

# The Political Science Post

Newsletter of the BYU Political Science Department



As part of BYU's world outreach, Political Science Associate Professor Joel Selway led a group of student interns to Thailand from May 12 to August 7, 2016. Several students interned at a refugee camp housing ethnic Shan people from Burma and assisted local villagers with their adult education program and other developmental needs. Students also worked at a women's shelter shadowing judges, psychologists, and physicians.

## BYU in Thailand

**[Cont'd on pg 8]**

Students stayed with host families in Chiang Mai in order to receive a full experience of cultural immersion, and also participated in excursions to cultural and historical sites, including the ancient Thai capitals of Ayutthaya and Sukhothai, the National Mosque of Malaysia, and Buddhist temples in Chiang Mai, and conducted a service project at an ethnic minority elementary school outside of Chiang Mai.


2016 marked the second year in a row for Professor Selway to lead BYU Students to serve and learn in Thailand, organized through the BYU International Studies Program located in the Kennedy Center at the HRCB.

# About Us


## table of contents:

- 03 Events and Programs
- 04 Politics
- 07 Charitable Works
- 09 People
- 10 Faculty in the News
- 12 Student Spotlights
- 13 Engaged Living

Take a minute and check out the following BYU Political Science Social Media venues:

 @byupas

 BYU Political Affairs Society

 @byupasexperience

 byupoliticalscienceblog.com

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.



**"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."  
-George Washington**

# Events and Programs

## “Beyond BYU” Weekend Spotlight in Washington, DC, May 2017:

- May 11 and 12th, 2017, the 8th annual event will be sponsored by the BYUPAS DC Chapter and will host a weekend of networking opportunities with trade organizations, law firms, political consulting boutiques, and international relations groups. It's an opportunity to learn more about what makes D.C. tick and to see some of the great Memorial Sites and locations in and around our Nation's Capital.

- May 5, 6, and 7th, 2016: the 7th annual event included a tour of the Langley FBI center, a Keynote Speaker named Nathan Sheets, the U.S. Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs, and a tour of the Memorial Sites for those interested.

- Alumni interested in helping can contact the BYU PAS Washington, D.C. on Facebook or the BYU Political Science Department at [polysec@byu.edu](mailto:polysec@byu.edu).



**"The best way to predict the future is to create it."  
-Abraham Lincoln**

# Politics

## Professor David Magleby



**Above:**

Professor David Magleby discusses the poll the night of the 2016 Presidential Election on KBYU.

For the first time in its history, the 2016 KBYU-Utah Colleges presidential election exit poll received national interest. Because pre-election polls predicted a close race between Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Evan McMullin in Utah, both ABC and CBS, by prior arrangement, accessed the student uploaded data after the Utah polls closed. Much of election night coverage is at [exitpoll.byu.edu](http://exitpoll.byu.edu).

More than 2,300 Utah college students participated in the exit poll, from Utah State, Weber State, the University of Utah, Utah Valley, Southern Utah, Dixie State and Brigham Young participated in the project, with most of them coming from BYU.

The 2016 KBYU-Utah Colleges Exit Poll was especially complex because much of Utah has now moved to vote-by-mail. Overall more than 29,872 voters completed the survey.

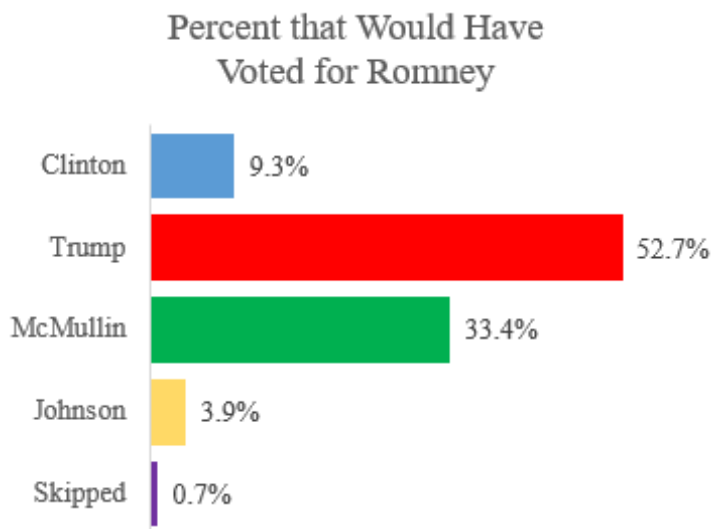
On election night Professor Magleby and former KSL anchor Bruce Lindsay hosted the election coverage on KBYU featuring BYU political science, communications, and statistics students. KBYU generously provided over four hours of time to the broadcast. Students in the class prepared summaries of the data which were released to the media the day after the election. The following two passages are some highlights:

**Utah Colleges Exit Poll is a long-standing tradition at BYU and currently the only election poll in the state of Utah.**

---

# Many Utah Voters Set Aside Their Opinions of Candidates' Character

Article by MaKade Claypool



In 2016, Utah voters had highly negative views of both major party nominees. The KBYU-Utah Colleges Exit Poll delved deeper into voters' opinions of the candidates, what was most important to them, and what they would have done if they could have voted for Mitt Romney or Barack Obama.

Regarding voters' opinions, the two candidates receiving the most votes, Trump and Clinton, were actually viewed much less favorably than Evan McMullin. The poll also asked voters for their views of Mitt Romney and Trump's VP running mate, Mike Pence. Both Romney and Pence were viewed much more favorably than either Trump or Clinton.

When looking at what issues were most important to Utah voters, the survey found that jobs and the economy, and national security were seen as most important by voters. 71% of Utah voters reported that jobs were very important, whereas 73% indicated national security was very important. Fewer voters saw Obamacare and illegal immigration as very important with 60% citing Obamacare as very important and 48% reporting illegal immigration as very important.

Throughout his campaign, Mr. Trump claimed that even if individuals did not like him, they would still vote for him because of who he would appoint to the Supreme Court. Of those that thought that the Supreme Court was very important, 42% of them voted for Trump, compared to 35% for Clinton and 18% for McMullin. Clearly McMullin and Clinton voters who thought appointments to the Supreme Court were very important also voted for candidates other than Trump.

The 2016 Utah Colleges Exit Poll had over 2,300 students involved in conducting the survey and over 25,000 Utah voters completed the survey. The survey included samples of by-mail voters and other early voters as well as of election day voters statewide.



# How Trump Failed to Get Majority of Utah Vote on Tuesday

Trump's Percentage of the Utah Vote is slim compared to previous Republican candidates.

Provo, UT— For the first time nearly half a century, Utah was a “tossup” state in the 2016 presidential race. Vote returns have him at 47 percent of the vote in Utah. This is down from Romney’s 73% in 2012 and McCain’s 63% in 2008.

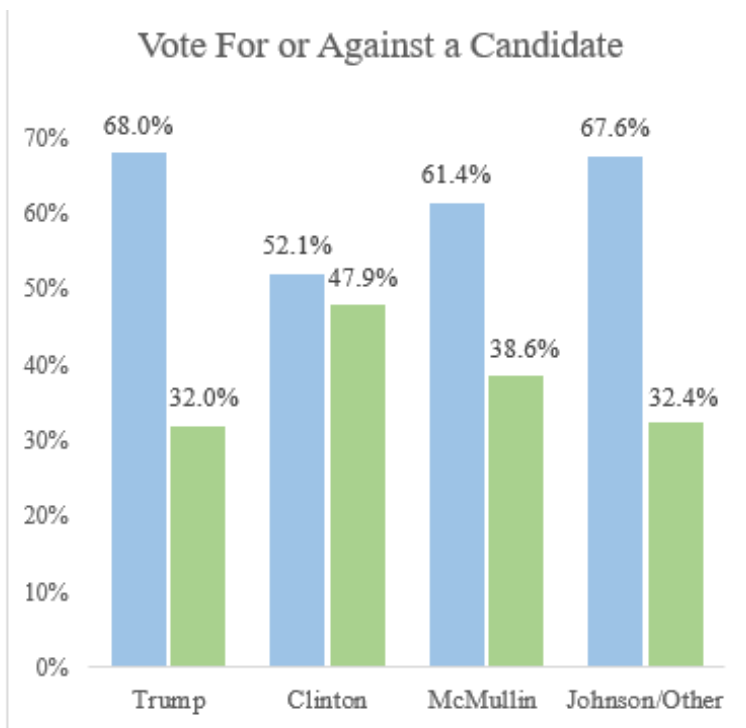
Many have speculated that Trump has a Utah or “Mormon Problem,” in part because so many Utah voters are very active Mormons and Republicans. In 2016, they were 60 percent of all Utah voters according to the Utah Colleges Exit Poll. In 2016, 59% of Republicans voted for Trump. This is significantly lower than was the case for Romney who garnered 96% of the Republican vote in 2012 and McCain who received 90 % in 2008.

Interestingly, most voters did not know how they were going to vote until election day or a few days of the election. Over 50% of those that voted for McMullin decided to do so within a few days of the election. This was likely a factor in the incredibly long lines counties saw on Election day. BYU Professor David Magleby observed that “most voters didn’t like either of the major party candidates.”

Of those that voted for Trump, only half were voting for him while half were voting against his opponent. Voters for McMullin and Clinton were, in contrast, more likely to say their vote was a vote for the candidate they voted for.

The 2016 Utah Colleges Exit Poll had over 2,160 students involved in conducting the survey and over 26,500 Utah voters completed the survey. The survey included samples of by-mail voters and other early voters as well as of Election Day voters statewide.

Article by Brodie Wray



**"Of those that voted for Trump... half were voting against his opponent."**

# Charitable Works

## BYU Students and Tanzanian Research

Photographs courtesy of Courtney Rada



BYU Political Science Professor Dan Nielson's research expedition, during the summer of 2016, involved working in the underdeveloped South East African country of Tanzania. Designed with a dual purpose of allowing students to aid the professor with his research, and helping students design and execute their own social and political experiments, both professor and students began by analyzing the effects of cell phone ownership on Tanzanian women. They interviewed and sampled Tanzanian women, gaining firsthand experience in the large-scale research process.

The students were also divided into small groups and tasked to conduct their own research experiments. One of the student groups measured the likelihood of adopting innovative medical techniques in health clinics across Tanzania, and discovered that if Americans presented medical information to the clinics, as opposed to native Tanzanians, the clinics were more likely to show interest in medical innovation. One student commented that she felt she learned a great deal regarding the significant amount of influence Americans potentially have to make a difference, as well as felt better prepared to apply to PhD programs and for other jobs opportunities.

# BYU Students in Thailand (Continued)

One student described his experience saying, "This past weekend we had the really cool experience of staying overnight at a Buddhist monastery in a rural area near Chiang Mai and being taught to meditate. The monks of this monastery give free lodging to people who want to learn more about Buddhist teachings there (voluntary donations are of course accepted).

At the monastery it is very quiet. Talking is done only in whispers to not disturb people who may be meditating nearby. Men and women stay in separate quarters and do not eat together either. The living quarters we stayed in were very simple buildings with windows that did not have glass or screens. They provided us with mosquito nets and blankets for our beds. Since we were there for only one night they did not give us any special clothing, but people who go there for a several days or a week are given white tunics to wear. Shoes are taken off before entering any buildings. Phones are turned off. All of this—the quiet, the segregation, the separate clothes, etc.—contributes to a feeling of separation from the world that is similar in some respects to an LDS temple."



**"Buddhist meditation evolved out of older traditions that aimed to focus concentration. Buddhist meditation focuses concentration within one's self in order to reduce attachment to worldly things and reduce discordant feelings.**

**There are several positions for meditation. It can be done seated cross-legged on the ground, reclining, or while walking. The basic technique is to focus as completely as you can on one specific action. If seated or reclining this is generally breathing."**

**-- Reed Rasband, BYU Political Science student, from his blog.**



# People

## Dr. Adam Dynes

Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Yale University, 2015, Bachelor of Arts, Brigham Young University, 2005. Adam grew up in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, served a mission in Asuncion, Paraguay and originally studied industrial design at BYU before switching to Political Science his junior year. He participated in BYU's Washington Seminar program where he met his future wife, Carlee, who was student teaching in DC as part of her double major in sociology and secondary education. The day after their graduation from BYU in 2005, Carlee and Adam were married. Adam then worked for a school choice advocacy group in Utah for four years. He decided to pursue a PhD after a strong recommendation from Professor Dan Nielson, who is now in the office next to his. Adam primarily studies legislative behavior with a focus on understanding the factors that influence how responsive elected officials are to their constituents' preferences. He is also the co-principal investigator of the American Municipal Official Survey, which is conducted every two years and is the largest survey of local officials conducted by political scientists. His collaborator on this ongoing project is Daniel Butler, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis and a fellow alumni of BYU's political science department. Adam and Carlee are happy to be back in Provo along with their five kids.



## Professor Spotlights: You Might Run Into Them at BYU on Campus!

## Dr. Kirk Hawkins

As an undergraduate, Dr. Kirk Hawkins attended Brigham Young University and received his B.A. in International Relations in 1993; he stayed for another two years and received his M.A. in International and Area Studies at the Kennedy Center in 1995. In 2003, he received his Ph.D. in comparative politics and international relations from Duke University. Dr. Hawkins came to teach at BYU thanks to his wife, Eliza Tanner Hawkins, who earned a Ph.D. in mass communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and taught in BYU's Department of Communications while they were dating. Fortunately, the BYU Department of Political Science had room for him as well. He teaches classes on comparative politics, Latin American politics, and qualitative method. Earlier in his career, his research on Latin America took him to Venezuela where he studied the traditional political party system. Eventually, he decided that Hugo Chavez and his movement were more interesting, and after several years of fieldwork and the help of a few BYU undergraduates, he wrote a book on Chavismo and populism (*Venezuela's Chavismo and Populism in Comparative Perspective*). Populism turned out to be something that happens in other countries too, and over the past few years he has coordinated a global scholarly network called Team Populism that studies the causes and consequences of populism. He and his wife have four children.



# Faculty in the News

BYU Political Science  
Department



- Professor Eric Hyer's article entitled "Is China Ready to budge on the South China Sea? Here's why compromise is possible," was published recently in the Washington Post.



- Professor Kirk Hawkins published an article in the Fall 2016 Comparative Politics Newsletter put out by APSA. His article is entitled "Populism and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election in Comparative Perspective."

- Professor Wade Jacoby was named a Transatlantic Academy Fellow for 2016-17. Throughout the year, Prof. Jacoby will explore the topic of "Germany and the United States in the 21st Century."



- Professor Jessica Preece's publications were discussed in the Daily Herald concerning her work with women in public office. Read more about it under the title, "Women less likely to run for office when recruitment language is competitive."

- 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.

.....

## BYU Radio's "Top of Mind," with Julie Rose, Faculty Interviews:

- Dr. Quinn Mecham discussed the trouble facing South Korea's president, a weakening of the International Criminal Court and the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in Myanmar on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, . (listen to interview at: [www.byuradio.org](http://www.byuradio.org), and at the link: [at: goo.gl/HAA7Dd](https://goo.gl/HAA7Dd))
- Dr. Josh Gubler joined BYU Radio's monthly panel on Middle East events on December 8, 2016, during which they discussed Syria's battle with rebels and civil war in Aleppo, a rebel stronghold, and they also discussed President-elect Trump's position on Israel and a Palestinian State, and the pact with Iran that Trump talks about. Also, Josh spoke about Egypt and its revolution. (listen to discussion at: [www.byuradio.org](http://www.byuradio.org), and at: [goo.gl/21G77b](https://goo.gl/21G77b))
- Dr. Chris Karpowitz joined BYU Radio Host Julie Rose on December 15, 2016. They spoke about President-Elect Trump's transition into the Presidency, Cabinet choices, the Electoral College system, possible gridlock on Capitol Hill, and the relationship of President Trump to Congress. (Listen to interview at: [goo.gl/8CVWQz](https://goo.gl/8CVWQz))
- Professor Eric Hyer and Professor Robert Griffiths spoke with Julie Rose on December 20, 2016, regarding Trump's approach to the "One China" policy. This December 2016, Trump took a call from a Taiwanese President, the first time in 30 years, since 1979. (Listen to the interview at: [goo.gl/tESWyg](https://goo.gl/tESWyg))



# StudentSpotlights

## ➔ Rachel Stone



I study Political Science with a minor in Computer Science, with the intention of using technology to change the way that governments interact with their citizens. I became converted to the future of 21st century government after conducting research for a venture capitalist after my first year at BYU.

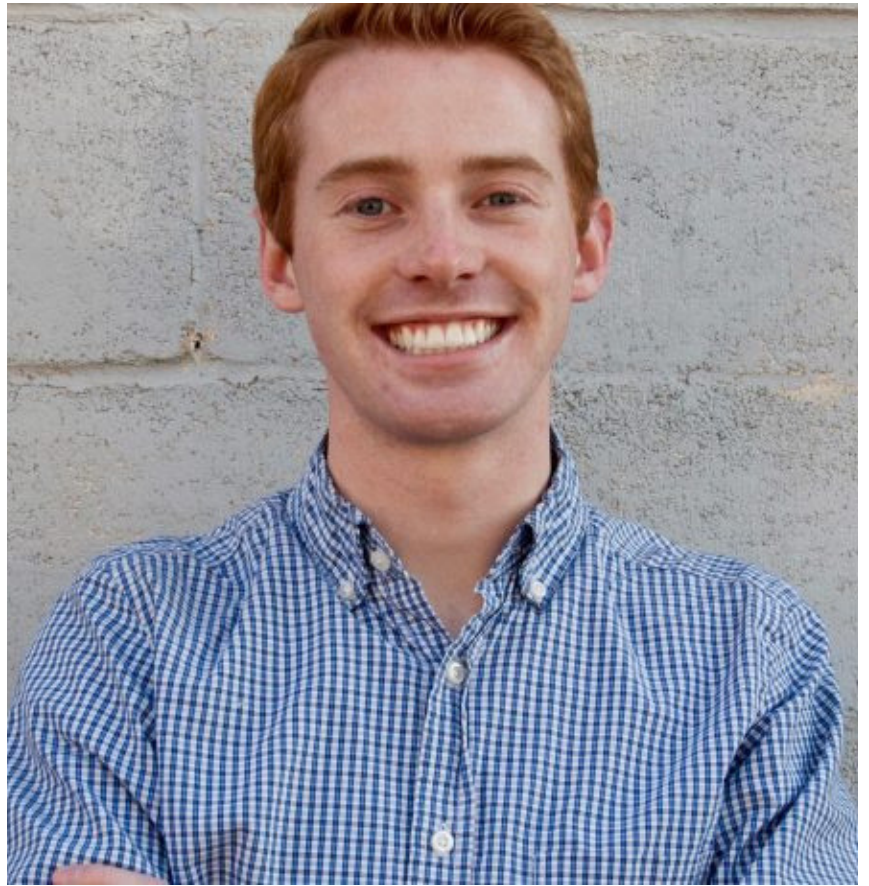
I co-founded and served as President of Women in Politics, a branch of BYU's Political Affairs Society. I was raised by feminists to become a feminist, and am passionate about empowering women in fields of leadership and STEM. After two years of heavy involvement with Provo City, I also helped launch the nonpartisan Provo Student Project. It is currently registering students to vote and orienting students to Provo when they first move in.

## ➔ Sarah Curry



I am studying political science with an emphasis in political strategy, and minoring in global studies and nonprofit management. I grew up in the Washington DC area, which exposed me to politics at a young age. When I came to BYU, I knew I wanted to learn how to serve my community. Political science has taught me valuable quantitative and writing skills, as well as a practical understanding of institutions that I will need to serve effectively. Additionally, the faculty and students in political science are fascinating! Their perspectives and experiences are far-reaching. Everyone is supportive and wants to pull you into their network. I really have found my tribe.

I am the special events director for BYU Political Affairs Society. I am the co-founder and president of BYUPAS Women in Politics. I am also a member of both Nonprofit Management Student Association and Students for International Development. I am an Undergraduate Fellow at the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy. I was a TA for POLI 201 for three semesters and have been a RA since January. This semester, I am also involved with the KBYU-Utah Colleges Exit Poll.



# Soren Schmidt

Soren Schmidt, a senior from Rexburg, Idaho, majoring in political science, was selected to win the Truman Scholarship Award. Fifty-four out of 775 applicants were selected to win the scholarship for 2016. Schmidt will be the only recipient from BYU to receive the award for 2016.

“The Truman Scholarship is special in the way that it really opens doors for you,” Schmidt said. “I’m just so thankful that I’m going to get a chance to take some of my ideas about how to make government better to the next level.” This year, the scholarship winners were awarded in a ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, MO, on May 29.

Scholarship recipients received \$30,000 towards graduate school for studies in public service. Soren is currently applying to law schools and researching how competitive elections make legislators more productive. The Truman award winners are usually announced by the students’ college or university president and are characterized by surprise visits to the classroom or by calling a meeting under some other pretense, according to an email by the executive secretary of the foundation.

# Engaged Living



## FACULTY QUOTE

**“Beyond Life itself, agency is God’s greatest gift to his children.**

In the absence of agency, we could not progress toward our ultimate potential. A world without agency would be a prison from whose bars we could never escape . . . This helps us understand the LDS distaste for totalitarian or even authoritarian governments. Such political systems may achieve order, but it is an order without justice, without creativity and initiative, and without the opportunity to err—a community in which none could be proven and none could progress. This also helps us understand the LDS commitment to political freedom, to the rule of law, and to . . . governments created and maintained by popular sovereignty. Such governments are champions of “individual and minority rights, personal freedom, and religious pluralism.”

-- Professor Emeritus Stan A. Taylor, Department of Political Science, from a BYU devotional address given on May 5, 1998 entitled “Accountable Citizenship.”

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.

**Mentoring is a way to serve. Anyone who feels they can help in this way, please contact your local Chapter or the Department itself and we will help open up doors of opportunity.**