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## Letter from the Editor

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# A Letter From the Editor

Rehtaeh Beers

Welcome to the 2017 edition of *Sigma*. This journal is a showcase of the scholarship produced by students in Brigham Young University's Political Science and International and Area Studies Departments. This journal represents hundreds of hours spent carefully investigating, analyzing, and reporting about significant issues in our world, yielding findings that we believe deserve an outlet beyond the university classroom. Accordingly, we present them for you to examine as an inquisitive reader.

As an undergraduate journal, *Sigma* has a message: Students need not wait for postgraduate study to contribute to the global storehouse of knowledge. Within this issue, you will find answers to a variety of questions, touching subjects as varied as domestic violence, congressional productivity in the U.S., and child labor in sub-Saharan Africa. Many of these papers also have implications for public policy in arenas such as improving foster care and increasing voter turnout. The fresh—yet carefully vetted—perspectives these authors present merit your close attention.

I wish to express my appreciation to the hard-working authors, editing staff, and professors who have assisted in polishing and preparing these papers for publication. I also wish to thank you as the reader for engaging with this emerging scholarship. I sincerely believe this journal will prove worthy of your time and intellectual engagement. As you read, you will surely find these voices both interesting and deserving of further dissemination.

Sincerely,

Reed Rasband  
Editor-in-Chief