

BYU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Service Awards 2019

Five Years: Randolph Morgan, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Randy Morgan heads up Computing Support in the diverse and challenging environment of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Randy has been instrumental in the development of a constructive and congenial relationship between our department and the Office of Information Technology. Randy is also a great mentor to the students who work under his direction in Computing Support. We are grateful for his diligent service and the spirit of sacrifice he brings to his job.

Five Years: Jeremy Peterson, Physics & Astronomy

Jeremy Peterson is the department design engineer and machinist. His work supports essential research functions for more than half of the faculty. He mentors his students and together they convert half-baked sketches into beautiful and functional parts that keep many projects going. He supports our summer Physics Teaching workshops, providing experimental equipment for high school science teachers that they use in their classrooms. His expertness, speed, agility, and kindness are greatly appreciated in our department.

Twenty Years: Brooke Anderson, College Advisement

Brooke is constantly improving through professional development. Her certifications and knowledge have directly translated into her ability to improve as an advisor. She is a fantastic advisor; many students ask for her specifically. She is an outstanding colleague for faculty and staff and a respected supervisor of our student employees. Brooke improved our new student orientation and our college convocation. Brooke also serves on various college and university committees bringing innovative ideas to the committee. We're grateful for her service!

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Outstanding Admin/Staff: Fred Lewis, Mathematics

Fred Lewis excellently navigates many responsibilities as department controller: handling the department finances; supervising staff; hiring student workers; and managing facility needs. Lewis is a proactive thinker who anticipates how department needs might change, and works with department leadership to plan for those possibilities. His efficient budget projections and suggestions for improvement have proven to be invaluable to multiple department chairs. What's more, Lewis does it all while making others feel appreciated and supported through his friendship and good humor.

Excellence in Teaching 3-10 years: Seth Holladay, Computer Science

Dr. Seth Holladay's kind yet rigorous mentoring encourages students with little experience to excel in film and game development. Holladay led the team that was honored in the E3 Game Competition, and received the Best Designed Game award, one of only two awards given at the Intel University Game Showcase. Meanwhile, the animations he supervised have received student animation Emmy awards for 4 out of the last 5 years, and he was awarded Gold at the Student Academy Awards.

Young Scholar Award: Darin Ragozzine, Physics & Astronomy

Darin Ragozzine has made significant contributions to exoplanet discovery efforts (KEPLER) and Kuiper belt object study, and has received Hubble telescope time grants. He has also secured \$500k portion of grants to BYU since arriving in Fall 2016. Ragozzine has mentored 15 BYU undergraduate students since his arrival, and has published many notable papers. He has also developed his own textbook for the introductory astronomy course, as well as a new method for teaching Physics 230, including recorded video instructions.

Excellence in Teaching 10+ years: Dan Siebert, Mathematics Education

Dan Siebert's quiet leadership has been very influential in our department's development of programs and courses. His solutions are attentive to student needs, respectful of different perspectives, aligned with learning outcomes, and mindful of faculty time. Furthermore, Siebert's students have presented at national conferences and gone on to prestigious doctoral programs. Siebert has also played a critical role in the development of curricula for several math courses, and has performed exemplary service on over 25 Masters Committees.

Outstanding Service Award: Eric Hirschmann, Physics & Astronomy

Eric transformed the department graduate student experience. Under his leadership, the graduate committee established a stronger culture of student connectedness through weekly "graduate gobbles." Eric helps students progress through key milestones by carefully reviewing each prospectus, thesis, and dissertation. Beginning with admissions, Eric discovered faculty needs, matched applicants, and raised awareness of graduate fellowships. The average number of graduate student-authored papers per year increased nearly 50% during his tenure. Eric's tireless efforts have helped move our program to greater distinction.

Distinguished Citizenship: Michael Dorff, Mathematics

Michael Dorff's service to the department, university, and profession is extensive and distinguished. Serving as president of the Mathematical Association of America - the world's largest professional organization of mathematicians - and as a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society, Dorff has worked to promote mathematics at BYU and throughout the world. He consistently exhibits exemplary teaching, receiving the national Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching in Mathematics in 2009. Dorff also mentored six undergraduate students in 2019.