



## Graduation Signoff Deadline, Vice Presidential Debate Watch, Diversity Conference, Plus Other News

If you're a senior, don't miss the graduation signoff deadline on Oct. 2. You also don't want to miss the vice presidential debate watch with the WSU Debate Team or the Weber State University's annual Diversity Conference.

This is the October 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

#### October

- **Oct. 1-2:** WSU Diversity Conference (see below)
- **Oct. 2:** Graduation signoff
- **Oct. 7:** Vice presidential debate watch, 7 p.m. (see below)
- **Oct. 16:** Fall Break
- **Oct. 17-19:** Mukai College Classic (see below)

#### November

- **Nov. 9:** Spring Semester registration opens
- **Nov. 26-27:** Thanksgiving Break

#### December

- **Dec. 12:** Graduation

### Student News

#### **WSU Speech Team brings home four of Top 8 finishes**

The Weber State University Speech Team had a great first outing at the Fran Tanner Invitational, held virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Five WSU students brought back Top 8 finishes and the Novice IPDA tourney title. Overall, Brad Baker finished third, Jazmyne Olsen sixth, Rebecca Baggett seventh, and Akir Rowe eighth. Rowe won first place overall in Novice IPDA debate, while Sophie Beck and Olsen took third place. "It was very possible that the season could have been canceled," said Mark Galaviz, director of the WSU Speech Team, "but it was moved online." "I am just happy we can still have tournaments," said Baggett, team captain. Twenty-one teams competed in the Fran Tanner Invitational, including Seton Hall, Idaho State University, Boise State

University and the University of Washington. The next tournament is the Steve Hunt Classic on Oct. 9-11. If you would like to volunteer to judge for the Weber State Speech Team, email Galaviz at [Markgalaviz@weber.edu](mailto:Markgalaviz@weber.edu).

### **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).

## **Announcements**

### **WSU Debate sponsoring vice presidential debate watch on Oct. 7**

The Weber State Debate team is sponsoring the vice presidential debate watch on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. You must register in advance for this meeting at <https://weber.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkcuGvrjgrG9Km5q-NOXFWN-laEXH5z5nC>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The debate between Republican Vice President Mike Pence and Democratic Vice President Nominee Kamala Harris will occur on the University of Utah campus. The team also sponsored a debate watch event for the first debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden, plus the debate between the candidates for Congress in Utah's First District. For questions, email Sam Allen, director of debate, at [samallen2@weber.edu](mailto:samallen2@weber.edu).

### **Students encouraged to attend WSU Diversity Conference virtually**

Everyone is invited to attend the 22nd Annual Weber State University Diversity Conference on Oct. 1-2. This year's virtual conference will explore issues surrounding systemic racism and human connections with the theme "Connections, Obstacles, and Opportunities: Employing Intersectionality to Transform Racial Hierarchy into Humanity." The keynote speakers are Tim Wise, who is among the nation's most prominent antiracist essayists and educators, and Weber State's own sociologist Pepper Glass. Dr. Glass's recent book, "Misplacing Ogden, Utah: Race, Class, Immigration, and the Construction of Urban Reputations," asks us to consider how the urban reputation of a place can divide and ostracize members of a community and create disconnection. Additionally, the conference will feature workshops from connections through dance, athletics and STEM to community engagement and collaboration in the age of coronavirus. To learn more and to register for this virtual conference, visit <https://www.weber.edu/diversity/diversityconference.html>.

### **Weber State Debate plans intercollegiate tournament hosting for 2020-2021**

Weber State Debate will host the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Val Browning Round Robin and the eighth annual Mukai College Classic this year—online! The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Val Browning Round Robin will be hosted virtually Oct. 17-19. It brings together a selection of the best teams in the United States to debate in a round robin format on the NDT/CEDA topic. Schools are invited to submit their top teams for consideration by an outside selection committee composed of established community leaders. This year WSU has already received applications from schools from coast to coast. The round robin format allows each team to compete against every other team in the field in order to determine the best team in a head-to-head fashion. The Top 3 teams and the Top 5 individual speakers will be recognized. The Mukai College Classic is a general invitational policy debate tournament open to any team interested in competing on the NDT/CEDA topic. This year, it will be coordinated on Classrooms.Cloud, a virtual debate hosting platform. Weber State Debate is working to take advantage of the online platform and provide a cost-free invitational experience that can bring together schools from across the country that may ordinarily have had a harder time physically traveling to Ogden. Three divisions of policy debate competition will be hosted: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice. Teams will compete in six preliminary rounds using a switch-side format that

requires teams to affirm the topic in three debates and negate the topic in their other three debates. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the Top 32 teams will compete in a single-elimination tournament bracket to determine the winning team. The Top 20 individual speakers will also be recognized for their overall performances.

### **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**

### **Communication graduate press secretary in Georgia senatorial campaign**

Recent Communication graduate Mayren Rancifer has been named press secretary for Jon Ossoff's senatorial campaign in Georgia. Ossoff is trying to unseat Republican Sen. David Perdue.

## **Faculty Accomplishments**

### **Speech Team director interviewed about first presidential debate**

Mark Galaviz, the director of the WSU Speech Team director, was featured in a KUTV Channel 2 story about the first presidential debate. In the interview, Galaviz said that if President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden were his students they would be in danger of failing. He also called for impartial adjudicators such as university debate coaches with the power to shut off a mic and control the flow of the questioning "so we can get some real answers." The Interview aired Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. and was posted at <https://kutv.com/news/local/utah-debate-coach-gives-trump-f-biden-d-minus-and-calls-for-mute-switch>.

### **Digital Media faculty, students producing fall production for WSU Dance**

Digital Media faculty members Aimee Gillette and Andrea Baltazar are working on the Weber State Dance Department's upcoming fall production. Students from COMM 3200 Live Event Production and Studio 76 will be part of the video crew for Orchestis, a digital dance event to be live streamed over three weekends in November. The filming will be facilitated by WSU's CATS department.

## **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 Ryan Wash 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).