On behalf of the Department of Communication at the College of Southern Nevada, I would like to thank you for reading the inaugural edition of our new digital newsletter. We are excited to have you learning more about the many facets of our department and the programs that we offer. In this edition, you will learn more about our degree programs, who our students and faculty are, and much more.

One of the more common questions that comes up from students is “What can I do with a degree in communication or journalism/media studies?” The answer to that question is an easy one—the opportunities are endless! I challenge you to open up any job recruitment website or even the classified section of the local newspaper. You will find that in just about every job posting, there will be a reference under the minimum qualifications that indicates that “excellent oral and written communication skills” are a must. Of course it is easy to see why such a requirement is important to employers—they want people who can communicate well!

Just about every student at CSN takes the Oral Communication course (AKA—Public Speaking). Students who chose to major in communication take classes in areas like intercultural, group, and interpersonal communication, rhetoric, argumentation & debate, film criticism, communication theory, internships and even electronic media communication (learning how social media impacts the communication process). Students who chose to major in journalism/media studies take classes in areas like mass communication, news reporting and writing, television and radio production, advertising, public relations, integrated marketing communication and more.

The faculty members teaching within the Department of Communication come from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. Our professors and instructors have studied at some of the top communication schools in the world with each of them bringing a unique and valued perspective to our field. They are engaged in research that helps move our discipline forward with many of them presenting their research at national and international conferences every year. Our faculty are also very service minded—you will find all of them active in both college and community service.

I invite you to explore the rest of this newsletter as well as our website to learn even more about our programs and offerings. You can visit us at www.csn.edu/communication. You can also follow us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/csn.dept.comm and on Twitter at http://twitter.com/csne_dpt_of_com

Best,

James McCoy
Chair, Department of Communication
College of Southern Nevada
Department of Communication
Full-Time Faculty & Staff

Charleston Campus  (Click on name to email that person.)
Cameron Basquiat, Professor
Dr. Jennifer Basquiat, Professor
Diana Clennan, Professor
Kerry Ford, Professor
Angela M. Holland, Professor, Lead Faculty
Dr. Timothy James, Professor
Debra Johnson, Administrative Assistant II
Scott Ku, Instructor
Dr. Luke LeFebvre, Instructor, Communication Labs Coordinator
Jodie Mandel, Professor
Rick Marks, Professor, Internship Coordinator
James McCoy, Professor, Department Chair
Dr. Owen Pillion, Instructor, Sigma Chi Eta Advisor

Cheyenne Campus
Arnold Bell, Professor, Collegiate Review Advisor
Tom Cowan, Professor
Steve Herro, Instructor, Cheyenne Campus COM Lab Liaison
Kevin Mitchell, Instructor
Eric Moreau, Professor
William Neff, Instructor

Henderson Campus
Michele Fogg, Instructor, ASC Advisor
April Hebert, Instructor, Henderson Campus COM Lab Liaison

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**Cameron Basquiat**  
Professor Basquiat presented “When Sin City Goes Back to School” at the November 2010 meeting of the National Communication Association, where he also presented a competitively selected paper, *Anonymous Self-Disclosure: Exposing Secrets in a Postsecret.com World*. In January 2011, he and Professor James McCoy presented a paper, “Utilizing the ‘Competent Speaker’ form to evaluate student efficacy in oral presentations” at the meeting of the Hawaiian International Conference on Education in Honolulu, Hawaii. He served as a reviewer for NCA 2011 convention submissions for the Community College and GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) sections. Professor Basquiat has also written book reviews for “DK Guide to Public Speaking” (2012) author Lisa A. Ford-Brown, and “Public Speaking: The Evolving Art,” 2/e authors Stephanie Coopman and James Lull.  
Professor Basquiat is on sabbatical for the spring 2011 semester. He is working on generating a new course exploring gender communication and also generating several short videos (2-7 minutes each) to be used in his online Interpersonal Communication (COM 102) courses. The videos’ content will focus on reviewing key components from the chapters and exploring a current topic or issue related to a key theory/concept discussed in the course.

**April Hebert**  
April participated on a panel at the November 2010 National Communication Association convention entitled “No $$$, Fame, or Status Would Lure Me Away From Teaching at a Community College: Explaining Our Unique Mission to COM MAs/PhDs.” In February 2011, she attended the Western States Communication Association conference in Monterey, California, where she presented “Helping Students Avoid Plagiarism in the Public Speaking Course” as a member of a GIFTS (Great Ideas For Teaching Speech) panel. She currently serves as the Henderson campus liaison for the Communication Lab. She will be chairing a WSCA panel in 2012 on technology and plagiarism.

**Steve Herro**  
Steve published “Exploring the Concept of Equality: A Rhetorical Critique of Rutherford B. Hayes’s 1877 Inaugural Address” in the 2010 edition of The Carolinas Communication Annual. He was also competitively selected by the Critical and Cultural Studies Division to present “Understanding Reality Television in the Context of the Financial Crisis of 2008: How HGTV Defends Neoliberal Logic” at the National Communication Association national convention in San Francisco, November 2010. Recently he was voted chair-elect of the Western States Communication Association’s (WSCA) Rhetoric and Public Address (RPA) Interest Group. As chair-elect, Steve will organize a pre-conference for the 2012 WSCA convention in Albuquerque, NM. As chair in 2013, Steve will organize the RPA Interest Group’s slate of research presentations and will preside over the group’s business meeting in Reno, NV.

**Angela Holland**  
During the fall 2010 semester, Professor Angela Holland was granted sabbatical. She worked on a project conjoining the public speaking course with the women’s studies course she also teaches for social sciences. Her work entails bringing together the Gender, Race, and Class course, with the Public Speaking course, creating a cohort for students to participate in both courses, simultaneously. These joined courses will occur for the first time during fall 2011 semester. If successful, Professor Holland expects that this project will continue into future semesters; and, that it may even expand to cohort development between instructors in various disciplines.

**Tim James**  
Dr. James just finished chairing a search committee; he also serves on the Travel Committee, and is the secretary for ATAC (Academic Technology Advisory Committee). He has been approved for a sabbatical for fall 2011, and will be working on a public speaking book.
Luke Lefebvre: Dr. Lefebvre has a chapter entitled “Course Management Systems: Creating Alternative Avenues for Student Access to the Communication Center” in The Communication Center Movement in Higher Education, to be published next year (2012). He received Top Paper recognition from the Basic Course Division, as first author, for a manuscript entitled “The Relationship between Self-generated Corrective Feedback and Speaking Performance” at the National Communication Association held in San Francisco in November 2010. While there he also participated on a panel for the Basic Course Division at the National Communication Association entitled “Bridging the Communication Laboratory, Basic Course, and Beyond” and presented at the National Association of Communication Centers in Richmond, Virginia on March 18, 2011, for a panel entitled “Centrifugal Forces: Pushing the Boundaries of Research on Communication Centers.”

Jodie D. Mandel: Professor Mandel, who earned tenure in 2010, attended and presented at the National Communication Association annual conference (NCA) in San Francisco in the fall of 2010. The first panel was titled: “Service Learning Integrated into the Classroom: Building New Bridges Between Students and the Community.” The other panel was titled: “Building Bridges to the Community: Service Learning in the Basic Communication Courses.” She also attended and presented at the Western States Communication Association annual conference (WSCA) in Monterey, CA in the spring of 2011. She participated in the panel “Going Hybrid with the Basic Course: Creating Communities for Learning, Innovation and Assessment in the Public Speaking Course.” Additionally, she attended the Society for Media and Cinema Studies (SMCS) annual convention in New Orleans, LA in the spring of 2011. She hosted and developed the first annual Green Tech Festival at CSN.

James McCoy: Professor McCoy presented at the 2010 National Communication Association Conference held in San Francisco. The title of his presentation was “Building Bridges During your Graduate Teaching Experience: Teaching at the Community College Simultaneously to Completing your Graduate Program.” He also presented at the HIC on Education in January of 2011. The title of his presentation was, “Utilizing the Competent Speaker Form to Evaluate Student Efficacy in Oral Presentations. In addition, he was one of only fifteen communication professors invited to participate in a national symposium on “current trends in the public speaking classroom” held in New York in January 2011.

Bill Neff: Professor Neff recently earned tenure and was appointed lead faculty for the coming year. He is continuing his PhD studies at UNLV and has applied for official admission to the Public Affairs program for fall 2011 semester.

Owen Pillion: At the National Communication Association annual convention in San Francisco, November 2010, Dr. Pillion served as the chair of the Religious Studies Pre-Conference Panel, and also served as a panel member for “Building Bridges Through Engaged Ethnography: Exploring ‘Fringe’ Religious Identities Within Dominant US Culture.” Dr. Pillion also attended the American Popular Culture Association National Conference in San Antonio, April 2011, serving as both panel chair and presenter of a paper (co-authored with Eric Moreau): “Queer Affection and Prime Time Television: A Critical Analysis of ‘Modern Family.’” He is also the recipient of two MLK Diversity Awards: one for Outstanding Faculty Member; the other for Outstanding Organization (One Love).
INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Scott Ku

earned his B.A. at Macalester College, his M.A. at the University of Washington, and completed additional coursework at Arizona State University. His primary teaching interests are oral communication, interpersonal communication, and intercultural communication; however, he has also taught business communication, communication technology, introduction to communication, nonverbal communication, and small group communication. He also taught for Asian Pacific American Studies. Previous higher education institutions that he taught at have included: Shoreline Community College and the University of Washington in the state of Washington; and Phoenix College, Gateway Community College, and Arizona State University in the state of Arizona. Prior to CSN, he taught English in Japan (in Sendai, Mutsu, Sakaide, and Kannonji) and Taiwan (in Tainan) at the K-12 level. He also tutored Mandarin Chinese at the junior high school level in Minnesota. His background also includes serving as an intern at Minnesota Public Radio and for the Japan American Society of Minnesota. His interests at CSN include serving on the Green Initiatives Committee and trying to implement recycling on campus. In his spare time, he enjoys running, cycling, playing basketball, and playing ultimate Frisbee. He also enjoys travelling, and hopes to visit at least 50 countries in his lifetime. He’s currently at 26 countries!

Steve Herro

comes to CSN from the Department of Communication at Georgia State University, where he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Public Communication. His dissertation, entitled “Fragile Foundations: Reassessing Makeover TV After the 2008 Economic Collapse,” is in progress. Steve earned an M.A. in speech communication from Eastern New Mexico University in 1993 and a B.S. in business communication from Ferris State University (MI) in 1990. He has 20 years of experience teaching communication courses at colleges and universities in the Midwest, South, and Southwest.

Kevin Mitchell

has been teaching in higher education for over 10 years. He has taught at a number of institutions of higher learning across the Southwest and Midwest. He comes from a family of educators and is very comfortable in the classroom. Mr. Mitchell has studied a broad range of topics including—rhetoric, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication and humor. He currently teaches at the Cheyenne campus and at the High Desert State Prison. Recently he and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their child Iris Grace into the Mitchell family.

Luke LeFebvre

(Ph.D., Wayne State University) is currently the Coordinator of the Cheyenne, Henderson, and West Charleston Communication Labs and tenure track instructor for the Department of Communication at the College of Southern Nevada. His research interests include classroom communication and instructional processes, as well as the organizational and relational dynamics of communication centers.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Michele Fogg
Michele R. Fogg is a native of southern California who received her bachelor’s degree from BYU in communication studies. While an undergrad she interned with the American Cancer Society in Washington, D.C. and later moved to New York City where she worked in public relations for Fortis International (World Trade Center) and Revlon. She spent several years working with the Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau in marketing communication and media relations. She got the bug to go into teaching while a corporate trainer for Pygmalion, a professional presentation skills training company. She returned to BYU to attend grad school and received her master’s degree in mass communication. While in grad school she taught public speaking and communication research methods while managing the communication research lab. She was an editor for Burrelle’s Press Clippings and worked for the Journal of Mass Media Ethics. She researched media effects with an emphasis on marginalized character depictions. Michele then taught public speaking and interpersonal communication at Utah Valley State College (now UVU) prior to teaching at CSN. She was awarded CSN’s “President’s Outstanding Part-Time Faculty” award in 2008. She has been a co-advisor to ASC since 2007 and now serves as the advisor. She married her husband, Mike, 5 years ago and together they have a son, Riley and daughter Madelyn both under age 3, and share custody of Mike’s sons Easton, Collin and Braden.

April Hebert
April is a true Vegas local; she graduated from Basic High School in Henderson, and was a student at CSN (when it was Clark County Community College). She took her COM 101 class on the Cheyenne campus, and took one of her first acting classes from Bob Dunkerly (who also teaches in our department)! She earned her M.A. in Communication Studies with an emphasis in communication theory from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she taught the public speaking course for six years. She has worked in the business world as a facilitator for Clark County Family and Youth Services, a trainer for Viacom/Paramount, and a professional singer/actor. But she has never strayed far from academia; she taught here at CSN as a part-time instructor from 2004-2009, at Axia College Online, and as a temporary full-time instructor from 2009-2011. In addition to teaching Oral Communication, she has also taught Business Communication, Interpersonal Communication and Small Group Communication. She is very happy to be the newest full-time tenure-track faculty member in the department!

Owen Pillion
Owen Pillion joined the department in the Spring of 2010. Prior to teaching at CSN, Dr. Pillion taught Communication courses at the University of Missouri and California State University, Stanislaus. At CSN he teaches Oral Communication, Small Group, Interpersonal, and Survey of Communication Studies. Dr. Pillion is the faculty advisor for two student organizations: Sigma Chi Eta (The National Communication Honor Society) and One Love (CSN’s first GLTBQ and Straight Student Alliance). This semester the college recognized Dr. Pillion and One Love as each received Martin Luther King Diversity Awards. In April, Dr. Pillion will present an original research project that he has co-authored with Professor Eric Moreau at American Popular Culture Association’s National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The research project is a critical analysis of the popular television program “Modern Family.” When Dr. Pillion is not at school, he likes to travel, exercise, and partake in the original shows and events that come through our city. Also, he and his boyfriend love taking advantage of the Vegas culinary scene.
GETTING TO KNOW OUR TUTORS; STATE OF THE LABS

Monica Munoz  
Year in School: First Year  
Communication Lab Location: West Charleston  
# of semesters employed at the CL: One  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: The satisfaction I feel when I tutor someone and they understand the material. To know that with our little push as communication lab tutors, they are doing better.

Kalen D. Patty  
Year in School: Freshman (1st year)  
Communication Lab Location: West Charleston  
# of semesters employed at the CL: One  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: Knowing that I have helped my peers become better leaders for the future is gratifying, but watching the actual process of them succeeding in their class is the best part of what I do.

Kathrina Dycaico  
Year in School: First Year  
Communication Lab Location: West Charleston  
# of semesters employed at the CL: One  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: Helping the students and sharing the skills I gained from my Communication 101 class.

Cara Isikoff  
Year in School: Third year  
Communication Lab Location: Cheyenne  
# of semesters employed at the CL: Three  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: What I like best about working at the Communication Lab is interacting with the students. At the Cheyenne Campus the student's are extremely diverse and they all have different reasons why they are in college. Tutoring for Com 101 is all-around rewarding—when a student grasps a concept and the "light bulb goes off", here in the lab it is a gratifying experience for both myself (as a tutor) and the student (tutee).

Allison Clark  
Year in School: Sophomore/ Junior  
Communication Lab Location: Cheyenne  
# of semesters employed at the CL: One, going on two  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: Meeting new people

Raymond Miranda  
Year in School: Third (almost)  
Communication Lab Location: Henderson  
# of semesters employed at the CL: One  
Favorite part about working at the Communication Lab: Being able to build relationships with students, and see them succeed in a subject that involves so many personal, emotional, and physical barriers. There's no greater satisfaction to see a student gain confidence in themselves and change into a better public speaker.

STATE OF THE COMMUNICATION LABS

Since 2005, the communication lab has been an essential resource for students seeking assistance in all aspects of public speaking.

Dr. Luke Lefebvre, who joined the Department of Communication in 2010 as the communication lab coordinator, identified four goals to accomplish during the fall 2010 Semester:

GOAL 1. Expose 50% of the Communication 101 course sections at each campus to the communication labs via a course section tour.

THIS GOAL WAS EXCEEDED. 60% of the face-to-face 101 classes toured the labs; additionally, online advisement was given to distance education, hybrid, and extension COM classes.

GOAL 2. Provide a minimum of 800 student consultations during the semester. THIS GOAL WAS SURPASSED. During the fall of 2010, 1102 total student consultations took place at the communication labs, 87% were students who had visited the communication labs during course section tours.

GOAL 3. Develop a systematic tracking system for student consultations. THIS GOAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED. The form is an interactive PDF used to track and assess student consultations that take place at the communication labs.

GOAL 4. Solicit and obtain student feedback about their experiences using the communication labs. THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED. Following a consultation, students who used the communication labs during the fall 2010 semester were emailed a student survey. The response rate was a very respectable five percent.

Perhaps the greatest indicator of the communication lab’s success can be found in the comments given by students:

“...My tutor was wonderful she was such a great help that I did exceptionally well and was confident the night of my speech. I will be seeking her assistance with my next speech topic.”

“My tutor was great. She was very organized and efficient in helping me structure my policy speech outline. Her help was invaluable.”

“My overall experience with the Communication Lab was wonderful. My tutor was extremely helpful, patient, and accommodating. With his help, I was able to achieve an “A” on my first two speeches in COM 101. I will continue to use the COM LAB for the remainder of my semester in COM 101, as well as in the future classes. What a great resource!”

Congratulations to Dr. Lefebvre and all the wonderful tutors who make such a positive difference in students’ educational experiences here at CSN!
This year’s 9th Annual Degrees of Communication Seminar was another successful seminar. Like in prior years the full day event was filled with speakers, raffles and free breakfast and lunch. Over 125 Students heard from professionals in the field of journalism and communication about career opportunities and got advice from some familiar faces. The radio panel included favorites DeAnn Sheehan, Ty Sante and Derrick “Big Dee” Carr. The TV panel included anchors Jim Snyder of MyNew3 NBC and KCBS anchor, Chris Saldana. The communication panel included Kelly Sheehan and Ron Kirsh. New to the seminar were David Byerman, Secretary of the Senate, NV State Senate, Jessica Moore of MyNews3 NBC, and Tom Moilanen, freelance journalist. The keynote speaker, BJ Fogg, joined us from Stanford University where he earned a master’s and doctorate degree in communication research and founded the Stanford Persuasive Technology Lab. In 2008, Fortune Magazine named him one of their “10 New Gurus You Should Know.” Dr. Fogg shared his unique model for behavior change based on his psychology of persuasion and showed how to convert these insights into real-world outcomes. Students conducted raffles to raise funds and managed the event including introduction of speakers. Faculty from the communication department attended the event and provided onsite advisement for majors at the Student Advising booth.
Fundraising

ASC fundraising efforts have been more of a bonding experience than a windfall. Last year’s attempts to fundraise at the Tech Expo resulted in the now infamous “Hot Dog Fiasco.” Selling hot dogs seemed like a sure bet until ASC found themselves up against the Culinary Club’s gourmet hot dog booth. In the end they relied on their fine tuned persuasive skills to sell enough to break even. Undaunted, students continued to attempt to raise funds. Again, “Minute to Win It” games seemed like a great idea to raise some funds at the Fall Fun Fest. An undesirable booth location, light traffic and heavy winds resulted in another disappointment. At one point, the heavy winds picked up the container holding the cash donations. In one gust, all the efforts from the two previous days went flying through the air and caused students, advisors and other exhibitors chasing the flying money. Department Chair, James McCoy, who was in the vicinity and others found themselves stomping on dollars to keep them from flying away. Some students would have packed up and called it a loss. However, the students persevered and stayed until closing on both days even dressing up in Halloween Costumes to make the most of their opportunity. Other attempts have been bake sales and restaurant sponsorships. Students took over Applebees to serve family and friends who purchased tickets for the all you can eat pancake breakfast.

This year was another successful Canned Food Drive during the 2010 holiday season on all three campuses. Faculty members from the Communication Department supported this yearly service project by providing incentives for their students to donate various nonperishable items. In particular, the faculty members and students from the Cheyenne campus really took the drive to heart and donated generously. The donation boxes overflowed and ASC leaders couldn’t keep up with the several requests to pack up the items for delivery to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. This year over 8,000 items were donated to the mission.

Road Trip to Hollywood

The 2011 Hollywood Road Trip turned out to be a successful trip, but got off to a rough start. At the first stop in Barstow, one of the students had a seizure on the bus. An ambulance rushed the student to the hospital and the bus followed. Several hours later after intense interactions with the college, family and medical professionals, part-time instructor Jihan Mansour, stayed behind. The bus full of shaken and somber students and advisors Michele Fogg and Barbara Reuben-Powell continued on in time for the Sony Pictures Studio Tour, but missed the TV taping. Some desperate calls trying to salvage a true media experience resulted in the LA KNBC station inviting students to come to the newsroom for the live 11:00 pm newscast. After spending the day at Universal Studios, the group went to the station and were treated like VIPs. Students were given access to the control room, walked around the studio and took pictures behind the anchor desk. The anchor advised students while getting makeup on, the meteorologist packed students into the room while he taped his segments on the green screen and the director showed students how the cameras and the teleprompter worked. Students and advisors watched the live broadcast from the studio and control room. Talk about making lemonade out of lemons!
The Journalism/Media Studies program has received significant funding to improve and update equipment so students can be trained on the latest equipment and technology. Under the direction of Rick Marks, the program continues to keep students and the department on the forefront.

CSN’s Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) provided funding for the purchase of new on-air audio board, new CD players and a computer software system for playback and recording through the audio board. Also, old video editing computers were converted for use in the radio booth for students to type up and read radio news copy directly from the computers instead of having to print out their copy on paper.

Professor Marks and Department Chair James McCoy received almost $19,000 in a Perkins Grant for radio equipment. This grant made it possible to purchase radio news gathering equipment including digital portable recorders, microphones, a digital record deck for in-studio radio production, a new production music library, a headset system, and cabling. The portable digital recorders and microphones will allow students to gather sound bites and conduct interviews that can be edited and aired as part of radio news broadcasts. All of the equipment will also allow students to podcast completed radio news packages. In addition, Andrew McJimson, of CSN’s Office of Technology Services, donated rack equipment including shelving, drawers and panel covers worth almost $1000.00. All of the funding and donations allows students to be trained on radio production and news techniques using modern radio equipment.

Finally, the program also received funding from ATAC for two Avid Media Composer editing computers. These will be used to teach our new JOUR 202 Media Production I course. The JOUR 202 course will be offer this fall for the first time and covers Electronic News Gathering with editing. Basically, students will shoot, edit and create self-contained news packages, similar to what is seen on local and national TV news programs.

New Class Offering--JOUR 202 Electronic Media Production I 3 (3,0,0,0)

Lecture and lab for the study of and training in studio and field video production, basic post-production, and resource utilization across electronic platforms. For students to be equipped to work in the electronic media industry, they must be prepared to produce their own piece or news segment. This new class offered in Fall 2011, trains students on Avid, the industry standard software and hardware for creation and editing of video and audio pieces.
Alumni News

What are they doing with their COM degrees?

Since graduating from CSN in May, Monique Makhlouf has been attending UNLV full time as a Communication Major concentrating in rhetorical theory on a full scholarship from CSN. She earned straight A’s last semester and has been very active on campus as a UNLV ambassador for which she volunteers her time to spread the word about the pending budget cuts and helps the community get involved in the political process. She was public relations coordinator for Rebe1ation Media, the student-run public relations firm, but she put that commitment aside to assume the role of president for the Association of Students in Communication. After graduation in December of this year, Monique hopes to pursue a master’s degree in Communication.

Since receiving the Regents’ Scholar Award in 2006 and graduating with her A.A. in Communication from the department in the spring of 2007, Molly Marks went on to UNLV where she graduated with her B.A. in Communication Studies in the spring of 2009. After interning with New Vista Community, a local non-profit, Molly was hired and was shortly promoted to event coordinator. During her 3½ years with New Vista Community, the charity had their most successful years with their Wine Walk Series and their annual Adam and Eve Charity Love Fling Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction. Molly moved to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) as fundraising coordinator in 2009 where she stayed for a short period of time before taking her current position as the community director for the March of Dimes. When Molly isn’t working she enjoys spending time with her husband and their first child, Lexie who will be one in June. Molly is a diehard Disney fan, and can’t wait to take her daughter on her first trip to Disneyland.

Since graduating last May and being awarded the communication department’s Outstanding Student of the Year 2010, Noel Justin Lee Gomez transferred to the University of California-Merced. Noel has recently been selected to participate in the 2011 Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI) this summer at the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Noel is also one of three CSN nominees for the 2011 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship which provide financial assistance to community college students who are completing their bachelor’s degree. At UC-Merced, Noel continues to be active as a tutor, and serving in elected positions as fundraising coordinator for the Latino Associated Students de UC Merced and media/advertising coordinator for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. He is also the entertainment chairperson for the 2012 Western Regional LGBTQIA Conference, and was recently selected from a field of 20 students to serve as orientation leader for new students. This summer he will also participate in the UC Merced Summer Bridge Program serving as a mentor and tutor for at-risk freshman.

Congratualtions to the Department of Communication Student of the Year--

Aimee Riley

“I am honored to announce that I was just elected to serve as the new President for ASCSN Student Government! I have a 4.0 GPA and was selected as 2011 Communications Student of the Year at CSN. I am also a single mother and a very active education advocate. I am the Vice President of the CSN Capitol Club, a nonpartisan organization focused on encouraging and empowering students to participate in their democracy. I serve as the Vice President of Sigma Chi Eta, the honors society for Communications and Journalism majors. I also actively participate in numerous organizations across the valley and state. I pledge to serve all students in the coming year as our official representative and voice. Thank you for all of your support. I could not have succeeded without everyone’s help and encouragement.”

--Aimee Riley
April Hebert, Instructor

Anti-Plagiarism “Three-Layer Cake”

April has a unique way of helping students understand that oral presentations have another “layer” of citation that is not needed in written documents like thesis papers. She tells her students to imagine proper citation as a three-layer cake: the base layer is the bibliography; the middle layer represents the in-text citations; the top layer is the part that students often forget (oral source citations during presentation). April has found that putting this mental image in her students’ minds tends to reduce incremental plagiarism.

Scott Ku, Instructor

A Little Entertainment

Scott knows there is a point when his students start thinking, “What? More speeches?” He mixes up his impromptu speeches by showing YouTube or Facebook videos he has saved (e.g., piano staircase, Japanese subway, sliding cars in Seattle). He likes Facebook because it’s an easy way to store his videos in the same place, although YouTube also allows this if you have an account with them. By doing this, students get a little breather, and some entertainment, before they have to get up and answer the question he has provided. Scott says his students seem to enjoy this!

Owen Pillion, Instructor

Intros and Conclusions

Dr. Pillion uses a great small group exercise to help students understand the structure of introductions and conclusions. He divides the class into 5 or 6 small groups and assigns each one a speech topic from the following list:

- Child Obesity Epidemic
- Celebrity Obsession
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Fast Food
- Steroid Use
- Child Beauty Pageants

As a group, they must brainstorm three main points for the topic—they can go in any direction. They must then come up with a complete introduction and conclusion, which includes:

- A creative “Wow! Factor” attention getter--visuals are encouraged
- Credibility (they can make this up for the exercise)
- Selling the audience on the topic/establishing relevance
- A clear preview of the body

The conclusion must include a review of the main points presented, and a “Wow! Factor” ending.

Then two representatives from each group are chosen as presenters. One does the intro, the other does the conclusion. As a class we critique the performance and how well the elements were executed.

The exercise shows students that crucial elements of a presentation can be put together rather quickly, but that critical decisions and thought must be given to each element. I also use this to push students to get as creative as possible for the attention getter and moment of closure. Even though only two students from the group end up presenting, the others are the “think tank.”

This exercise usually takes an entire class period start to finish.
**Strikes, Spares, and a Few Gutter Balls...**

COM Department faculty indulged in a little friendly competition at the Orleans Bowling Center on Friday, April 8th. Thanks to Kerry Ford for organizing a great outing!!!

**DAY OF SERVICE--April 29, 2011**

Department of Communication faculty and family members proudly show off some of the items they and their students donated for troops in Afghanistan.

COM faculty spent the weeks leading up to the event soliciting donated items from their students. On Saturday morning, everyone brought bags and boxes full of desperately needed items for the troops in Afghanistan. Faculty, family members, and students spent the morning separating and counting items such as earplugs, baby wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and many other personal items. These were then boxed, labeled, and transported to the USO.

The Department would like to thank Professor Arnold Bell for organizing this event, and all the students who donated items. Soon, soldiers in Afghanistan will be the grateful beneficiary of this outpouring of generosity.
SPOTLIGHT ON...

SHERRI, STUDENT WORKER

Tell us about your past professional experience:
In my other life I am the President/CEO of Xtravaganza Upscale Event Planners. We started with a Business Networking Gala at the Bellagio in 1998 that sold out. Two weeks later I was on a plane to Detroit to do my part to help plan the “Chrysler Camp Jeep” annual event in Arrington, VA. Xtravaganza is a full service event production house. Meaning, we take care of everything in terms of putting a lot of people in one place for a reason. Xtravaganza handles venue negotiations, entertainment, food & beverage, sponsorships, security, A/V tech issues, licensing and research, budgeting and much more. Everything a client would need for a successful event, from A–Z, that way they are free to do what they do. I am also the Founder & Executive Producer of Women of Entertainment, Fashion, Music and Media, a networking group of industry insiders.

Tell us something about your family:
I am the proud parent of six children and six grandchildren. We are originally from Los Angeles, CA by way of Monterey, CA. As a military family we have moved seven times. I have lived in Virginia, South Carolina, Monterey, CA, and Kitzingen Germany. Germany was fun, the people, the language, cobblestone streets and castles, loved it.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
When I grow up I want to get some sleep. Being a returning student trying to maintain a 4.0, a business owner in this economy, a student worker and a mom is hard work. However, I do love the rewards I gain from wearing each hat every day. Maybe I’ll just take a vacation first then conquer the world.

What are your guilty pleasures?
My guilty pleasures are reading mystery novels while eating chocolate, and checking on my kid’s lives on Facebook (they made me make a page) and playing Farmville, I had to get the pink cow.

What do you do when you’re not at work or school?
When I’m not at work or school I like to travel. I hate the airport so I love to drive to California and hang out in Santa Monica or the Valley with my friends in the entertainment industry. I miss the beach.

What surprises you most about working in the Communication office with DJ?
During my first introduction to CSN as a new student navigating my way through grey areas of higher learning it was a little scary and time consuming. What struck me the most about being a student worker was how focused everyone is when it comes to the COM students, in terms of their needs, whatever they may be, and students in general who wander in with a question. Working with DJ is a blast. She is knowledgeable and steadfast in her focus on whatever project she is working on at the moment. It’s got to be done and done right. She is very thorough in regards to department business. We have great conversations on just about everything.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself?
As a returning student I had some trepidation about interactions with my younger classmates. I needn’t have felt that way. I am enjoying my time at CSN as both a student and student worker which puts me in touch with source information for my major, communication. One of my rewards has been the invitation to Phi Theta Kappa of which I am now a member. That makes the sleepless nights and the “why did the professor do that” questions worth it.

Trivia Tidbits

Can you match the communication department faculty with their trivial tidbit?

A. Whose dog is named after a character in a popular short story by Herman Melville (Bartleby).
B. What professor is from the title-starved sports town Cleveland, Ohio?
C. Who lived in New York City and worked in the World Trade Center?
D. Which professor shares the same exact birthday as Bruce Willis?
E. Who has traveled to 26 different countries?
F. What professor worked as a bilingual Santa for one Christmas season in San Diego?
G. Which professor claims Judge Judy and Teen Mom as their guilty TV pleasures?
H. Who has never seen a Star Wars movie?
I. Which professor can eat an entire box of Kraft Mac & Cheese in under a minute?
J. Who painted themselves blue for a living for several years?
K. Which professor played William Hung in the movie Akelah and the Bee?

_answers:
A. Holland  
B. Marks  
C. Fogg  
D. Cleman  
E. Ku  
F. C. Basquiat  
G. Ford  
H. Pillion  
I. Moreau  
J. Hebert  
K. McCoy

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