

COMMUNITY

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

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Summer is such a great time for rest and renewal and thinking on the roads ahead. As our department, and indeed the college and the university, continues to undergo a number of changes, it's perhaps also a good time to remember the words of John Dewey: "Knowledge falters when imagination clips its wings or fears to use them." Ours is a department that is increasingly looked to for creative, thoughtful, and imaginative approaches to carving out the road ahead. Dean Robbins has indicated her belief in our department to transform not only how communication is thought of, but how the thoughts we have and enact might change communication. So, in the days and weeks ahead, here's to the chance to couple rest and renewal with visions and enactments of continued building and support for, with, and of one another and our department. Many cheers, and I'll see you all at Friday's celebration.

Danielle Endres Named Director of Environmental Humanities

Danielle Endres has been named the next Director of Environmental Humanities. The Environmental Humanities Program, the first environmental humanities master's program in the nation, is housed in the College of Humanities. The program offers an interdisciplinary master's program for students focused on the complexities of environmental crisis and change and the relationships between humans and the environment.

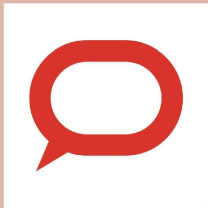


Kent Ono receives 2023 Distinguished Mentor Award

Professor Kent Ono has received the 2023 Distinguished Mentor Award from the University of Utah Graduate School. This year's awardees demonstrate exceptional commitment to the mentorship of graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and others across campus and beyond. The awardees go above and beyond to foster an inclusive and welcoming community and to instill a culture of outstanding mentorship in their units. Fellow recipients include Katharine Ullman from the Department of Oncological Sciences and Dennis Parker from the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences.



FACULTY IN THE NEWS



TUCKER CARLSON'S DEPARTURE AND FOX NEWS' EXPENSIVE LEGAL WOES SHOW THE PROBLEM WITH FAKING 'AUTHENTICITY'

by Jacob Nelson



WHAT THE LAST OF US, SNOWPIERCER AND 'CLIMATE FICTION' GET WRONG

featuring Danielle Endres



SOCIAL SCIENTISTS: ANXIETY INVITES MISINFORMATION

by Isabelle Freiling



UKRAINE: ONE YEAR LATER

featuring Sean Lawson

REFUGEE FORUM GIVES SPACE FOR REFUGEE VOICES



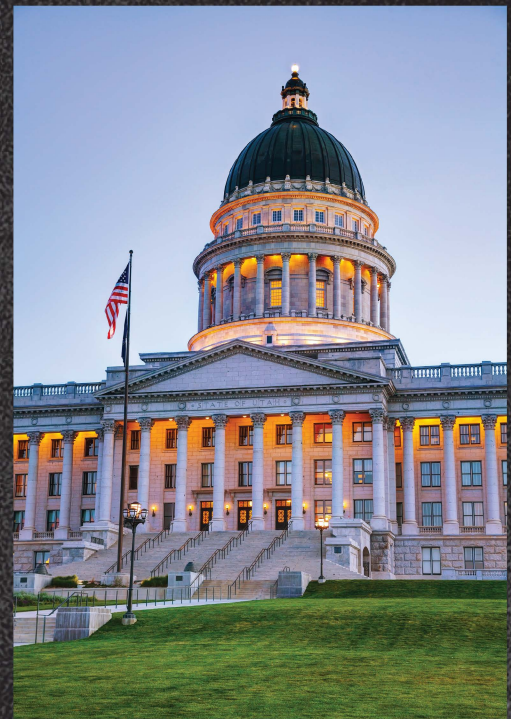
CRASH COURSE

COMM 3580 Communication Skills for Political Advocacy and Social Change
with Michael Babcock

In this course, students customize their learning experience by choosing a cause that interests them most—the environment, animal rights, gender diversity—the list is limitless. Once they’ve chosen their topic, students take time to research the scope of the issue and connect with like-minded advocates in the community. Students will link with communication and advocacy resources from a wide variety of voices, groups and organizations, such as Utah Nonprofits Association and the National Communication Association’s Social Justice Exchange. Then for the remainder of the summer they build a marketable communication toolkit to help them channel their passion and speak up and speak out for change at whatever level of society they feel most comfortable.

This course gives students a foundational overview of civic engagement, confidence to add their voice to those of other individuals and groups making a difference in the world, and the analytical, verbal and written communication skills to navigate the political system and better understand their roles as citizens, voters and advocates. Whether its sharing a persuasive post on LinkedIn, sending an email to an elected official, or testifying at a legislative committee, students gain real-world experience organizing their ideas into succinct, persuasive talking points, fact sheets and sound bites. By brokering conversations with community advocates, students will become more aware of and involved with organizations, coalitions and non-profits making a difference.

This course pushes students to think and act beyond themselves, to break out of comfort zones and privilege and use their communication skills to make a difference in their communities and the world around them; in short, to change “what is” into “what should be.” I hope students in this course realize they can make a difference in their communities by using their communication skills to advocate on behalf of their causes, rallying with other advocates and supporting initiatives that are important to them, not only while they are in college but throughout their lives.



Us Upfront **Olivia Webster**

On a perfect weekend, you can find me:

enjoying time with my family, exploring nature, or catching up on rest.

Quote I live by:

"No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."

- Maya Angelou

Most memorable college class I took:

Communication Ethics with Dr. Wendy Anderson

Fictional character I'm most like:

(Ideally) Jodie Landon from *Daria*

Last book I finished:

Sweetwater: Black Women and Narratives of Resilience
by Robin M. Boylorn

Last movie I saw:

Little Miss Sunshine
(I am late to the game)

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

Anything. I love live music.

Songs that pump me up:

"Just Fine" by Mary J. Blige

If I were an undergraduate student now, I would...

Visit everyone's office hours. The faculty here are some of the most brilliant and resourceful people I've ever met.

I hope that my students

thoroughly enjoy themselves and learn a lot in my class.

