

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION AT FLORIDA STATE

THE COMMUNICATOR

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | FALL 2015



Garnet & Gold Scholar Society Enrollment Soars Amongst CCI Students

Each semester, the College of Communication and Information (CCI) bids farewell to a group of graduates who will go on to change the world. Within that group, a select few are inducted into the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society.

Members of the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society [GGSS] will demonstrate how they have developed their leadership, professional, citizenship and/or research skills while building collaborative relationships in the academic, local or global community. Students meet criteria in three of the five following areas: Leadership, Internship, Service, International and Research.

Students are guided by Overall Program advisors. At CCI, advisors include Dr. Steve McDowell, Ebe Randeree, Dr. Juliann Woods, Betsy Crawford and Dr. Stephen MacNamara.

Since Spring 2011, 74 CCI students have been inducted into the GGSS. 23 of those were inducted in 2015, mirroring a sharp uptick in enrollment and subsequent inductions. As of Fall 2015, 856 students were enrolled and working toward GGSS, 62 of those were CCI students. In the same semester, 288 students submitted intent to participate, 22 of which were CCI students. At the end of Fall 2015, 37 students were inducted - four were CCI students.

Garnet and Gold Scholar Society sets students up for success in the professional realm. Students interested in GGSS should



GARNET & GOLD
SCHOLAR SOCIETY

CCI Students Release Web Series Chronos

Imagine a world where time travel is possible, but not controllable. It occurs spontaneously in the form of natural disasters known as “time storms.” This is the world of the characters in Chronos, an eight-episode sci-fi web series created by a group of CCI students who founded IronZoo Productions. Thomas Adams and a couple of friends turned their idea into a DIS (Directed Independent Study) in April 2014. By the time April 2015 came around, the ambitious group had written, researched, produced, and edited the entire series with help from faculty advisor Dr. Stephen McDowell. The students who worked on the product included Thomas Adams and Colby Natal (Co-Creators), Carlos Cribeiro (Props and Costumes), Sarah Tatum (Director of Development) and David Eby (Visual Supervisor).



CCI Students Win at FL AP College Award Ceremony

In April, eight CCI students qualified as finalists for the Florida Associated Press Broadcast College Contest, held annually by Associated Press Florida. Of the eight finalists, there was one first place winner and three runner-ups in their respective categories. Shawn Davidson and Taryn Schmidt won first place for “A Fighting Spirit” in the Best Long Light Feature category, and Noah Mindel and George Schwigick were runners-up in the same category for “Behind the Curtain.” Camila Carpio and John Neiser were runners-up for Best Photo Essay in “Women’s Basketball Team Traveling Diaries.” Haley Albaum and Emily Ellison were runners-up in Best Sports for “Dominating DJ.”



FSU STARS Alliance Awarded at Annual Conference

The FSU STARS Alliance presented posters and received recognition at the annual STARS Respect Conference in August. Zombie Camps – A Girl Scout Survival Adventure took first in the Outreach category and Selecting High School Partners placed second in the Outreach category. Overall, students presented four posters in the Outreach category and two in the Planning category. Ten students in all attended the conference, which focused on the recruitment and retention of minorities and women in the computing fields. As a group, STARS Alliance works with students to broaden participation of women and minorities in computing through best practices and community building.





WISE Visits Atlanta Agencies

In August, WISE traveled to Atlanta to visit with top advertising, IT and strategy firms. Students included Kelby Mahoney, Shelby Hobbs, Courtney Lisenbee, Hannah Borck, Chelsea Schneider and Megan McGilvray. College of Communication & Information alumni at 22Squared, Chick-fil-A and State farm gave tours to WISE.

CCI Graduates Three Garnet & Gold Scholars

Members of Florida State University's Garnet & Gold Scholar Society have demonstrated their leadership, professional, citizenship and/or research skills while building collaborative relationships in the academic, local or global community. Students meet criteria in three of the five following areas: Leadership, Internship, Service, International and Research. Three CCI students were inducted over the Summer 2015 semester. Christine Dusome graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Public Relations and plans to pursue graduate school at the School of Communication in the Integrated Marketing Communication program. She interned with Taproot Creative and created an award-winning social media guide for non-profits. Milton Ramer graduated with a degree in Information Technology and plans to pursue graduate school in the same discipline. Sandy Saintilus graduated with a degree in Public Relations, accepted a PR Assistant position with Salter Mitchell and dreams of opening her own firm one day.



CCI Collaborates with Florida Indian Youth Program

Over the summer, the Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) collaborated with FSU's College of Communication & Information to put on a two week camp that taught lessons in game design, web design and coding. FIYP is a summer program that promotes increased high school graduation rates among Native American students, encourages students to aspire to higher learning beyond high school and provide an on-campus experience at Tallahassee universities. CCI students from the Florida IT Career Alliance, the IT Leadership course, the Community Outreach Group (COG) and the STARS Alliance collaborated to make this camp a success. With their help, FIYP students participated in a tour of FSU, completed a scavenger hunt that traveled from the Unconquered statute to Landis Green and learned modern and useful computer skills.



Children's Campaign a Platform for CCI Success

The Children's Campaign advocates for public policies that promote the health, education, safety and welfare of Florida's children. The program launched The Apprenticeship Center (TAC) in 2007 in support of Information Technology, Public Policy, Communications and Management in the Tallahassee community. Dozens of CCI students have gained invaluable experience through TAC. The program allows students to apply and utilize their classroom knowledge in the real world while working around like-minded people. Students interested in an apprenticeship can email a resume to resumes@iamforkids.org.



Hispanic Marketing Center Travels to Atlanta for Advisory Board Meeting

In September, students and Advisory Board members of the Hispanic Marketing Center traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for the bi-annual Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication Advisory Board meeting. Coca-Cola Co. invited participants to an informal social at Ecco Restaurant in Midtown Atlanta. Students seized the opportunity to speak to and get better acquainted with various Board members and mentors, conversing about everything from the iPhone 6s to uncertainty of the future. Students spoke to Senior Vice President of branding at Coca-Cola Co. and FSU alumna Wendy Clark, were given a tour of the Coca-Cola headquarters and met one-on-one with their mentors. The group's current focus is on the factors that influence the Hispanic Millennial throughout their career decision-making process and how traditions affect adherence to certain brand products.



Doctoral Candidate Mariam Shaikh Earns First Place



Doctoral candidate Mariam Shaikh was inspired by violent events in her home country of Pakistan to conduct research about the unique ways in which communication needs are fulfilled in less resourceful areas. Advanced media techniques can help at-risk communities develop resilience and facilitate response during violent acts, but these communities too often lack the proper resources. Shaikh's research got her first place at the October International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Using a traditional poster, an oral presentation and a narrated video presentation, she presented her research work on uses and adoption of media innovations in preparedness practices and explained how a less resourced region formulates communication strategies and tools.

Students Participate in FSUltimate, Attend USA Ultimate College Championship



In May, CCI students Christopher LaRocque, Bobby Paterson, Lisa Fitton and Carolina Gonzalez-Llanos traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin with FSUltimate as part of the USA Ultimate D-1 College Championships. FSUltimate is comprised of men and women who bring fun Ultimate events, community service and pride to the FSU community. The group has been awarded 2011 Sport Club of the Year – Women's Ultimate and 2012 Sport Club of the Year – Men's Ultimate. IMC grad student Carolina Gonzalez and Communication Science & Disorders doctoral student Lisa Fitton both participate in the women's team, dubbed Sladies (Seminole ladies). Additionally, IT undergraduate students Bobby Patterson and Christopher LaRocque play for men's team, dubbed DUF (Demented Ultimate Freaks).

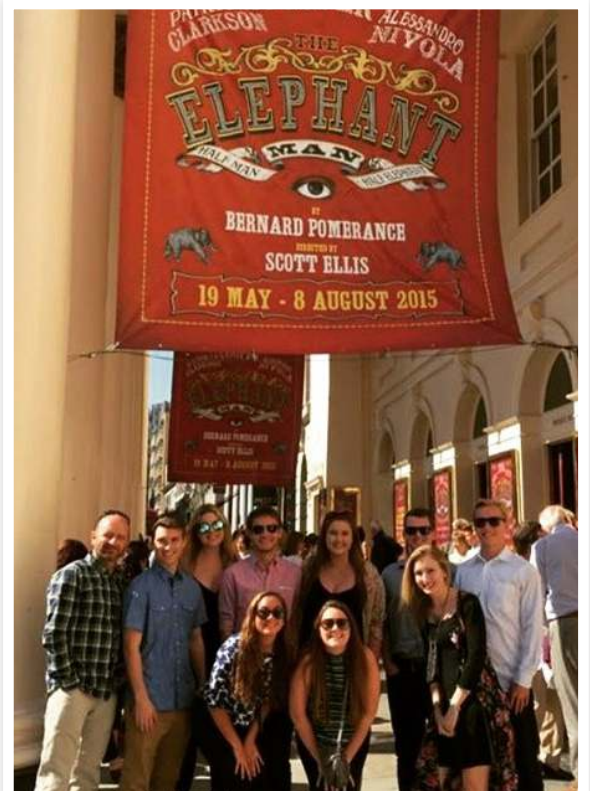
Jenny Knipe Interns at the Rachael Ray Show

In Summer 2014 with two semesters until graduation, Media Communication Studies student Jenny Knipe realized she needed an internship to boost her resume. She landed an internship with Edelman, the world's largest public relations firm, and packed her bags for a move to New York City. There, she worked in the Consumer PR Department for Dove. While in the Big Apple, she attended a networking event for professionals and students and met a Senior Producer the Rachael Ray Show. She sent over an email with a resume attached and got a call the next day. She spent her final fall semester in Tallahassee and moved back to New York City in January to intern for the Rachael Ray Show. She helped with nearly every department on the show, but mostly worked with either Production or Audience on filming days. While at FSU, Knipe was also a member of the FSU Golden Girls and a reporter for Seminole Productions.



London Calling: Zeigler & Students Take on London for the 9th Summer

Over the summer, School of Communication Professor Mark Zeigler shared his unwavering love for London with students through the London study abroad program for the ninth time. From May 3 – June 15, Zeigler, Dr. Sandy Halvorson and nine students soaked up beauty, culture and knowledge in the city. Students took two of three courses: Rhetoric of Didactic Literature, Contemporary Human Communication and Advanced Public Speaking. Students saw eight plays in the course of their six week trip, including *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *The Book of Mormon*, and *Matilda*. At *Gypsy*, the students were lucky enough to meet Imelda Staunton, who plays Professor Umbridge in *Harry Potter*. The students also got to tour the BBC Studio, the National Theatre of London and the Imperial War Museum and travel to Liverpool and Wales.





Advertising Student Andrew Greenberg Interns at Bravo TV

Advertising student Andrew Greenberg has tons of experience up his sleeve. Introducing himself to the field of communications by working at a public relations firm in Orlando before he even graduated high school, Greenberg has a vast array of knowledge of the industry. After his first year of college, he secured a position with Chatter Buzz Media as an Advertising/Marketing Intern and was soon promoted to a full-time position as Marketing Coordinator. In Spring 2014, he got into the limited-access Advertising program and secured an internship with The Zimmerman Agency, where he eventually became a Junior Content Coordinator. All of this led up to his summer internship with Bravo, where he worked in the consumer and trade departments of marketing. Set to graduate in 2016, Greenberg dreams of marketing a television juggernaut.



Meet Doctoral Student, Filmmaker Pablo Correa

When Pablo Correa was growing up, he experienced history largely by watching documentaries. Today, he's a skilled media production professional with dreams of making documentaries of his own. However, it's been a bumpy path for Correa to get to this point. In 2009, he transferred from TCC to FSU with dreams of attending the Film School. After encountering hurdles on getting into the limited access Communication programs, he decided to major in Spanish but took every communication course he could get into. While earning this degree, he met Professor David Houck. With his support, Correa applied to the Media Communication Studies graduate program and was accepted. Correa went on to complete a creative thesis on Sistrunk Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale as well as create an app documenting historical sites in Emmett Till's death. Now in his doctoral program, Correa works as a Digital Media Developer at Flip Learning and has plans to pursue independent contracts in digital media.

Digital Media Production Students Bring “A is for Armed” to YOFI Film Festival

Digital Media Production students Samantha Hunter and Cristina Fernandez recently attended the Yonker Film Festival (YOFI) in New York for their film, “A is for Armed.” The film addresses the recent Concealed Carry on Campus bill in Florida in terms of last November’s shooting at Strozier library and engages viewers in a conversation about the root issues of mass shootings, the NRA and the prospect of gun-carrying students. The film features interviews with victims of the FSU shooting, campus police officers, psychiatrists, state representatives, Florida Senator Jeff Clemens, UFF President and School of Communication professor Jennifer Proffitt and the former NRA president Marion Hammer. According to the students’ mission statement, their “ultimate goal as documentary filmmakers is to create meaningful journalistic media and spread revolutionizing knowledge...using film as a catalyst for global change.” By looking at global issues through a creative and analytical lens, the duo uses powerful cinematic effects to appeal to the masses and expose dire topics.



Two Public Relations Students Named on Homecoming Court

This homecoming season, two students from the College of Communication & Information were selected to be on Homecoming Court. Laurence Thompson and Qaree Dreher are both Public Relations students with a passion for communicating. Thompson was attracted to the PR major for its emphasis on written communication, exclusivity as a major and sense of community. After graduation, he plans to attend law school and then hopes to find a profession that strikes a balance between practicing public relations and using his law degree. Dreher chose PR as a major because of its focus on building and establishing credibility and authenticity to improve relationships. He feels invigorated by community service and development and wants to use his degree to help citizens feel like their interests are reflected within public spaces.





Student Ashley Tressel Earns Award for Paper on Media, Drones

This fall, Media & Communication Studies student Ashley Tressel received the Competitive Communication Scholarship Student Top Paper Undergraduate from the Florida Communication Association (FCA) for the paper, "Media and Drone Strikes: Understanding Newspaper Tutorials." Tressel initially got involved with her research when she joined the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) at FSU. The paper focused on the increased use of drones since 2008 and examined the issues that are emphasized by the media in the discussion of drones. To do her research, Tressel searched through the databases and coded editorials from different news sources from 2009 to 2014 according to five news frames: economics, politics, foreign policy, morality and war/military strategy.

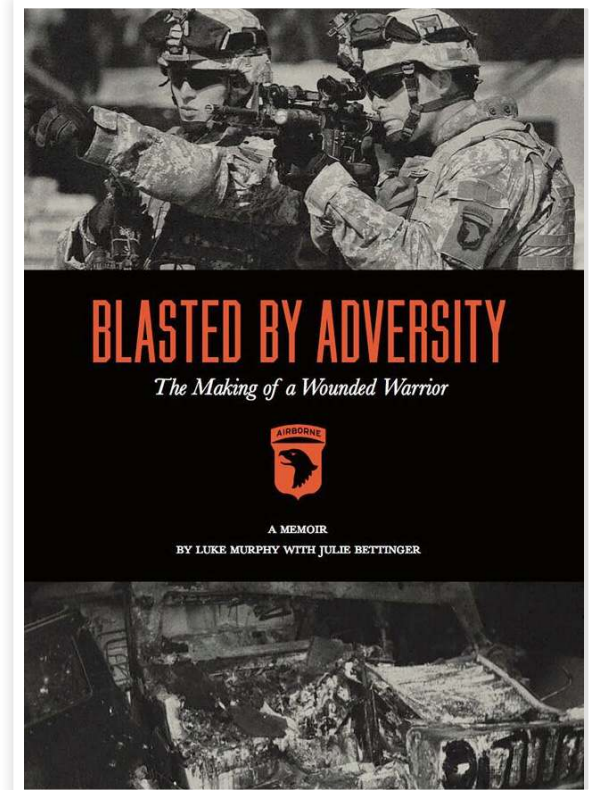


PhD Student Pablo Correa Wins Bronze Award for Film

In November, Communication PhD student Pablo Correa won a Bronze Award at the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival for his film, "The Isadore Mizell Family Legacy." The film shows the history of the Mizell family, one of the founding black pioneering families of Ft. Lauderdale. It specifically showcases Isadore Mizell, who moved his family to Broward County before it was a county. Inspired by Correa's interest in Ivory's Restaurant on Sistrunk Boulevard in Ft. Lauderdale, the film is best described as the family's firsthand account of a journey through segregation, civil rights, struggles, tribulations and triumphs. Correa had Dr. Davis Houck by his side while filming as his lead instructor and mentor. He also used skills that he learned in Dr. Andrew Opel's Documentary class and Dr. Jeannette Castillo's Graphics & Animation class.

Bettinger and Murphy Co-Authored “Blasted by Adversity: The Making of a Wounded Warrior”

On Memorial Day 2015, Luke Murphy, SSG U.S. Army-Ret. (B.S. '11) and Julie Strauss Bettinger (B.S. '83, M.S. '09) published “Blasted by Adversity: the Making of a Wounded Warrior.” The book is Murphy’s first-person story documenting his time as an Army infantryman, which included two tours with the 101st Airborne Division’s 187th Infantry Regiment. Murphy has used his injuries from an IED blast in 2006, which included an amputated right leg and severed left leg, to emerge as a key public advocate for wounded veterans. Murphy wants people to know that his injury does not define him – and he’s not joking around. He has fished for tuna on Jimmy Buffet’s boat, skied blacked diamonds in Aspen and gone back to college to get a degree, where he pledged a fraternity at age 27. The book has sold over 2,500 copies and has garnered press from around the nation.



COMM Alumna Jeanne Ford Leads Corporate Citizenship at Disney

Jeanne Ford (B.S. '81) started her impressive career in communication on the professional tennis circuit working with one of the top promoters on the professional tennis circuit. In 1996, she was recruited by Disney from the Centennial Olympic Games and continued on to help open the Disney Wide World of Sports complex, now the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. She has stayed with the Walt Disney Company, where she now works in Corporate Citizenship and oversees the Disney VolunTEARS program and Disney Ambassador Program. In addition to that, she volunteers with a myriad of other charities in Central Florida, including A Better Life Pet Rescue, Second Harvest Food Bank and Give Kids the World Village. As a breast cancer survivor, she also raises awareness and funds for breast cancer research.



Alum Nanette Schimpf Named President of FPRA Capital Chapter



Nanette Schimpf, APR, CPRC (B.S. '89) currently serves as Vice President of Moore Communications Group (MCG) and President of the FPRA Capital Chapter. Her most recent accomplishment is her promotion to President of the FPRA Capital Chapter. She has been with FPRA for over 10 years as a professional, and was a student member during her time at FSU. Working in various capacities throughout her time with FPRA, including Image Chair and Director of Professional Recognition, Schimpf has dedicated herself to the association. Aside from her degree, Schimpf's positive spirit has taken her a long way in an industry where your attitude can make or break you. Her daring goals, boundless energy and inclination to help people have been essential components to her great success.

Meet COMM Alum Mark Sirkin: Corporate Mary Poppins



Marc Sirkin (B.S. '91) has done a little bit of everything. From leading multi-million dollar campaigns for non-profits to leading a start-up called SpendBoss, Sirkin has used his interest in the Internet to the advantage of his career. After years of 70-80 hours weeks working with start-ups, Sirkin switched it up in 2001 as Director of Corporate Relations & eMarketing with March of Dimes. He built online fundraising campaigns and sent the first March of Dimes mass email. He later became VP of eMarketing at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. A few years later, he worked with Autism Speaks as Chief Digital Marketing Officer. Sirkin switches gears every 3-4, appearing when the waves are high and moving on when the sea has settled. Today, he is the CMO and Executive VP of Sales at SpendBoss. A retail technology start-up focused on optimizing spend management for retail operations, SpendBoss is the culmination of everything Sirkin wants to do.

COMM Alumna Caroline Westrup Wins Symetra Tour Golf Event

Last September, Caroline Westrup (B.S. '09) won the Symetra Tour golf event in South Dakota to secure her first professional title. With dreams of playing in the LPGA Tour, Westrup majored in Sport Management and minored in Communication. The student athlete played for the FSU Women's Golf Team and is considered the greatest golfer in FSU's history. She's the only four-time All-American and four-time All-ACC selection in history. She continually markets herself and her sport using the skills she sharpened at Florida State. Winning the event was a "life changer" for Westrup and put her in a strong position for a full LPGA Tour this year.



Social Media Aficionado and FSU Alumna Erin Schmidt Succeeds as Digital Media Director

Erin Schmidt (M.A. '09) began her career in public relations in Tallahassee at RB Oppenheim Associates. After wanting to expand her career to a national level, she came across an opportunity at Schmidt Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. and went with it. As social media director, she built the firm's in-house social media program from the ground up. The perfect challenge for Schmidt, this position allowed her to bring social media and digital offerings to national client accounts and campaigns. Now approaching her fourth year at the firm, Schmidt's role has shifted to an account management position as digital media director. She appreciated being able to bounce ideas off of the diverse and talented crew of professors and students while at Florida State and has used her experiences here to build a successful career.



FSU Alum Chris Kuhn to Publish Second Book



Chris Kuhn (B.S. '92) is a pop-culture enthusiast, FSU Communication graduate, and soon-to-be two-time author. Her first novel, the contemporary romance *The Muse Unlocked*, was published just over two years ago. In the past, Kuhn has served as an editor for local magazine *skirt!* Tampa Bay and been published in both local and national publications. Her new book, *Our Seasons*, will feature four short stories and 52 poems to symbolize one year and the influences, experiences, emotions and surroundings that make each day unique. Each story is different, but there is a unifying thread that weaves throughout all of them and makes the book flow effortlessly. One of the stories, entitled "Learning to Fly," features Tallahassee as its setting and highlights "Icarus Wings," a sculpture created by FSU MFA student Noah Z. Brock. The book is available now for Kindle from Amazon and at select independent bookstores.

Marketing Enthusiast and CCI Alumna Sabrina Torres Excels as Marketing Coordinator at Domi Station



Sabrina Torres (B.A. '15) recently accepted an exciting new position as the marketing coordinator at Domi Station. A business incubator and coworking space, Domi offers mentorships, resources and educational programs and hosts networking events. Each day is different for Torres, but she finds joy in the crazy and creative environment in which everyone is constantly creating or working on the greatest next big thing. As marketing coordinator, she specializes in social media, analyzing the company's engagement and strategizing upcoming campaigns. The strategic planning lessons that she learned within Florida State's Advertising program have proved especially beneficial to her. Torres also has an interest in film, and she participated with IronZoo Productions, the Tallahassee Film Society and the Film Club while at FSU.

Alum Toby Srebnik Becomes First In-House Manager of PR, Social Media at Truly Nolen

Toby Srebnik (B.S. '94) is a public relations and social media connoisseur. From being the PR Coordinator at the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to now being the in-house Manager of Public Relations, Social Media and Community Events at Truly Nolen, he has a ton of experience in the field. Although he didn't get into public relations until seven years after graduating, he quickly realized it was his calling after working as a PR coordinator at the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. His new position at Truly Nolen has him overseeing the company's public relations and social media strategy and tactics and helping the company gain exposure through local branches' participation in community events. Previously, Srebnik has handled Truly Nolen's Twitter and Facebook accounts, their 2009 Nevada State Insect Contest and their 2010 South Florida #MousecarParade.



CCI Alumna Tina Chadwick Succeeds as Entrepreneur, Creative Director

Tina Chadwick (B.S. '88) has been able to utilize her Advertising degree from FSU in several positions. From the internship at Coca-Cola that she secured immediately after graduation to her current position as Director of Strategic Integration at Moxie USA, Chadwick has employed her highly coveted talents in a variety of ways. She loves working creatively and working in an environment that encourages open-minded thinking and encouragement to break new ground. In addition to her corporate position, Chadwick is also an entrepreneur. She was launched Tina Chadwick Copy, Inc. when clients requested her consulting services after the agency she had previously been working at closed down. Her other business, bee well wishes, inc., was born in 2007 during her 8-month recovery from brain surgery as a specialty gift company for those in recovery or simply needing a useful gift of cheer. Chadwick's degree has provided a substantial foundation on which she has built her career.



Maggie Peterson Adds Talent to BowStern Marketing Team as Senior Director



Maggie Peterson (B.S. '11) is the Senior Director at BowStern Marketing Communications, an agency that produces innovative, memorable and results-driven campaigns for clients around the globe. Her position involves working with the account management team to provide oversight on strategy, planning and execution for client campaigns that are based in different industries all over the world. BowStern was founded by two creative-minded alumni from FSU's Public Relations program. Likewise, Peterson and BowStern alike appreciate the intelligence, motivation and passion that flow from FSU's College of Communication & Information students. BowStern was founded on the basis of results-driven campaigns, strategic vision and tireless gift and they look for forward-leaning employees who are ready to immerse themselves in projects.

Alum Jayce Hill Brings Anthropology and Filmmaking Knowledge to Honduras



One of the struggles students face when choosing a college major is narrowing down their interests. For alumnus Jayce Hill (B.S. '12), this wasn't a problem. He simply decided to pursue two of his biggest interests by choosing two seemingly very different majors: Cultural Anthropology and Digital Media Production. Hill has been able to blend his contrasting interests throughout his career. He has worked as a graphic designer, archaeologist, videographer and photographer with the National Park Service here in Tallahassee. Today, he works in Honduras with Filmmakers Without Borders. The organization focuses on bringing filmmaking and media literacy education to children from underserved communities. During his time there, he has three goals: to learn how to teach, to learn how to speak Spanish and to learn how to create films. He will wrap up next summer.

Alumna Jocelyn Givens Embraces Communication Skills as Senior PR Specialist at American College of Rheumatology

Jocelyn Givens (B.S. '08, M.S. '13) is a natural communicator and a public affairs connoisseur. As the Senior Specialist of Public Relations at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), she does everything from develop and execute the College's public relations strategy to manage its social media channels and online patient education center. She helps plan ACR's Annual Meeting (the largest scientific conference in the field of rheumatology), develops the social media content strategy for each month and writes press releases. Some of her areas of expertise include media relations, digital marketing and special events management and promotion. The coursework she completed at FSU provided her with excellent foundational knowledge of the guiding principles of public relations, marketing and advertising.



Women Share Career Advice and Experiences at WISE Breakfast

In November, the women of WISE (Women in IT/ICT Sharing Experiences) got together for a breakfast where they connected with peers in the field, learned about new employer initiatives and shared work and life advice. The breakfast featured visits from several mentors from companies such as PointCatcher and Diverse Computing. Student organizations such as WISE provide women who are interested in technology with an environment in which to develop professional skills and connect with established female business and community leaders. Many local companies are interested in keeping the burgeoning talent of technology-oriented women here in Tallahassee, and events such as this WISE breakfast help women in technology network with potential employers.



MLIS Student Teresa Temkin Interns at the Department of State in D.C.

Teresa Temkin graduated from FSU in December with her Master's in Library Science. On top of that, she interned at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. in the Bureau of European and Asian Affairs' Public Diplomacy section. She engages members of the public, think tanks and political groups in an effort to promote mutual cultural understanding and support of U.S. policy goals. At her internship, Temkin is able to leverage her entire education experience and incorporate everything that she's learned by creating surveys and utilizing research methods. She says, "At the end of the day, I feel like I have created a relationship with which to move forward, and have shattered or at least lessened stereotypes and negative views and individuals might have had about the U.S. when they arrive."



Doctoral Candidate Associate Professor Present Research Paper



iSchool doctoral candidate Jennifer Wood presented a research paper with Associate Professor Dr. Marcia A. Mardis at the American Association of School Librarian (AASL)'s National Conference in October. Entitled "Access, Skill, Policy, and Motivation: A Synthesis and Research Agenda for School Librarianship and STEM Digital Learning Resources," the paper was one of only three selected to be featured by the Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS). In the paper, Wood and Mardis presented considerations for K-12 educators' transition to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Open Education Resources (OER) and President Obama's #GoOpen education campaign.

Doctoral Candidate Amelia Anderson Wins Top Poster at FLASHA



iSchool doctoral candidate Amelia Anderson started her research on college students with autism and their experiences in libraries over a year ago. However, she has continued it over a year later because she's passionate about the work. Anderson works with Dr. Nancy Everhart on the Project PALS Grant, which works to improve information services for rural library patrons who have autism spectrum disorder. Anderson presented at the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA) Conference in Fort Lauderdale in May and won First Place Poster. Her poster, Students with High Functioning Autism and Communication through Online Forums, examined the transition from high school to higher education for students with high functioning autism. Associate Professor Dr. Brad Cox, graduate students Taylor Locks and Amanda Mintz and undergraduate students Jeffrey Edelstein and Abigail Wolz contributed to the research.

FSU Students Attend Hackathons at Universities Across US

Despite what the name may suggest, hackathon participants don't focus on breaking into databases and security systems. Hackathons are weekend-long events where teams of computer programmers, system developers, interface designers and the like come together to work on a variety of computer-related programs. In September, FSU students attended GT Hacks, the hackathon event hosted by Georgia Tech. Participants attended talks hosted by tech giants and competed for awards. The University of Michigan's MHacks also took place in September. This event focused on creation, community and mentorship in order to provide an environment in which every hacker could grow. The experience allows students to work with a team of other students who love technology. HackFSU will occur in February 2016. In the past, the event has taken place inside Dirac Science Library and has focused on valuing the learning and community aspect of the event more than anything else.



FSU Students Engage the Next Generation in Computer Sciences

A new partnership between the Florida IT Career Alliance, Leon County Schools and the City of Tallahassee has allowed FSU student ambassadors to teach computer coding skills to students from Cobb Middle School and Nims Middle School. This is an important program because it is estimated that in 2022, there will be one million more jobs available in computer science and information technology and there will be students who are pursuing those fields. The middle school students participated in the Google CS First course, which aims to equip students to be creators of applications in the future. The program also prepares students to compete in a global marketplace. The overall goal of the FITC Alliance student ambassadors is to engage students by showing them how technology is an integral part of their everyday lives.



Talking Trash: 2 FSU Students Revolutionize the Trash Bag



ICT student Toby Bresland and Electrical Engineering student Patrick Bresland graduated from FSU in August – but not before accomplishing the title of “entrepreneurs” together. The two worked with each other at FedEx and encountering issues with opening trash bags in a way that didn’t break the workflow and slow things down. However, bags that were easier to open didn’t exist. Thus, Optimal Bagging (OB) was born a quiet New Year’s Eve that turned into a brainstorm session. The initial prototype was patented shortly after, and the duo started to find their groove with help from Domi Ventures in Tallahassee. The OB team attended kickstarter events and went on to steal the show as first place in the technology category at OneSpark and received \$15,000 to further their business. Right now, OB has a second patent and Bresland is working on a unique blend for OB’s bags.

Four iSchool Students & Alums Receive ALA Spectrum Scholarship



Over the summer, four MLIS students were awarded Spectrum Scholarships by the American Library Association (ALA) Office for Diversity. ALA’s Spectrum Scholars are selected based on their commitment to diversity, commitment to entering the library profession, demonstrated community outreach, academic ability and achievements and leadership potential. Current MLIS student and scholarship winner Asa Heyward works for the Norfolk Public Library System and strongly believes that embracing diversity fosters inclusion and access to all. Jung Soo Bae works at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in Charlottesville, Virginia and plans to work as a reference librarian at an academic or research library. Nina Fernandez works at the Libraries Division-Northwest Regional Library and began working at libraries back in high school. D. Alvarez Tarver earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida and has examined how white racial identity and its ensuing supremacy create institutions to serve its needs.

IT Alumnus Sam Levine Graduates with JD from Nova Southeastern

Alumnus Sam Levine (B.S. '12), like many college students, changed his major multiple times. However, he settled on a double major in IT and Economics. After graduating in 2012, he earned a highly-coveted spot in Nova Southeastern University's law school. Last year, he graduated with his Juris Doctor degree. He is interested in practicing intellectual property law, business law, real estate law and elder law. His background in information technology is especially helpful when it comes to legal research. He has also been able to create advanced search queries for caselaw and can change formatting for intricate documents such as memoranda and demand letters on a dime. He believes that the troubleshooting skills that he learned as an IT major have helped him immediately overcome technical obstacles in his legal studies.



Adam Worrall Joins University of Alberta Faculty

Adam Worrall (M.S. '08, Ph.D. '14) recently accepted a faculty position with the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Science. He graduated from the School of Information's MLIS program and went on to pursue his doctorate in Information Studies a few years later. His research incorporated social informatics and information behavior perspectives to focus on the boundaries that may exist between online communities and the roles that individual boundary spanners and information and communication technologies (ICTs) can play in supporting information and knowledge in sharing these contexts. At the University of Alberta, Worrall teaches LIS 501: Foundations of LIS online.





Micah Vandegrift Champions Open Access Initiatives

Micah Vandegrift (M.S. '11) is FSU's first Digital Scholarship Coordinator based out of Strozier Library. Beginning his academic career in University Libraries as the Scholarly Communication Librarian, his first task was to consider how the university should react to digital, online and open research. Open access is the principle that research literature should be available online without price or permission barriers. As journals move from print to digital access, the publishers now effectively rent access to the research community – and subscription costs have been on a steady increase. Conversely, participating in open access offers high quality academic research for free to anyone with an Internet connection. Vandegrift has been a longtime advocate of open access, and he was recently cited about the embraced openness in research in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Tim Tully Leverages MLIS at Brooklyn Public Library

Last June, alumnus Tim Tully (M.S. '14) accepted a position as Business & Career Librarian at Brooklyn Public Library (BPL). On a typical day, Tim assists patrons with career and business inquiries, fosters relationships with community, economic development and government groups and travels to assist programs at BPL's 30 branches. He also assists in PowerUp!, a business plan competition hosted by BPL that helps small business owners, by helping participants find resources for business plans. While at FSU, he was a graduate assistant at the Goldstein Library and an embedded librarian at Domi Ventures. Tully says that has been able to leverage his education from Florida State in his daily efforts.



MLIS Alumna Cathy Seeds Embraces Passion for Reading as FDOE Library Media Specialist

After Cathy Seeds (B.A. '08, M.S. '10) graduated with her degree in Literature, she wasn't sure exactly what she wanted to do. However, after thinking about her life-long love for reading and desire to help others, she realized an MLIS degree was a great option. Today, she serves as the library media specialist at the Florida Department of Education. Whether she's presenting to a group of school media specialists on standards in information literacy or serving on committees that promote literacy and reading for students in grade 3-8, her job keeps her on her feet all day. To Seeds, the most rewarding part of the position is the opportunity to be part of a system that ensures that the best possible learning materials are available to Florida students. She says that she could not be more proud of Florida State and the education she received from our renowned MLIS program.



Library Science Alumna Doreen van Assenderp Retires After Career with NASA

From working in both academic and public libraries to working as a support services contract manager for NASA, Doreen Cohen (van Assenderp) (M.A. '68) has utilized her degree in a variety of exciting and unexpected ventures. She earned her B.A. in History in 1966 from FSU and then traveled to FSU's Florence Study Center from 1966-1967 for Graduate Studies in Humanities. In 1968, she earned her M.A. in Library Science. In 1988, she arrived at the NASA Ames Research Center, where she worked to support the research community. She served as the library contract manager for 10 years and the contract project manager for another 12 years. She says the best part about working at NASA was being part of an organization that benefits humankind.





Dr. Plato Smith Accepts Position as Librarian with University of Florida

Dr. Plato Smith (Ph.D. '14) recently accepted a new position with the University of Florida as the Associate University Data Management Librarian on the tenure track. Smith has been working on his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of New Mexico, where he co-authored the UNM Libraries' ACRL Assessment in Action (AIA) 2015 proposal, participated in the delivery of Research Data Services (RDS) training for graduate students and assisted with the advancement of the EarthCube Funded Projects Questionnaire. At UF, Smith will pioneer and develop a data management services program. One of the responsibilities that Smith is most looking forward to is working with library departments and experts to develop infrastructures and services that enhance access to data.



iSchool Alum Mike Silverman Joins Lockheed Martin

Hard work and perseverance have brought Mike Silverman (M.S. '15) to a highly coveted position with Lockheed Martin. As a Senior Cyber Intel Analyst, he will be putting his education, experience and certifications to good use. Silverman is no stranger to certifications – he has earned the CompTIA Security+ and GIAC GCIH certifications and is also an Associate of ISC2. In addition to his impressive certifications and education at FSU, he has also gained tons of experience. Most significantly, his time spent working in state government allowed him to learn about several different fields, such as risk management and forensics. Some of the responsibilities that will come with his new position include conducting investigations to understand the root cause of incidents, recommending appropriate remediation plans and identifying patterns in reported compromises.

MLIS Alumna Sally Smollar Announced as Finalist of School Librarian of the Year Award

Sally Smollar was selected as one of two finalists for the 2015 School Library Journal School Librarian of the Year Award. This annual award, sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, selects K-12 library professionals based on their exemplary use of 21st century tools and services in ways that encourage students to foster multiple literacies. Smollar is the school librarian at the Plumosa School of the Arts (PSOA) in Delray Beach, FL, where she also teaches digital media to third, fourth and fifth graders. She has taught her students how to use programs such as iMovie, Keynote and PowerPoint, extending to them digital skills that even their parents may not possess. She has also introduced her students to the world of law by working with the Palm Beach County Bar Association to host mock trials.



Heather & Rhea, the Therapy Team You Want to Meet

Around the time that Heather Baum graduated from the Communication Science and Disorders' undergraduate program, she adopted an English Golden Retriever named Rhea. After seeing how sweet and compassionate Rhea was with people of all ages, Baum looked into registering the pup as a therapy dog. Additionally, the Communication Science & Disorders graduate program requires research, and using Rhea as a therapy animal would help Baum fulfill this requirement. Under Dr. Lisa Scott, in Summer 2014 Baum began bringing Rhea to weekly sessions with a child diagnosed with an expressive/receptive language disorder. Grad student Kelsey Hendershott also saw the child without a therapy animal. Over several months, data was gathered to compare the child's performance between treatment conditions and to follow the child's overall growth. Baum found that the child made overall gains in both conditions, suggesting that animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is potentially beneficial in the area of speech therapy.



Delta Zeta Raises \$12K at Philanthropy Event

In October, Delta Zeta hosted their first annual Homeruns for Hearing. All proceeds benefitted the FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic as well as the Starkey Hearing Foundation, a non-profit that provides hearing aids to underprivileged individuals in third world countries. The Fall philanthropy event featured a homerun derby, a BBQ, various lawn games and a silent auction sponsored by the Miami Marlins. At the event, Delta Zeta raised \$12,620, allowing them to be well on their way to completing their second endowment with the L.L. Schendel Speech and Hearing Clinic next year. The sorority will present a check from the money raised at the event to the School of Communication Science & Disorders in January.





SCSD Alumna Kendra Scholz Sets Sights on Health Communication

Kendra Scholz graduated with her Bachelor's both in Communication Science & Disorders and Editing, Writing & Media in December 2014 – but she didn't stop there. She has continued her education with the Media & Communication Studies graduate program, where she will be able to combine her interest in health and her interest in media and its effects to become a health communication professional. While earning her undergraduate degree, Scholz participated in various research experiences, served as President of the Ballroom Dance Club and held an internship at the Southeast Review, among many other things. After receiving her Master's, Kendra dreams of pursuing her doctorate degree and becoming a professor in Florida.



SCSD Graduate Students Volunteer at Mag-Con Summer Camp

Over the summer, five graduate student clinicians in the Autism Spectrum Specialization Education and Training (ASSET) program volunteered at Mag-Con summer camp. The camp is designed to build on the curriculum of speech pathology graduate students and help them address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Along with faculty advisor Dr. Juliann Woods, students Brittany Mishrahi, Creigh Farnias, Edie Kiratzis, Ciara Long and Amanda Lopez worked with children with ASD to compare the frequency of camper's social initiations and response while playing Minecraft versus while playing various literacy-based apps on the iPad. Students and campers also participated in comic-con creation, water play and card games.

Jennifer Alcorn Runs Successful Speech Pathology Blog

Jennifer Alcorn (M.S. '07) has taken the speech pathology world by storm with her blog, Crazy Speech World. Alcorn created the blog in order to reach out to and collaborate with families and educators in the world of speech-language pathology. Additionally, she works with Leon County Public Schools with students from preschool through fifth grade. She has also been published in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's journal, the ASHA Leader. Clearly, Alcorn has taken her passion to work with children with disabilities to great heights. Alcorn was especially inspired by Dr. Lisa Scott, whom she calls a speech fluency guru and credits with teaching her how to treat the hardest communication disorders.



Alum Tanya Shores Finds Her Calling as ESE District Administrator

SCSD Alum Tanya Shores Finds Her Calling as District ESE Administrator [127 words]

Tanya Shores (M.S. '07) has always felt drawn to help and teach others. After learning about the Communication Science & Disorders program at FSU during orientation, it didn't take long for her to realize that she had found her calling – and she loves where it's taken her. Since last July, she has been a District Exceptional Student Education Administrator for Seminole County Public Schools. Her days are spent visiting classrooms, interacting with students and parents, problem solving with teachers and school administrators and facilitating solutions to support students throughout the district. She supervises several services, including speech-language pathology, audiology, educational interpreting and Pre-K ESE programs. She believes that there is nothing better than the ability to positively impact a student's ability to communicate and succeed in school.





Meet Victoria Hollar: Volunteer, Choir Singer and Speech-Language Pathologist

FSU Alum Victoria Hollar: Volunteer, Choir Singer and Speech-Language Pathologist [158 words]

When Victoria Hollar (B.S. '03, M.S. '05) was considering career paths, she was drawn to a career as a speech-language pathologist because she wanted to use her strengths in communication and interpersonal relations. Today, those skills have brought her to Halcyon Rehabilitation as the National Director of Clinical Services. She is responsible for planning, developing and coordinating clinical education to several factions of the clinical interdisciplinary team. She also develops and delivers clinical education via a variety of mediums, including in-person trainings, webinars and written resources. Hollar values her education from FSU and especially treasures the knowledge she acquired from her Neurological Bases of Communication class with Dr. Leonard "Chick" LaPointe, whose teaching style has served as the model for her own teaching style. She also appreciates Dr. Lisa Scott, whose Counseling in SLP class helped her understand the importance of looking at the patient as a whole person as opposed to only looking at the clinical aspects.

Share Your Story!

The College of Communication & Information would love to hear what you've been up to since graduating - email your updates with class year and degree to kmullen@fsu.edu.