



Welcome to Fall Semester 2019

Welcome to Fall Semester 2019. We hope you're excited to be back and enjoy your new classes.

If you are having any problems with registration, please contact Sare Gardner at sgardner1@weber.edu or drop by the department office in Room 330 of Elizabeth Hall. Here are a few tips:

- **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 college's academic advisers or the department chair can also help you. See below to discover who your adviser is.
- **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 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. 26:** First day of Fall Semester
- **Aug. 30:** Wildcat Block Party (Stop by our booths!)

Student News

The Signpost wins General Excellence Award from Utah Press Association

The Signpost this year is building on some impressive spring accomplishments. The student news organization won General Excellence at the Utah Press Association annual awards for the third time in a row, beating other Utah universities such as the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. The first-place awards went to Jennifer Greenlee for best news series for her work on changes in Weber's financial aid system; Josh Wineholt for best sports photo, photo page and news photo; Sara Parker for best feature photo; and the staff for best in-house promotion and best website. The second-place awards went to Cole Eckhardt and Nic Muranaka for general news story; Chris Nichols for best column; Samantha Van Orman for best community event; and the staff for best lifestyle page, best staff-produced ad and best circulation promotion. Third-place honors went to sports editor

Brandon May for sports column; sports reporter Japheth Pleasant for sports story; and the staff for news coverage, sports page and special edition.

Signpost staffers win first-place awards in regional SPJ competition

Signpost staffers won first-place awards in the Society of Professional Journalists Region 9 Mark of Excellence Awards. Harrison Epstein and Nic Muranaka won for breaking news, Japheth Pleasant won for sports writing and Josh Wineholt won for sports photography. Wineholt's photo also was recognized as a national finalist in the contest. Pleasant won first place his in-depth sports coverage "Being an athlete doesn't mean making big bucks." Finalists in that competition were Daryn Steed for column writing and The Signpost's website, signpost.mywebermedia.com. Winners in the Mark of Excellence Awards compete nationally for honors at the Excellence in Journalism convention in September.

The Signpost's Orientation issue is on newsstands

The Signpost's Orientation issue is on newsstands across campus with back-to-school tips from students for students. It is also available online at signpost.mywebermedia.com or [on pdf at on issuu.com](http://on.pdf.at.on.issuu.com). Students and faculty can sign up to receive The Signpost in their in boxes at <https://issuu.com/thesignpostwsu>.

Students find new jobs, get promotions after internships

Several students who have just finished up internships have now found jobs in their field, based in part on their internship experience:

- Alyson Johnson, Civic Advocacy, is a caseworker for offices of Sen. Mike Lee and Sen. Mitt Romney.
- Jeweliette Cordero, Public Relations & Advertising, is now a marketing product specialist at Price Containers, after her social media internship with Clearlink.
- Paige Robertson, Public Relations & Advertising, is the new social media manager of Freedom Home Warranties after her internship with MarketStar.
- Bianca Morales, Interpersonal & family, is now working with the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in the Native Ministries department after her internship with Nurture the Creative Mind.
- Scott Jordan, Digital Media, is an account manager doing videography for Central Logic.

Students encouraged to join SPJ, chapters for Black, Hispanic journalists

Students interested in joining the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists or the National Association of Hispanic Journalists should contact Jean Norman at jeannorman@weber.edu.

Announcements

Academic advisers ready to answer your questions

A few changes have been made in academic advising in the Department of Communication. Academic advisers for Fall Semester include:

- **Communication in general:** Sheree Josephson, sjosephson@weber.edu
- **Civic Advocacy:** Anne Bialowas, annebialowas@weber.edu
- **Digital Media A-M:** Andrea Baltazar, andreabaltazar@weber.edu
- **Digital Media N-Z:** Robin Haislett, robinhaislett@weber.edu
- **Interpersonal & Family A-M:** Sheree Josephson, sjosephson@weber.edu
- **Interpersonal & Family N-Z:** Brent Warnock, brentwarnock1@weber.edu
- **Multimedia Journalism:** Jean Norman, jeannorman@weber.edu
- **Organizational Communication A-M:** Michael Ault, michaelault1@weber.edu
- **Organizational Communication N-Z:** Hailey Gillen Hoke, haileygillenhoke@weber.edu
- **Public Relations & Advertising A-G:** Nathan Rodriguez, nathanrodriguez@weber.edu
- **Public Relations & Advertising H-O:** Leslie Howerton, lesliehowerton@weber.edu

- **Public Relations & Advertising P-Z:** Nicola Corbin, nicolacorbin@weber.edu
- **Master of Professional Communication:** Sarah Steimel, sarahsteimel@weber.edu
- **Minor & BIS:** Ryan Cheek, ryancheek@weber.edu
- **Communication Teaching:** Colleen Packer, cpacker@weber.edu
- **Associate's Degrees:** Nicholas Berg, nicholasberg@weber.edu
- **Associate's Degrees:** Debbi Murphy, ddmurphy@weber.edu

Alumni Accomplishments

Communication major honored at NCAA Track National Championships

Communication major Tawnie Moore received honors during the NCAA Track National Championships in Austin, Texas, over the summer. She was named second team All-Americans for the four-day competition. Moore completed her WSU track career with an 11th overall finish in the 100-meter hurdles but her time of 13.03 seconds qualified as both a Weber State and Big Sky Conference record. Moore became the first Wildcat track athlete to earn an All-American honor for hurdles and finished her time at WSU as a four-time Big Sky Conference champion. She plans to compete in the USA Track and Field Championships this July in Des Moines, Iowa. Her goal is to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Faculty Achievements

New director of interdisciplinary Film Studies program named

Award-winning filmmaker **Ashkan Soltani-Stone** has been named the director of the interdisciplinary Film Studies program and a faculty member in Digital Media. Soltani-Stone has an MFA in film and media production from the University of Utah where he received the 2017 College of Fine Arts distinguished alumni award. In his films, Soltani-Stone explores a wide range of topics such as affordable housing, immigrant workers, indigenous land rights, sustainable farming, and subversive music. Soltani-Stone's latest project "Rez Metal" is a feature-length documentary about the heavy metal music scene and underground youth culture throughout the Navajo reservations. Soltani Stone is also completing the book *Rez Metal: Inside the Navajo Nation Heavy Metal Scene* (University of Nebraska Press). Soltani-Stone has established the film production program at the Minnesota State University, Mankato, and has taught at Whittier College and the American Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles.

Two professors hired in Digital Media

Two faculty members in Communication and Digital Media have been hired. **Aimee Gillette** is a writer, director and editor whose work has been featured at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While working for New York City ad agency NYC & Company, she served as videographer and editor for clients such as the NAACP, Dutch Embassy, and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Gillette has also worked in Los Angeles on projects for Sega game systems, Rhino Records, and PBS and has created animated sequences for a number of cable networks. She was a tenured faculty member in Film/TV at De Anza College in Cupertino, California, and prior to that, held a full-time faculty position in the Television and Radio department at Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland. Her most recent film credit is as principal editor on the documentary *Chef Darren* that will air on PBS channels nationwide in late 2019. **James McAllister** is an award-winning filmmaker and editor based out of Salt Lake City. He studied multimedia and cinema production, and his career has taken him to Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, and all across the United States. He has been a panelist at the FanX Convention multiple times presenting with the Lost Media Archive, analyzing different films and video techniques. His career has been focused on corporate, marketing, and the educational sectors.

Director of Debate, Director of Speech named

Ryan Wash has been named as the director of Debate and **Mark Galaviz** as the director of Speech for the Weber State University forensics program housed in the Department of Communication. Wash served as interim director

of debate last year. He received his Bachelor of Fine Art in Communication at Emporia State University and his Master of Professional Communication at Weber State University. He is the only person to win both the National Debate Tournament and the Cross-Examination Debate Association championship as a competitor and a coach. He is a member of the Association of Black Argument Professionals and facilitates workshops on social justice, deliberative democracy and debate. Wash is an executive producer for Annapurna and Macro Studios where he is working on producing an auto-biopic film. His educational motivation stems from his desire actualize the power of voice and story in deliberation. Galaviz holds Associate of Arts degrees in Communication, Political Science, and Liberal Arts from the College of Western Idaho. He received his B.A. in Communication at Boise State University, as well as his M.A. of Communication. He served as the chapter president of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association's official honor society. Galaviz was a member of both the Boise State Talkin' Broncos and CWI Speech and Debate teams that won consecutive national championships. He has served as a mentor/coach in both organizations that also brought home national championships at their respective PKD tournaments. Galaviz began his career in the U.S. Army where he served both domestically and overseas as a combat medic (91 Bravo) who managed patient care as well as strategic coordination for medical land and air evacuation operations.

Two professors publish article on use of video and teacher presence in online classes

Dr. Anne Bialowas and Dr. Sarah Steimel have published a paper titled "Less is More: Use of Video to Address the Problem of Teacher Immediacy and Presence in Online Courses" in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.

Journalism professor wins Scholastic Journalism Division top paper award at AEJMC

Dr. Jean Norman, with her co-authors Professor Quint Randle of Brigham Young University and Associate Professor Avery Holton of the University of Utah, won the top paper award for the Scholastic Journalism Division at the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference in Toronto. The paper, "Drones on High: Uses and Challenges of Incorporating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles into Higher Education," surveyed university risk managers about drone use on campuses.

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.