# 2025 P. A. Christensen Lecture: Heather Belnap

by Emma Mafi (Microbiology ’25)

Immediately following the French Revolution, a social reformation rocked the world of art—and it focused on women’s rights. By creating, critiquing, and curating art, women involved in this movement caused what Professor Heather Belnap (19th-Century French Art and Culture) referred to as “mischief.” In Belnap’s P. A. Christensen Lecture held February 20, 2025, she introduced the women in the museums of Napoleonic Europe who worked to change society through art.

Belnap explained that in the early 1800s, many paintings objectified women and depicted them as fragile or weak. Hoping to change this stigma, women began making names for themselves as artists, viewers, and critics who brought new perspectives to the art world. These women were “individuals engaged in what one contemporary social activist calls ‘making beautiful trouble,’” Belnap said.

Women such as Joséphine Bonaparte and Germaine de Staël contributed to this movement using paintings and prose. These trailblazers show that, despite pushback, “women were frustrating expectations regarding their engagement with not only art but with French society,” Belnap concluded. “This important, even necessary, cultural work [was] performed by bold women who knew the value of stirring up some beautiful trouble.”

*The P. A. Christensen Lectureship, established in 1977, honors College of Humanities faculty in literary and cultural studies. It preserves and honors the impactful work of previous faculty members. To watch the full lecture, visit bit.ly/Christensen2025.*

# Winter 2025 Todd A. Britsch Lecture on Citizenship: Teresa Bell

by Kira Christensen (Editing and Publishing ’25)

One of the most impactful things a professor can do when preparing students to become and serve as good citizens is to exemplify good citizenship themselves. On February 6, 2025, Professor Teresa Bell (German, Second Language Acquisition) shared three quotes during her Winter 2025 Todd A. Britsch Lecture that have helped her grow and become a model of good citizenship as a professor at BYU.

Bell’s quotes, taken from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Camilla Eyring Kimball, and BYU’s own President C. Shane Reese, emphasized how generosity, service, and striving to see the potential in others are all components of good citizenship. When Bell was a new professor at BYU, she was inspired by other faculty members who lived by these principles, and she learned that action is a necessary part of citizenship: “We can recount wonderful anecdotes, give lectures on being good citizens, but if we don’t act on the promptings to do something good, nothing will ever happen,” she said.

As she closed, Bell reminded attendees that Christlike leadership is necessary for growth and success. She said, “When we look at Jesus Christ as our example of model citizenship and strive to follow Him, we will not go wrong. . . . We will unlock the best in humanities.”

*The College awards this lecture to faculty who exemplify the legacy of service and citizenship that humanities professor Todd A. Britsch left. To watch this lecture, go to bit.ly/Britsch2025*

*Photos courtesy of Heather Belnap (TOP), by David John Arnett (BOTTOM)*