November 30, 2005

TO:  David Pershing  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  

FR:   John Francis  
Chair, Undergraduate Council

RE:  Interdisciplinary Minor in Documentary Studies

At its meeting of Tuesday, November 22, 2005, the Undergraduate Council voted unanimously to approve a proposal from the Department of Communication for an Interdisciplinary Minor in Documentary Studies. The proposal, with supporting letters, is attached.

We are asking you, if you also approve of the proposal, to forward it on to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for their consideration.
Request for an Interdisciplinary Documentary Studies Minor

Section I: Request

For the past three years, faculty from the colleges of Humanities and Fine Arts and the schools of Architecture and Medicine, and independent documentary producers from the community, have been moving forward with a documentary studies program on a variety of fronts. One of those ideas has been the recognition that the University should harness the public's growing interest in the documentary with a pedagogical initiative. Presently, there is a unique, timely coalescing of academic and professional interests that provide the impetus for a new minor.

The College of Humanities, then, requests the creation of an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Documentary Studies. Due to its truly interdisciplinary nature, drawing faculty and classes from across the University, the program best would be housed in this sponsoring college.

The minor would provide two outcomes for students. Students would gain the professional skills required to better compete in the documentary production marketplace. However, instead of teaching only production skills, the minor would nest that professionalism within a critical context. Graduates would better understand the historical, ethical and socio-political dynamics that should provide the foundation for truth-telling, the soul of the documentary.

The Documentary Studies minor would parallel and support the University's increasing involvement in cross-cultural and multicultural education. At a time when U.S. society seems particularly fractured and polarized, there is a growing, critical need to understand differing cultural viewpoints. From the Depression-era photographs of the Farm Security Administration through the penetrating work of filmmaker Frederick Wiseman, the documentary has an established, compelling tradition of providing insight into others' lives and beliefs.

Requirements for completing the minor:

The minor would consist of six courses, 18-22 hours, depending upon student choices of courses:

1. The initial course would be 3100, Introduction to Documentary Studies. This course is team-taught every fall semester by members of the Documentary Studies Faculty. The course is cross-listed in the departments of Communication, English, Architecture and Film Studies.

2. Four of the courses would be taken outside the student's major from a list of Allied Courses approved by the Documentary Studies Faculty Advisory Committee from submissions from interested departments. A list of those vetted courses is included as Appendix I. New courses could be submitted to the Advisory Committee for approval on a yearly basis.

3. The final course would be a documentary production capstone course at the upper division level.

The capstone course could be taken inside or outside a student's major. For instance, the capstone course could be from production offerings in a major, like Film Studies, or a sequence in a major, like Communication Technology in the Department of Communication. Or, the capstone production experience could be a for-credit Independent Study directed by a member of the Documentary Studies Faculty or a supervised, for-credit Internship with a community professional and Documentary Studies Program partner.
The capstone project could be a single-authored or collaborative production, and would be publicly presented in the most appropriate format, in possibly a poster session of student documentaries at the end of spring semesters. Later, the project would be archived in the Marriott Library.

Application to the minor:

Entrance into the minor would be possible after completing 3100, Introduction to Documentary Studies, with a grade of B or better, and filing a program of study from the list of Allied Courses. The program would have to demonstrate that it is grounded in interdisciplinarity. Moreover, the program of study would need to show a path that would lead the applicant to the capstone production experience.

Advising students in the minor:

During the ninth week of the Introduction to Documentary Studies course during fall semester, students interested in applying for acceptance into the minor would submit an application and tentative program of study. This would enable them to sign up for Allied Courses or appropriate content courses for the following spring semester.

At the end of fall semester, the Program Coordinator would notify those applicants who had a B or better in Introduction to Documentary Studies of their acceptance into the minor. The Coordinator then would ask them to submit a short synopsis of a possible capstone project and a personal statement on how she or he would develop the requisite information-gathering and production skills, as well as the necessary knowledge base through content courses or independent readings, to prepare for the capstone project. The Coordinator would meet with each student to discuss and approve the package.

After taking three courses in the minor, the student would submit a final proposal for the capstone project to the Program Coordinator. Then, the Coordinator would assign a mentor to the student. The mentor often would be a faculty member in the student's major department, but a student could be assigned to a mentor outside the student's major department, based on the student's desire to create the kind of documentary artifact in which the mentor specializes.

Below is a list of mentors who have been identified through submissions to the Documentary Studies Grant Program or who have expressed an interest in working with minors on their capstone projects:

Oral Narrative:

Margaret Brady (English)
Kimberly Lau (English)
Karen Brennan (English)
Robert Goldberg (History)
Marianne Villarreal (History)

Radio Documentary:

Louise Degn (Communication)
Ron Yaros (Communication)
Still Photographic Documentary:

Peter Goss (Architecture)
Craig Denton (Communication)
Jim Fisher (Communication)

Web Site:

Cassandra Van Buren (Communication)
Ron Yaros (Communication)

Film/Video Documentary:

Brian Patrick (Film Studies)
Kevin Hanson (Film Studies)
Scott Stiefel (Medicine)
Robert Avery (Communication)
Craig Wirth (Communication)
Ron Yaros (Communication)
Hank Liese (Social Work)

The mentor would identify the best plan of action for the student for completing the capstone project either by:

• Participating in a listed course that leads to the creation of a solely authored documentary or collaborative product or

• Developing a for-credit independent study or internship for the student that would lead to the creation of a documentary.

In addition, the mentor would suggest any last courses or readings to provide the student with requisite background for the capstone project. The mentor would advise the student through all aspects of the production process and make suggestions or arrangements for the final public presentation.

Administration of the minor:

Administration of the Documentary Studies minor would be housed in the College of Humanities. The Documentary Studies Faculty Advisory Committee would provide oversight of the minor. The Advisory Committee would consist of six faculty members from participating departments and appointed by the Dean of the College of Humanities. The Documentary Studies Program Coordinator would be selected by the Dean of the College of Humanities from the Advisory Committee and would serve for four years. Suggested tenure on the Advisory Committee is four years.

To date, members of the Faculty Advisory Committee include:

• Margaret Brady, professor of English
Specific responsibilities of the committee include:

1. Meeting mid-way through spring semesters to review proposed additions to the Allied Courses list. Also, meet on an as-needed basis, for example, to approve one-time, special topics courses for inclusion in the Allied Courses list.

2. Conducting a brief program review on an annual basis.

3. Conducting a full program review every four years, including a review of all current Allied Courses for retention as part of the full program review.

Submitting new courses for the Allied Course list:

Each January the Program Coordinator would ask departments to submit courses for inclusion in the Documentary Studies minor Allied Courses list. Chairs or their representatives would provide the Advisory Committee with the following materials at least two weeks prior to the committee's review meeting:

1. Syllabus for the proposed class, including any prerequisites, readings, assignments and schedule.

2. Letter from the instructor indicating how the class relates to the vision articulated for the minor.

3. Letter from the relevant department/program chair indicating support for including the class in the minor.

4. Expectations for class scheduling (time, enrollment capacity, production facilities offered, etc.)

Section II

Need:

It's no secret that the documentary enjoys an unprecedented public presence. Oral histories and narratives, social action photography, radio and film/video documentaries fill every available nook and cranny in the media landscape, and the offerings keep growing. Moreover, young people envision themselves as documentarians in numbers that are reminiscent of students of another generation dreaming of becoming investigative journalists after Watergate and the publishing of All the Presidents Men.

For instance, film documentaries like Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11 and Super-Size Me have entered the movie mainstream and earn Academy Awards and millions in box office receipts. Sundance Film Festival has seen its documentary division grow exponentially with more screenings every year. New documentary film festivals, like Full Frame, 24 and Heartland, sprout up across the country. Radio documentaries are becoming commonplace on National Public Radio and Public Radio International. Committed social action documentary
photographers relentlessly expose human tragedies and triumphs in increasing numbers of books and web-based media, like PixelPress.

The University is witnessing the same phenomenon. Enrollments in media production classes in Communication and Film Studies slope upward, limited only by production facilities. The University has a successful community outreach program through the partnership of the College of Humanities and SpyHop Productions in HUM 1900, a documentary production class for high school students, that since has become part of the Department of Communication curriculum.

Significant attendance at the recent appearances on campus of documentarians Sebastiao Salgado, Subhankar Banerjee and Frederick Wiseman and the documentary film series and live lectures through the Salt Lake Film Center and downtown library are gauges of community interest. Moreover, the University has made approximately $300,000 in grants over the past three years to faculty/independent producers to help plant seeds of documentary production and collaboration in our own community.

To help measure this incipient interest in the documentary, the departments of Communication and English ran a survey in Spring 04 in three courses: COMM 1500, a large lecture course in introduction to mass communication, COMM 3550, a large lecture course in principles of visual communication, ENGL 2200, an introduction to film course, and ENGL 5220, Film Study. These undergraduates were asked if they would be interested in a minor or certificate program in documentary studies. Of the 258 respondents 72% said they would be interested in a program, and of those, the majority preferred a minor.

Problem is, there is no place for these students to go in Utah to get coordinated instruction in the creation of documentaries across media. No institution of higher learning in the state offers a major, minor or certificate in documentary studies. In order to get this training and critical perspective, a student must go outside the state, to the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, the Salt Institute in Portland, Maine or the College of Santa Fe.

Support for the minor is broad-based across the campus, including the colleges of Humanities, Fine Arts and Social Sciences and the School of Architecture. That support is reflected in the letters of endorsement for the allied courses from the dean, Marriott Library administrators, and department chairs in Appendix II.

Members of the local community recognize a need for education in the documentary. Attached as Appendix III are letters of endorsement for a minor in Documentary Studies from Irene Fisher from University Neighborhood Partners, Matt Bradley from SpyHop Productions, Leslie Kelen from the Center for Documentary Arts and Hal Cannon from Western Folklife Center Media.

A minor in Documentary Studies at the University of Utah would allow those students to follow their passion here. The minor would provide them with a transcript outcome that would be a professional credential that would signify them as having special training and focused, critical education in the role of the documentary. In turn, it would help these students get jobs in a growing industry.

Section III:
Institutional Impact

The minor would require no institutional support beyond what is being currently provided. The minor utilizes current courses and production resources and requires only the collaboration of
committed faculty and the coordination of those resources. The minor requires no new faculty, relying on the use of current faculty interested in documentary studies, who have successfully collaborated over the past three years and who are the co-sponsors of this request for a minor.

Section IV:

Finances

Because the minor is comprised of existing courses that will be taught by current faculty, there is no need for new resources.

In addition to internal University grants, the larger documentary initiative should attract external revenue sources. Because of the multi-faceted nature of this inclusive initiative and the intense interest in the subject matter, numerous outside funding sources seem promising. A stand-alone interdisciplinary minor will increase the initiative's profile. Government and private foundations have been approached and many have expressed a keen interest in supporting such a program.

The program should generate new revenue without incurring new costs, thus there should be no internal reallocation. The office of the Dean of Humanities, however, will monitor the program for new and unforeseen costs.

Any new SCH generated by students in the minor will follow the instructors of courses in which students enroll. Departments involved in the minor may see small revenue increases.

Appendix I:

Allied Courses for Documentary Studies Minor

Anthropology

ANTH 4169, Ethnographic Methods

Art & Art History

ART H 3600, History of Photography

Communication

COMM 1530, Basic Photography
COMM 2530, Photojournalism
COMM 3330, Negotiation and Interviewing
COMM 3520, Radio Journalism
COMM 3560, Introduction to Visual Media
COMM 4560, Visual Media Production I
COMM 4610, Magazine Writing
COMM 5550, Digital Imaging
COMM 5560, Visual Media Production II
COMM 5660, Media Ethics

English

ENGL 2100, Introduction to Folklore
ENGL 3360, Language in Society
ENGL 5110, Folklore Genres
ENGL 5210, Film Genres
ENGL 5220, Film Studies
ENGL 5530, Creative Nonfiction
ENGL 5990, Folklore Method and Theory

Film Studies

FILM 3710, Film Production I
FILM 3750, Third World Cinema
FILM 3760, Film and Culture
FILM 4210, Film Genres
FILM 4220, Film Studies
FILM 4370, Documentary Video Production
FILM 4730, Documentary Film Survey

Languages and Literature

COMPLIT 4940, Film and Culture

Linguistics

LING 3460, Language in Society

Sociology

SOC 3111, Research Methods
Appendix II:
Letters of Endorsement
From Dean, Chairs and Library Administrators
October 14, 2005

Undergraduate Council
110 Sill Center
CAMPUS

Dear Undergraduate Council:

I am pleased to join Dean Ott of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Dean Tymas-Jones of the College of Fine Arts in creating an interdisciplinary minor program in documentary studies to be housed in the College of Humanities. Three years ago, the College of Humanities began lending its support to faculty members from various disciplines across campus to establish an informal Documentary Studies Committee. This committee examined both student and disciplinary interest to establish a formal academic program in the study and production of documentary.

This proposal defines documentary broadly to include film, TV, narrative, photography, oral history, radio, digital media, and related venues. This broad definition draws its curriculum and expertise from existing available resources in six departments across three Colleges, allowing each discipline to maintain and enhance its own expertise in documentary.

For the past three years funding from the College of Humanities, the Senior Vice President of Health Science, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Research, and the Marriott Library has provided $100,000 per year for grants to faculty and independent filmmakers who have produced documentaries, some of which have been recognized with awards. Grants have been awarded to faculty of 13 different disciplines, including Engineering, Ophthalmology, Anthropology, Philosophy, and English. Thus, a group of faculty have been identified who will work collaboratively to provide pedagogical excellence as well as professional accomplishments for our students.

Student demand for documentary-related courses, film production, and media production have seen significant increases over the last three years. This program will provide students the skills needed to compete in documentary production which are founded in a critical context. With the approval of this
minor, all students will be provided an opportunity to acquire a set of skills that will complement their major field of study.

I strongly recommend your approval of this new minor in documentary studies.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Newman
Dean and Professor of English
October 18, 2005:

Craig Denton
Communication Department
2400 LNCO

Dear Professor Denton:

The University of Utah Libraries appreciate your request to comment on our ability to support students in a new undergraduate minor in Documentary Studies. The libraries are committed to supporting the university and its faculty as they develop programs needed by our students.

As the curriculum will comprise largely existing courses, current collections should be sufficient. We will pay special attention to the topics covered by these courses and to suggestions from faculty and students for new resources as the budget allows.

The University of Utah Libraries rank 40th in the Association of Research Libraries, making us among the larger libraries available to undergraduates. A collection of this size and depth satisfies most student needs, especially as we have taken care to identify and add materials of particular interest to undergraduates. Marriott has an approval plan for the purchase of English language scholarly books and a core collection of print journals.

Thanks to the state-wide funding received by the Utah Academic Library Consortium and to campus Student Computing Task Force funds, our electronic collection is unusually strong in indexes, abstracts, and full-text online databases used by undergraduates. Quinney Law Library and the Eccles Health Sciences Library are also available to all students.

Student difficulties in locating materials often stem not from collection weaknesses, but from the complexities of using a large research library. We offer class presentations and one-to-one consultations with library specialists who will help students find the most relevant works and suggest the most appropriate search strategies.

We look forward to working with you and your students.

Sincerely,

Julianne Hinz
Assistant Director of Public Services

Margaret Landesman
Head, Collection Development
August 16, 2005

Craig Denton
Program Coordinator
Documentary Studies
Dept. Of Communications
LNCO 2513
CAMPUS

Dear Professor Denton:

It is with great pleasure that I strongly recommend the establishment of a Documentary Studies minor at the University of Utah.

My involvement with the Documentary Studies initiative began three years ago when I participated in an initial advisory faculty committee to examine the inception of a documentary studies program. Since that time, I have continued to remain involved as a member of the permanent advisory board and have continued to provide a substantial level of Marriott Library funding to the program for the support of faculty and community film makers’ projects.

Today’s archivists understand the importance of collecting and preserving both visual and written documentation forms in order to ensure a research bank of materials that represents the historical development of the latter 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries. In this sense, the establishment of a documentary studies initiative for students and faculty at the University of Utah is deemed an important archival function for a research library. Film, video, photographs, drawings, audio recordings as well as written narratives are all important components of mature research collection. It is with this mission in mind that Special Collections Department at the J. Willard Marriott Library will act as the permanent repository for those productions completed under the minor requirements in Documentary Studies.

The Library values the opportunity to interact and support the College of Humanities initiatives as it relates to the Documentary Studies initiative. As a professional archivist I am firmly convinced the products of this program will help to shape the research of the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory C. Thompson
Assistant Director for
Special Collections
March 30, 2005

Craig Denton
Department of Communication
2400 LNCO
CAMPUS

Dear Craig:

Having had the opportunity to review the materials on the proposed Minor in Documentary Studies I remain strongly in support of this program. This is a well developed minor that will serve students well. The Department of Communication, as you know, is heavily invested in documentary work as both a dimension of our curriculum and as an area of our scholarly and creative activity. Therefore, our engagement with this minor is both welcome and appropriate.

The committee has identified 12 Communication courses to be included on the list of Allied Courses for the minor. Each of these courses are courses that we offer regularly, many of them are offered every single semester (including summer), all of them are offered at least once a year. The faculty has given you a unanimous vote of support in developing this minor and in including these specific courses. I concur with their vote of confidence.

We look forward in helping you to launch this new minor and hope that it is strongly supported by the Undergraduate Council.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Ann L. Darling
Associate Professor and Chair
March 30, 2005

Professor Craig Denton
Chair, Documentary Studies Pedagogy Committee
Department of Communication
2400 LNCO
CAMPUS

Dear Professor Denton:

I am writing to convey the English Department's strong support for the proposed minor in Documentary Studies. This program will offer a very intriguing interdisciplinary experience for undergraduate students. Our department offers regularly the courses in Folklore, Film Studies and Creative Writing that will be part of this curriculum. In the case of Creative Non-Fiction particularly it is an area we have targeted for growth at the graduate level as well and that we anticipate will intersect with other fields of study such as Environmental Humanities. The Folklore courses developed by Professor Margaret Brady as part of her University Professorship and the YourStory project will allow an intriguing connection between Documentary Studies students and the local community.

In short, we believe that this program will afford students with high quality and innovative courses that spring out of new lines of research and creative work in our discipline. We believe, further, that the proposed curriculum represents a very productive model of interdisciplinary, in which the course offerings from each discipline build on and recontextualize those from the others. We would urge the approval of this unique and innovative program.

Sincerely,

Stuart Culver
Associate Professor and Department Chair
May 31, 2005

To: Undergraduate Council

From: William Siska, Chair
Division of Film Studies

Re: Proposed Minor in Documentary Studies

The Division of Film Studies supports the proposed minor in Documentary Studies. It will enable students interested in documentary as a cross-disciplinary area of study to have this entered on their University transcripts.

It must be noted on the list of courses from Film Studies that Documentary Video Production is a high-demand studio course enrolling no more than twenty students annually, and as the Division of Film must first accommodate its own majors, the course may not be readily available to Documentary Studies minor students from other departments.
22 April 2005.

Craig Denton, Chair
Documentary Studies Pedagogy Committee
2413 LNCO
CAMPUS

Dear Professor Denton:

Thank you for inviting me to submit a letter to accompany your proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Documentary Studies. On behalf of our faculty in photography/digital imaging, I should like to express our full support for your proposal. The interest of faculty and students in specialized training in documentary studies demonstrates clearly the need to adjust curriculum to market pressures.

I am pleased that we can contribute to a list of allied courses for the minor. ARTH 3600, History of Photography, has a long history of popularity among art majors and art history majors and minors. The course, taught by Prof. Joe Marotta, is normally offered once a year in the Fall Semester, and we anticipate little difficulty should it prove necessary to schedule the class also in Spring Semester. It was recently approved to satisfy General Education Fine Arts area requirements, which might help those students who declare a minor in Documentary Studies.

All best wishes for speedy process.

Cordially yours,

Elizabeth A. Peterson
Elizabeth A. Peterson, Chair
Director, Art History Program; Director, MA Graduate Studies
May 4, 2005

Craig Denton
Chair, Documentary Studies Pedagogy Committee
College of Humanities
University of Utah

Dear Prof. Denton:

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Linguistics supports the Documentary Studies Minor proposal that you sent to me recently and we would be happy for you to include our course, Ling 3460/Engl 3360 as an allied course for the program of study. A number of our faculty have an interest in documenting languages and we would welcome students from the proposed Minor to our course. I believe that some of our undergraduate majors will be interested in pursuing the proposed Minor and that it will prove to be a very valuable addition to their University studies.

We would also be interested in adding other courses from our curriculum to the list of allied courses. Please let us know the next opportunity for our doing so.

Sincerely,

Marianna Di Paolo
Chair and Associate Professor
To: CL Denton, Professor & Chair, Communication
From: JF O'Connell, Professor & Chair, Anthropology
Date: 2 Jun 05
Re: Proposed Minor in Documentary Studies

I write to register my Department's support of the proposed Minor in Documentary Studies. As the Executive Summary indicates, there is substantial interest in such a program on the campus. I have direct knowledge of such interest among students in Anthropology. The College of Humanities clearly has the resources to offer such a program, particularly given the proposed support from Anthropology and Sociology. The proposal in hand shows that these can be integrated with little if any new cost to achieve the desired end. I have every confidence that the program will be successful. I am happy to confirm Anthropology's best wishes for its future development.
March 30, 2005

Professor Craig Denton
Department of Communication
LNCO 2413

Dear Professor Denton:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Languages and Literature to endorse and strongly support the proposal for a Minor in Documentary Studies.

This is an interdisciplinary program that our department is prepared and well equipped to participate in. We are happy to be part of this Minor and to contribute to it through our faculty and course offerings.

We look forward to participating in this exciting new program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mushira Eid
Chair
March 25, 2005

Professor Craig Denton
Chair, Documentary Studies Pedagogy Committee
Department of Communications
LNCO 2413
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Professor Denton:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the Executive Summary for the Minor in Documentary Studies. As you know many faculty in sociology regard the documentary film as an important medium for teaching students about sociologically significant processes. Faculty in my department regularly use such films to supplement the reading and lecture material in courses such as introduction to sociology, social problems, criminology, urban sociology, globalization, and courses dealing with social diversity. I think it is exciting that students at the university will now have the opportunity to learn formally about the processes involved in developing documentary films, and I look forward to our department's participation in this new, proposed minor.

Needless to say, on behalf of the faculty in the Department of Sociology, I fully support this effort. I look forward to having in our classes students pursuing this new minor, and imagine that the major will be of interest to a number of sociology majors as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Timberlake
Chair
Appendix III:  
Letters of Endorsement  
From Community Supporters
September 30, 2005

Dr. Craig Denton
Department of Communications
255 South Campus Drive, Room 2400
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Craig,

I so hope that the University will agree to offer a Documentary Studies Minor. I have spoken to many independent documentary artists who tell me that there is little formal education that prepares someone for this field. It is absolutely timely to create more infrastructures for documentary education in all its forms.

Just in the past few years the amount of media content that is needed to satisfy growing communications technology is staggering. Trends show that this field will only grow over the next decades. The world is hungry for documentary. Increasingly people want their information in the form of media presentations. We need more students that can learn both the technologies involved but more importantly we need students who can learn the language of documentary. This is what I hope the University of Utah can do.

It is a rare opportunity to have the resources present locally. We have fine faculty at the University who can begin the work of teaching. We have a strong community of independent documentarians who should be involved. We have several allied organizations such as Sundance, the Utah Film Society, The Center for Documentary Arts, Spyhop, the Western Folklife Center, KUED and KUER that are obvious partners in this effort.

We endorse this new initiative enthusiastically and hope you will be in touch with us as the program develops.

Sincerely,

Hal Cannon, Founding Director
September 6, 2005

Dr. Craig Denton
Professor of Communication
Coordinator, Documentary studies Program
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Craig,

The Center for Documentary Arts (CDA) enthusiastically endorses the University of Utah’s Documentary Studies Minor. CDA has been conducting documentary work of various kinds in Utah since 1983. Over this time, we have seen the documentary genre and its products veritably explode into the nation’s consciousness. Documentary projects in film, radio, photography, and the printed media have taken on much greater importance as vehicles through which to explore the complexities of contemporary life in the United States and abroad. We are amazed by this development and cognizant of its implications for this genre, and we sincerely applaud the University for undertaking to institute a minor in this field.

The interdisciplinary approach, outlined in the executive summary, is the right way to offer courses for the minor, we believe, because the genre is broad, flexible, and dynamic, not only drawing on film, radio, photography, and nonfiction writing, but combining elements of them into new wholes. The “capstone experience” described in the summary is a welcome addition to the course work as well. We would be pleased to function as a field placement for those students interested in carrying out independent studies projects with our organization.

We wish you the best of luck with this exciting and timely endeavor. Please let me know if there is any other way CDA can be of help or support.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kelen
Executive Director
May 5, 2005

Craig Denton
Department of Communication
LNCO
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Craig:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the development of the Documentary Studies program, and especially for the inclusion of a Documentary Studies minor and a capstone project with the community.

University Neighborhood Partners, an outreach effort through the Office of the President, is housed in Salt Lake’s west side neighborhoods, in the heart of Glendale. We continually work to create and strengthen partnerships that can benefit both the University and groups and individuals in these neighborhoods. The need for documentary work that makes visible the sometimes unseen issues confronting long-time west side residents, new refugees, and the increasing number of recent immigrants is high. What you are working to create will definitely help to address this need.

University Neighborhood Partners attempts to serve as a “bridge-builder” or “matchmaker” between U of U units, such as the Documentary Studies Program, and schools, non-profits, churches, minority organizations, and citizen groups in west Salt Lake neighborhoods. We happily commit to work with you to identify potential partners that would both benefit from your students’ documentary work and that would also value the students’ learning needs.

Please keep us apprised of your progress, and we will be prepared to work with you and your students at an appropriate time. Congratulations on being involved with such an important new program.

Sincerely,

Irene Fisher
Special Assistant to the President for Campus-Community Partnerships
May 20, 2005

Craig Denton
Department of Communications
University of Utah
255 S. Central Campus Dr RM 2400
SLC, UT 84112

Dear Craig,

Spy Hop Productions looks forward to the opportunity to work with University of Utah students through the Documentary Studies Program. Many University of Utah students have been involved at Spy Hop as interns, mentors, or through their enrollment in the Documenting Communities course that is offered as a collaboration between Spy Hop and the College of Humanities. These students have been a great asset to Spy Hop and we hope that they, likewise, have benefited from their experiences here. We are excited about the possibility of further developing the opportunities for internships and independent studies through the Documentary Studies minor program and are committed to working with you to cultivate such a relationship between the University and our organization. These types of town and gown relationships are a great asset for our community and the university and perhaps, most importantly, can provide incredible learning opportunities for the students involved.

Our intent at Spy Hop is not that every youth who participates in our programs will become a documentary filmmaker or radio producer. We believe that the skills and opportunities we seek to provide will serve youth regardless of their professional, vocational, or educational pursuits. As we have discussed before, however, it is unfortunate to see that many of the youth who participate in our programs and are the most serious about filmmaking or documentary studies as a career consistently choose to go out of state for college. The Documentary Studies minor will provide an exciting incentive for these talented students to attend the University of Utah to pursue their interests in documentary rather than leave the state.

We look forward to developing this relationship and to the opportunity to work with more U of U students through the Documentary Studies Program.

Sincerely,

Matt Bradley
Director, Youth Documentary Arts Program