



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

*Department of Communication*

# NEWS & NOTES

November 2009

## B. Aubrey Fisher Lecture

The distinguished speaker for the 23rd Annual Fisher Lecture was Dr. K. "Vish" Viswanath, Associate Professor in the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.



Professor Viswanath's address, *Health at the Margins: Poverty, Communication & Health*, drew from his extensive program of research that examines the role of communication in health with a particular focus on communication inequities and health disparities.

On Friday morning, Professor Viswanath conducted an informal seminar on the topic, *The Challenges of Studying Communication Inequities in the Digital Age*.

Visit [communication.utah.edu](http://communication.utah.edu) and check out our announcements to see more pictures from the event!



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## Calendar of Events

Friday, November 6:  
Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, November 10:  
Town & Gown Forum 2009  
Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City

Thursday, November 12-Sunday, November 15:  
NCA Convention

Friday, November 13:  
NCA Utah Party  
Buckingham's, Chicago Hilton

Thursday, November 19:  
Fall Debate - "Broken Borders"  
University of Utah Fine Arts Auditorium

Friday, November 20:  
Writers & Photographers Clinic

Thursday, November 26-Friday, November 27:  
Thanksgiving Break

## Student & Faculty News

Two graduate students presented their research at the annual convention of the American Journalism Historians Association, which met in Birmingham, Alabama, October 8-10. **Adam Kuban** (Ph.D.) discussed his paper, "Pondering Pedagogical Pastime: An Analysis of the First Formally Recognized U.S. Journalism Education Curriculum," and **Mark Peterson** (M.A.) talked about his research, "A Vote for Repeal Is a Vote for Temperance: How Utah Killed Prohibition." Mark used archival resources from BYU and the Utah State Archives to bring to life the public relations campaign waged by both the "wets" and "dries" in Utah during the push to repeal Prohibition. Adam is now polishing his paper and plans to submit the manuscript to *Journalism History*, published quarterly by the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University in Athens. Both Mark and Adam launched their original -- and very interesting -- projects last spring during Professor Mangun's graduate seminar on historical research methods.

Adam also presented two posters at the annual symposium of the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication (SWECJMC), a regional affiliate of AEJMC. This year's meeting was held November 6-7 in Dallas. First, Adam discussed a project he developed while teaching Comm 1500, titled "Buncha Old White Guys: Giving a Mass Communication Theory Some Life and Legitimacy for Students." Then, he discussed his proposed dissertation project: "Preparation for the Profession: A Qualitative Examination of the Triangulation Among Journalism Students, Their Educators, and the Practitioners Who Hire Them."

**Debra Jenson** (Ph.D.) also had work accepted for presentation at SWECJMC. Her paper, "The Campaign Against Echo Park Dam and Collective Action Frame Theory: A Historical Analysis," drew on her interests in the environment and public relations. The original research was done during Professor Mangun's graduate seminar. In addition, Deb discussed her proposed dissertation topic during a poster session: "Without Discipline: Blending Theories of Communication, Political Science and Sociology in Research."

**Susan Sample's** chapbook collection, "Terrible Grace," won first place in the poetry division of the Utah Arts Council 2009 Annual Original Writing Competition; awards will be presented at the Utah Humanities Council's Book Festival. Susan says of the collection, "All of the poems in this collection deal with illness and dying--related to my focus as a grad student in health communication and narrative medicine." Read one of Susan's poems in the Poem of the Month on page 3.

## Upcoming Department Events

### Town & Gown Forum

This year's Town and Gown Forum will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at 7 p.m. at Little America's Idaho Room with a reception to follow in the Arizona Room next door. Alexis Cairo, former VP of Communications and External Relations for Rio Tinto, will be speaking on "Getting Framed: Views from the Newsroom and Boardroom."

### Fall Debate

The University of Utah Speech and Debate team will present its fall debate "Broken borders: Debating the state of immigration" on Thursday, November 19th. In addition to a demonstration debate featuring University of Utah debaters, the event will feature several speakers from the local community. Special guests include: Tony Yapias, former Director of the Utah State Office of Hispanic Affairs under Governors Michael Leavitt and Olene Walker; Rep. Mike Noel, Repub. - District 73, Rep. Chris Herrod, Repub. - District 62; and Dee Rowland, Government Liaison and Director of the Peace & Justice Commission for the Utah Catholic Diocese. The debate and discussion will last from 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

### Writers and Photographers Clinic

The clinic, held on Friday, November 20th, will include breakout sessions for journalism advisors and students to learn new information and introduce students to the University of Utah. The clinic also includes a competition, which recognizes high school student achievement in journalism.

## Poem of the Month

**Devotions**, by Susan Sample

My mother-in-law wouldn't accept  
my first gift: a jar of jam  
I'd canned from blackberries  
ripening on the banks  
of the Clearwater

where we lived  
a thousand miles away.  
She gave it back.  
I don't eat it, she said.  
Though I'd touched

the sticky red smears  
on the shelves  
of her refrigerator door.  
Blouses, then books,  
a bouquet just delivered

to her hospital room:  
none has been right.  
In the last of the light,  
I wait by my window,  
her rosary in hand

as the prayer she asked me  
to learn slips through my lips—  
Hail Mary, full of grace...  
Her crystal beads shine  
lavender, rose, then deep

dark blue as they fall  
through my fingers  
like rocks in a stream:  
smoother and smaller  
with each season's run-off.



  
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UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH

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

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