Welcome to Fall Semester 2016!

Welcome to Fall Semester 2016. 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 the first week of class.**
- **Meet with an academic adviser:** If you don’t know what to sign up for, contact your academic adviser. The 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 2016 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**

**August**
- Aug. 29: Fall Semester begins

**September**
- Sept. 2: Wildcat Block Party. Don’t miss our booths!

**October**
- Oct. 25: Debate for Ogden City Council

**Student News**

**Signpost students win numerous awards in two competitions**
The Signpost students learned over the summer that they won numerous awards in competitions sponsored by the Utah Press Association and the Society for Professional Journalists. Winners in the UPA contest included:

- **Best photo page, first place:** Ariana Berkemeier, Michael Grennell for Fall in Photos
- **Best breaking news, second place:** Skyler Pyle, Matt Kunes, Lichelle Jenkins for Flood Damage
- **Best editor’s/feature column, second place:** Cole Eckhardt
Best front page, second place: Autumn Mariano, Kaitlyn Johnson, Skyler Pyle for Spring Graduation
Best website, second place: Staff
Best feature story, third place: Kellie Plumhof for Science of Sacred
Best sports photograph, third place: Ariana Berkemeier for Wildcats Crush UC-Davis

Debaters to tackle topic of urban renewal v. gentrification for Ogden City Council
Weber State debaters will take on the topic of "urban renewal v. gentrification" on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in front of the Ogden City Council. Ogden City has made decisions based on information provided in previous debates.

The Signpost still has openings for Fall Semester
The Signpost, Weber State's award-winning news organization, still has some open positions for those interested in writing and producing news. The Signpost publishes online daily and three days a week in print: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Positions are available for reporters and video producers. Scholarships are available, and you can get class credit too. Contact Jean Norman, the adviser, at jeannorman@weber.edu.

Join WSU’s chapter of Society of Professional Journalists
The Society of Professional Journalists is accepting members for the Weber State campus. It’s an opportunity to learn more about the news industry, develop skills and meet professionals. Meetings are Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in conjunction with The Signpost's professional development. The location varies. Check with Georgia Edwards, gedwards@weber.edu, or 801-626-7974, for meeting locations.

Associations for Hispanic and black journalists formed
The National Association of Hispanic Journalists and National Association of Black Journalists have formed chapters at Weber State. The goal is to increase diversity in news coverage at Weber State and to provide mentoring for student journalists of color. Three Weber State University students—Paula Ninataype, Jasmine Pittman and Briana Whatcott—attended the national conference in August in Washington, D.C., and saw presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speak in person. If you are interested in either group, contact adviser Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.

Public Relations & Advertising student gets job at startup thanks to internship
Public Relations & Advertising student Patrick Farrington has been hired as a marketing specialist for startup company Homie after completing his internship this semester.

Announcements

Three new professors join faculty of Communication Department
Three new professors have joined the faculty of the Department of Communication. They are Michael Ault in Organizational Communication, Leslie Howerton in Public Relations & Advertising, and Andres Orozco in Digital Media.
Dr. Michael Ault received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 2016. His research interests include organizational communication with a particular emphasis on leadership, and small group processes. Specific areas of interest include: (1) socialization, (2) non-profit and volunteer organizations,(3) organizational culture, (4) organizational citizenship behaviors, and (4) entrepreneurship. He also has an interest in intercultural communication focusing on cultural change and the cultural positioning and of co-cultures. His research has been published in Computers in Human Behavior, Iowa Journal of Communication, Journal of Intercultural Communication Research, and Western Journal of Communication and his work regarding the Centennial Park polygamous community has been cited on National Geographic’s Polygamy USA.

Dr. Leslie Howerton comes to WSU from the University of Oregon’s media studies doctoral program. Her research focuses on the intersections of gender and persuasion in international public health campaigns. She specializes in teaching public relations, international communication, media ethics, and gender and communication. Her industry experience includes working as co-director of public relations for the EcoCAR II program at Colorado State University and as a community relations manager for Barnes & Noble. Leslie enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading good books and binge watching television shows. She’s excited for the coming year in the beautiful Utah sunshine.

Andrés Orozco is an actor-writer-director-producer, public speaker, and educator with a professional portfolio of work in film, television, and theater. With an extensive range of talent, Orozco works in many forms of entertainment, from comedy and dramatic screenwriting for television and film, acting and theatrical stage performance. Orozco will teach a wide variety of TV studio courses, screenwriting, and single-camera filmmaking. In 2003, Orozco created Novelas Educativas™, an innovative communication tool for Latino outreach. These outreach films have been screened in national conferences and are currently utilized by numerous school districts. Orozco has also produced educational outreach and recruitment campaigns for the U.S. Department of Labor, USA Funds, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Fannie Mae. In 2007, Orozco wrote and directed, 16 Summers, featuring Nick Canon. The multimedia film is designed to prepare students and their families for higher education. The film is screened nationally in high school after-school programs. In 2011, Orozco wrote and directed Yo Soy Tu Niña, a nationally recognized teen pregnancy prevention film for Latino youth and their parents. The Hispanic Scholarship Fund screened the film nationally as part of its college access initiative. In 2015, Orozco was awarded a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Screen and Television from Pepperdine University. His current feature length film project is a biopic on Ruben Salazar, the slain civil rights activist and L.A. Times reporter. Orozco also earned a Master of Arts in Mass Communication and a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies from the University of Utah.

Communication Department produces internship brochure for employers
The Communication Department has now printed an internship brochure for employers. The purpose of the brochure is to explain our internship program to employers to recruit internship opportunities for Communication majors. We plan to use it at Career Fairs and with our Advisory Council and any other place where we meet employers for future internships. This brochure is also available for you to take places where you might solicit an internship for yourself. It can serve to legitimize your request and to answer employers’ questions. It also has a mail-in postcard for employers to ask for more information and contact us, as well as our website, email and phone numbers. If you want to pick up a brochure, you can do so at the Communication Office.

Digital Media classes to be held in different location during first week or two
Comm. 3893 and Comm. 2200 will be held in Library Room 31 for the first week and possibly the second week too. Displaced Digital Media students and instructors are aiming to have their new space be mostly functional by Sept. 10.

Students invited to participate in essay competition, hear NBC’s Tom Brokaw
Communication students are invited to participate in an essay contest sponsored by the McCarthey Family Foundation Lecture Series: In Praise of Independent Journalism program. The winner will receive a cash prize of $2,500 and be honored on Oct. 29 before a speech by Tom Brokaw, former anchor of NBC Nightly News. Entries of an original essay of 500 words are due by Sept. 16. Brokaw will speak at 7 p.m. at Rowland Hall, Philip G. McCarthey Campus, 720 Guardsman Way in Salt Lake City. The lecture is open to the public at no charge. The essay
topic information is as follows: “Early in the run-up to the primaries, Brokaw, American TV journalist and author, former anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News, was a lone voice in challenging the uncritical and unequal reporting of the 2016 presidential candidates. Following his courageous lead, other journalists and networks covering the candidates began to push back, provide equal airtime, and increase fact-checking. In your opinion has the integrity of the press in a free society—at a time when the media is struggling with insecurities about its financial future—been compromised? What role—positive or negative—have journalists played in the shaping of the 2016 presidential campaign?” Send essays, typed and double-spaced, to: MKL Public Relations, 1338 S. Foothill Drive, Suite 264, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-2321. By email, send Word document, typed and double-spaced, to mkl@mklpr.com. All entries must include student’s name, phone number, email address and name and department of the university or college in which the student is currently enrolled.

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/.

Job postings available on Communication website
Weber State University Communication students and graduates can log into the Communication Department’s website at weber.edu/communication to look for job postings now or in the future. The listings are under the "Jobs" link. Employers contact the department looking for Communication students and graduates for full-time and part-time jobs.

Faculty Achievements

New faculty member in Organizational Communication publishes article on polygamy
Dr. Michael Ault, a new faculty member in Organizational Communication, has an article forthcoming in the Western Journal of Communication. Co-authored with Bobbi Van Gilder, the article is titled “Polygamous family structure: How communication affects the division of household labor.” This article is from his master’s thesis data and explores how polygamous families establish a familial hierarchy and negotiate roles within that structure. The article will be published at http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10570314.2016.1188327.

MPC director publishes two journal articles on refugee resettlement
Dr. Sarah Steimel, director of the Master of Professional Communication program, has published two articles on her research on refugee resettlement. She published “Negotiating refugee empowerment(s) in resettlement organizations: in the Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 1-18 (http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15562948.2016.1180470) and “Negotiating knowledges and expertise in refugee resettlement organizations” in Cogent Social Sciences, 2(1), 1-15, (http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23311886.2016.1162990).

Department chair publishes book review in Visual Communication Quarterly

Instructor participates in 16-day service project in Peru over summer
Communication instructor Mark Merkley participated in a three-week service project over the summer in Peru. Merkley was part of a group of 30 students, faculty and community partners of Weber State University. Under the leadership Dr. Julie Rich, and Mike Moon, assistant director of Community-engaged Learning, this group labored in
Chiclayo, Peru, as part of a humanitarian relief effort. During 16 days of intense labor, these individuals built a four-room preschool, remodeled an existing building into a women’s center, and extended piping while constructing three fountains to provide a community with potable water. The water project enabled families to save hours, if not an entire day, walking to the nearest fountain to procure and return home with five gallons of water used for bathing, cooking, cleaning and drinking.

**Journalism professor helps operate boot camp high school journalists**
Dr. Jean Norman, journalism professor and faculty adviser for The Signpost, helped teach and run a boot camp for high school journalism students this summer in Moab. The camp was sponsored and operated by the Utah College Media Alliance, which included advisers and staff from Weber State, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, USU-Eastern and Westminster College. To read about the event, see [Moab Times-Independent - GCHS students sharpen media skills at Utah journalism boot camp](http://www.moabtimes.com/article/20160730/A1/160730199/Moab-times Independent-GCHS-students-sharpen-media-skills-at-Utah-journalism-boot-camp).

**MPC graduate, department chair present research at VisCom 30**
Stacey Tyler, 2016 graduate with a Master of Professional Communication, presented a paper with Dr. Sheree Josephson, Department of Communication chair, at VisCom 30 in June at Snowbird. The paper was titled “Interactive storybooks and reading comprehension: an eye-tracking study.” Dr. Josephson was also the program planner for the conference attended by some of the foremost experts in the field of Visual Communication.

**Alumni News**

**MPC graduate to have thesis research published in international journal**
Master of Professional Communication graduate Crystalee Beck has published “Perceptions of thanks in the workplace: use, effectiveness, and dark sides of managerial gratitude” in the latest edition of Corporate Communications: an International Journal. This research was her thesis project under the direction of Dr. Sheree Josephson and Dr. Susan Hafen. Beck now teaches as an adjunct instructor in the Weber State Department of Communication.

**Digital Media alumni produce award-winning short in SLC film festival**

**Communication graduate co-owner of new indie record shop in Ogden**
Interpersonal and Family graduate Kylee Hallows is the co-owner of a new indie record shop, Lavendar Vinyl, on 25th Street in Ogden. The shop sells vintage albums and sells new ones too. To read more, see [http://www.standard.net/Music/2016/07/02/Ogden-Lavender-Vinyl-record-shop-now-spinning-downtown.html](http://www.standard.net/Music/2016/07/02/Ogden-Lavender-Vinyl-record-shop-now-spinning-downtown.html).

**Journalism graduate marketing new board game**
James Elmer, a 2009 Communication graduate in Journalism, said he is using the skills he developed in public relations courses to develop, design and market his own board game that will be on the market hopefully within the next two years. He said, “I may never own my own business or work in the journalism field, but the skills of confidence and self-esteem that I developed while a student of the Communication Department will travel with me throughout my entire life.”

**Get Involved**
- **The Signpost**: Contact Dr. Jean Norman at [jeannorman@weber.edu](mailto:jeannorman@weber.edu).
- **Studio 76/Wildcat ONE**: Contact Drew Tyler at [drewtyler@weber.edu](mailto:drewtyler@weber.edu).
- **KWCR 88.1 Weber FM**: Contact Robin Haislett at [robinhaislett@weber.edu](mailto: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.