

September 13, 2021



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

About a month ago, we came together at kickoff and shared our excitement to see one another again and for the opportunity to connect and engage and support each other. We've shown that at the start of the semester, working diligently to hear one another, to give each other voice, to share our celebrations and our concerns, and to remind one another that we are doing much good work. And we have much good work ahead of us.

With that comes our first issue of CommUnity, a newsletter created by and for the Department of Communication. This is a bi-weekly space to catalogue our shining moments, to share upcoming events and opportunities, and to gain a little bit of insight into who we all are and the work we are all doing.

Many of the elements here will also appear on our soon-to-be redesigned website and through our social media channels, which are powerful ways to connect with our students and the world beyond. Those include two new features: "Crash Course" will highlight new and unique courses offered by the Department while "Us Upfront" offers a fun and quick profile of faculty, staff, and students. Brie will be reaching out to everyone to contribute to those, and if you have other calendar items, celebrations or anything you'd like to share, please send those to Brie and to me.

Other elements of the newsletter will be added and changed along the way, and you can help shape CommUnity with your input and engagement. Let us know what you think, what else we might include, and how we can collectively share with and celebrate one another through the year.

- Avery

Professor Kent Ono selected for National Endowment for the Humanities Incentive Fellowship

Professor Kent Ono was recently selected for a NEH Incentive Fellowship through the University of Utah, which encourages faculty to apply for NEH funding. One of the core programs of NEH is the prestigious NEH Fellowship which provides researchers with 6-12 months of research leave to work on a major scholarly or creative project.



Professor Jake Jensen appointed to University Research Committee Chair

Professor Jake Jensen will begin his appointed term as University Research Chair, beginning in Fall 2022. He will work to enhance grant development and manage successful internal funding programs for scholarly and creative research at the University of Utah.





Professor Danielle Endres receives National Science Foundation Grant

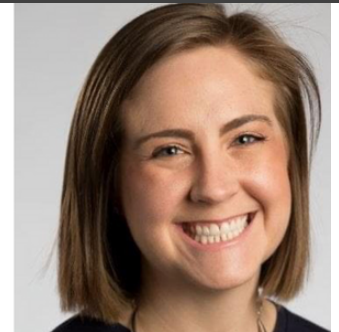
The Department of Communication is pleased to announce that our own Dr. Danielle Endres is the recipient of a collaborative research grant from the National Science Foundation to research practices of energy democracy in Puerto Rico.

Professor Sara Yeo Collaborates with PBS Digital Studios to Expand STEM Content to Reach Underrepresented Communities



Sara Yeo will conduct research – with a focus on women of all races and members of Black and Hispanic communities – to better understand how these groups search for and engage with content related to science, technology, engineering, and math. Sara Yeo and Michael Cacciatore, associate professor of public relations at University of Georgia, will be jointly responsible for design, data collection and data analysis of the survey.

Doctoral Student Madison Krall selected for the National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar



Doctoral student Madison Krall was selected for the National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar this summer, which brings together promising doctoral students and distinguished faculty members from across the discipline to discuss current topics in Communication. Professor Jake Jensen also served as a faculty mentor during the program, which took place virtually July 14th - July 16th. Congratulations!

Announcements



The Tanner Humanities Center offers faculty support through micro grants (\$500-\$2000) on a rolling basis. The application is available here and is fairly brief. This is a great way to extend conversations to the community, connect courses and speakers, and build opportunities for engagement that otherwise may not have funding available.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BECKY!

CRASH COURSE

Media and Society with Dr. Glen Feighery

COMM 1500 Media and Society emphasizes critical consumption of media messages and the implications of producing such messages. Students engage with technological, business, historical, legal, and ethical foundations of media communication to become more informed and better able to articulate their responsibilities in the mediated world.

To do that, this course has three parts. The first is about information. Students consider questions such as: What is “news”? Where do we get it? What are the values of journalism? There are broader questions, too: What’s true? What’s not? How do we know what we think we know? The second part addresses misinformation. Students learn ways to distinguish between messages that are inaccurate or incomplete vs. messages that are deceptive or deliberately misleading. The third part is action. Students learn how previous activists have used media as different as books and radio, and they gain insights into the ways activism works today.

In this course, students connect the present with the past, guided by the idea that “the only thing that’s new is the history you don’t know.” They learn that media have been used for information, misinformation, and activism for literally hundreds of years. For example, the 1938 “War of the Worlds” broadcast affected listeners, in part, because it mimicked real news reports. That was a radio drama, but a few decades later a Washington Post story caused an uproar because “Jimmy’s World” featured a composite character, not an actual person. That was a journalistic sin, but what about deepfakes, such as in the documentary Roadrunner? Students reflect on these examples to determine when, if ever, it’s OK to use deception in the media.

This course engages with the community for two reasons. First, our lives are mediated. Even in the pre-pandemic world, interpersonal communication was increasingly digital and less face to face. Second, recent years have seen the rise of fundamental disagreements about facts, from climate change to vaccines. Social media are implicated in the spread of dangerous misinformation, but such controversies are not new. “Deplatforming” is just the latest phrase for the struggle over freedom of expression in the media, and students learn that “the marketplace of ideas” has a long history.

Media and Society pushes students to understand that while we are all media consumers, most of us are also media producers. This gives us power, and power comes with responsibility. As a capstone project, students articulate their ethical values and apply them to a problem they see in the media today.



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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT SERIES

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
17TH, 2021
@12PM
ONLY ON
zoom



DR. ANDREW SHEPHARD
PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF ENGLISH

"IN THE MIDDLE OF HISTORY": EERIE TEMPORALITIES, NARRATIVE REVISION, AND THE SHAPING OF OCTAVIA BUTLER'S *KINDRED* (1979)".

BLACK CULTURAL CENTER
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



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Queer Conversations: Where Is Black In the Rainbow

A MONTHLY SERIES ON BLACK QUEER TOPICS
AIMING TO AMPLIFY BLACK QUEER VOICES.

SEPTEMBER 21ST
12-1:30PM
zoom



LGBT Resource Center
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
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EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



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ONLINE MOVIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

CONNECTING WITH OURSELVES AND OTHERS
THROUGH SHORT FILMS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH



Wednesday,
September 22, 2021
6:30-8:30 MT

Free Registration
bit.ly/uuu-m4mho

Option to Join
Anonymous!

For Accessibility-Related Accommodations Or Questions:
sixer@artwithimpact.org

21-22



Utah Informatics Initiative (UI2)
& the Tanner Humanities Center
Present:

AI & SOCIETY

September 21 & 22, 2021

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Author Meets Readers with Anthony Doerr



The King's English Bookshop and the Tanner Humanities Center proudly present an evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anthony Doerr, joined by bookselling legend Betsy Burton. Your \$40 ticket includes one copy of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

September
29
7:00pm

To register visit thc.utah.edu.

RPT DATES

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Reports due from RPT ad hoc committees

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RPT files close