

COMMUNITY

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

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

This week, nearly 30 of our faculty and students will convene in New Orleans for the 108th NCA Convention. And while we'll have plenty of opportunities support each other's work and visit with colleagues and friends (and in some cases, family) from across the country, it's important to acknowledge and embrace the theme of this year's event. By "Honoring PLACE: People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment," this year's convention invites space for sessions, presentations, dialogues and engagements with and around a number of key communities and topics ranging from the history of Black leadership and muted communities in New Orleans to the ways in which climate change disproportionately impacts Indigenous peoples, Native bands, rural communities and communities of color. Please do join us in celebrating one another—and remember our reception will take place at Urban South Brewery from 7-9pm on Friday, November 18—and please do consider engaging as often as you are able with NCA's theme of PLACE.

-Avery

Kent A. Ono Named Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association



The Department of Communication is pleased to announce that Kent A. Ono, has been named a Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association. Ono is the first representative from the University of Utah to receive the honor. The recognition is given to those who have attained "a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study of human communication. Recipients are selected to showcase the communication profession."

"It is a tremendous honor to have been chosen by the National Communication Association as one of its Distinguished Scholars," said Ono. "I am pleased to represent the University of Utah and the Department of Communication as a member of this august list of exceptional scholars in the communication discipline."

Us Upfront

Natasha Seegert



If I didn't work in education...

I would be in the environmental non-profit sector

Quote I live by:

"The Earth is what we all have in common"
- Wendell Berry

On a perfect weekend, you can find me

doing a combination of gardening, cooking, knitting, reading, playing board games, and hiking.

Most memorable college class I took

Principles of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Fictional character I'm most like

Katara from *Avatar the Last Airbender*

Last book I finished

Mythos by Stephen Fry

Last movie I saw

RRR, directed by S.S. Rajamouli (A Tollywood film with some of the most memorable action sequences you can imagine!)

I hope that my students

understand that the Zen you find is the Zen you bring with you, and that resiliency is an art to cultivate through daily practice that puts us into contact with beings who are not us, nor are they necessarily human.



CRASH COURSE

A New Course: Grief Communication with Professor Suhi Choi



Loss could occur in various life circumstances including war, violence, illness, aging, pandemic, migration, displacement, discrimination, environmental disaster, and so forth. In this course, I work with students to become attentive to communicative challenges we face as we make sense of, negotiate, and grieve loss in a variety of settings. Students will collectively and individually explore how people try to communicate loss, grief, and trauma with the aids of a wide range of media. Informed by the interdisciplinary memory studies, I define media in a broader term to

films, magazines, images, memorials, museums, oral testimonies, human bodies, architectures, animations, digital platforms, and so forth. As a critic of media text, students will be asked to closely examine both the content and format of each medium as a potential tool for mediating loss, grief, and trauma. They will also be challenged to review whether each media text activates a kind of mourning practice by which loss is communicated in ways that provoke empathy for one another. I carefully selected assigned readings for this course from such interdisciplinary fields as Communication, Cultural Studies, Memory Studies, Public History, Literature Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Medical Humanities, and so forth.

As we know, the ongoing pandemic has made this course timely and necessary. Grief Communication intends to help students achieve three main goals: (1) Students will have opportunities to grapple with the various sets of inquiries that grief, loss, and trauma have posed in the interdisciplinary field of humanities. (2) Students will make sense of grieving as both a universal and culture-specific process of communication, one that is often facilitated and limited by the various forms of media (3) Students will ultimately appreciate grief, loss, and trauma as powerful sources of fostering empathy for the humanities.

IDEAS

INCLUSION

DIVERSITY

EQUITY &

ACCESS

OPPORTUNITIES

TANNER HUMANITIES CENTER PRESENTS TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

Event is free but registration is required.



11.17
THURSDAY 11:00 PM
COLLEGE OF LAW MOOT COURTROOM
HEATHER MCGHEE



TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

A renowned expert on the American economy, Heather McGhee is one of the most brilliant and influential thinkers exploring inequality today. Both her viral TED talk and her instant New York Times bestseller *The Sum of Us* reveal the devastating true cost of racism—not just for people of color, but for everyone. Deeply stirring, intelligent, and compassionate, McGhee’s talks offer us an actionable roadmap during one of the most critical—and most troubled—periods in history.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT TALK: CONTROVERSIES AROUND BLOOD QUANTUM

Despite its colonial origins, many tribes still use blood quantum as a requirement for tribal enrollment. Ronee Wopsock will share the history behind blood quantum and the implications for citizenship and belonging.

Ronee Wopsock is the Education Director for the Ute Indian Tribe. She is a member of the Uintah Band of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

Registration requested.

NOVEMBER 21 | 10 - 11 AM

Day of Disability and Neurodiversity

December 1st, 2022

DECEMBER 1

DAY OF DISABILITY & NEURODIVERSITY

This year’s Day of Disability and Neurodiversity will feature two campus events on December 1. The first, entitled “Making it Accessible: Actions for Accessible Events, Presentations, Social Media, and Basic Web Design,” will feature a series of presentations and discussions highlighting best practices for fostering accessibility. A second evening event, “Campus Experiences of Disability, Neurodiversity, and Ableism,” will include a student-led roundtable where a variety of topics will be explored.

Beer & Beignets

University of Utah

NCA Reception

Friday, Nov. 18th 7-9pm

Urban South Brewery

1645 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans

