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## A Letter From the Editor

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## A Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the 2019 edition of *Sigma*. Within these pages, you will find some of the most impressive scholarship produced by undergraduate students here at Brigham Young University. However, the findings and analyses generated by these student researchers have implications far beyond classrooms in Provo, Utah. Their work addresses myriad topics from terrorism to the environment to women in politics; they delve into issue framing, the roots of political attitudes, and theories with true academic rigor. This multifaceted and clear-cutting examination of current political topics represents hundreds of hours of work from students. As editor, I hope you enjoy the originality and nuance each paper exhibits.

The message of this year's edition of *Sigma* encompasses a great deal: immigration, interpersonal relationships, terrorism, fear, "Me Too," political rhetoric, environmentalism, female political representation in sub-Saharan Africa, and methods of political activism. I believe it is a reflection of the political reawakening gripping the U.S. and the world. Now is a time when global citizens, including many young people, feel compelled to take action and grapple with political and ethical challenges. Political science students at BYU are seeking to understand how fear, media, rhetoric, and social interaction are affecting political processes in the world today. The papers selected for this publication show the eagerness of our generation to contribute to answering these questions and provide an example to others that they need not wait to become involved.

As we send *Sigma* to press, the editorial team and I have the opportunity to extend our thanks to the many people who made it possible. First off, our fantastic authors, who not only chose to write these papers but also stood by them (and us) through numerous rounds of edits, deadlines, and eleventh-hour requests. We also wish to thank the many professors who lent their expertise to the editing process for specific papers. Their help and experience was invaluable. Our gratitude also goes to the editorial team who dedicated their time to minute readings and re-readings of these papers. Finally, we have to thank our readers, who ensure that there is an audience for the scholastic conversation these papers represent.

We hope you enjoy *Sigma*. We hope you question the results, the methods, the logic, the conclusions, and enter the conversation yourself in the next edition. We can only hope that our understanding of the topics addressed here, from immigration to healthy relationships and everything in between, may continue to expand.

Sincerely,

Rachel Finlayson  
Editor-in-Chief