



## It's almost time to register for Spring Semester; drop-in advising sessions available on Zoom

It's almost time to register for Spring Semester 2021. If you need academic advising, please reach out to your advisor. If you don't know who that is, please see <https://weber.edu/Communication/Advisors.html>. The chair of the Department of Communication is also hosting drop-in academic advising sessions on Zoom from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 10 and Nov. 11. See the calendar below for the Zoom links. Please know that even though we may not be physically in our offices, we are here to help you complete your education during the pandemic.

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. 5:** Virtual lecture series with communication health care professionals, 7 p.m. (see below)
- **Nov. 9:** Spring Semester registration opens
- **Nov. 10:** Online advising with department chair on Zoom (use waiting room)  
<https://weber.zoom.us/j/99619120122> Meeting ID: 996 1912 0122
- **Nov. 11:** Online advising with department chair on Zoom (use waiting room)  
<https://weber.zoom.us/j/95918265040> Meeting ID: 959 1826 5040
- **Nov. 26-27:** Thanksgiving Break

#### December

- **Dec. 12:** Graduation

### Student News

#### **WSU Speech Team places fourth overall in competition with 70 schools**

Weber State's Speech Team placed fourth overall in the Steve Hunt Classic in October out of 70 schools from 25 states. Mark Galaviz, the director of the Speech Team only in its second year of existence said the performance "shocked the behemoths of the speech and debate community," including Boise State University, UCLA, Utah State, Whitworth University, Cornell, University of Mississippi, Western Kentucky and Gonzaga. The team consists of Akir Rowe, Brad Baker, Jazmyne Olsen, Jennifer Bowen, Krystiana Davis, Kyle Housely, Nessie Aviles, Rebecca Bagget and Sophie Beck. Students brought back numerous awards. Housely took first in Novice Dramatic Interpretation and first in Novice Prose. Olson placed first took first in Novice Poetry, second in Novice Oral Interpretation, and third in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking. Baker took second in Novice Dramatic

Interpretation. Beck placed fourth in Novice Prose. In the IPDA Novice Debate, WSU had a closeout with Olson winning first and Bagget second based on speaker points. Housely and Baker made it to Novice Octo Finals. The team is now preparing for a debate scrimmage in two weeks, before competing in the 90<sup>th</sup> annual Mahaffy Memorial Tournament Nov. 13-15. Galaviz said the team needs judges. To volunteer to judge for the Weber Speech Team, email him at [Markgalaviz@weber.edu](mailto:Markgalaviz@weber.edu).

### **Multimedia journalism student has paper accepted in undergrad conference**

A paper written by Jennifer Greenlee, a Multimedia Journalism student, was accepted for presentation at the virtual Ball State University undergraduate communication research conference in November. The paper titled "Fighting Dragons in Critical Role with Cultivation Theory" was written in Dr. Sarah Steimel's COMM 3000 Communication Theory class.

### **WSU Debate team selected to compete at Val Browning Round Robin**

Weber State debaters Hannah Phelps and Gage Brunyer were competitively selected to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Val Browning Round Robin in October. WSU Debate hosted top teams from around the country to a weekend of head-to-head debates. Teams debated on the NDT/CEDA topic of U.S. military alliances, the values and benefits of research-driven policy debate, and the continuing power of debating in online environments. Teams were competitively selected by an outside committee of black community leaders. Schools invited to participate included Harvard University, Gonzaga University, University of Georgia, West Georgia, California State University, Fullerton, the University of Wyoming, and WSU.

### **WSU Debate teams compete virtually Kentucky tournament**

WSU Debate completed its first tournament of the year by competing (virtually) at the Kentucky Tournament. Four Hannah Phelps, Gage Brunyer, Zoe Thomae and Bailey Brunyer competed. Wildcats debated the relative merits of sustaining U.S. alliances with various allies. On the affirmative, one team spoke about the importance of redressing the sexual violence of U.S. military presence in Okinawa, and the other team argued that the U.S.-NATO military support in Columbia has stifled democratic movements. On the negative, teams debated a wide range of concerns from North Korean military alliances to queer and feminist international relations to questions of how debate can be used as more than mere games playing.

## **Announcements**

### **Learn how to tell stories using 360-degree virtual reality technology**

This spring take your digital media and storytelling skills into the virtual realm with COMM 4500 – Special Topics in 360-degree Virtual Reality Storytelling. Dr. Aaron Atkins, a specialist in creating 360-degree video content, is introducing an experimental 360VR course for Spring 2021. You'll learn the ins and outs of 360VR and explore numerous genres including documentary, social, environmental, drama, horror, comedy experiences, as well as education and training simulations. You will be introduced to 360 camera and audio technology, learn how to produce professional-quality 360 videos specific for Oculus and other top-tier head-mounted displays, then put together a production team and create your own virtual experience. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to submit your project to a juried VR festival. Regardless of department or major, if you have your foundational digital audio/video production, scriptwriting, and Adobe-oriented editing courses covered, sign up. Check with your academic advisor about counting this class toward the Communication major.

### **PRSSA hosting virtual lecture series with communication health care professionals**

On Nov. 5 at 7 p.m., PRSSA is hosting its Virtual Lecture Series with a panel on health care communication. Health care communication professionals from Utah, Delaware and Florida will speak. The Zoom link is <https://weber.zoom.us/j/94736557212?pwd=T3hoSU81ZnpTYlZlZWVtBjK05Vd2pFdz09> with Meeting ID: 947 3655 7212 and Passcode: WeberPRSSA.

## **Listen to three episodes of ‘Covid, College and Chaos’ podcast**

“Covid, College and Chaos” podcast Covid, College and Chaos is a podcast that dives into how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the college experience. Join us as we discuss topics including involvement, careers, mental health, student resources and conquering boredom. We have guests joining us from around campus to offer advice on a variety of topics. Three episodes will be released Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9. The podcast will be available to stream on KWCR. More information will be available on social media. Remember to tune in!

## **New associate’s degrees in Digital Media Production available in Fall Semester**

The Department of Communication is now offering associate’s degrees in Digital Media Production. Students have the choice between an Associate of Science, an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Applied Science. Students majoring in Digital Media or Film Studies are encouraged to contact their academic advisor to enroll. The degrees stack on the bachelor’s degrees in DM or Film Studies with classes double-counting for both the associate’s and bachelor’s degrees. This provides a way for students to add a degree to their resume before the bachelor’s degree is completed. Faculty who can help students add this degree to CatTracks include Andrea Baltazar at [andreabaltazar@weber.edu](mailto:andreabaltazar@weber.edu); Aimee Gillette at [aimeegillette@weber.edu](mailto:aimeegillette@weber.edu); Ash Soltani-Stone at [ashsoltanistone@weber.edu](mailto:ashsoltanistone@weber.edu) or Dr. Sheree Josephson at [sjosephson@weber.edu](mailto:sjosephson@weber.edu).

## **Students with high GPAs eligible to apply for Departmental Honors**

You are eligible to apply for Departmental Honors if you have an overall 3.5 GPA and a 3.7 GPA in the major and hope to present original research or a creative project at the undergraduate symposium or any professional forum. Achieving departmental honors will result in HONORS showing on your diploma and transcript, an invitation to Honors banquet, and eligibility to apply for an Honors scholarship for your textbooks. You need to apply for Department Honors at least one semester before graduation. Apply online through the Honors Student Portal. If you have questions, contact Dr. Susan Hafen at [shafen@weber.edu](mailto:shafen@weber.edu).

## **Alumni Achievements**

### **Interpersonal & Family graduate working on Ph.D. in West Virginia**

Casey M. Stratton, the 2016 outstanding graduate in Interpersonal & Family Communication, is working on his Ph.D. in Communication Studies at the University of West Virginia. After earning his bachelor’s degree, Stratton began his career in organizational learning and development, where he worked for six years overseeing training functions and managing training initiatives at both a regional bank and an international financial corporation. Coupled with earning his master’s degree in Organizational Communication in 2019 and a graduate certificate in Conflict and Dispute Resolution in 2019, Stratton enjoyed employing communication theories in the corporate setting. His experience in organizational strategy and instructional design sparked a desire to research efficacious learning tactics in the workplace. Therefore, his research interests include organizational culture and the impact it has on workplace learning and improving learning transfer between the college classroom and the workplace.

## **Faculty Accomplishments**

### **Film Studies director publishes book on Navajo heavy metal scene**

Ashkan Soltani Stone, the director of the Film Studies program and a faculty member in the Department of Communication, has published the book “Rez Metal: Inside the Navajo Nation Heavy Metal Scene” with co-author Natale A. Zappia. The book was published by the University of Nebraska Press. “The book’s summary says: “‘Rez Metal’ captures the creative energy of Indigenous youth culture in the 21st century. Bridging communities from disparate corners of Indian Country and across generations, heavy metal has touched a collective nerve on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona in particular. Many cultural leaders—including former Navajo president Russell Begaye—have begun to recognize heavy metal’s ability to inspire Navajo communities facing chronic challenges such as poverty, depression, and addiction. Heavy metal music speaks to the frustrations, fears, trials, and hopes of living in Indian Country. ‘Rez Metal’ highlights a seminal moment in Indigenous heavy metal: when Kyle Felter, lead

singer of the Navajo heavy metal band I Dont Konform, sent a demo tape to Flemming Rasmussen, the Grammy Award-winning producer of several Metallica albums, including “Master of Puppets.” A few months later, Rasmussen, captivated by the music, flew from Denmark to Window Rock, Arizona, to meet the band. Through a series of vivid images and interviews focused on the venues, bands, and fans of the Navajo Nation metal scene, ‘Rez Metal’ provides a window into this fascinating world.”

### **Faculty member has article accepted, named graduate student researcher of the year**

Ryan Cheek, a Communication instructor, has received news of acceptance from Communication Design Quarterly that his manuscript titled “Political Technical Communication and Ideographic Communication Design in a Pre-digital Congressional Campaign” will be published in an upcoming edition. The article reports archival research about Bobbie Coray, who was a prominent female politician from Cache Valley in the mid-’90s. Cheek, who is working on a Ph.D. at the Utah State University, was named graduate student researcher of the year for the English Department at USU and will get to compete at college and maybe university level.

### **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 Dr. Nathan Rodriguez at [nathanrodriguez@weber.edu](mailto:nathanrodriguez@weber.edu).
- **WSU Debate:** Contact Sam Allen at [samallen2@weber.edu](mailto:samallen2@weber.edu)
- **WSU Speech:** Contact Mark Galaviz at [markgalaviz@weber.edu](mailto:markgalaviz@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).