



Congrats to 90 graduates, five Speech Showcase finalists

Congratulations to the 90 graduates in the Department of Communication and the five finalists in the Fall Semester Speech Showcase. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to celebrating with you.

To those of you not graduating but still in the process of registering for Spring Semester, please let us know if you encounter any problems registering for classes. Please 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" if the class you want is full. Sometimes we are able to add classes to the schedule.

This is the December 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

December

- Dec. 13: Graduation

January

- Jan. 6: Spring Semester begins

Student News

18 students graduating with Master of Professional Communication

Congratulations to the 18 students graduating with a Master of Professional Communication. Graduates are Lisa Arner, Shalyn Back, Samantha Burroughs, Pamela Coburn, Heidi Costello, Nathan Doutre, Sydnie Furton, Amy OHajdas, Kelley Hill, Nathan Keyes, Brittney Maynard, Ivan Joseph Reeder, Sam Sessions, Jeffrey Snider, Jayson Stokes, Wyatt Traughber, Katherine Trottier and Justin Wight.

64 students graduating with bachelor's degrees, 8 with associate's degrees

Congratulations to the 64 students graduating with bachelor's degrees in Communication and to the eight students graduating with associate's degrees in Communication. Martha Irene Muster, who is graduating in Public Relations & Advertising, will deliver the student speech at the graduation ceremony for the College of Arts & Humanities.

- **Civic Advocacy:** Elissa George, Marin Tarbox
- **Digital Media:** Robert Black, Gil Gerardo, Shannon Hulet, Hope Lytle, Logan Malan, Joshua Muir, Alec Peters, Thomas Smithey, Spencer Terramoto, Alyssa Vallejos, Jonathan Van Sickle

- **Interpersonal and Family:** Azzam Alabbad, Colin Hooten, James Lux, Lincoln Merrill, Megan Roessler
- **Multimedia Journalism:** Derrek Ballard, Emily Ferguson, Jennifer Guzman, Hillary Reilly, Kelly Watkins, Kayla Winn, Kelly Watkins
- **Organizational Communication:** Ryan Dearden, Samantha Facer, Amber Gunderson, Madison Miner, Lindsay Reed, Rebecca Richter, Shelby Robinson, Todd Stapley, Katherine Waltz, Natalie Wilson
- **Public Relations & Advertising:** Jordyn Allred, Alexis Atkin, Mckinley Ball, Gregory Benson, Zachary Braxton, Heidi Brewer, Kimberlee Brosius, Jewliette Cordero, Parker Crawford, Ryan Cross, Jessica Driggs, Conner Erickson, Savannah Goodall, Kim Grossenbach, Molly Horne, Bret Lindley, Kathryn Lintzenich, Benita Lopez, Sachin Mallick, Heather McMillan, Antionette Miller, Martha Irene Muster, Zachary Newhall, Tiana Pack, Paige Robertson, Hector Rodriguez, Timothy Romney, Jared Sewak, Zachary Watts
- **Associate of Science:** Nefi Alulema, Jeweliette Cordero, Cody Lawrence, Dallin Saunders, Peter Shreeve, Thomas Smithey, Christian Whitaker
- **Associate of Workplace Communication & Writing:** Jessica Avalos

Two Communication students graduating with Honors

Two Communication students are graduating with Honors this Fall. Rebecca Richter is an Organizational Communication major. Azzam Alabbad is an Interpersonal and Family Communication major.

Speech Showcase features speeches by Top 5 speakers in COMM 1020

The Department of Communication hosted the Fall 2019 Speech Showcase last week in the Eccles Lecture Hall in Elizabeth Hall. The five finalists delivered speeches and the other top speakers from Fall Semester's sections of COMM 1020 Principles of Public Speaking were honored. Dr. F. Ann Millner, former president of Weber State University, was presented with the Freedom through Rhetoric award, recognizing her contributions to the university and community through speech. The top speakers included:

- Emily Batchelor: Don't Got Milk? (Instructor Mark Galaviz)
- Maren Dawson: Why the U.S. Should Enact an Opt-Out Organ Donation System (Instructor Ashley Hilton)
- Eli Beard: Driving: A Daily Death Sentence (Instructor Brent Warnock)
- Aubrey West: Never Diet Again (Instructor Ryan Wash)
- Carlie Lythgoe: Technology: Too Much of a Good Thing (Instructor Mike Ault)

The other finalists included Cole Andersen, Alyssa Baker, Sophie Beck, Shae Blair, Devin Bringard, Brandy Buck, Hailee Carter, Emily Feveryeart, Justice Geiselmayer, Ashlyn McNeely, Jared Smith, Leah Smith, Kalina Vang, Maddison Walters, Destiny Wren and Olivia Yeates.

PR & Advertising student attests that internship valuable experience

Ryan Cross, a PR-Advertising major, just completed an internship at his new job with Market Star and Pinterest as a client. He stated that although he was skeptical of doing an internship when he already had a job in his major, he found that the internship fast-tracked him into being considered for management. He was given an opportunity to onboard new employees by training them in communication skills, using COMM 2110 class notes.

Inaugural forensics team performs well at tournament in Oregon

The inaugural Weber State University Forensics team continued its success at the 89th Mahaffey Memorial Tournament at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. The tournament featured 32 schools, including Boise State University, Carroll College, Colorado Christian University, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific Lutheran University, and the College of Western Idaho to name a few. Six competitors held their own against schools with 20-plus students that were well-established. In individual speaking events, Rebecca Brown took first place in Novice Prose Interpretation, Emma Harris took second in Novice Prose Interpretation, and Nate Tanner was a finalist in Novice Persuasive Speaking. In Novice IPDA debate, Harris, Brown, Katie Tenney, Morgan Allen and Saxony Ruckman finished as octo-finalists. Tanner finished as a quarter-finalist out of 41 competitors in Novice IPDA. In addition, Allen placed third in speaker awards (recognizing the best speakers in each division), Tanner placed fifth, and

Tenney placed seventh. The team is coached by instructor Mark Galaviz. Practices are open to students to watch. The team expects to take eight students to the next tournament in Salt Lake City.

Organizational Communication major to intern at Utah Legislature

Organizational Communication major Casey Black has earned an internship via the Walker Institute with the Utah Legislature.

PR and Advertising graduate hired as Bookstore academic supply manager

Hector Rodriguez, who did a public relations internship at the Wildcat Bookstore, has been offered a full-time job there as academic supply manager.

Two Communication graduates elected to public office in Northern Utah

Nina Morse, a student pursuing the Master of Professional Communication degree, was elected to the West Haven City Council. Morse also graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations & Advertising from the WSU Communication Department. Mike Caldwell, another PR graduate, was elected to his third term as mayor of Ogden.

Announcements

Journalistic Freelance Writing will be offered in Spring Semester as Special Topic

Communication students needing an upper-division elective might consider COMM 4500 Journalistic Freelance Writing, a special topics class that will walk students through the process of pitching, reporting and writing articles for magazine publication. Dr. Jean Norman will teach the class Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m. in Elizabeth Hall Room 307. The CRN is 32971.

The Signpost taking applications for editor-in-chief, other staff positions

The Signpost is taking applications for editor-in-chief for the 2020-21 school year. Students do not need to be Communication majors to apply, but they should have some experience in journalism. The deadline to apply is Dec. 15. Find the application under About Us at signpost.mywebermedia.com or email jeannorman@weber.edu. The Signpost is also taking applications for section editors for the 2020-21 school year. The Signpost publishes two days a week, on Monday and Thursdays, at locations on and off campus during the regular semesters, and online daily at mywebermedia.com. Areas include news, sports, culture, science & technology, Spanish, photography, graphics design, copyediting, videography and social media, and webmaster. The deadline is Jan. 24. Find the application on signpost.mywebermedia.com under About Us or email jeannorman@weber.edu.

Former '60 Minutes' producer to speak on March 30

Mary Mapes, the author of the book "Truth and Duty: The Press, The President and the Privilege of Power" and an award-winning former producer of "60 Minutes," will speak March 30 at 7 p.m. on the campus of Weber State University. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$12.50-\$25 for the general public. They are available at <http://weberstatetickets.com/>. The event is sponsored by The Signpost and a number of other organizations.

Alumni Accomplishments

MPC graduate hired as marketing manager for United Way of Northern Utah

Kaylie Astin, a graduate with the Master of Professional Communication program, has been hired as the marketing manager at United Way of Northern Utah. Astin also does some freelance writing for a business run by another MPC graduate, Crystalee Beck.

Faculty Accomplishments

Department chair publishes article in Visual Communication Quarterly

Dr. Sheree Josephson, chair of the Department of Communication, has published "Augmented Reality through the lens of eye tracking" in the October-December 2019 volume of Visual Communication Quarterly. The piece is co-authored by Melina Myers, a recent graduate in the Master of Professional Communication program. The study compared the usability of Yelp's Augmented Reality application Monocle with its familiar map-based app.

Four Communication professors present papers at NCA

Dr. Michael Ault, Dr. Bobbi Van Gilder, Dr. Sarah Steimel and Ryan Cheek present papers at the National Communication Association conference in Baltimore in November. Ault and Van Gilder presented a research study at the National Communication Association conference in Baltimore with a former student Lola (Moli) Amacher. The title of the paper is "Surviving in higher education: How communication influences Tongan students' socialization in higher education institutions." Ault presented another co-authored paper titled "Surviving threats to occupational identities: Police officers' language convergence and meaning divergence in community policing implementation." Steimel presented "Gallery meme exhibit: Presenting communication theory as viral digital content," and Ryan Cheek presented "Zombie ent(r)ailments in risk communication: A rhetorical analysis of the CDC's Zombie Apocalypse preparedness campaign."

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.