You may meet requirements for AS degree in Communication

Even if you thought you weren’t graduating this year, think again. You may be eligible to apply for graduation with an Associate of Science degree in Communication. Applying for graduation with your associate’s is a good way to list a degree on your resume now. If you meet the requirements, you should have received an email from an academic adviser. If not, see information below.

March means it will soon be time to start thinking about registration for Summer and Fall semesters. It’s also time to join Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society in Communication.

This is the March 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

March

• March 22: Deadline to join Lambda Pi Eta national honor society (see below)
• March 24-25: Society of Professional Journalists conference, SLC

April

• April 3: Summer Semester registration opens
• April 4: Mideast correspondent for Newsweek, 10:30 a.m., Wildcat Theater
• April 7: National Debate Coaches Association tournament, hosted by WSU
• April 10: Fall Semester registration opens
• April 10: Drop-in advising with chair, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., EH 332
• April 11: Drop-in advising with chair, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., EH 332
• March 14: Hispanic, black journalists, 3 p.m., SU 401
• April 20: Speech Showcase, 7 p.m., EH 229
• April 21: Film Showcase, 7 p.m., Wildcat Theater
• April 28: Graduation

Student News

You may meet requirements for Associate of Science in Communication

Even if you thought you weren’t graduating this year, think again. You may be eligible to apply for graduation with an Associate of Science degree in Communication. Applying for graduation with your associate’s is a good way to list a degree on your resume now. If you may have received an email from an academic adviser. If you want to have the AS Communication degree awarded, please do the following as soon as possible:
• Contact the Communication office and declare the AS Communication.
• Once declared as seeking the AS Communication, complete the graduation application located in your student portal.

Please contact Debbi Murphy at ddmurphy@weber.edu if you have any questions or if you need more information. It’s not too late to be listed in the graduation program.

Top Communication students invited to join national honor society
Junior and senior Communication majors with high GPAs will receive invitations this week to join Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for Communication students. To be eligible students must (1) complete 60 semester credit hours, (2) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 for all courses taken, (3) complete the equivalent of 12 semester credit hours in Communication, (4) have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all Communication courses, (5) currently be enrolled as a student in good standing, as determined by the institution’s policies, and (6) rank within the highest 35 percent of one’s class in general scholarship. Invitations will be extended via postal mail. If you qualify, but do not receive your invitation by March 17, please contact Sonja Green at sonjagreen@weber.edu to check your eligibility. Qualifying students will be honored at the department’s end-of-year event. The deadline to join is March 22.

Organizational Communication student wins Big Sky Conference title in hurdles
Tawnie Moore, an Organizational Communication major, won the 60-meter hurdles, setting a school record of 8.32 seconds, at the Big Sky Conference Indoor Championships. Not only did Moore break a Weber State record, she ran the second fastest time in Big Sky Conference history.

Students put on program, make donation to Down’s Syndrome organization
Six students in Small Group Facilitation & Leadership (Comm. 3100) organized a Spring Formal for Gigi’s Playhouse in Layton, a community center for people with Down’s Syndrome. The students involved were Nathan Keyes, Caralee Wallentine, Zoe Rogich, Nathan Tinsley, Marc DeYoung and Bethany Rasmussen. They received donations from local businesses and individuals to make a formal dinner for the attendees, decorate the room, and provide each attendee with a goodie bag worth approximately $25 each. They donated the remaining $1,425 to the organization. Comm. 3100 is being taught this semester by Dr. Michael Ault.

Announcements

Applications open for Studio 76 until Friday
Applications for Studio 76 will be open until Friday. Studio 76 has openings for positions such as:

• Executive producer
• Program director
• Senior producers
• Online director

Staff members receive tuition waivers as they perform various activities associated with Studio 76. Applications are available at studio76.mywebermedia.com.

The Signpost taking applications for editors, staffers
The Signpost is taking applications for section editors and staffers for the 2017-18 school year. Weber State's student news organization will be making some major changes, switching to twice-a-week publication in a tabloid format and five-day-a-week publication online, and new staffers will be part of shaping the new direction. To get an application, go to signpost.mywebermedia.com and click on About Us. You can download an application there and email it to Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu. Signpost staffers are eligible for scholarships.

Hispanic, Black journalists to meet on March 14
The Nationals Association of Hispanic Journalists and National Association of Black Journalists will meet March 14 at 3 p.m. in The Signpost offices, Shepherd Union Room 401. Anyone interested in media and diversity is welcome to attend. For more information, email Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.

The Peak highlights getting involved to stand out
The next edition of The Peak is ready. This issue highlights getting involved to stand out. Here is the link: http://issuu.com/weberstateuniversityprssa/docs/febpeak17?e=15772823/45784332. This is produced by members the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Studio 76 hiring two Work Study employees for Fall
Studio 76 is hiring two Work Study employees who will start in Fall. Applicants must qualify for Work Study. Salary starts at $10 an hour. These positions will involve video production skills. See adviser Drew Tyler at drewtyler@weber.edu for details.

Newsweek’s Mideast correspondent to speak on Syria
Janine DiGiovanni, the Mideast correspondent for Newsweek, will give a talk on Syria at the Holocaust Remembrance event on April 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Wildcat Theater.

Journalism students encouraged to attend regional conference in Salt Lake City
The Region 9 annual convention of the Society of Professional Journalists will be in Salt Lake City on March 24-25. The regional conference provides an opportunity for students interested in journalism to network with professionals. Registration for students is only $25. For more information, go to the Utah Headliners chapter’s website.

Biomedical Informatics session of interest to Communication students
Communication majors are invited to learn about the Biomedical Informatics non-thesis master's degree program at the University of Utah. The information session will be Friday, March 31, at 12:30-2 p.m. in Student Union 404.

‘Putting Student Through’ degrees to be awarded on Graduation Day
To honor those people who helped you receive an education, reward them with a PST degree—“Putting Student Through” degree. This will be bestowed by Weber State President Chuck Wight on April 27 at 4 p.m. The deadline to apply to give a speech at the program is March 24. The deadline to submit names is noon on April 20. The website to submit speeches and names of those to be honored is: www.weber.edu/StudentInvolvement/puttingstudentthrough.html.

Communication scholarships will be decided later this spring
Even though the priority date for financial aid is Jan. 10, the Communication Department has many opportunities for scholarships, and many of them are not decided until later this spring. Most, but not all, are awarded for participation in the department’s five co-curricular activities. One scholarship, the Communication Studies Merit Scholarship, is available to majors in the Civic Advocacy, Interpersonal and Family or Organizational Communication emphases. Here is where to get more information:

- Weber State Debate: http://www.weberdebate.com/scholarships or contact Omar Guevara, oguevara@weber.edu.
- The Signpost, student news organization: Contact Jean Norman, adviser, at jeannorman@weber.edu.
- KWCR, student radio: Contact Robin Haislett, adviser, at robinhaislett@weber.edu.
- Studio 76 student broadcast: Contact Drew Tyler, adviser, at drewtyler@weber.edu.
- Ogden Peak Communications, student public relations firm: Contact Nicola Corbin, nicolacorbin@weber.edu.
- Communication Studies Merit Scholarship: Contact Sonja Green, sonjagreen@weber.edu.
Watch the Communication Department e-newsletter for deadlines to apply for these co-curricular activities. For scholarships associated with the co-curriculars, these dates are also scholarship deadlines. Application requirements for the Communications Studies Merit Scholarship will also be publicized through a future e-newsletter.

Here’s what you need to do to graduate with departmental Honors
If you have a 3.5 overall GPA or above and 3.7 in your concentration, apply for Departmental Honors. Benefits:

- HONORS in gold on your diploma
- HONORS in gold on your transcript
- Letter of commendation from WSU President, Chuck Wight
- Invitation to Honors Banquet the semester you graduate

What you have to do: Sign the Honors admissions form, present an individual undergraduate research project at WSU Symposium or other professional conference. For more information, contact Dr. Susan Hafen at shafen@weber.edu

The Buzz app gives students access to latest campus, local, national and world news
The Buzz: Weber State University, a new digital resource, is available to students, faculty and staff for download through both iTunes or Google Play. Weber State has partnered with USA TODAY for a number of years to provide a selection of newspapers to students through the Collegiate Readership Program. However, the consumption of print news is on the decline and reaching the most-connected and tech-savvy generation with reliable news and information is a real challenge. The Buzz: Weber State University is a first-of-its-kind news app that gives students access to the latest national, world, local, and campus news they care about in one app. Students are able to:

- Examine multiple opinions and perspectives.
- Create conversations and promote a sharing of ideas within their community and beyond.
- Access the latest headlines from The Signpost and USA TODAY, stream live radio from KWCR, and view videos from Studio 76.
- Receive the latest career advice for use in their prospective field.
- See their lives in a global context and relate major stories to specific course-work.

National Debate Coaches Association national championship hosted by WSU
Weber State Debate will host the 12th annual National Debate Coaches Association national championship in April 2017. The event will bring 600-plus people to Ogden during 2017, the centennial year for debate at WSU. Participants will include the elite tier of high school debaters in the United States. This event is expected to insert half a million dollars in the community. To visit the hosting website for the event, visit http://www.ndca2017.com/.

Faculty Achievements

Norman’s article to be published in College Media Review
Dr. Jean Norman, assistant professor of Communication, has been notified that her article titled "The Digital Generation Gap: How Student Journalists Transition from Personal to Professional Uses of Mobile Devices and Social Media" has been accepted for publication in the College Media Review.

Steimel re-elected to Executive Committee for the WSU Faculty Senate
Dr. Sarah Steimel, an assistant professor of Communication, has been re-elected to the Executive Committee for the Weber State University Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 school year.

Packer busy presenting on best teaching practices at Utah conferences
Dr. Colleen Packer, professor of Communication, will present a session called “Using evidence-based instructional strategies to promote student success at the teaching for learning conference” at a conference March 29-31 at
Utah Valley University in Provo. Packer also attended the Red Rock Great Teachers Retreat in Moab and facilitated the Adjunct Faculty Retreat in February.

**Ault third author on piece in Computers in Human Behavior**
Dr. Michael Ault, assistant professor of Communication, is the third author on a piece published in Computers in Human Behavior. The scholarly article is titled “Reactions to ideological websites: The impact of emotional appeals, credibility, and pre-existing attitudes.” Other authors include A.M. Ness, G. Johnson, W. D. Taylor, S. Connelly, M.L. Jensen and N.E. Dunbar.

**Sabbaticals approved for two Communication faculty members**
Sabbatical leaves have been approved for Dr. Susan Hafen and Dr. Anne Bialowas for the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Bialowas will be on sabbatical in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 to work on multiple research projects involving media and teaching. Dr. Hafen will take sabbatical Spring 2018 to work on two projects: to collaborate with interpersonal/family communication textbook authors to include examples of human-animal communication with animal companions as part of their family in a new textbook edition, and to publish a 2015 international environmental conference paper titled "Compassionate conservation: Across the cat-bird divide between animals and environmental ethics."

**Alumni Achievements**

**Alum featured in textbook authored by former PR faculty member**
Jason Carlton, a graduate in Public Relations, is featured in a media writing textbook co-authored by Dr. Andy Lingwall, formerly a faculty member in the Department of Communication at Weber State. Carlton, now the social media manager for Intermountain Healthcare hospitals in Salt Lake Valley, was featured in a chapter profile. The textbook published by Sage Publications is titled “The basics of media writing: a strategic approach.”

**Governor’s former senior strategist launches new company called 24NINE**
Communication graduate Marty Carpenter, who was Gov. Gary Herbert’s senior strategist in the successful 2016 campaign, has launched a new company called 24NINE, an external affairs consultancy. The company solves problems for clients using external affairs tools including communications, government relations, public policy, community affairs, philanthropy and by building alliances.

**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.