

My experience at BYU was much more than just academic education or graduate research. It was about living the gospel in all parts of my life (academic and personal). It was also about building relationships with fellow students and my neighbors in Provo where I lived. Now that I'm a postdoc, I strive to include the Lord in my daily work and my family life. My coworkers notice I live differently and often recognize I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints even without asking. My experience building friendships with fellow grad students (many who weren't members) and neighbors has helped me appreciate the people I've met in Richland, WA where I now live. While at BYU and Provo, I practiced putting roots down by investing in relationships, and fostering friendships. Because of that effort, it has been easier to establish roots here; we've made friends and become involved in our ward and community.