

COMMUNITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION



Opening Message Distinguished Professor Kent Ono

A large focus of this month's newsletter is UAC's 10th Anniversary and the historic partnership between the two campuses. The anniversary celebration took place from September 26-29 in Songdo, South Korea, and was a huge success. The Department of Communication was often centered over the multi-day celebration. President Taylor Randall visited the Communication Department's Showcase and was very impressed with Hyeonseo Kweon. In fact he discussed how impressive she was at the 600-person Gala dinner attended by Governor Cox and Abby Cox and Utah Senate Leader, Stuart Adams. Also mentioned at the Gala was the longest-standing faculty member at UAC, Don MacAngus, and long-standing faculty member, Paul Rose.

Furthermore, the Department's newest offering of a Master's degree at UAC, led by our very own Tae Lee, was also mentioned at the event. In addition to Paul, Don, and Tae, June-Young and Marisa were also prominent during the festivities. The first CEO at UAC, Dr. Han In-Seok talked about Communication's important early role to the campus, as did Michael Hardman, former University Provost, and David Pershing, former University President. As well, Chris Ireland, former Dean of the College of Pharmacy, talked about the Department, as well. We are so fortunate to have such a positive global reputation and a rich partnership with the UAC.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UAC

We are excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Utah Asia Campus. The UAC started from humble beginnings and has shifted into a campus with a consistent global impact. In celebration of this momentous occasion, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the successes of the UAC and the growth it has experienced thus far.

Upon its opening in 2014, the UAC offered three major programs and served fourteen students, as of today, the UAC is the proud home to nine major programs and nearly 900 students!

Since the first graduating class in 2018, the UAC has celebrated the successes of nearly 600 graduates. We are so proud to be partnered with such a robust and vibrant Campus and to give students the opportunity to travel abroad both in Utah and in Asia. Cheers to another 10 years of success!



Dr. Sejin Kim
Associate Professor Lecturer

Faculty Member Spotlight

Associate Professor Lecturer, Dr. Sejin Kim has been an integral member at the Utah Asia Campus since 2016.

When asked "why did you choose to become a university professor?" He explains that being a professor is not just about passing along knowledge to students—it is more about assisting them to discover the true meaning of their lives. From his perspective, a good professor is a good person. He says, "trying to become a better professor makes me be aware of what is valuable in one's life—that no matter who we are or where we come from, we all have the right to learn, improve, and grow. It is the most rewarding aspect of my career, as an educator, when I am able to offer such opportunities to my students who are constantly trying their best to fulfill their dreams in their own lives."

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A Trip to JTBC

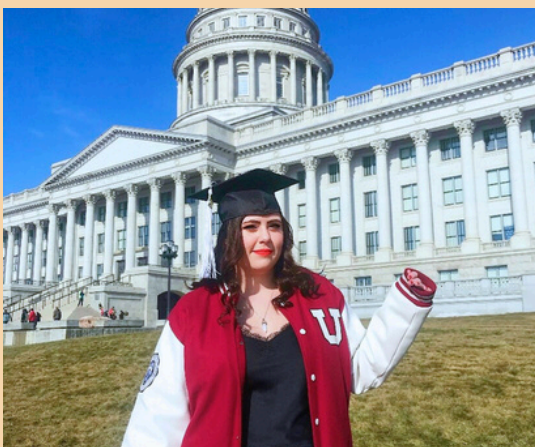
Assistant Professor Lecturer, June-Young Lee

JTBC is a well-known broadcaster in South Korea that airs most popular TV shows, especially among the younger generation. Assistant Professor Lecturer June-Young Lee took a group of students to JTBC's station to learn about the production process of television shows and got a detailed explanation of how broadcast journalists gather news sources and report. It was a formative experience for the students and we are thankful that the Department of Communication is able to provide hands-on learning.



UAC Graduate Program

The University of Utah Asia Campus offers a dynamic and comprehensive Communication Master's Degree program designed to equip students with practical knowledge in Strategic Communication. The Fall 2025 Application deadline is April 1, 2025. For more information click [here](#) or email tae.lee@utah.edu



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Student Spotlight

Heather Anne Meyer—MA Student

The best part of moving to a new country is the culture, and being able to learn from people from all over the world. It can change your perspective in many ways, and truly make you a global citizen. I moved to Korea when I was just 18, so I had to learn how to live on my own and become independent very fast, as my support system was on the other side of the globe. I didn't do this by myself though! UAC became my second home, because there were so many kind professors, advisors, and students that I knew I could trust, and supported me through all of my difficulties or stresses. For me the UAC community feels like my family away from home.

COMM 3150 – TACKLING TABOO TOPICS CRASH COURSE

Course Description

Public discourse about taboo topics has always been a challenge, but with the advent of social media and echo chambers, discourse has become more politically polarized. Frequently, we find ourselves either walking on eggshells around sensitive issues, or entering into high conflict where family members are estranged, co-workers avoid each other, and neighbors are no longer civil. Rather than avoiding tough conversations, this course provides students with an opportunity to engage with both the theory and the practice of healthy conflict. Students will gain basic skills in conflict mediation and formal dialogue. Through communication techniques that emphasize attention, listening, and understanding, students will address taboo topics with fellow students, friends and family, and with the broader community. Ultimately, this course will provide students with the skills to discuss difficult issues without animosity and with a spirit of curiosity.



How to Enroll

COMM 3150 will be offered again in Fall of 2025. To learn about other interesting new classes such as Tech Will Save Us! (?) Access the Spring 2025 Class Schedule click [here](#).

Similar Opportunities

If you're interested in other courses that discuss topics like conflict, dialogue, and deal in the grey area, our *Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Mediation Certificate* may be for you. For more details click [here](#) or email comm-advisor@utah.edu.

Meet the Instructor



Natasha Seegert
Associate Professor

Dr. Seegert has been with the Department of Communication for nine years and has been an invaluable asset to undergraduate studies. Her research interests include visual rhetoric, mediation, environmental communication, and media/popular culture.

Departmental Happenings

Graduate Student Achievements: Gabby Garza presented at the second-annual Edna Anderson-Taylor Communication Institute Symposium. Ellie Estrada was accepted into the accepted into the Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN) fellowship cohort.

Faculty Awards: Three of our Faculty members won prestigious awards from the College of Humanities:

- Mark Bergstrom Distinguished Faculty Service Award
- Danielle Endres Distinguished Scholar in the Humanities
- Leandra Hernandez Rising Star in the Humanities

Follow @uofucomm on Instagram for more!



A message for **Prospective Grad Students**

The University of Utah is offering two information and Q&A sessions on October 29th at 5 PM MDT and November 4th at 3 PM MDT for prospective Graduate Students. Learn more about our MA, MS, and PhD programs as well as funding, research, and teaching opportunities.

Click [here](#) for graduate student info.

Upcoming Events

October 23rd

Creative Collaboration Cafe Share ideas, showcase your projects, explore potential collaborations with fellow students from diverse creative and humanitarian fields! Register [here](#).

October 26th

Humanities Day—Discover new programs within the College. More information [here](#).

November 15th

Teaching through Role Play Games Webinar. Click the [link](#) to register.

November 21–24th

NCA Conference.

Communication (MA/MS) *at the University of Utah Asia Campus in South Korea*

The University of Utah Asia Campus offers a dynamic and comprehensive Communication Master's Degree program designed to equip students with **practical knowledge in Strategic Communication.**

- *U.S. Degree Program*
- *Immersive Cultural Experiences*
- *Conducted Entirely in English*
- *Pathways to an Advanced Degree in the U.S.*
- *Graduate Assistantships Available*
- *Dedicated Mentoring from Passionate Faculty*
- *Classes in Songdo, Incheon: South Korea's Global Hub*
- *Professional and Academic Connections*



Fall 2025 Application Deadline: Apply Online by April 1, 2025



Masters of Communication
at U Asia Campus



CONTACT US

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<https://asiacampus.utah.edu/masters-of-communication/>



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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH