



The Daily Utah Chronicle Extras: [Movies](#) | [Horoscopes](#) | [Travel](#) | [Career](#) | [Scholarships](#) | [GradZone](#)



Current Issue: February 5, 2004

Samsung's Interactive Guide to HDTV.
 Section 1: Why digital? HDTV, surround audio, interactive TV, video-on-demand. They're all part of digital TV.
[> Explore](#)

Username

Password

[Register](#)

search the chronicle

SECTIONS

- front page
- news
- opinion
- sports

RED magazine

- classifieds
- chrony alumni
- contact us

- events
- archive
- letter to editor
- publishing policy
- shopping

ADVERTISING

- place a classified
- advertising info

[Home](#) > [Feature](#)

KSL Radio Announcer Takes Time To Teach

By *Tate, Laurelin*

Published: Wednesday, October 23, 2002

You might not know her face, but you'll definitely recognize her voice. Amanda Dickson, KSL News Radio spokeswoman on weekday mornings, is also a professor at the U.



Media Credit: Sarah Morton
Amanda Hickson hosts KSL News.

Dickson, raised in Bloomsburg, Penn., moved to Utah in 1981 and completed her Bachelor's of Arts in English at the U.

Dickson said after being in radio for so many years, she was a little apprehensive about teaching. But communication professors Craig Wirth and Tim Larson were a huge influence on her decision to become a teacher, and they helped build her confidence and faith in herself.



Media Credit: Paulsen, Jeff
Amanda Dickson teaches from the sidelines during a guest lecture.

"Craig was kind enough to ask me to come speak to a class he was teaching last year, and I enjoyed being with his students so much. Later he suggested that I teach my own class," she said.

Now, Dickson loves teaching in the communication department. She says her fellow professors have been helpful and encouraging. She

[Disclaimer](#)

has learned so much from them and her students.

"There are some things you do that you enjoy so much you lose track of time. That's what teaching is for me. I love the discussions with the students. I love how they challenge my thinking. I love how much I learn from them. I just love it," she said.

Every morning, Dickson broadcasts from the No. 1 ranked radio morning show in Utah before classes. And, even with so many demands on her time, Dickson chooses to make time for teaching at the U.

"It's a real challenge. I just can't be everywhere people want me to be, so I decided to be where I want to be, which is on the radio in the morning, and here at the U at the afternoon," she said.

Dickson is inspired by the students she teaches and says they are the best a teacher could ask for. She is always complimenting them on their hard work.

"Their work ethic inspires me," she said, "They want to do well. No—they want to excel, and they make me want to be a better teacher as well as a better broadcaster," she said.

Dickson is an animated teacher and brings excitement into her classroom. She uses her celebrity influence and her persistence to bring in guest speakers like Bruce Lindsay and Nadine Wimmer from KSL's nightly news and Mikey from the Star 102.7 radio station to speak to her classes.

Radio didn't always make Dickson happy, though, and she took a huge risk in 1996 when she left her broadcasting career to study law at the U.

Although she enjoyed studying law, she says being a practicing lawyer was just not natural for her.

"I struggled with the mean-spiritedness in the practice of law. That and the fact that I felt like I could never find a win—win," Dickson said.

"Even if I won for a client, it was so expensive it didn't feel much like a win to him. Is it a win if you don't go to prison but you lose your house?" she said.

Dickson doesn't want to discourage other students from choosing law school, though—it just wasn't for her.

"Law school teaches students how to think critically, how to ask good questions, how to analyze and research and understand the world," she said, "and then apply that degree to what feels right to their nature."

Radio has become a better "win-win" situation for Dickson because she can have positive effects on businesses or organizations through broadcasting.

"Radio is my love," she said.

Dickson says radio is the most interesting, stimulating, ever-changing and entertaining profession. However, radio is a competitive profession, so she encourages students willing to pursue broadcasting to be assertive. Because, she said, "Even I had to start small."

"Offer to do anything—be a gofer, an intern, a driver, whatever. Just to get your foot in the door and see how things work. Learn whatever you can in the process and then say 'yes' when the opportunity comes up—and it will!"

Dickson stays involved in broadcasting through a number of activities on and off campus.

She is the public announcer for the Utah Starzz and for the U women's gymnastic team. "I love those Red Rocks," Dickson said. Aside from broadcasting and teaching, reading is another one of Dickson's passions.

"I'm a book worm. I love reading everything from novels and business books to biographies, you name it. I try to limit myself to one trip to Barnes & Noble a month or I would spend a lot of money there."

Performing on the radio comes naturally to Dickson, so of course she appreciates other people who make their careers performing in front of crowds.

She loves the theater and attends performances at Pioneer and Hale Theaters, and Utah Opera and the Utah Symphony.

"I heard a woman say that the reason you go to the theater to see a live performance is on the chance that God might show up. There's something about a live performance that is pure magic, and I thought [what she said] just captured it."

Dickson also speaks to schools and groups around the state on how to have joy in your job.

She helps out in the community holding positions on the boards of Colors for Success, the National Kidney Foundation of Utah, National Advisory Board for Hale Centre Theater and the University of Utah Crimson Club.

Dickson is more than excited about her future teaching at the U.

"Walking the paths I walked 20 years ago as a student, thinking about how lucky I am to have the chance to teach at my alma mater, just takes my breath away," she said.

"I go to the Union for coffee and I remember sitting there so many years ago wondering where my life would take me—and here I am—and I couldn't be happier."

ltate@chronicle.utah.edu

 [Email Story to a Friend](#)

 [Printer Friendly Version](#)

The Daily Utah Chronicle
200 S Central Campus Dr #236
Salt Lake City UT 84112
801-581-NEWS

Questions? Comments?
Send e-mail to: webmaster@chronicle.utah.edu


Related Advertising Links

[Kids Together Camps](#)

Utah Day Camps for ages 5 to 14 Also Overnight/Travel Camps.
www.KidsTogether.com

[Salt lake city Travel](#)

Get Great Hotel and Vacation Deals. Read Reviews & Compare - Learn More
www.tripadvisor.com

Click Here **Snowboarding Accident?** 

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Network Advertising](#)

[Article Syndication](#)