will find articles about Twitter and politics, gender in politics, a Q&A with Prof. Earl Fry, and a tribute to the late Prof. Bill Daynes. Link here: goo.gl/UzmpMx



"The only tired I was, was tired
of giving in." -Rosa Parks

Faculty Publications

Autonomy and Toleration



Ryan Davis.
"Autonomy and Toleration as a Moral Attitude."
(*The Journal of Social Philosophy*).

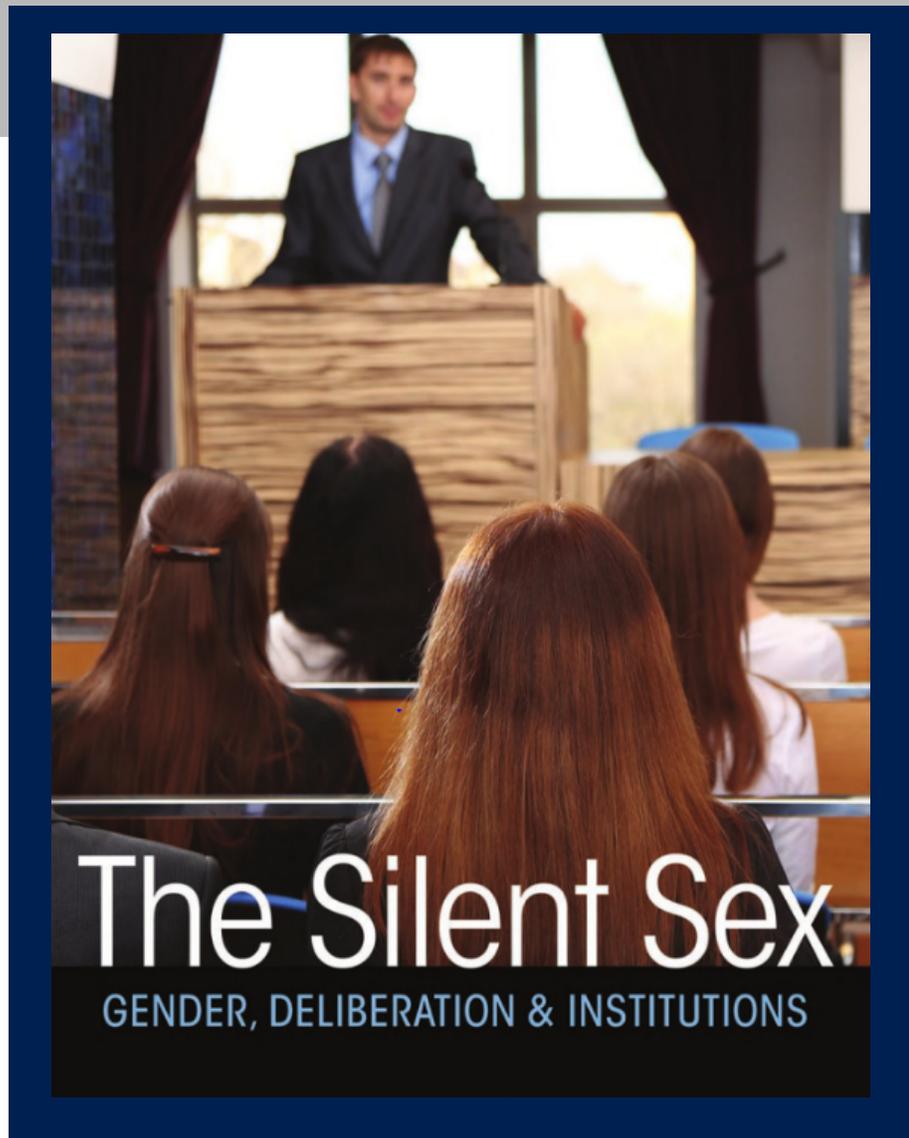
Ryan Davis has published articles recently: "Autonomy and Toleration as a Moral Attitude," in the *Journal of Social Philosophy*. He also has a forthcoming work with Eric Beerbohm, "A Buck-Passing Account of the Common Good" in the *Journal of Political Philosophy*.

Gender and Candidate Success



Quin Monson,
Jessica Preece,
and Chris Karpowitz.
"How to Elect More Women: Gender and Candidate Success in a Field Experiment."
(*The American Journal of Political Science*).

Professors Monson, Preece, and Karpowitz's article, "How to Elect More Women: Gender and Candidate Success in a Field Experiment" was recently published in the *American Journal of Political Science*. The article discussed their findings that when voters are encouraged to consider women when voting, it increases their likelihood to vote for women by six percentage points.



By Chris Karpowitz and Tali Mendelberg

Do women participate in and influence meetings equally with men? Does gender shape how a meeting is run and whose voices are heard? *The Silent Sex* shows how the gender composition and rules of a deliberative body dramatically affect who speaks, how the group interacts, the kinds of issues the group takes up, whose voices prevail, and what the group ultimately decides. It argues that efforts to improve the representation of women will fall short unless they address institutional rules that impede women's voices.

Using groundbreaking experimental research supplemented with analysis of school boards, Professor Christopher Karpowitz and Tali Mendelberg demonstrate how the effects of rules depend on women's numbers.

Student Achievements

"If you believe you can, you're halfway there." -Teddy Roosevelt

Congratulations to the new BYU Political Science valedictorian and salutatorians! Pictured is Soren Schmidt, valedictorian, as well as Kim Roy and Sierra Thomander, salutatorians. They were recognized at the BYU Political Science Closing Banquet for their many accomplishments and hard work over the course of their time as undergraduate students in the BYU Political Science Department.



Along with the recognition of the valedictorian and salutatorians of the class of 2017, the *SIGMA Journal* authors and recipients of the Jones Writing Awards were also recognized at the banquet and are listed as follows:

- Mandi Eatough (1st place)
- Kennan Howlett O'Connell (2nd place)
- Soren Schmidt and Matthew Young (3rd place)
- Rehtaeh Beers
- Caitlyn Bradfield Smith and Paul Johnson
- Sarah Curry and Cassidy Hansen
- Brittney Grandy
- Lexie Prier
- Sam Williams

Additionally, Eliza Riley and Samantha Woods were recognized at the banquet as the 2017-2018 Stan Taylor Scholars.

The BYU Political Science Closing Banquet also recognized the new chapter presidency of the BYUPAS student chapter, and is proud to announce Reed Rasband as president, Sam Elmer as vice president, Kate Wheeler as the publicity specialist, and Collyn Mosquito as events coordinator for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.



Women in Politics

(Cont'd from page 1) "a great deal. Our findings show that men do respond to recruitment, and so differentially recruiting them is likely to lead to large gender gaps on the ballot. But, our results indicate that even deliberately gender-balanced recruitment efforts produce highly gendered results. Even-handed approaches to recruitment are unlikely to be enough to close the gender gap, and they may even widen it . . . If we wish to truly understand the role recruitment plays in who ends up on the ballot, we must not consider what recruitment messages party officials send, but also how individuals interpret and internalize these recruitment messages when they receive them." Jessica Robinson Preece, Olga Bogach Stoddard, and Rachel Fisher, "Run, Jane, Run! Gendered Responses to Political Recruitment," *Political Behavior* (2016).

"They're hearing different things," Preece said. "The men are hearing, 'Will you run? I'd love to help you do it,' whereas the women are hearing, 'Will you run and do this really hard thing by yourself?'"

So it's no wonder they're responding differently." "You don't have to disproportionately tell women that they're good at politics, but if you tell everybody this, it will boost how interested women are in even trying," Preece said. "It appears the men already believe they're good and women don't have that same predisposition."

A cause of this recruitment problem may be that the "gender gap" is larger than women's tremendous progress in Western society would indicate. For example, in Chris Karpowitz's and Tali Mendelberg's book, *The Silent Sex*, they suggest that "women are perceived as less influential [than men], women set the agenda less."

Preece has said that the best way to solve the gender gap in representation over the long term is to teach young girls how important it is for them to participate in politics. A study by Professors Preece, Karpowitz and Monson that was recently published in the *American Journal of Political Science* shows that when parties encourage voters to think about electing more women, women's representation can increase by six percentage points.

The future looks bright, in that the percent of Women in Elective Office has gone up, from only 3% in U.S. Congress in 1971, to 19.4% in 2017.

**The future looks bright,
in that the percent of
Women in Elective
Office has gone up,
from only 3% in U.S.
Congress in 1971, to
19.4% in 2017.**

Above:
According to Professor Preece's research,
the rising generation of girls need
to be told that they can to prevent self-opting out of
running for political positions.

Engaged Living



Faculty Quote:

“The pursuit of knowledge and truth will be of most value to those who have learned first to submit themselves to God in all things.

The character of the seeker affects both his ability to find enlightenment and his ability to use it wisely. For us, as with Plato of old, knowledge without virtue is nothing, and the better understanding we can get of this world, the better will be our understanding of God who made it.”

--Noel B. Reynolds, Professor Emeritus, BYU Department of Political Science

Serving our communities and country can bring fulfillment and can easily be part of a well-rounded life. Take advantage of local and national opportunities to serve and engage.

Local BYU Political Science Alumni Chapters, such as those in New York City, Washington, DC and in the Bay Area, can assist in our desires to serve, with several events throughout the year, each of which will help with education and community engagement.

“Store your mind with useful knowledge and cultivate it.”

---G. Homer Durham