



# Sigma: Journal of Political and International Studies

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## Letter from the Editor

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# A Letter From the Editor

People continue to ask me, “What is *Sigma*?” I then try to explain the journal’s rich history and to list the BYU alumni who wrote articles in the distant past. I usually end the discussion with a plug for how working on the journal is a great resume booster that will help improve a student’s writing. Looking back, I see that I have never explained what *Sigma* is; I have only described what it *was* and how it can help students further their personal goals. I would like to set the record straight and explain what *Sigma* is to me.

*Sigma*, beyond the typed words and glossy paper, is a repository for student ideas concerning topics in the fields of political and international studies. Those ideas are the result of intense academic work, sleepless nights, and deep devotion to understanding and improving our world. Every issue of *Sigma* is a collaborative effort that involves over a dozen students trying to create a publication that can make a difference.

For many undergraduate students, college life is all about the hustle to and fro from classes to work, to family, to volunteer, and so on; the idea of making a difference seems ephemeral, a shadow that we merely chase through college and do not actually capture until we finally start our careers. I choose not to believe this. BYU students can change the world *today*, and one way they can do it is by sharing their unique ideas to the world. *Sigma* helps students do just that—it gives students a voice and a platform to give their perspectives on what is happening throughout their country and their world.

Because these students’ ideas matter, the *Sigma* staff seeks not only to publish students’ papers but also to help improve students’ writing. Our main goal is not just to create a good journal; our mission is to give students the tools necessary to share their ideas broadly for the rest of their lives. To me, this is what *Sigma* is. We help students gain a powerful voice through their academic writing that can change the world.

Sincerely,

Alan Hickey  
Editor-in-Chief