Time to Join Honor Society and Plan for Summer, Fall Registration

March is the month to check your inbox or mailbox to see if you have been invited to join Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for Communication students. It is also time to start planning for Summer and Fall registration.

The Department of Communication office is open virtually through Zoom Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at https://weber.zoom.us/j/95611908967. You can also call us at 801-626-6426 or email communication@weber.edu Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Of course, you can also leave a message any time. We will get back to you.

This is the March 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 that you’d like us to distribute, please email department chair Sheree Josephson at sjosephson@weber.edu.

What’s Happening

March
- March 8-12: Spring Break
- March 15: MPC application deadline (see below)
- March 19: Lambda Pi Eta honor society application deadline (see below)

April
- April 5: Summer Semester registration opens
- April 12: Fall Semester registration opens
- April 30: Graduation

Student News

Top Communication students invited to join national honor society
Junior and senior Communication majors with high GPAs will receive invitations this week or next to join Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for Communication students. To be eligible students must (1) complete 60 semester credit hours, (2) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 for all courses taken, (3) complete the equivalent of 12 semester credit hours in Communication, (4) have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all Communication courses, (5) currently be enrolled as a student in good standing, as determined by the institution’s policies, and (6) rank within the highest 35% of one’s class in general scholarship. Invitations will be extended via postal mail and campus email. If you qualify, but do not receive your invitation by March 15, please contact Sare Gardner to check your eligibility. Qualifying students will be honored at the department’s end-of-year event. The deadline to join is March 19.
Communication student accepted to University of Utah law school
Carlie Lythgoe, a Bachelor’s of Integrative Studies student with a Communication emphasis, has been accepted to the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. Lythgoe said, “I am excited to gain a legal education and to be able to give back to my community here in Utah in a meaningful, systemic way.”

WSU Debate team president wins top honors at Undergraduate Research Symposium
Weber State Debate team president, Jordan Stephens, was awarded top honors and full funding from the annual WSU Undergraduate Research Symposium with his research project on COVID-19 testing.

WSU Speech takes second overall in Talk Hawk Invitational
The WSU Speech Team took second place overall in the Talk Hawk Invitational last month in competition with schools from across the U.S., including Duke University, the University of Montana, the University of Utah and Morehouse College. Team awards also included a third-place finish in debate events and a third-place finish in Individual events. Individual awards included:

- **Rebecca Brown:** first place in Open Dramatic Interpretation, first place in IPDA Debate speaker points, second place in junior IPDA Debate, and fourth place in novice Extemporaneous Speaking.
- **Brad Baker:** fourth place in junior IPDA Debate speaker points, third place in Junior IPDA Debate, and sixth place in novice Impromptu speaking.
- **Krystiana Davis:** third place in novice IPDA Debate speaker points, third in Novice IPDA Debate, third in Novice Persuasive Speaking.
- **Sophie Beck:** first place in Novice IPDA Debate speaker points, first place in Novice IPDA Debate, first place in Open Informative Speaking, sixth place in Open Program of Oral Interpretation, and Top Novice in Open Program of Oral Interpretation.
- **Akir Rowe:** second place in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, third place in Junior IPDA Debate, and one of the two first places in Junior IPDA Debate.
- **Jazmyne Olson:** first place in Junior IPDA Debate, second place in Junior IPDA Debate speaker points, third place in Novice Impromptu Speaking, fifth place in Open Extemporaneous Speaking, sixth place in Open Poetry, and Top Novice in Open Poetry.
- **Kyle Housley:** fifth place in Open Dramatic Interpretation, seventh place in Open Prose, and Top Novice in Open Prose.

Weber State’s Speech and IPDA Debate Team is working hard to prepare for PKD Nationals scheduled for March 18-21. The team can use judge support. If you are interested in judging at Nationals, please contact Mark Galaviz at Markgalaviz@weber.edu.

WSU Debate qualifies for the Mountain West National Debate Tournament qualifier
The debate team of Zoe Thomae and Bailey Brunyer achieved one of their competitive goals by making the jump from Junior Varsity to Varsity this semester. Weber BT represented the team well picking up two wins in their first varsity tournament, the Northwestern University Tournament, the largest intercollegiate policy debate tournament hosted each year with nearly a hundred colleges and universities represented. Two weeks later, they took that momentum and made it to the elimination rounds of the Monmouth Invitational, only their second tournament at the varsity level. Having won over 50% of their rounds in varsity, Thomae and Brunyer qualified to represent Weber State Debate in the District 2 National Debate Tournament qualifier.

Weber State Debate hosts successful High School Speech and Debate Workshop
Weber State Debate brought together nearly 30 high school speech and debate students from schools across Utah for a three-hour workshop to help students refine their speaking and debating prowess heading into state and national championship competitions. Weber State Debate students took the opportunity to learn to teach, developing lesson plans for each of their sessions and sharing their experience to help local students get a leg up on the competition. In addition, the Director Workshop brought together several new administrators to help prepare for hosting several of the local national qualifying tournaments.
Analysis of Argument students have letters to the editor published
Students in COMM 1270 used their argumentation skills to get engaged in local advocacy with the publication of two op-eds this semester. Carlie Lythgoe’s letter, “Utah desperately needs better sex ed curriculum,” was published in the Deseret News and can be read here: https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/2/15/22281001/letter-utah-desperately-needs-better-sex-ed-curriculum. Connor Kirkham’s letter, “Biden must compromise if unity is to be reached,” was published in the Standard-Examiner and can be read here: https://www.standard.net/opinion/letters/letter-biden-must-compromise-if-unity-is-to-be-reached/article_33528e19-7c08-5129-be71-e1b5de73700f.html.

Announcements

It’s not too late to apply for Spring Semester graduation
You can still submit your graduation application until the end of the semester. To ensure your name is in the graduation program, apply by March 31. Apply ASAP! If you have questions, email college adviser Debbi Murphy at ddmurphy@weber.edu. Watch for details about graduation.

Deadline to apply for Master of Professional Communication program March 15
Are you graduating this year? Are you wondering what might come next? Employers routinely agree that excellent communication is a must for career advancement. The Master of Professional Communication degree at WSU can help you pursue your professional communication career or graduate school goals. The WSU Master of Professional Communication program is flexible, affordable, and does not require the GRE. Check out weber.edu/mpc or contact Dr. Sarah Steimel at sarahsteimel@weber.edu to learn more. The application deadline to start the program in Summer or Fall 2021 is March 15.

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; Aimee Gillette at aimeegillette@weber.edu; Ash Soltani-Stone at ashsoltanistone@weber.edu or Dr. Sheree Josephson at 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.

Faculty Accomplishments

Professor publishes article on privacy and pregnancy loss in the workplace
Dr. Sarah Steimel has published an article in the journal “Women’s Studies in Communication.” The article is titled “Communication privacy management and pregnancy loss in interpersonal workplace communication.” It can be read at https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07491409.2020.1843579.

Faculty member publishes book chapter on emotional support animals at college
Dr. Susan Hafen has a book chapter in press. It is titled “Having emotional support animals at college.” It will be published in T. H. Housel (Ed.) “Mental Health Among Higher Education Faculty, Administration, and graduate students: A Critical Perspective” from Lexington Books.

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 Dr. Nathan Rodriguez at nathanrodriguez@weber.edu.
- **WSU Debate:** Contact Sam Allen at samallen2@weber.edu
- **WSU Speech:** Contact Mark Galaviz at markgalaviz@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.