

# SLCC remembers academic advisor Sam Curley

By **Tyler Bearss** - October 6, 2020

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*Sam Curley, an academic advisor at Salt Lake Community College, died from complications related to a hemorrhagic stroke. He was 54 years old. (Courtesy of the Curley and Hawkes families)*

Salt Lake Community College recently announced the passing of academic advisor Sam Curley.

Curley, 54, worked with the School of Arts, Communication and Media, helping students reach their academic goals and succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

"He was a great advisor and beloved by many colleagues. We were fortunate to have him serve at SLCC for so many years," said Denece G. Huftalin, president of SLCC.

Curley was a great musician who, [according to his obituary](#), had performed all over the world sharing his love of music and dance with everyone.

Curley was a member of the Navajo Nation and enjoyed serving his people throughout his entire life. Just a few weeks before his passing, he organized an effort to help those who have been hit hardest by COVID-19.

"Sam for me was more than simply a colleague, but more than that, a friend to whom I could go for answers to questions about not only advising but other things," said Gordon Storrs, academic advisor at SLCC. "He was always so patient with my lack of knowledge sometimes. He never made me feel bad about asking a question, he just answered it. I am sure that is the way he treated every student he advised as well. He was a kind, gentle, principled man who I am so proud to count among my most influential friends."

Curley was known for helping others and sharing what he loved with everyone he met. He will be greatly missed, not only by family and friends, but by the students and faculty here at SLCC.



*Sam Curley, an academic advisor at Salt Lake Community College and member of the Navajo Nation, died on Sept. 10. Curley brought supplies to the Navajo Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this summer. (Courtesy of Chad Hawkes Photography)*

# SLCC Tanner Forum: The Atlantic's Ed Yong to speak about COVID-19

By **Brayden Martinez** - October 6, 2020

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Salt Lake Community College will host The Atlantic's Ed Yong at its annual Tanner Forum on Social Ethics program via live stream. The Oct. 13 event will stream from 7 to 8:30 p.m.



*Ed Yong, science reporter at The Atlantic, will deconstruct the news around the coronavirus pandemic as part of the Tanner Forum on Social Ethics. (Courtesy photo)*

Yong, a prolific science writer and author, will discuss an array of topics during the program, with a primary focus on the impact of COVID-19 in the United States and covering a global pandemic as a reporter. The event, which is free and open to the public, will end with a question-and-answer session.

"In a matter of months, a new coronavirus has humbled and humiliated the planet's most powerful nation," said Yong in a press release promoting the event. "America has failed to protect its people, leaving them with illness and financial ruin, and careening between inaction and ineptitude. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a generation-defining challenge that has left past vulnerabilities exposed and future possibilities unclear."

For the past eight months, Yong has primarily covered stories spanning the many angles of COVID-19: from the [scientific details about the virus](#) to [interviewing Bill Gates](#) about the pandemic's hindering effects.

"Yong is an excellent person for this event," said Joy Tlou, SLCC's public relations director. "He is a talented, decorated writer with a high passion level for spreading the word about the virus."

In addition to The Atlantic, Yong has written for National Geographic, Wired, The New Yorker, Nature, New Scientist, Scientific American and gave a TED Talk on mind-controlling parasites which has been watched by over 1.5 million people, [according to his professional website](#). He boasts several awards, including the National Academies Keck Science Communication Award and the Neil and Susan Sheehan Award for investigative journalism.

Attendees must [register for this free event](#).

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## Join and participate in the daytime student panel

The Tanner Forum on Social Ethics daytime student panel will take place Oct. 13 at noon.

Students will have an opportunity to ask Yong questions about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on higher education, as well as his career in journalism and writing and how he has combined it with his skill and passion for the natural sciences and biochemistry.

The panel will be moderated by Melissa Hardy, an assistant professor of biology, and include student panelists Amie Schaeffer and Freddy Pascacio.

[Students must pre-register](#) to be sent a link the morning of the event.

Students can also [submit questions before the event](#).

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