

COMMUNITY

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

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As we sway into fall (to borrow a bit of lexicon from my palaverous 2021 newsletter notes), we'll have a number of opportunities to come together for Departmental events and socials. These are fantastic ways to support one another and to celebrate with and for each other. Please keep an eye out for our Communication Colloquium, Fisher Lecture and the Communication Institute panel as well as our more laid-back Departmental socials, including our next one at Scion Cidery on October 21 (6pm). If you have more events to share, please send them to Brie and me so we can get the word out. Cheers to a wonderful start to fall!

-Avery

TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIP TO IMPACT STUDENTS



Transformative Partnership to IMPACT Students

with Tunisha Brown,
founder and editor-in-chief
of IMPACT Magazine

The University of Utah's College of Humanities and Department of Communication are partnering with Tunisha Brown, founder and editor-in-chief of IMPACT Magazine to provide internship opportunities to students and to work toward digitally archiving the magazine's 15-year history of empowering Black women and men.

MIKE MIDDLETON APPOINTED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FOR THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Dr. Middleton will concurrently serve as the Department of Communication's Director of Graduate Studies through the remainder of 2022. In his role as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, he will lead the College's efforts related to undergraduate and graduate curriculum, student advising, and the Humanities Scholars program, as well as supporting the broader academic mission of the College.



FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN THE NEWS



GET GEPHARDT: IS YOUR CAR SPYING ON YOU?
featuring Sean Lawson



THE HOT GOSS ON MISINFORMATION
featuring Avery Holton



BRIDGE STUDY FINDS DISPARITIES CAUSED
BY ALGORITHM IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
featuring Kim Kaphingst



TRACES OF COLONIALISM
featuring Caleb Okereke



NEARLY HALF OF GEN ZERS PREFER TIKTOK
OVER GOOGLE FOR NEWS
featuring Maria Shilaos



20

Critical Health Communication, Reproductive Justice, and Intersectionality: Trends, Media, and Considerations Moving Forward 3PM

In this talk, Dr. Leandra H. Hernandez will discuss contemporary trends in critical health communication spaces at the intersections of intersectionality, reproductive justice, media ethics, and Latina/o/x Communication Studies. She will also discuss a few of her projects that currently interrogate 1) media coverage of immigration and violence at the U.S.-Mexico border and 2) media coverage of violence against women



Communication Colloquium

“Critical Health Communication, Reproductive Justice, and Intersectionality: Trends, Media, and Considerations Moving Forward”

In this talk, Dr. Leandra H. Hernandez will discuss contemporary trends in critical health communication spaces at the intersections of intersectionality, reproductive justice, media ethics, and Latina/o/x Communication Studies. She will also discuss a few of her projects that currently interrogate 1) media coverage of immigration and violence at the U.S.-Mexico border and 2) media coverage of violence against women.



Dr. Leandra H. Hernández
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication
Associate Academic Director of the Center for Social Impact
Utah Valley University

Thurs. Oct. 20TH 3pm
LNCO 2120, Reading Rm

Pizza following presentation

25

Keeping them Honest: A Government Transparency Workshop for Journalists, Students, and Activists 10-11 AM

A professional journalist and attorney with expertise in freedom of speech and media law will discuss the importance of government transparency in reporting, the challenges of navigating Utah’s GRAMA system, how to file GRAMA requests and appeal denied requests, and when someone should seek assistance from an attorney.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP SERIES

KEEPING THEM HONEST:

A Government Transparency Workshop for Journalists, Students, and Activists



COURTNEY TANNER
Reporter
Salt Lake Tribune



DAVID REYMANN
Attorney
Parr Brown Gao & Lovelass

OCTOBER 25
READING ROOM, LNCO 2120
10:00-11:00 AM



A professional journalist and attorney with expertise in freedom of speech and media law will discuss the importance of government transparency in reporting, the challenges of navigating Utah’s GRAMA system, how to file GRAMA requests and appeal denied requests, and when someone should seek assistance from an attorney.



Us Upfront

Alyssa Hill



On a perfect weekend, you can find me:

Sipping on a hot Americano with a decent book, hiking in the the Utah mountains, or cooking or baking something new

Quote I live by:

There must be quite a few things that a hot bath won't cure, but I don't know many of them.

- Sylvia Plath

Most memorable college class I took:

I loved taking International Communication with Dr. Suhi Choi. Outside of the department, US Foreign Foreign Policy taught by Dr. Brent Steele and Campaign Management taught by Professor Dave Buhler were among my favorites.

If I were an undergraduate student now, I would:

Take it slow. It's not a race to the top, and you should get out of your education what you want to get out of it. Taking your time, exploring various disciplines, and changing your mind are not weaknesses, but strengths.

Last book I finished:

Helter Skelter by Vince Bugliosi

If I'm at a concert, it's:

Lana Del Rey, Elton John, or Forrest. In an alternate universe, Amy Winehouse or Frank Sinatra.

Songs that pump me up:

About Damn Time by Lizzo, Music For a Sushi Restaurant by Harry Styles, I Want You Back by Jackson Five, What's Up by 4 Non-Blondes, How Deep is Your Love by the Bee Gees, Dancing Queen by Abba, Winter by Vivaldi, and Fortuna by Carmina Burana

I hope that my students

enjoy my class and feel empowered to pursue their passions.



CRASH COURSE

Consuming the Earth with Natasha Seegert

We have entered the Age of the Anthropocene: for the first time in human history, the human animal has the capacity to destroy most of life on earth. If we are to heal the wounds of the global environmental crises, we need to do more than buy consumer goods with green seals of approval. Rather, industrialized civilization needs to reconceptualize its relationship with the earth. People need to think and talk differently about (and with) the earth, nature, and humanity. Therefore, any effective response to the general environmental crisis requires a serious analysis of our communication patterns about nature and our human relationship with nature.

COMM 4360 connects students to their physical community, the air they breathe, the water that makes life possible, and the web of more-than-human beings who are impacted by our daily consumption patterns. The course combines two things. The first is a desire to defamiliarize the privileged position of the human species where students think beyond human and question the ideologies of anthropocentrism and speciesism. The second unique aspect of the course is that it carries a CEL attribute (Community Engaged Learning). Students are required to complete 15 hours of direct engagement with local environmental organizations. Rather than simply learn about the devastation of the more-than-human world, they work to diversify the surrounding ecological communities. This occurs through tree plantings, advocacy for wilderness, and social media campaigns about the fate of the Great Salt Lake. In the process, they establish relationships with the land. In the process, students establish connections with each other, and also with the land.

By the end of the course, students identify opportunities for environmental engagement that challenge the status quo and “common sense.” Rather than simply dwell fatalistically on the annihilation of ecosystems, this course challenges dominant cultural narratives, and explores possibilities for ecological hope and transformation.

This course gives students the ability to transform their knowledge into action and establish connections that continue to shape their lives beyond the course. Students who took this class when it was last offered in Fall 2020 - in the midst of the pandemic - still contact me and tell me about their experiences that took root in the course. One student who volunteered with Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) recently graduated and has her first “real” job with SUWA serving as their east coast organizer in Washington, DC. Another student used the paper who wrote for the class to serve as his writing sample for graduate school. He received multiple admissions offers and ultimately opted for University of British Columbia where the work he did in COMM 4360, combined with COMM 3550 Principles of Visual Communication, serves as the foundation of his master’s thesis. Another student, with her toddler son, continued to volunteer for TreeUtah after the semester concluded and was featured as their “Volunteer of the Month.” Finally, another student took the knowledge he gained from the course and produced his own text and original photographs documenting the “dis-ease” we have with the world around us.