Welcome to Fall Semester 2015!

Welcome to Fall Semester 2015. We hope you’re excited to be back and enjoy your new classes.

If you are having any problems with registration, please contact Sonja Green at sonjagreen@weber.edu or come by the department office in Room 330 of Elizabeth Hall. Here are a few tips:

- **You must use the waitlists.**
- **Meet with an academic adviser:** If you don’t know what to sign up for, contact your academic adviser. The department’s administrative assistant or department chair can also help you.
- **Don’t get frustrated:** This may be the most important piece of advice. If you’re having any problems, please contact the department. We are happy to help.

This is the August/September 2015 edition of the monthly email to majors. At least once a month during the regular school year, we will email you to let you know about meetings of student organizations, guest speakers, important deadlines, opportunities, student and faculty achievements—and more. If you have information you’d like us to distribute, please email department chair Sheree Josephson at sjosephson@weber.edu.

What’s Happening

**September**
- Sept. 4: Wildcat Block Party
- Sept. 7: Labor Day holiday

**October**
- Oct. 27: Ogden City debaters debate “The role of police in a community”

**November**
- Nov. 26-27: Thanksgiving holiday

**December**
- Dec. 8: Ogden City debaters debate “Equitable uses of public spaces”
- Dec. 10: Speech Showcase
- Dec. 18: Graduation
Student News

Four Communication majors earn Academic All-Conference honors
Four Communication majors earned Academic All-Conference honors in the Big Sky. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have met and/or exceeded three requirements: 1) Participation in at least half of the team’s competitions, 2) achievement of a 3.2 cumulative grade point average at the conclusion of the most recently completed term, and 3) completion of at least one academic term at his/her school. Sophomore Alexandria Albi earned the honor in women’s golf. Senior Stetson Smith earned it in men’s outdoor track and field. Juniors Krystin Kubo and Jazmine Thompson earned the honor in women’s softball. The entire article can be read at http://www.weberstatesports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=8600&ATCLID=210176545.

Communication internships turn into good professional full-time jobs
It’s not unusual for Communication majors who do a good job at their internship to be offered a full-time job. Four recent examples of this include Public Relations & Advertising major Chelbie Hunger, Digital Media major Daniel Martinez, Interpersonal & Family Communication major Amdrea Carlstrom, and Interpersonal and Family Communication major Janna Green Robinson. In March Hunger is now working as a PR coordinator at Summit. Martinez got a producing job at KSL from his internship. Carlstrom is the community curator at Holodeck. Robinson is working in customer service with Enterprise Rent-A-Car. All Communication majors are required to complete an internship. To learn more about the internship program, visit http://www.weber.edu/Communication/internship.html. Internship director Dr. Susan Hafen can answer questions at shafen@weber.edu.

Announcements

Master of Professional Communication degree ranked No. 5
The Master of Professional Communication degree was ranked No. 5 in the Best Online or Hybrid Master’s in Communication and Public Relations Students Before Profits Award for 2015-2016. The Students Before Profits Award was created to promote nonprofit colleges and universities that offer online or hybrid programs of study leading to a master’s degree in communications, public relations or related fields and have ranked these programs according to their affordability. For a full list of the rankings, see http://www.nonprofitcollegesonline.com/rankings/best-online-masters-in-communication-and-public-relations/. According to the news release announcing the ranking, “Communications degrees are versatile and can lead to employment in a wide variety of careers: journalism, advertising, public relations, internal relations, politics, and law—virtually every profession values communicators who can shape messages with technology and keep up with media as it changes. Effective written and verbal communication skills are increasingly found as the most in-demand skills in the widest range of careers available. In Forbes, 2014, Warren Buffett and Bill Gates identified communication skills as ‘invaluable business assets.’ Thus, these degree programs will prove to be useful for both individuals who desire to advance in their current careers, and individuals who are looking to make a career change. A master’s degree in communication will provide an excellent return on investment. The Nation Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported an average difference in pay between bachelor’s and master’s degree holders in communications as $213 per week. That is over $11,000 more per year on average for those holding a master’s degree in communications vs. a bachelor’s which means some of the degrees listed will pay for themselves in as little as a year’s time and will dramatically increase students’ earnings across their lifetime.”
**WSU to host 2017 National Debate Coaches Association national tournament**

Weber State Debate has been chosen to host the 2017 National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA) national championship tournament. This tournament will bring 400 of the nation’s most elite high school debaters and coaches from across the country to Ogden for nearly a full week. National champions will be crowned at the culmination of the tournament. Weber State University is a popular choice to host major national tournaments, most recently hosting this tournament in 2014. For more information, see http://www.debatecoaches.org/board-and-officers/. This is not the only national tournament on the schedule. WSU Debate won the bid to host the 2016 Cross Examination Debate Association National Conference in June 2016.

**It was a busy summer for Weber State Debate**

It was a busy summer for Weber State Debate. The busy summer included hosting a residential three-week summer camp for high school students and completing the nine-day, 90-hour college preseason workshop with an outstanding lineup of debaters recruited from California to Kansas. In addition, six students attended the Arizona Debate Institute from July 27 to Aug. 9 with one of those six students (Misty Tippets) receiving news that she was given a full scholarship to be a teaching fellow. WSU Debate also advertised, marketed and completed the selection process for the 19th annual Val A Browning Round Robin and the Open Invitational, a weeklong celebration of college debate to be held (again) this October in Ogden with all of the very best debate teams in the country.

**Alumni News**

**Former editorial page editor’s family makes donation to journalism program**

The Communication Department has received a philanthropic bequest from the estate of longtime journalist, community advocate, WSU friend and alumna Flora Ogan. Starting her impressive 40-year career at the Standard-Examiner as a correspondent in 1955, Ogan was eventually promoted to full-time reporter, city editor, associate editor and editorial page editor. She retired in 1996. Ogan attended Weber State when it was a junior college but never graduated. Like many other students who began their college years at Weber but, for one reason or another, never finished, Ogan retained a deep respect for the school that gave her a start. Throughout her life, Ogan was committed to Weber State’s growth and development.

**Graduate named as communications director for gubernatorial campaign**

Sasha Seegmiller Clark, who graduated several years ago in Public Relations & Advertising, has been hired as the director of communications for Jonathan Johnson’s 2016 governor’s campaign. Johnson is the former CEO of Overstock.com and current chairman. Seegmiller was also accepted into a summer program at Harvard University. Seegmiller excelled as an Honors student and researcher, presenting her work at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

**Faculty Achievements**

**Two new faculty members hired effective Fall Semester**

Two new faculty members have joined the Department of Communication. They are Dr. Alexander L. Lancaster and Dr. Veronica R. Dawson. Lancaster completed his Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 2015). He is an assistant professor and the Basic Course director for Comm. 1020 Public Speaking and Comm. 2110 Interpersonal & Small Group Communication. His research focuses on persuasive attempts by civic authorities and the use of computer-mediated technology to communicate these persuasive messages to the public. He is also interested in the use of media as an informative and persuasive tool in a variety of contexts, including public safety and health. His most recent work is his dissertation, in which he examined the use of the persuasive “ask-tell-make” continuum by law enforcement and compliance with and perceptions of police by college students. Dawson completed her Ph.D. at the University of Utah in 2015. She is a visiting assistant professor who will teach general education courses. Her
research interests are in the communicative constitution of the organization, organizational identity and identification, and strategic communication and social media. She is originally from Bulgaria and in previous lives has worked in public relations for Margie Korshak in Chicago, and in statistical analysis software for SPSS and IBM. In addition to her work at WSU Dawson is actively involved in research and consulting projects with local organizations.

Packer promoted to full professor
Dr. Colleen Packer received notification from the Provost over the summer that she has been promoted to a Full Professor. Packer has taught Communication for about 30 years. She is currently serving as the director of the WSU Teaching and Learning Forum.

Josephson, MPC graduate publish article in Visual Communication Quarterly
Dr. Sheree Josephson and Jessica Schreifels Miller have published an article titled “Just state the facts on Twitter: eye tracking shows that readers may ignore questions posted by news organizations on Twitter but not on Facebook” in Visual Communication Quarterly, Volume 22 Issue 2. Miller is a reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune who graduated recently with the Master of Professional Communication degree. During her undergraduate years she was the editor in chief of The Signpost.

Norman elected to term on Weber State Faculty Senate
Dr. Jean Norman, assistant professor of Communication and faculty adviser to The Signpost, has been elected to serve on the Faculty Senate at Weber State University.

Two Communication faculty relay teams complete Ogden Marathon
Two relay teams from the Communication Department completed the Ogden Marathon on May 16. Each participant ran between 3.1 miles and 7.1 miles. The official finish time for the Comm 1 Team was 4:57:14. For Comm 2 Team it was 5:18:51. Communication faculty who participated included Drew Tyler, Stacey Tyler, Mark Merkley, Robin Haislett, Dr. Colleen Packer and Brent Warnock.

Josephson presents research with MPC graduate at Visual Communication Conference
Dr. Sheree Josephson was a co-presenter of a paper titled “How reader comments on news websites influence user behavior” with Jennifer Toomer-Cook, a 2015 graduate of the Master of Professional Communication program at the 29th annual Visual Communication Conference in Cannon Beach, Oregon, in June. The data for this study was gathered using eye tracking.

Cheek elected officer in American Forensics Association
Ryan Cheek, the assistant director of forensics at Weber State, has been elected as the representative for the West in the American Forensics Association.

Get Involved

- **The Signpost**: Contact Dr. Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.
- **Studio 76/Wildcat ONE**: Contact Drew Tyler at drewtyler@weber.edu.
- **KWCR 88.1 Weber FM**: Contact Robin Haislett at robinhaislett@weber.edu.
- **WSU Debate**: Contact Omar Guevara at oguevara@weber.edu.
- **Ogden Peak Communication, PRSSA**: Contact Dr. Nicola Corbin at nicolacorbin@weber.edu.
- **Society of Professional Journalists**: Contact Dr. Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.
- **Departmental Honors**: Contact Dr. Susan Hafen at shafen@weber.edu.
- **Lambda Pi Eta**: Contact Dr. Cynthia Bishop at cynthiabishop@weber.edu.