



## Drop-in academic advising with chair Nov. 11-12

Registration for Spring Semester opens Monday, Nov. 11. If you need academic advising, you can take advantage of drop-in time with the department chair. See below. You can also schedule an appointment with your academic advisor. We are standing by happy to help you with advising, a registration override, anything you need. Don't get discouraged if you encounter an issue during registration. Just contact us. We will do our best to help you find the classes you need.

This is the November 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](mailto:sjosephson@weber.edu).

## What's Happening

### November

- **Nov. 11:** Spring registration opens, drop-in academic advising with department chair, 9 a.m. to noon, EH 332
- **Nov. 12:** Drop-in academic advising with department chair, 10:30 a.m. to noon, EH 332
- **Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving break
- **Nov. 29:** Thanksgiving break

### December

- **Dec. 7:** Wasatch Independent Debate League Tournament at WSU, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., EH Hall 111, 229
- **Dec. 5:** Speech Showcase, lecture hall in EH, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 9-11:** Finals
- **Dec. 13:** Graduation

## Student News

### **Comm major named 2019 Utah Public Relations Student of the Year**

A Weber State University student took top honors in the 2019 Utah Public Relations Student of the Year competition, where students created a yearlong strategy to raise awareness of the Major Brent Taylor Legacy Foundation. WSU senior Karen Valdez shared first place in the competition hosted by the Salt Lake City chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. She will be honored at the Golden Spike Awards on Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the Living Planet Aquarium at 12033 Lone Peak Parkway in Draper. Two other Communication majors Kylie Harris and Conner Arvidson were selected as runners-up. The competition invited university students to apply their public relations knowledge to a community challenge. This year the contest focused on the foundation created by

Maj. Taylor's widow, Jennie, to "perpetuate his example of service, sacrifice and statesmanship." The foundation's mission is to motivate and inspire future leaders to see past their own individual lives while focusing on true service-oriented leadership. Maj. Taylor was killed in Afghanistan on Nov. 3, 2018, while on his fourth tour of duty as a member of the Utah National Guard. He was also the elected mayor of North Ogden.

### **Inaugural WSU speech team wins overall sweepstakes in first tournament**

The inaugural Weber State University Speech and Debate team kicked off the year with a win at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. The team won first place in overall sweepstakes. The tournament featured 13 schools, including Lower Columbia College, Carroll College, Pacific University, University of Idaho, Lewis and Clark College, and University of Montana. "I am proud of how well our team did," said Mark Galaviz, director of speech. "We weren't expecting to do as well as we did because we have only had our team built for roughly two months, and every student we have is very new to college speech and debate." Galaviz was hired in August to build Weber State's forensics and speech team. In individual speaking events, Emma Harris (junior) took first in Novice Prose and fourth in Novice Informative; Brad Baker (freshman) took third in Novice Prose and second in Novice Extemporaneous; Nate Tanner (freshman) took third in Novice Extemporaneous and fourth in Varsity Persuasive; Morgan Allen (freshman) took sixth in Novice Extemporaneous. Additionally, Nate Tanner and Brad Baker advanced to the semi-finals in IPDA Debate. The team will travel to Linfield College in two weeks to compete against 35-40 other schools with much larger teams.

### **'Lambchop' horror film wins for best sound, cinematography at Demon Chaser**

A film titled "Lambchop" produced by Studio 76 won best sound and best cinematography at the 2019 Demon Chaser Film Festival. The film (<https://youtu.be/28k4pmuHlrg>) premiered at Tower Theatre on Oct. 24. It was produced by Studio 76 students. The film was directed and written by Tyler Trautman, with cinematography and original music score by Cameron Till, and edited by Andrew Mott. It stars Alyssa Vallejos, Tewreena Marcano, Chelsey Shuman, Kieffer Allen, Doug Schulte and Jake Alvey.

### **Weber State Debate traveling to Rwanda for debate camp**

Weber State Debate will travel to Rwanda in December to participate in the Seventh Edition Dreamers Academy hosted by iDebate Rwanda. Three students will travel with director Ryan Wash to teach at the annual holiday debate camp that brings together students from the East African Region to learn the art of debate and public speaking. They include Arianna Phelps, Terri Hughes and Jordan Stephens.

### **WSU Debaters racking up awards in busy debate season**

Weber State debaters have been racking up awards in a busy debate season this semester, including this weekend at Harvard University. Hannah Phelps and Arianna Nelson went 4-4 at Harvard, while Jordan Stephens and Roey Sellouk went 3-4 on the affirmative. WSU also participated in the online Wyoming College Tournament in October. The tournament was a monumental success and put the spotlight on the innovative ways debate can be globally accessible. Terri Hughes and Kiara Pengue took the top junior varsity spot at the Seventh Annual Mukai College Classic held at WSU in October. Arianna Nelson and Hannah Phelps went 6-2 for ninth place. They were ranked 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively at the event. Marinda McPherson captured the top spot as a novice speaker at the Mukai event, making it to the semifinals with partner Rei Olson. Weber State swept the top speaker positions in junior varsity debate at University of Missouri-Kansas City. Hughes took first place, while Pengue came in second and Molly Bunyer third. In September, Nelson took the top speaker prize at Arizona State University. Asia Rowell and Zoe Thomaie won the third-place trophy for a team.

### **PR & Advertising graduate hired by Method Communications**

Conner Erickson, who graduated in Spring 2019 with a double major in Dance and PR and Advertising, has been hired by Method Communications in Salt Lake City. He said the reason he got the job was largely because of his experience with Ogden Peak Agency and his internship at Cat & Fish Dances.

### **Signpost editors attend National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C.**

Editors from The Signpost just returned from the National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. While there, they heard Washington Post Executive Editor Marty Baron of "Spotlight" fame speak and came back with tips for how to improve Weber State University's student newspaper. Those who went included Editor-in-Chief Tori Waltz, News Editor Jennifer Greenlee, Culture Editor Danya Gil, Sports Editor Brandon May, and Design and Graphics Editor Aubree Eckhardt.

### **Signpost staffers attend convention dedicated to free speech on college campuses**

Two Signpost students recently traveled to Chicago to attend a convention of FIRE, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a nonprofit dedicated to free speech issues on college campuses. Jennifer Greenlee and David Morris gained in-depth knowledge about freedom of information requests and access to documents while at the conference.

### **Photographer attends conference on women in visual journalism**

Photographer Nicole Dorbin, a member of the National Professional Photographer Association, attended the NPPA's Women in Visual Journalism conference in San Antonio, Texas.

### **WSU Debate presents public demonstration, high school debate workshops**

WSU Debate has been busy with a number of events. On Oct. 16, debaters presented a public demonstration debate on Immigration and Human Rights. The well-attended debate provided an opportunity for members of the community to learn more about debate and to be part of a conversation about public issues. In September, WSU Debate hosted the first of a series of high school debate workshops. This gave high school students an opportunity to learn more about debate and the program at WSU, while providing WSU team members mentorship opportunities. Finally, WSU Debate is now sponsored by Study Abroad. Starting next spring, debaters traveling to tournaments will receive recognition for their efforts away from campus and be eligible for Study Abroad scholarships.

## **Announcements**

### **Communication Department student resources attached**

A PowerPoint presentation is attached to this email with information about all things Communication. There is information about majors, advisors, student organizations, internships, Honors, and graduation. You can find more detailed information on the department's website at [weber.edu/communication](http://weber.edu/communication).

### **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.

### **The Signpost Exhibition on display at Weber County library branch**

The Southwest Branch of the Weber County Library System is hosting The Signpost Exhibition through Nov. 30. The library is located at 2039 West 4000 South in Roy. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## **Alumni Accomplishments**

### **Public relations graduate regional director for U.S. Department of State**

Christina J. Hernandez, who earned a bachelor's degree in public relations, is now a regional director for the U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions. She also earned a master's degree in management at Utah State University.

### **Adjunct, MPC graduate accepts job as USU's assistant director for social media, PR**

Matt Gerrish accepted a position at Utah State University's Marketing & Communications office as its assistant director for social media/public relations. Previously he worked in Weber State University's Marketing & Communications office for nearly seven years. He will manage and supervise USU's social media team. Gerrish will continue as an adjunct professor teaching COMM 2110 Interpersonal & Small Group Communication. He graduated from WSU's Master of Professional Communication program in 2015.

### **MPC graduate accepts assistant professor job at University of North Texas**

Jordan Smith, a graduate with a Master of Professional Communication degree, has accepted a job as an assistant professor in the Department of Technical Communication at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He finished his Ph.D. at Iowa State University with a co-major in rhetoric/professional communication and applied linguistics/technology. This semester, he is teaching technical editing classes and working on research projects. He and some colleagues from Iowa State just had a book chapter accepted for publication. It looks at combining two methodological approaches to studying variation in the rhetorical moves in academic writing. He said, "I feel incredibly lucky for my time in the MPC program at Weber State and for everything I learned there."

### **MPC graduate publishes first book, a biography on Alan Hall**

MPC graduate Crystalee Beck has published her first book, a biography of Alan Hall, the founder and chair of MarketStar and the former chair of the WSU Board of Trustees. It took Beck three years and 336 pages to tell Hall's story. This graduate of the Master of Professional Communication program said, "This is my biggest writing project ever—even more than the two-year thesis." The book is titled "Joyce's Boy: The Life and Times of Alan E. Hall" and is available on Amazon.

## **Faculty Accomplishments**

### **Steimel selected to serve as member of Fulbright specialist roster**

Dr. Sarah Steimel has been selected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Fulbright specialist roster. The Fulbright specialist program is different from other Fulbright programs in that it is essentially a database of specialists in various fields across the United States who can be solicited to help complete short-term Fulbright grants around the world. While there is no guarantee of a project, Steimel will be recognized as a Fulbright specialist by the U.S. Department of State.

### **Two Communication faculty members publish chapter on 'hero-sidekick bromance'**

Dr. Anne Bialowas and Instructor Ryan Cheek published a chapter titled "Deconstructing the hero-sidekick bromance: Foggy, Kato, and the masculine performance of friendship" in the book "Superheroes and Masculinity: Unmasking the Gender Performance of Heroism." The book was edited by Sean Parson and J.L. Schatz.

### **Norman publishes article in Journal of Communication and Religion**

Assistant Professor Jean Norman published an article titled "Social capital of last resort: How people with low socio-economic status rely on god when social resources are scarce" in the *Journal of Communication and Religion's* summer issue.

### **Packer presents session at international teaching and learning conference**

Dr. Colleen Packer presented a session at the International Society for the Exploration of Teaching and Learning Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Oct. 10-12. She co-presented with Stephanie Speicher and DeeDee Mower from WSU's Teacher Education Department. Their presentation was titled "The first weeks of class: Building learning communities for optimal student growth."

### **Packer's manuscript accepted for publication in international teaching journal**

Dr. Colleen Packer has a manuscript accepted for publication in the December issue of the *International Journal for Teacher Education* titled "Participant-Centered adjunct faculty development: A case study using the great teacher's model."

### **Film Studies director presents at Southwest Oral History Association Conference**

Ashtan Soltani-Stone, the director of the new Film Studies program and assistant professor of Communication, participated on a panel in October at the Southwest Oral History Association Conference in Salt Lake City. The roundtable was titled "Indigenous voices of the land."

### **Three Communication professors to present papers at NCA**

Dr. Michael Ault, Dr. Bobbi Van Gilder and Dr. Sarah Steimel will present papers at the National Communication Association conference in Baltimore later this month. Ault and Van Gilder will present 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 will present another co-authored paper titled "Surviving threats to occupational identities: Police officers' language convergence and meaning divergence in community policing implementation." Steimel will present "Gallery meme exhibit: Presenting communication theory as viral digital content."

### **Adjunct PR professor to be honored as Professional of the Year at Golden Spike Awards**

Communication adjunct professor Dr. Christine Denniston has been selected to receive the prestigious "Professional of the Year" award for her marketing and public relations work for the College of Arts & Humanities. She will be honored at the Golden Spike Awards on Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the Living Planet Aquarium at 1203 Lone Peak Parkway in Draper.

### **Get Involved**

- **The Signpost:** Contact Dr. Jean Norman at [jeannorman@weber.edu](mailto:jeannorman@weber.edu).
- **Studio 76:** Contact Andrea Baltazar at [andreabaltazar@weber.edu](mailto:andreabaltazar@weber.edu).
- **KWCR Wildcat Radio:** Contact Robin Haislett at [robinhaislett@weber.edu](mailto:robinhaislett@weber.edu).
- **WSU Debate:** Contact Ryan Wash at [ryanwash@weber.edu](mailto:ryanwash@weber.edu).
- **Ogden Peak Communications:** Contact Dr. Nicola Corbin at [nicolacorbin@weber.edu](mailto:nicolacorbin@weber.edu).
- **PRSSA:** Contact Leslie Howerton at [lesliehowerton@weber.edu](mailto:lesliehowerton@weber.edu).
- **Society of Professional Journalists:** Contact Dr. Jean Norman at [jeannorman@weber.edu](mailto:jeannorman@weber.edu).
- **Departmental Honors:** Contact Dr. Susan Hafen at [shafen@weber.edu](mailto:shafen@weber.edu).
- **Lambda Pi Eta:** Contact Dr. Hailey Gillen Hoke at [haileygillenhoke@weber.edu](mailto:haileygillenhoke@weber.edu).