



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Department of Communication

NEWS & NOTES

May 2009

Student & Faculty News

Congratulations to two of our graduate students, **Brendan Kendall** and **Samantha Senda-Cook**, on winning two prestigious scholarships and **Dr. Glen Feighery** on winning a teaching award at the U.

Brendan (right) will receive the Steffenson Cannon Scholarship next fall; this scholarship provides its recipients with funding that they may focus on their graduate career without needing additional employment.

Samantha will receive the Floyd O'Neil Scholarship in Western American Studies from the American West Center. The award is designed to support research in Western American history and culture and is given to outstanding graduate students.

Dr. Glen Feighery will be receiving the Early Career Teaching Award on Thursday, May 7th. Dr. Feighery is one of four professors awarded this year by the University Teaching Committee, selected for his impressive vita and student feedback. Dr. Feighery is the first professor in our department to win this award. Congratulations, again!



Thesis and Dissertation Defenses

Lexie and Lindsay Kite will defend their project titled "The (mis)representation of women: A strategy for recognizing and rejecting controlling images in entertainment media" on Monday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. in the Glasmann Room.

Jason Carlton will defend his thesis "The framing process of communication: How the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints supported the framing of 'alcopops' during the 2008 general session of the Utah Legislature" on Tuesday, May 5th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Glasmann Room.

Shane Farver will defend his thesis titled "Fact checking at warp speed: How online news production is affecting adherence to accuracy in journalism" on Monday, May 18th, at 12:00 p.m. in the Glasmann Room.

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Alumni Profile

Alexis Cairo, a 1976 graduate of the Department of Communication, has spent the three decades since receiving her bachelor's degree working as a successful broadcast journalist and traveling the world as one of the heads of a major international corporation.

After graduating with her mass communication degree, Cairo spent 14 years in broadcasting in Salt Lake City as a news reporter and anchor at both KUTV Channel 2 and KSL Channel 5. After a career as one of the faces of news in Utah, she held several senior external affairs roles with Rio Tinto, beginning at Kennecott Utah Copper in 1991.

By 1997, she had moved up to Rio Tinto headquarters in London to manage global media relations and in 2000 she transferred to California for a leadership role at Rio Tinto Borax. Again in 2004, she made the move to Rio Tinto Aluminum in Australia, where she led the merger of community relations and external affairs at Rio Tinto in Gladstone and Queensland. In 2007, Cairo was appointed vice president of Rio Tinto Communications and External Relations – Kennecott Utah Companies. Her time spent in that role ranged from managing government and corporate relations, media and communication, to community outreach and community relations for Kennecott Utah Copper and KenecottLand. In March 2009, Cairo left Rio Tinto with 18 years of service to the company and community under her belt.

Cairo is married to Dan Sorensen, a freelance writer, and has two children. She currently serves on the boards of the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way, KUED, The Utah Nature Conservancy, and the YWCA Community Advisory Board, among others.



PRSSA Luncheon

PRSSA, the Department of Communication's branch of the PR Student Society of America, will have an event on Saturday, May 2nd, in the LNCO Lounge.



The luncheon serves as a reflection on the year for outgoing students, an introduction for students who are interested in PRSSA, and a general election for open leadership positions. The students of PRSSA will do the work; all newcomers are welcome to show up for a great time!

Contacts for the PRSSA luncheon are current Vice President Brendan Shumway (brendan.shumway@gmail.com) or current President Marshall Hartley (mchamphartley@yahoo.com).

Poem of the Month

Summer, by Mark Perlberg, from *The Impossible Toystore*

I am watching the gardener trim our lawn. He pushes a mower with a wooden handle over the grass, making dark stripes where he cuts. The blades purr, sending up a little stream of green as he pushes and pulls the mower forward and back. The green arc sprays into a canvas grass catcher hooked to the mower's wheels. I sit on the steps and tease a beetle with a blade of grass as it moves up the slate walk. On the long summer days between the times when the gardener comes with his truck and his men to trim and edge the lawn and cut the long hedges, I cut the grass, pushing our wooden mower. Or maybe I only dream it, because I am very young and the sweet grass smell engenders dreams. I water the lawn with the long rubber hose, sending a fine buzz of water tickling down my arm, dripping on my sneakers. Each day is stretched, is strangely long, and when the sun presses on the tops of the trees at the edge of town, it floods the lawn with the clearest watery light. Mother talks with someone on the porch. Their voices blend with the purr of the mower and the hiss of the water. The house is cool and airy. The winter rugs and drapes and bedspreads have been taken up and stored in the attic. The chairs wear cool summer coverings that are crisp and shine a little in the afternoon light. We still live in the big brick house at the head of the street. Father hasn't died yet.

New Courses for Fall 2009!

Three new Communication courses are on offer in the Fall 2009 semester - open to students of all majors.

COMM 5000/6000 - Health Communication

How health information is exchanged among patients, providers, and the public. What you don't know could make you sick. Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

COMM 5120/6120 - Teamwork

Building a successful workplace team in professional settings like engineering, education, business, and other organizations. Mondays/Wednesdays, 8:05-9:25 a.m.

COMM 5610/6610 - IT and Global Conflict

How new information technologies - GPS, Internet, blogging, videogames - affect global conflicts, including "cyberterror" and "network-centric warfare." Mondays/Wednesdays, 8:05-9:25 a.m.



Calendar of Events

Friday, May 1- Thursday, May 7:
Final Exam Period

Friday, May 1:
Faculty Meeting
9:00 a.m., Reading Room

Saturday, May 2:
PRSSA End-of-Year Luncheon & Elections
12:00 p.m., LNCO Lounge

Monday, May 4:
Lexie Kite & Lindsay Kite Project Defense
3:00 p.m., Glasmann Room

Tuesday, May 5:
Jason Carlton Thesis Defense
2:00 p.m., Glasmann Room

Friday, May 8:
College of Humanities Convocation
1:45 p.m., Jon M. Huntsman Center

Monday, May 18:
Shane Farver Thesis Defense
12:00 p.m., Glasmann Room

Monday, May 18:
Final Grades Due



255 S. Central Campus Drive
Languages & Communication, Rm. 2400
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

*Thanks to Tim Ruffin for photographs and
Lexie Kite, Corrinne Lewis, Glen Feighery, Louise Degn,
Ann Darling, and Brendan Shumway for content!*