



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Hello and happy new year! Thank you for all of your support and commitment to the University of Washington, the Department of Communication, and our students.

It's been a few months since our last e-newsletter, and that's because we have been hiring new outreach [staff](#). Junko Westling is our new Outreach and Alumni Relations Manager, taking over for Victoria Sprang, who has moved on to a campus leadership position at UW-Bothell. Megan Jeffrey is our new Communications Specialist, taking over for Erica Thompson, who created the position and has moved into an exciting new opportunity in Vancouver, WA. Both Junko and Megan (a 2010 alumna of our Master's in Communication program!) are superb and already bringing their energy, ideas, and creativity in ways that are making us better. We are really fortunate to have them.

To kick off the year, I want to share some important news and then continue to look forward. First, the news: I've decided I'm going to leave the University of Washington after my time as chair in the Department of Communication -- so that means in June 2019. I've been mulling this over for almost two years, and I am ready and eager to take this step. I have three plans after I'm done here: (a) I want work on some political campaigns in a communications position; (b) I am interested in working with education and health non-profits; and (c) I am interested in doing some talks and consulting on a larger basis. I would like to try to make a difference in some other arenas in Seattle and beyond. I also am determined to spend some more time with my amazing family.

However, my top professional priorities today are those that ensure the success of our students, faculty and staff, the Department and the UW. I am 100% committed to these. I will continue to be fully invested for all of my time here. I have shared this news with campus colleagues, and I want to let all of you know. For now, it's full speed ahead.

And with that in mind, here are a couple significant items I encourage you to look over in this e-newsletter:

- The [Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity \(CCDE\)](#) will host Natasha Marin, the conceptual artist behind the [Reparations](#) project, as part of 2017's [MLK Week](#) celebrations
- There is still time to sign up for *The American Global Challenge* lecture series by [Lance Bennett](#), Director of the [Center for Communication and Civic Engagement](#)
- With your support, our students are able to do some incredible things. Read about what Zac Murphy, one of our [Communication Leadership](#) students, got up to in Cambodia, thanks to the [Peter Clarke and Susan Evans Graduate Research Fund](#)

I want to end by again thanking you for all of your support and commitment to the UW and to the Department of Communication and our students. Truly, thank you. We could not possibly do all we do without your engagement.

**David Domke**  
*Professor and Chair*

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## The Center for Communication Difference and Equity Brings Poetry and Political Action Workshop to the UW

[Natasha Marin](#), the conceptual artist behind the viral social experiment, *Reparations*, joins us to discuss how art is political action and can help us stay engaged and connected. In this hands-on workshop, participants will be invited to add their voices to her Red Lineage Project...

[Read More HERE](#)



## Winter 2017 Lecture Series on Democracy, Economy, and Environment Asks: How Did We Get Here?



America and the world face historic challenges. The global economy is not working well for people or the planet. Dissatisfaction with government crosses the political spectrum, fueling anger that democracy is broken. And looming environmental problems exceed our current political capacity. How did we get here? What can be done to address these great challenges of our time?...

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## Sharing the Story of an Unlikely Hero

Communication Leadership student Zac Murphy recently traveled to Cambodia with the Belgian organization [APOPO](#). His mission? To document an extraordinary story about rats, casting the typically villainized vermin as heroes...

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## Professor Wins Competitive National Science Foundation Award



Assistant Professor [Mako Hill](#) was recently awarded a second grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The funded proposal is a collaborative effort with Aaron Shaw, Communication Studies at Northwestern University. The grant is for a total of \$499,684 over three years and the majority of the award is going to go to the University of Washington...

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## In Memoriam: Celebrating Shelby Gilje

A memorial service will be held later this month to honor the life and achievements of Shelby Gilje, a UW Communication Hall of Fame member and decades-long employee of The Seattle Times.

"I think that for the time I entered the field of journalism, I was lucky," Gilje (BA, 1958) said, reflecting on her career as an editor, writer and columnist for The Seattle Times. Gilje reported on a variety of topics, including abortion reform, and federal and county courts. She also served as the paper's "troubleshooter" in her consumer columns...



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## Even More COMMunity News

- [Strictly On the Record](#) | Department unveils new, state-of-the-art recording studio
- [Faculty and Graduate Students Answer "Communication's Civic Callings"](#) | The UW at the National Communication Association (NCA) 102nd Annual Convention
- [The A.I.'s Have It: Trump's Cyber Supporters](#) | Graduate research on Twitterbots and the 2016 presidential election
- [Patricia Moy Elected to ICA Presidency](#) | The first UW faculty member to serve in this role
- [Department Honors Excellence and Giving Back](#) | The latest from the Alumni Hall of Fame

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