BYU Marriott Welcomes New Dean, Brigitte Madrian

Prior to becoming dean in January 2019, Brigitte Madrian spent eleven years at two business schools—the University of Chicago and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania—followed by twelve years in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her research focuses on household finance and how employers and the government can facilitate better outcomes for families.

Though you might expect the dean of a business school to be all about the bottom line, Madrian has been working at the crossroads of the private and public sectors since she left BYU as an economics graduate thirty years ago. Her deep understanding of where business and government intersect makes her perfectly suited to lead a business school with the unique distinction of housing a public administration program.

So when it came time for her to pick a faculty appointment as part of her deanship, it was only natural that Madrian would opt to be a part of both the Department of Finance and the Romney Institute of Public Service & Ethics. A dual faculty appointment may be rare, but for Madrian, aligning with two BYU Marriott departments was a perfect fit.

Madrian’s career echoes the slogan of the MPA program: iMPAct. “The most rewarding part of my career is working on research that has an impact in terms of improving outcomes for individuals,” she says. “It’s a lot easier to get out of bed in the morning and go to work. I hope everyone can have a job where they feel that way.”

Finding students that kind of job is right in line with Madrian’s vision for the future of BYU Marriott and the Romney Institute. “We develop a lot of general skills around management, leadership, and ethical decision-making, and those skills are relevant to all the programs in BYU Marriott,” she says. “Students will find a lot of revolving doors between the public and the private sector career-wise.”

Madrian sees the unusual position of the Romney Institute as a strength: “Having people who are going to have careers in the public sector understand the role of business is important, but having the people who will run businesses understand that there is a greater social good that is represented by the regulation in the public sector is also important. There are huge synergies between both of those enterprises at a university.”

Catch more of Dean Madrian’s insights into public service firsthand on Twitter, @BrigitteMadrian.
As I participated in April graduation, I listened, wondering what I could learn for my own career from a speech intended for new graduates. Plenty! The speaker’s message was motivating and sparked ideas that I’m excited to implement.

Regardless of the stage we find ourselves in our careers, truths like the ones I heard at graduation always apply. Here are a few I’ve learned over the years.

**Find your focus:** Make time to plan. To avoid finding ourselves down a path we didn’t intend to be on, we must plan early. Get clear on goals and current state/situation, then identify the next steps to reach the next milestone. Just like getting to the gym is easier with a workout buddy, having a partner with whom to meet regularly and discuss big-picture goals, progress, and current challenges can be extremely beneficial.

**Lifelong Learning:** Commit to and embrace a life of self-improvement. Work to keep up with technology, or take a class to develop a new skill. Even if we do this with an end goal of moving on in our careers, it can also be a means of contributing in our current roles. Building a reputation internally as well as externally is extremely valuable to continued success. An easy way to continue learning is by joining the Romney Institute LinkedIn alumni page at www.linkedin.com/groups/113677.

**Create Connections:** We can never have too many friends—or connections. Moving the career needle is easier when we are connected and consistently growing our network. LinkedIn and other social platforms can help; however, nothing is as effective as a phone call, lunch appointment, or quick conversation with someone to catch up. As we make time to effectively develop relationships with other professionals we admire, we’ll find satisfaction in new friendships and our growing network and brand.

**Be Believing:** Our outlook on life has a lot to do with our successes and daily effectiveness. Invest time in a daily mindfulness activity to let go of negative thoughts or emotions that can hold us back from achieving our goals. Never underestimate the power of positivity.

Like listening to a college graduation speech, as we seek to learn new ways to grow and progress in our careers, we can engage in satisfying activities while increasing the iMPAct we have in our circles of influence.

Sincerely,

Tanya Harmon
Career Services Director
Romney Institute of Public Service & Ethics
Five-year-old Kena Mathews was taking a walk with her mother when she noticed a homeless person for the first time. For someone to not have a home was hard for Mathews to comprehend. In that moment, as a young girl, she knew her life’s mission would be to help and serve those less fortunate.

“I have always been drawn to people in need,” says Mathews, a 2004 EMPA graduate. “I feel a real kinship with people in need. It's just in me to want to make a difference and do good in the world.”

Mathews feels she has been given many blessings, including good parents, a good education, and good friends. “A lot of people don’t have these opportunities, so if I can make the lives of people who are less fortunate even just a little bit better, that makes me happy,” Mathews says.

As Mathews was deciding on a career path, she kept in mind her passion to help the less fortunate around her. After graduating from the University of Utah in political science in 1995, Mathews found herself working for different nonprofits around Utah. After overhearing BYU alumni talk about the EMPA program at BYU Marriott, Mathews found herself intrigued. In 2002, she decided to continue her education and apply to the EMPA program.

“I love to learn and always wanted to get more education,” Mathews says. “I didn’t have a specific career goal in mind going into the EMPA program, I just wanted to learn to be a better leader.”

While in the program, Mathews worked at two different nonprofits in Provo—Neighborhood Housing Services of Provo and the Food and Care Coalition of Utah Valley. Shortly after graduating, Mathews became the director for the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity of Utah County and worked there for nearly fourteen years.

“One of the best things about the EMPA program is that it helped me learn business skill sets such as budgeting,” Mathews says. “But the most important thing it taught me was how to communicate at a higher level.”

In August 2018, Mathews accepted a job with the City of Orem as the community services manager. In her new position, she runs multiple community programs. For example, she runs a program to help find funding for nonprofits in the community, as well as a program that works in the low-income neighborhoods to provide activities that help improve the community.

“The transition has been good for me,” says Mathews, an Orem native. “I have been able to bring all my skills and interests together in my new job. People may think I am boring, but I love to work and feel it is important to do all I can within my job and for those in my community.”

Not many people stick to the dreams they had when they were five. As a community services manager, Mathews has the opportunity on a daily basis to see her childhood calling in life—to make a difference in the world—become reality.

Join us for our third annual alumni fireside.

FINDING YOUR CALLING IN LIFE
A conversation with people on the journey

When: Monday, 19 August 2019, 5:30 p.m.
Where: W408 Tanner Building
Moderator: Jeff Thompson, Romney Institute professor
RSVP: forms.gle/iDDjJKKJk7yfOxW8
Kathy Calvin, president and director of the United Nations Foundation, was named 2019 Administrator of the Year by the Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics at the BYU Marriott School of Business.

“I’m honored by this award,” Calvin said during the institute’s annual banquet. “I was grateful to have this opportunity and to see what BYU is all about.”

Calvin’s effective leadership in advocating for the UN and creating public-private partnerships was more than worthy of receiving recognition, says award committee co-chair and Romney Institute associate professor Rex Facer. “Her peers often refer to her as a force multiplier,” says Facer. “She not only values the people she serves, but she also recognizes the need for people to be engaged and make choices.”

As a leader of the UN Foundation, Calvin says bringing people together, solving global problems, and helping the most vulnerable has been an incredible honor. “My career has been about figuring out how to help people make their lives better, improving our common society, and standing up for women,” Calvin says.

Throughout her life, Calvin has been a passionate advocate for multisector problem-solving, United States leadership on global issues, and the inclusion of women at all professional levels and sectors. Before joining the UN Foundation in 2003, Calvin served as president of the AOL Time Warner Foundation where she guided AOL Time Warner’s philanthropic activities and was the chief architect of the company’s corporate-responsibility initiatives. She joined America Online in 1997 as senior vice president and chief communications officer and oversaw the company’s brand, social responsibility, and external relations.

Prior to joining AOL Time Warner, she was a senior managing director at Hill and Knowlton, a global public relations company, where she led the US media relations practice. Twelve years before her work for Hill and Knowlton, Calvin served as director of editorial administration for U.S. News & World Report, overseeing budget, personnel, innovation, and strategy. From 1976 to 1984, Calvin served as press secretary for former United States Senator Gary Hart in his senate office and during his 1984 presidential campaign. She was one of the first women to hold the title of press secretary in an American presidential campaign.

Calvin’s leadership and efforts in philanthropy have not gone unnoticed. In 2011, she was named one of Newsweek’s 150 Women Who Rock the World and was listed in Fast Company’s League of Extraordinary Women in 2012. Her innovative work in the philanthropy and international NGO sectors was featured by The New York Times in 2011, and she has received numerous awards for philanthropy and leadership over the course of her career.

Before attending the awards banquet, Calvin took the time to meet with faculty and students to learn about the culture at BYU. “I don’t think of myself as an administrator but as someone who’s in service,” she says. “I was happy to be part of the program and learn more about the faith and sense of community fostered at BYU.”
BYU Marriott’s MPA program has reason to celebrate after the U.S. News & World Report released its 2020 graduate school ranking. The MPA program jumped six spots from the previous ranking, landing at No. 53 for best public affairs program.

In addition to the MPA program’s higher overall ranking, two MPA specialties were ranked in the top fifty: local government at No. 16 and public management at No. 29.

“Our move up in the rankings has a lot to do with having a great staff that helps people know both the quality of our MPA program and the quality of our faculty,” says David Matkin, associate professor of public service and ethics.

Not only do staff members communicate the quality of the BYU Marriott program, but they also help students acquire jobs after graduation, Matkin observes. “We have outstanding alumni development staff that have been successful at placing students in great jobs and helping them develop and grow professionally,” he says.

The mission of BYU Marriott’s MPA program is to prepare leaders of exceptional capability and integrity who are committed to serving their communities and making public service organizations better. BYU Marriott’s MPA program has been able to build an impressive reputation as it prepares students for future careers in public and nonprofit service, notes Matkin.

Though BYU Marriott’s MPA program has made a name for itself, the staff and faculty have every intention to keep improving and expanding the program. “We are only starting,” says Matkin.

University of North Carolina public administration professor Leisha DeHart-Davis reconnected with longtime research colleagues—now current BYU Marriott School of Business faculty—when she spoke as award recipient of this year’s Gary C. Cornia Lecture Series.

“BYU Marriott Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics has fantastic faculty members who I’ve worked well with over the years,” DeHart-Davis says. “It was both exciting and humbling to be recognized by the Romney Institute and receive the award honoring Gary Cornia’s legacy.”

DeHart-Davis was selected to receive the award because she is a thought leader in the industry, says public service and ethics BYU Marriott associate professor David Matkin. “She is someone who thinks deeply about how to improve academic programs and then digs in to help realize those changes in the real world,” he says.

During her lecture, DeHart-Davis spoke on the importance of engaged scholarship, a research model that encourages both academic scholarship and practical guidance. DeHart-Davis shared her experience of first offering to perform academic research for local government organizations, often offering free service for the sake of building tenure. The hard work paid off, as she is now director of the UNC Local Government Workforces Initiative, an organization that conducts academic research to improve city and county organizations.

A love of research and desire to serve a greater purpose are what DeHart-Davis says ultimately guided her towards working in the public administration field in the first place. “I always knew I wanted to serve something bigger than a bottom line, to make a real difference in the world,” says DeHart-Davis. “To conduct research that contributes knowledge and improves the experience of public employees is such a great reward and privilege.”

The lecture series is named in honor of Gary C. Cornia, former Romney Institute director and BYU Marriott dean, and recognizes the most distinguished scholars in the field of public administration.
The refugee and immigration challenges facing European countries may not have an immediate effect on most students at the BYU Marriott, but one BYU Marriott MPA student was given the opportunity to test possible policies that could help alleviate the challenges facing these countries. BYU Marriott MPA first-year student Alyssa Clark took home first-place honors at a recent competition and advanced to the global competition for her chosen policies.

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) Batten competition, held in San Francisco, hosted student teams of three to five students that were asked to test policies in response to the refugee and immigration crisis in Europe. Clark, a native of Cottonwood Heights, Utah, was placed on a team with other students from various universities.

“Working with students from other schools was fun,” says Clark. “I enjoyed hearing their different perspectives and the things they’ve been learning.”

Each team in the competition represented a certain country from Europe, although the teams were unaware of which country they had been assigned. Team members were assigned different roles and then rotated through each to discuss how the various policies would affect their country’s data for refugees and immigration.

“The competition was intricate,” says Clark. “The challenges allowed us to make data-driven decisions. We were able to see how different policies would affect the numbers and then test and enact the policies to see the results.”

At the end of the competition, the students’ policies were measured on metrics such as human rights, gross domestic product growth, and the country’s citizens’ support—or non-support—of the crisis. At the end of the competition, the teams were informed which countries they had been representing and given the back-end data for their country’s experience with refugees and immigration crises.

“The reason we won was because we were liberal and generous with the programs we offered,” Clark says. “We put money into as many programs as we could and also had open borders, which allowed our country to be the gateway country for a lot of refugees to be able to get to other countries and grow the economy.”

To prepare for the competition, NASPAA gave the students a packet with minimal information on their unnamed countries and instructions on how the complex competition worked. The students were required to rely mainly on their own knowledge from their studies at their universities.

The background and education she gained through BYU Marriott was key, says Clark. “Not having a lot of time to prepare was stressful,” Clark says. “But the BYU Marriott MPA program has been great at teaching me skills dealing with a governmental focus and policy—I had the information I needed to help create the winning policies.”
BYU Marriott MPA graduates Kirsi Jarvis and Raymon Burton are working with One Refugee in Salt Lake City to build career development partnerships for refugee college students. One Refugee is a nonprofit organization focused on empowering the rising generation of refugee college students and professionals in the United States. Located in Salt Lake City, One Refugee supports two hundred college students in Utah and Idaho through scholarship funding, one-on-one mentoring, and career engagement. Many of the students are first-generation college students and are breaking economic barriers in their communities as they excel in the classroom and in the workplace.

Throughout the year, One Refugee partners with organizations along the Wasatch Front to host speed networking events, information sessions, and civic engagement workshops with a small group of students. The in-person interaction provides invaluable experiences for students, specifically helping to expand and empower their career opportunities. From Silicon Slopes to local government offices, One Refugee welcomes the opportunity to partner with organizations to empower students and professionals.

If your organization is interested in hosting a career, educational, or civic engagement workshop at your offices in fall 2019 or early 2020, please contact Kirsi Jarvis at kirsi@onerefugee.org.

For more information about One Refugee, visit onerefugee.org.
The BYU Marriott School of Business honored three noteworthy faculty members from the Master of Public Administration program at the annual awards luncheon on 18 April 2019.

Associate professor Rob Christensen, MPA director Lori Wadsworth, and program manager Heather Chewning were recognized for their contributions to the school through research, service, and exemplary management.

Christensen received the Scholarly Excellence Award for his outstanding research and publication focused on prosocial and antisocial behaviors in public-service organizations. He says working for BYU Marriott has motivated him in his research. “The students, staff, and faculty at BYU Marriott create a supportive environment where I find unparalleled opportunities to pursue research,” he says. “This award is incredibly meaningful to me because it represents a vote of confidence from people I admire.”

The Citizenship Award was given to Wadsworth for her commitment to furthering the school’s mission through her service as chair of the BYU Marriott Inclusion Committee. “Participating in the committee has been an incredible experience,” she says. “We have been able to move the work of inclusion forward in significant ways.”

Chewning was honored with the Excellence Award, which recognized her skills in management as well as her professionalism and character. “I have been inspired by the people at BYU Marriott, especially those in the Romney Institute,” she says. “The talent, creativity, drive, and overall effort I know the faculty and staff put into their jobs on a daily basis is incredible, and I am grateful to be among them.”