



Welcome to Spring Semester 2019

Welcome back, Communication majors! We hope you had a nice break and are eager to get back to work.

Please let us know if you encounter any problems registering for classes. Contact the department administrative assistant, Sare Gardner, at sgardner1@weber.edu or the department chair, Dr. Sheree Josephson, at sjosephson@weber.edu. We are happy to help you. Use the "wait list" this week if the class you want is full. We will do our best to fit you in.

This is the January 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

January

- **Jan. 7:** Spring Semester begins.
- **Jan. 14:** "Jim: The James Foley Story," 5:30 p.m., Wildcat Theater, Shepherd Union Building.
- **Jan. 19:** 7 p.m., Val A Browning Center. Ronan Farrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for the New Yorker who took on Hollywood and triggered the #MeToo movement. Tickets at weberstatetickets.com.
- **Jan. 22:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No class.

February

- **Feb. 18:** Presidents Day. No class.

March

- **March 4-8:** Spring Break. No class.

April

- **April 25:** Graduation.

Student News

Three Communication majors get full-time jobs after internships

Three Communication majors have received full-time positions after their internships. Harrison Epstein, currently Signpost editor-in-chief, was offered a full-time position as supervising editor at Sin City Sports Mockery. Felix

Baca, a Public Relations & Advertising major, has accepted a full-time position at 97th Floor in Lehi as a pay-per-click marketer. Adam Livingston, a Public Relations & Advertising major, was promoted at Texas Roadhouse from being a local store marketer at \$14 an hour to a corporate position of marketing coach with a salary of \$60,000 plus bonuses based on his internship where he created an employee video and organized large corporate events.

Communication Theory student gets abstract accepted into regional conference

Caleb Marshall, a student in Dr. Stephanie Gomez's Communication Theory class in Fall 2018, has had a paper accepted to the Western States Communication Association's Undergraduate Student Research Conference. The name of his paper is "The Pursuit of Captivity: A Marxist Analysis of *The Walking Dead*." Marshall is a Communication minor with an English major. Following is his abstract: Zombies are often representations of cultural anxieties or concerns (Crockett & Zarracina, 2016), and the popular television show, *The Walking Dead*, is no exception. In this paper, I use Marxist and critical theory to analyze *The Walking Dead*. My analysis suggests that despite the dystopian wasteland portrayed in the show, characters refuse to reinvent a new society where the proletariat seizes power, and instead, they valorize and reify traditional, capitalist social and political structures. Ultimately, I argue that when viewed through the lens of critical theory, *The Walking Dead* is media that pushes a totalization effect on the audience, thus persuading them that they should continue to contribute to the system, or the superstructure."

Announcements

Spots left in Digital Documentary Filmmaking class on Tuesdays, Thursdays

There are still spots in COMM 4500 Digital Documentary Filmmaking. The class will be taught by Andrea Baltazar on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. She will teach non-fiction storytelling in video. The class will be accepted as a Communication elective if students work with their academic advisers.

Org Comm, Interpersonal & Family students can take Writing for Workplace Communication

Organizational Communication and Interpersonal & Family Communication majors no longer have to take COMM 1130 Media Writing. They may now fulfill that writing requirement with COMM 1140 Writing for Workplace Communication. During Spring Semester, the class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. in EH 314. It is taught by Dr. Jean Norman. Seats in the class are still available, CRN 32594. It also can fulfill an elective credit for the associate's degree in Communication and the associate's degree in Workplace Communication & Writing. For more information, email jeannorman@weber.edu.

The Signpost accepting applications for editor-in-chief, other editor positions

The Signpost is taking applications for editor-in-chief and other editor positions for the 2019-20 school year. Candidates should have some experience in journalism, either on or off campus, leadership skills and the ability to commit to The Signpost like a part-time job. The deadline for editor-in-chief applications is Jan. 18. The deadline for other editor positions is Jan. 25. The application is available at signpost.mywebermedia.com under the About Us tab or in The Signpost office, Shepherd Union Room 401. For more information, email adviser Dr. Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.

Documentary about war journalist killed by ISIS to be screened

The Honors Program is presenting a screening of "Jim: The James Foley Story," a documentary about the life of journalist Jim Foley, a war journalist and first U.S. hostage killed by ISIS, on Monday, Jan. 14, from 5:30-8 p.m. in the Shepherd Union, Wildcat Theater. The screening is free. Some classes may offer extra credit for attending. For more information contact Dr. Jean Norman, jeannorman@weber.edu.

Tips on registering if you want to do an internship in the summer

If you are planning to do an internship in the summer but not taking any other classes, you can avoid paying for those 3 credits just for summer registration by enrolling in COMM 4890 in the Spring. That will give you access to

the Canvas course. You will receive an Incomplete at the end of Spring semester, which will not affect your GPA, but you have a year to complete your online internship assignments. You can NOT do an internship in the summer, but enroll in COMM 4890 in the Fall.

Alumni Accomplishments

Alum named director of communication for Utah Senate, seeks interns

Communication alum Aundrea Peterson has been named the director of communications for the Utah Senate. She works directly with the chief of staff, leadership and Senate members to develop and implement communication strategies, build rapport with the media and inform constituents about what is happening at the Legislature using social media platforms. In this role, she is also seeking communications interns for the upcoming general session to contribute and provide support with various tasks while learning about the legislative process. Peterson previously worked for the Utah House of Representatives, World Trade Center Utah and the Utah Republican Party. She is a founding member of Emerging Leaders Initiative aimed to empower 18- to 35-year-olds to join in policy discussions and help shape Utah's political, cultural and economic future. Peterson graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors and received the award for Outstanding Academic Achievement for Communication in 2014.

Faculty Achievements

MPC director named as one of the recipients of new Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Sarah Steimel, the director of the Master of Professional Communication program, was named as one of the recipients of the Teaching Excellence Award program, inaugurated this year. This award honors teachers who, in the eyes of students, faculty colleagues, staff, and administrators, perform at the very highest level possible as educators. Nominating letters talked about teachers changing lives, opening minds, and providing the support and encouragement needed to keep students moving toward their dreams. Recipients will be invited to participate in the Faculty Symposium on April 2 and will receive a \$5,000 award.

Get Involved

- **The Signpost:** Contact Dr. Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.
- **Studio 76:** Contact Andrea Baltazar at andreabaltazar@weber.edu.
- **KWCR Wildcat Radio:** Contact Robin Haislett at robinhaislett@weber.edu.
- **WSU Debate:** Contact Ryan Wash at ryanwash@weber.edu.
- **Ogden Peak Communications:** Contact Dr. Nicola Corbin at nicolacorbin@weber.edu.
- **PRSSA:** Contact Leslie Howerton at lesliehowerton@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. Hailey Gillen Hoke at haileygillenhoke@weber.edu.