

COMMUNITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION



Opening Message

Administrative Officer Jessica Finch

Hello 2025 & Spring Semester!

We're all sitting at the threshold of a new year with the possibility of it being an amazing year, maybe even the best yet. That feeling of bright-eyed hopefulness and opportunity can easily wane with the everyday mundane, countless meeting invites, inevitable disappointments, and never-ending to do lists to get from where we are to where we want to be. A personal favorite quote might help as we move through the year, "With gratitude, optimism is sustainable." -Michael J. Fox

Collectively—there's lots to be grateful for and optimistic about; great colleagues, increasing student enrollments and success, exciting potential projects, amazing work worth recognition, and new opportunities. Being grateful for the work those around us are doing and those cheering us on, can only help our Department's ability to maintain positive trajectory and achieve our worthwhile aspirations. I'm grateful to work alongside you all and appreciate the many ways you support and compassionately care about each other, our staff (including myself!), and our student population in all things professional and personal. Let's hope, plan, and work towards good things to come and express gratitude for those assisting us and supporting us along the way. It's going to be a great year!



DEPARTMENT NEWS

WELCOME TO A NEW CALENDAR YEAR

UAC Members Honored

At a year-end party held at the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority in Songdo, UAC communication department professor June-Young Lee and sophomore Eunbee Cho received awards from the Mayor of Incheon in recognition of their contributions to improving the lives of international people.

Since September, Dr. Lee and Eunbee have been planning and producing video content for international residents in Songdo, Cheongna, and Yeongjong International Cities. The contents range from information on international residents' lives, visits to foreigner-friendly businesses, and introductions to Incheon historical places, all with the sensibilities of the MZ generation.



Dr. Jun Heo
Associate Professor

Faculty Member Spotlight

The University of Utah Asia Campus is pleased to welcome Dr. Jun Heo as the new Director of the Master's Program. Dr. Heo brings a wealth of industry experience, having worked as a media director and planner at renowned global advertising agencies, such as Dentsu Young & Rubicam, Ogilvy & Mather, and Universal McCann.

As Director, Dr. Heo is committed to fostering an innovative and collaborative learning environment while continuing to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving global media landscape. He is also committed to bridging the gap between professional practice and academia, ensuring students gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to succeed in their careers.

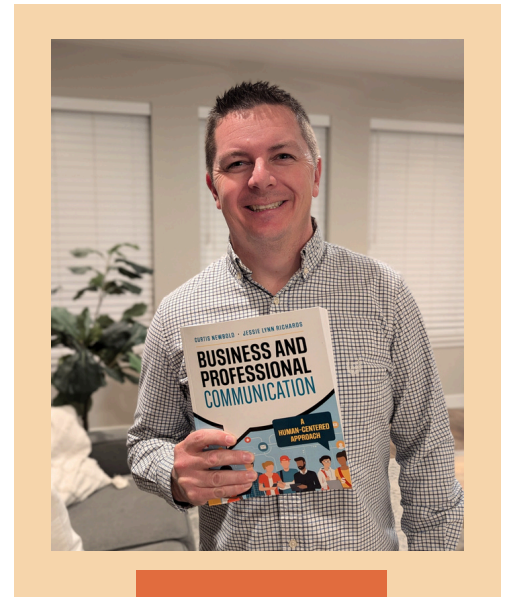
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New Textbook Publication

Curtis Newbold—Clinical Associate Professor

The Department of Communication is incredibly proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Curtis Newbold, Clinical Associate Professor of Strategic Communication, who has recently published his first textbook, *Business and Professional Communication: A Human-Centered Approach*. Dr. Newbold, an award-winning corporate consultant with extensive experience in strategic communication, has dedicated his career to advancing the practice of communication through both research and real-world application.

With a strong academic background, including a PhD in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design from Clemson University, as well as BS and MA degrees in English and Professional Communication from Utah State University, Dr. Newbold's expertise spans a wide range of communication fields, including information design, business communication, and public relations.



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National Endowment for the Humanities Grants

Three faculty members from the Department of Communication have been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Professors Danielle Endres, Melissa Parks, and Mike Middleton received funding for innovative projects that will advance research, enhance education, and foster critical dialogue on pressing societal issues.



Dr. Endres, Director of the Environmental Humanities Program, and Dr. Parks, Associate Director at the Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities Center, received funding for a project that integrates environmental humanities with social justice, equipping students with the skills to address complex environmental challenges. Dr. Middleton, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, received funding to integrate debate practices into various disciplines, strengthening humanities-informed teaching and fostering critical thinking skills in students.

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WSCA Conference Attendees

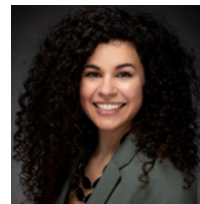
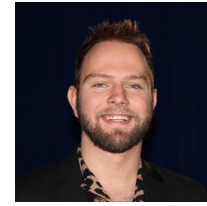
The Department of Communication is thrilled to announce that we will have several representatives at the upcoming WSCA Conference in Albuquerque, NM from February 14th to 17th.

Top row: Undergraduate Student Jasmine Agular, PhD student Damon Darling, and PhD student Ellie Estrada.

Middle row: PhD Student Marissa Medina, Assistant Professor (Lecturer) Melissa Parks, Associate Professor (Lecturer) Jeannie Hunt.

Bottom row: Assistant Professor Leandra Hernandez, Distinguished Professor Kent Ono, and Chair Avery Holton.

Please, wish these Department members luck!



A message for

Photographers

You may have noticed our hallway is getting quite a makeover! We are proud to be carving out a space to display student work. This exhibition is planned to rotate bi-annually.

Get in touch with Emmy Darling (emmy.darling@utah.edu) in order to learn how to get your work featured!

Upcoming Events

February 5th

Peak Pressure Student Documentary screening at Fisher Brewing from 7 to 9 pm. This is a 21+ event, Purchase a ticket here: <https://events.humanitix.com/peak-pressure-screening/tickets>

February 6th

Communication Institute Speaker Series: Social Media and AI from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in LNCO 2910.

February 27th

Communicating Science, Health, Environment, and Risk (CommSHER) meet and greet! 11:30-1pm in LNCO 2910. If you plan to attend please RSVP at this link: <https://forms.gle/tKZe7a5HTfFbK2yw6>