

2021 UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

*“Having their hearts knit together in unity
and in love one towards another.”*

—MOSIAH 18:21



BYU UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Jim Kasen (chair), Jared Cowan, Tegwyn Ellingson, Ryan Hales, Julie Hatchett, Dani Higham,
Laura Holt, Scott Kavanaugh, Ray Lines, Jeff McClellan, Cindy Moreno, Kris Nelson, Bruce Patrick,
Clark Pew, Janae Pickard, Lena Primosch, Kirk Rich, Aaron Sorenson, Will Terris, Glenl Wear

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*University conference speeches can be accessed at speeches.byu.edu and
are available approximately four weeks following the conference.*

2021 University Conference

“Having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another.”

— MOSIAH 18:21

GENERAL SESSION

Monday, August 23, 2021 | 9 a.m. | Marriott Center

Faculty and Staff Achievements, 2020–2021	Media Presentation
Welcome	Vernon L. Heperi Assistant to the President for Student Success and Inclusion
Opening Hymn	“Now Let Us Rejoice” Sonja S. Poulter, conductor Neil A. Harmon, organist
Invocation	Coreena M. White Chair, Administrative Advisory Council
“Hoop Dance Mixdown”	By Grey Hawk Living Legends Kiona Lucio and Kelina Anderson, dancers Jamie K. Wood, director
Awards Recognition	Kevin J Worthen BYU President
President’s Message	Kevin J Worthen
“All Creatures of Our God and King”	Arranged by David Fletcher Shea M. Owens, baritone Robin J. Hancock, piano
Message	Elder Jeffrey R. Holland Quorum of the Twelve Apostles The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Benediction	Byron J. Adams Cochair, Faculty Advisory Council

Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award

This award, BYU's most prestigious faculty award, is provided through the generosity of the Karl G. Maeser Scholarship Society. The recipient must have demonstrated clear superiority in both scholarship and teaching.

Paul B. Savage

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



Paul B. Savage's world-renowned research focuses on strategies for the prevention and treatment of infectious disease. He has authored over 230 peer-reviewed publications, has been cited more than 20,000 times, and has received 50 patents, leading to multiple spin-off companies. Several biomedical products based on his work are currently in late-stage clinical trials. Savage is an excellent mentor, with some of the highest teaching ratings in his department. He is a past recipient of the Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Teaching Award, the Karl G. Maeser Research and Creative Arts Award, and the University Professorship.

Ben E. Lewis Management Award

*This award recognizes an administrative employee
for outstanding management abilities.*

Jonathon C. Wood

WHITMORE GLOBAL BUSINESS CENTER



Jonathon C. Wood runs the day-to-day operations of the Whitmore Center with optimism, energy, fresh ideas, and a collaborative approach. He has worked diligently to develop his understanding of international affairs and his diplomatic skills. Wood engages students by directing many of the study abroad activities, case competitions, and outreach programs himself, and he is constantly trying to figure out how to deliver better service to all faculty and staff so that students can be spiritually strengthened and intellectually enlarged. Wood stands out as someone who is very good at his job and dedicated to the university.

Fred A. Schwendiman Performance Award

This award recognizes a staff employee for exemplary contributions to the university through consistent and superior service.

William F. McCausland

CARPENTER SHOP



William F. McCausland has spent more than 31 years carefully crafting all types of carpentry for the BYU community. Most people on campus have seen or used the things he has made, but few know he is the one who made them. McCausland spends most days working on yet another project that someone on campus wasn't even sure was possible to make. He has personally created a multitude of beautiful custom projects for individuals and colleges on campus, and he always makes sure his work surprises and pleases the requestor. McCausland has the master's touch with woodworking. Craftsmanship, skill, and careful attention to detail are his hallmarks.

President's Appreciation Award

*This award recognizes staff and administrative personnel
for exceptional service, creativity, and competence.*

Jan Christensen

SCHOOL OF FAMILY LIFE



Jan Christensen serves her department and the university with distinction. She has mastered the administrative procedures and policies of the university, and her department relies on her to navigate all administrative matters. Christensen is a full team player without an ego who works with faculty and staff in a professional and friendly manner, setting a pleasing tone for the department.

Heather M. Hammond

ENGLISH



Heather M. Hammond is the embodiment of a proactive employee, consistently anticipating challenges on the horizon. She routinely navigates scheduling demands resulting from thousands of new university admissions and approaches scheduling with faculty and students with uppermost concern. Her respect for all extends into creating a welcoming work culture.

Denise R. Haney

COMPENSATION



In whatever role she is placed, Denise R. Haney fully commits to making BYU a better place. Managers, coworkers, and customers alike frequently recognize her unique combination of positivity, drive to help, high level of competency, and commitment to the university. It is very telling that those who work closest with her think the highest of her.

Anna K. Kennington

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



Anna K. Kennington addresses the needs of her department and visiting seminar speakers with grace, diplomacy, and competence, all while staying focused on her department and the mission of BYU. Kennington is also an effective mentor. She frequently conducts trainings that help students increase their communication skills and become sought-after employees in their future careers.

Heather Krieger

TEACHER EDUCATION



Heather Krieger completes all her work responsibilities with consummate care and skill. Using her profound knowledge of many of the BYU systems and procedures, she goes out of her way to help people and to make sure things are done appropriately, correctly, and compassionately. Krieger is proactive, humble, good-natured, and very approachable.

Cory W. Leonard

DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



Cory W. Leonard is a connector. Among many contributions, he has created the Global Opportunity Scholarship to help students study abroad, set up alumni discussions with students called Ask Me Anything, and extended the Model United Nations program to Utah high school students. Leonard is always thinking ahead in terms of what will resonate with students and alumni.

Karl A. Roylance

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES



Karl A. Roylance has a reputation for being helpful and kind. He is also an example of hard work and diligence for the staff and student employees he works with and embodies the Physical Facilities motto of “Service with Excellence.” Roylance has a wealth of knowledge of maintenance parts, and he freely shares his expertise. He makes everyone feel special and is a team player.

Kirsten R. Thompson

CENTER FOR TEACHING
AND LEARNING



Kirsten R. Thompson is driven to produce results, yet she also recognizes the importance of pausing to build connections with others. She is involved with the development and production of Learning Suite, for which she manages developers and instructional designers, works with faculty on training and implementation, and coordinates with OIT teams to keep things running.

Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Teaching Award

This award honors faculty members for outstanding teaching accomplishments and is made possible by the generosity of the Karl G. Maeser Scholarship Society.

Eric H. Christiansen

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES



Eric H. Christiansen's courses are a model of organization, clarity, and high-quality mentoring and teaching. He has a long-established classroom reputation for being rigorous yet popular with students. Christiansen has twice received his department's top teaching award and has been recognized with a College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award.

W. Spencer Guthrie

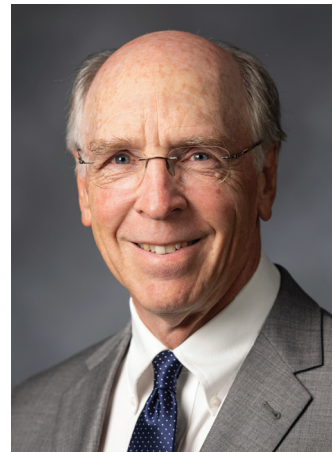
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING



W. Spencer Guthrie directs the BYU Highway Materials Laboratory and supervises the Materials and Pavements Research Group. He has authored nearly 200 technical publications with his students, has secured seven US patents, and is a leading researcher in his field. Guthrie's classes are rigorous and highly organized, and he takes a deep personal interest in his students.

Kory L. Katseanes

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Since 1999, Kory L. Katseanes has taught, conducted, and created high-quality music with thousands of students in BYU orchestras. He leads the BYU Chamber Orchestra on tours around the world as they perform in prestigious venues and collaborate with distinguished artists. Katseanes is passionate about the beauty and truth in orchestral music and loves sharing it with students and audiences.

Karl G. Maeser Research and Creative Arts Award

This award honors faculty members for outstanding research and creative accomplishments and is made possible by the generosity of the Karl G. Maeser Scholarship Society.

Gregory P. Nordin

ELECTRICAL AND
COMPUTER ENGINEERING



Gregory P. Nordin's research focuses on 3D printing for microfluidics and micro- and nano-fabricated devices for biosensing, photonics, and microelectromechanical systems. Nordin has led many large research programs and has been the principal investigator on research grants from government and industry totaling \$18 million.

Brian R. Roberts

ENGLISH



Brian R. Roberts specializes in US literary and cultural studies. He has published two scholarly monographs and two coedited collections with some of the finest presses in the fields of American literature and cultural theory. These books focus on Black transnationalism and US cultural geography. Roberts's work has also appeared in prestigious journals.

Richard A. Robison

MICROBIOLOGY AND
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



An outstanding scientist, mentor, teacher, and colleague, Richard A. Robison researches the detection and neutralization of several dangerous human pathogens with an emphasis on viruses and antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. He is often at the forefront of the scientific response in times of national emergency, including the aftermath of the 2001 anthrax attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karl G. Maeser Professional Faculty Excellence Award

This award recognizes outstanding achievement in fulfilling professional faculty responsibilities and is made possible by the generosity of the Karl G. Maeser Scholarship Society.

Melissa P. Larson

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY



Melissa P. Larson seeks to be an advocate for her students and empower them as they strive to comprehend and apply accounting principles. She has continually and creatively worked to develop better ways to teach, encourage, and mentor students, particularly “first-generation college students and those struggling under traditional course and testing parameters.”

Brenden W. Rensink

HISTORY



Brenden W. Rensink is the associate director of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies. He designs a rich annual program of public lectures and research seminars for the center and manages the center’s research awards, fellowships, and grants. His popular *Writing Westward* podcast and his student-curated digital history project, *Intermountain Histories*, make history broadly accessible.

Jeffrey A. Sheets

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS



Jeffrey A. Sheets's focus is on mentoring students. He serves as the advertising sequence leader for and is the founder and faculty director of the BYU AdLab. His students have won Best of Show in the American Advertising Federation’s American Advertising Awards the last four years in a row. In 2021 Sheets led the AdLab to the top of the international creative advertising program ranking.

University Professorship

This award encourages and acknowledges senior faculty members who are outstanding scholars, teachers, and university citizens. It may specifically recognize excellence in scholarship and creative work or reward superior classroom teaching.

Alumni Professorship

This award honors faculty members for teaching excellence. The award carries a three-year stipend made possible by the generosity of the BYU Alumni Association.

General Education Professorship

This award encourages and acknowledges outstanding contributions to undergraduate general education and honors courses by faculty members who have pursued their scholarly interests and provided services to the university community.

William F. Christensen

STATISTICS



William F. Christensen's research focuses on spatial and environmental statistics. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an associate editor for *Environmetrics*. Christensen currently serves on the Faculty Advisory Council. He and his students assist the university's COVID-19 task force with data analysis and modeling campus interconnectivity.

Len B. Novilla

PUBLIC HEALTH



Len B. Novilla is responsible for undergraduate curriculum and learning. She has helped develop and grow the health science emphasis while leading conversations and developing coursework on the integration of public health and healthcare. Students praise her caring and compassionate approach as an instructor and appreciate her high learning expectations.

Richard K. Watt

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



Over the past four years, Richard K. Watt has taught more than 1,300 students in Chemistry 101. Knowing that most of his students are in their first year and are often still adjusting to college life, Watt is sensitive to their challenges. The overwhelmingly positive ratings and comments he receives show that his students know he cares about them.

Abraham O. Smoot Citizenship Award

This award is presented to university faculty members who have demonstrated sustained service and personal sacrifice to the BYU community.

Wesley P. Lloyd Award for Distinction in Graduate Education

This award pays tribute to faculty members of exemplary performance in teaching, research/creative work, and citizenship in graduate education.

Phi Kappa Phi Award

This award is presented to faculty members who have achieved excellence in scholarly and creative endeavors, exemplify integrity, and have contributed to BYU through citizenship and service.

Craig H. Hart

FACULTY CENTER



Since coming to BYU in 1992, Craig H. Hart has lifted the research and teaching of human development at the university. He has had many noteworthy accomplishments as a scholar, including coediting *The Handbook of Childhood and Social Development*. Hart has prioritized administrative service for more than 20 years and currently serves as director of the Faculty Center.

Wendy Baker-Smemoe

LINGUISTICS



Wendy Baker-Smemoe has established a remarkable record of distinguished teaching and mentoring of graduate students. In addition to developing important graduate courses, she has served on more than 85 thesis or dissertation committees. She loves to help her students become effective researchers and has coauthored publications with many of them.

Stephanie F. Breinholt

THEATRE AND MEDIA ARTS



Stephanie F. Breinholt has recently been appointed as the artistic director of BYU Theatre, having previously served as the BFA acting program area head. She is a nationally recognized director and award-winning educator. She is also a professional actor and voiceover artist, voice and dialect coach, and designer. Breinholt will be directing the upcoming production of *Pride and Prejudice* at BYU.

Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award

This award recognizes the contributions of part-time faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in teaching or in other professional responsibilities over a period of at least five years.

Jenny B. Brooks

PSYCHOLOGY



Jenny B. Brooks is a talented teacher who goes above and beyond expectations for students and her department. She is dedicated to the aims of a BYU education and uses her class assignments to emphasize these aims. Her students report that her classes build their testimonies and help them become better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Julie A. Duncan

NUTRITION, DIETETICS,
AND FOOD SCIENCE



Julie A. Duncan guides students in learning the ins and outs of managing the Pendulum Court Café. She has a gift for developing rapport with each student and is an example of calmness, respect, confidence, and commitment. Duncan also engages in the department beyond teaching, including editing the department newsletter and advising the Student Dietetic Association.

Kathryn L. Isaak

COMPARATIVE ARTS
AND LETTERS



Kathryn L. Isaak has taught GE humanities and writing courses at BYU for more than two decades. She has helped revise a course textbook, create an online course, and redesign another. Isaak directs the annual German Adventsinggen program. She is deeply committed to creating inclusive places of learning and is known for her genuine care for her students.

BYU Class of 1949 Young Faculty Award

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions by junior faculty members. It is made possible by the generosity of the class of 1949.

Teresa D. Love

THEATRE AND MEDIA ARTS



Teresa D. Love teaches drama/theatre education methods classes in addition to regularly writing and directing for Young Company. She is widely respected for her dynamic teaching and innovative directing and is a generous mentor. Through her work with the BYU Arts Partnership, Love nurtures arts educators and classroom teachers, encouraging them to engage children with the gifts of theatre.

Sponsored Research Recognition Award

This award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate outstanding achievement in scholarly activities funded by external sponsors or who give significant service in support of sponsored research and creative programs.

Jason S. Bergman

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Jason S. Bergman is a trumpet soloist of international reputation. He serves as president of the International Trumpet Guild and started the BYU Trumpet Festival, which brings top guest artists from around the world to campus. Students appreciate Bergman's genuine care for them, his attention to their unique needs, and his organization, clarity, humility, and flexibility.

Byron J. Adams

BIOLOGY



Byron J. Adams's research programs in ecology and evolution have been continuously supported by the National Science Foundation since before Adams came to BYU in 2003. Many of his projects involve fieldwork in Antarctica, where he and his colleagues study how organisms and ecosystems respond to climate-driven changes. His research has appeared in many top-tier journals.

Early Career Scholarship Award

This award encourages and acknowledges outstanding promise and contributions by junior faculty in scholarship.

Wendy C. Birmingham

PSYCHOLOGY



Wendy C. Birmingham's research program is at the intersection of health psychology and social psychology. She has published extensively in the fields of health psychology and behavioral medicine, establishing herself as an expert on how relationships impact both physical and mental health. Birmingham has published more than 50 research articles and academic book chapters.

Jeffrey L. Jenkins

INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Jeffrey L. Jenkins is a prolific scholar, an exemplary teacher, and a world-renowned expert in computer security and mouse-cursor tracking. He has a highly respected research and publishing record and is a passionate and caring teacher. His peers seek for his collaboration, his students excel under his tutelage, and his department thrives with his compassionate and capable leadership.

S. Andrew Ning

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



S. Andrew Ning has published 27 journal articles, 39 refereed conference papers, and two textbooks. He has also received more than 15 independent externally funded grants totaling over \$2.5 million, which he has used to mentor more than 50 undergraduate and 20 graduate students. Ning excels in the classroom and consistently receives excellent student ratings.

Technology Transfer Award

This award recognizes faculty members who have made significant research contributions that have led to the development of useful commercial products.

Darin A. Ragozzine

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY



Darin A. Ragozzine specializes in the application of orbital dynamics to icy bodies in the outer solar system and planets around other stars. He loves explaining planetary science to larger audiences. Ragozzine has published 79 peer-reviewed papers, and his work has been cited nearly 13,000 times. He is an outstanding teacher and mentor who regularly includes undergraduates in his research.

Creative Works Award

This award recognizes faculty members and university personnel who demonstrate outstanding achievement in the development of creative works that have had wide acceptance and national or international distribution.

Michael D. Jones

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Michael D. Jones's research interests include technology for deaf education, interactive computing in outdoor recreation, and systems for improving performance and preventing injury in sports training. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Google, and the Sorenson Impact Foundation.

Devin N. Asay

DIGITAL HUMANITIES



Devin N. Asay develops language learning software and custom tutorial and testing software for a number of languages. He teaches courses on the fundamentals of software development and programming to students across the university using a rapid application development environment called LiveCode, for which he also created a free interactive learning application.

Early Career Teaching Award

This award encourages and acknowledges outstanding promise and contributions in teaching by faculty at an early stage in their careers.

Kathryn L. Cabbage

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



Kathryn L. Cabbage is engaging and warm, and her students know that she cares about them and their learning. She responds thoughtfully to students' questions, connecting their queries to the theoretical and clinical concepts in her classes. Cabbage has involved many undergraduates in her research, and she seamlessly connects her classroom teaching with her scholarly work.

Seth R. Holladay

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Seth R. Holladay plays a key role in BYU's Center for Animation. Knowing that more than half of his students go into game development, he created the video game capstone program. Student-led projects such as *Beat Boxers* and *Avast Ye* have received first-place recognitions at renowned competitions, and his students go on to work for top animation companies.

Rebekka Matheson

PSYCHOLOGY



Rebekka Matheson has established a reputation as a phenomenal and sought-out teacher. She teaches upper-level courses that combine difficult scientific principles, such as physiologic mechanisms and biophysics with behavior. Matheson works hard to create innovative and effective learning opportunities for her students, successfully blending teaching and mentoring.

Elliott D. Wise

COMPARATIVE ARTS
AND LETTERS



Elliott D. Wise is a master teacher in the field of art history. His enthusiasm for the subject matter and his innovative teaching profoundly inspire, motivate, and engage students in their learning and research. Wise consistently shows Christian kindness and charity, and his daily life is a constant demonstration of his testimony—something students regularly express gratitude for.

Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellowship

This fellowship recognizes the sacrifice and efforts by the university's support services in providing a transfer of positions and budget to enhance teaching and learning.

Lawrence K. Egbert Teaching and
Learning Faculty Fellowship

Darrin M. Doud

MATHEMATICS



Darrin M. Doud frequently teaches large sections for both mathematics majors and nonmajors, and he goes out of his way to make time for his students. After seeing the high prices students were paying for their textbooks, he wrote a new textbook that he provides online for free. Doud has served as his department's associate chair and twice as the undergraduate coordinator.

Dean Fairbanks Teaching and
Learning Faculty Fellowship

Aaron M. Miller

ROMNEY INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC SERVICE AND ETHICS



Aaron M. Miller has an engaging teaching style and a well-organized curriculum. He offers extensive learning opportunities to students in his nonprofit, ethics, and negotiations courses as well as through his advisement to various nonprofit social impact programs. As he mentors students, he intentionally provides them with the tools they need to make a difference in the world.

C. Joseph Rowberry Teaching and
Learning Faculty Fellowship

Ulrike H. Mitchell

EXERCISE SCIENCES



A scientist and clinician, Ulrike H. Mitchell brings timely and relevant information and skills to the classroom, creating effective mentoring environments for her students. Additionally, her interdepartmental and international research collaborations provide her students with insight and unique experiences in their educational pursuits. Mitchell is an example of collegiality and professionalism.

Douglas K. Christensen Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellowship

Cherice M. Montgomery

SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE



Cherice M. Montgomery is nationally recognized as an innovative and caring educator and trainer of foreign language teachers. She frequently gives presentations and trainings around the country and has received numerous teaching awards. Countless students and educators have been blessed by her personal mentoring and testimony as well as her online articles dedicated to foreign language pedagogy.

Edwin Cozzens Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellowship

Daniel E. Smalley

ELECTRICAL AND
COMPUTER ENGINEERING



Daniel E. Smalley's current research focuses on holography and volumetric 3D displays. His groundbreaking work has appeared in both academic and lay venues, and Smalley actively options and licenses more than a dozen patents. His creative approaches to teaching, which parallel fiction such as Harry Potter and Star Trek, engage his students and help them master complex material.

Steven M. Rose Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellowship

Ellie L. Young

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION



Ellie L. Young served for many years as graduate coordinator of the school psychology program. She has also served as president of the Utah Association of School Psychologists and as the leader of several state-wide projects. Her research focuses on meeting the emotional needs of students in public schools and on schoolwide screening for social, emotional, and behavioral issues.

BYU