



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Three hundred or so students -- undergrads, M.A. and M.C. students, and Ph.D. candidates -- walked across the stage at our Department of Communication graduation ceremony on June 8. The day dawned rainy and cool, but the weather cleared and the sun was emerging by the time family, friends, students, faculty, and staff gathered in the campus Quad. It is the best day of the year for many of us, and a moment of great accomplishment for the students. But it also commences a time of significant, and sometimes challenging, transitions.

Forty years ago, a high school degree was a required ticket for a middle-class life. Today, a college degree is darn near essential if one hopes for economic security and varied career opportunities. In the coming months, many newly minted alumni will pursue employment that will bring new responsibilities, and hopefully good salaries and great colleagues. Some alumni will move into graduate school programs in medicine, law, education, and other domains. And some graduates will take other paths, driven by their unique goals. This is the cycle of life in modern culture.

For all, it will be a significant change.

For students, graduation brings to an end their time living, at least for several hours a week, in an intense environment of learning, growth, and regular feedback experienced in quarterly cycles, over many years. The earning of a degree is worthy of celebration and excitement, of course, but exiting from the web of supportive teachers and staff, smart and curious peers, predictable rhythms to the year, and challenging intellectual content can be a big loss for some. Unfortunately, the world outside of education usually does not include many people who selected their careers specifically because they love mentoring others! If only it were so.

The to-do list for new alumni starts with creating new patterns in their lives that will enable them to find success in the environments in which they seek to live.

Over the years I have called this process, "Making Your Life Happen." I encourage students to adopt a posture of pro-activity, relationship-building, goal-setting, and creative problem-solving that requires self-awareness, determination, and dogged pursuit. The ability to build new patterns of thought and behavior is never easy for anyone; it's even harder to do while attempting to get a new job, move to a new place, and build new relationships. But if someone has earned a UW degree, then they surely can surmount these new challenges.

One vital step I wish to suggest for all new alumni is to identify a potential mentor for this

next stage of your life.

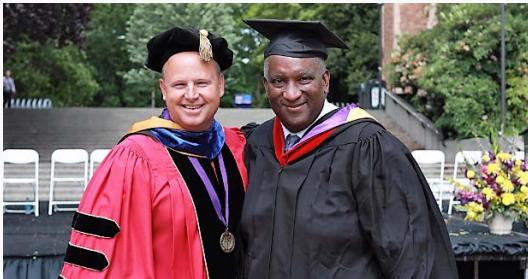
We all need guides, someone to help us walk into uncharted terrain. Find someone whom you respect and who can help you think about and take valuable steps forward. Building a relationship with a mentor is a sure step to figuring out productive ways to evaluate options, avoid potholes, and think through challenges. Universities, at our very best, provide life-defining mentorship for our students. This is certainly a major reason why faculty and staff in the Department of Communication do the work we do. We want to provide mentoring. We'll still be here for former students, but for new alumni it is time to find new mentors in the fields they wish to pursue.

New alumni: take a chance; reach out, ask someone you respect if they'll have coffee with you every few months, just to help you make sense of what comes next for you. How that person responds will clearly indicate if they're a potentially valuable mentor. But you have to take that first step. It's time to Make Your Life Happen.

**David Domke**  
*Professor and Chair*

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2017!



On June 8, 2017, more than 300 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students gathered in The Quad to [celebrate receiving degrees from the UW Department of Communication](#).

The Communication Department was honored to welcome Bryan Monroe (B.A. 1987) back to the University of Washington as this year's Graduation Keynote Speaker. In his remarks, Monroe extolled the importance of going out and grabbing what you want out of life. "When you keep fighting for the right things," he said, "the right things tend to come your way." **Watch his full address below:**



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### Spring Partnerships in Bloom



The recently launched [Partner Program](#) is empowering [Communication Leadership](#) students to collaborate with communities beyond the classroom. This new program streamlined a system that matches MCDM and MCCN students with organizations facing challenges, or offering opportunities, that are well suited to students' expertise ...

[Read the Story HERE](#)

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### Career Kickstart: Coming to You Live, From Coast to Coast



University of Washington Communication students have access to a dynamic set of mentors in their own proverbial backyard.

However, twice every year, the advising team takes a select group of Dawgs out on a walk (read: flight) to media meccas beyond Washington state ...

[Read the Story HERE](#)

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### Barbara Tanabe: Communicating Responsibly



UW Communication alumna Barbara Tanabe (B.A. 1971) understands the power of storytelling and giving a voice to those whom society might otherwise render silent.

After graduating from the University of Washington, Tanabe worked for KOMO-TV, becoming one of the first Asian-American woman to anchor on the West Coast ...

[Read the Story HERE](#)

### Would you please take a few minutes to help us improve the UW Department of Communication?



At the UW Department of Communication, we are always trying to do more, do better, and strengthen our relationship with Department alumni. By understanding your experiences, we can better tailor our communication and activities to meet the needs of our alumni ...

[Click HERE to take the Alumni Survey](#)

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