

# CONNECTION

FSU COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

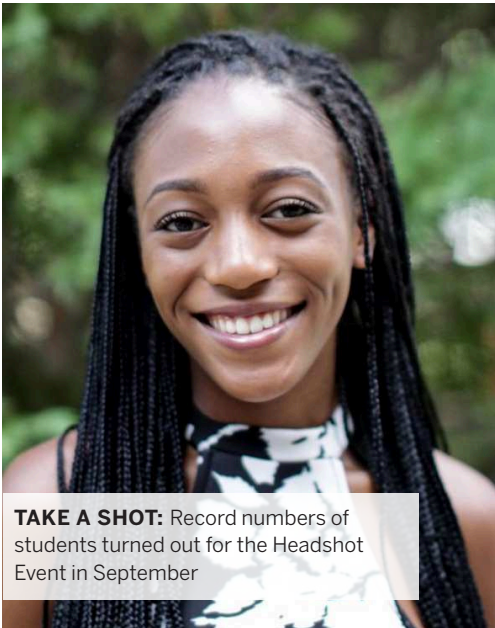
FALL  
'16



**LET'S PARTY:** CCI Holiday Party was complete with a green screen.



**YAHOO!** PR students at lunch & learn with Andy Serwer, Yahoo Finance Editor in Chief.



**TAKE A SHOT:** Record numbers of students turned out for the Headshot Event in September



**DON'T STOP RETRIEVIN':** IT student Nicolaus Lopez with unofficial CCI mascot, Suzi the Corgi.



**ON THE HUNT:** Students networked at the Career Fair in October.



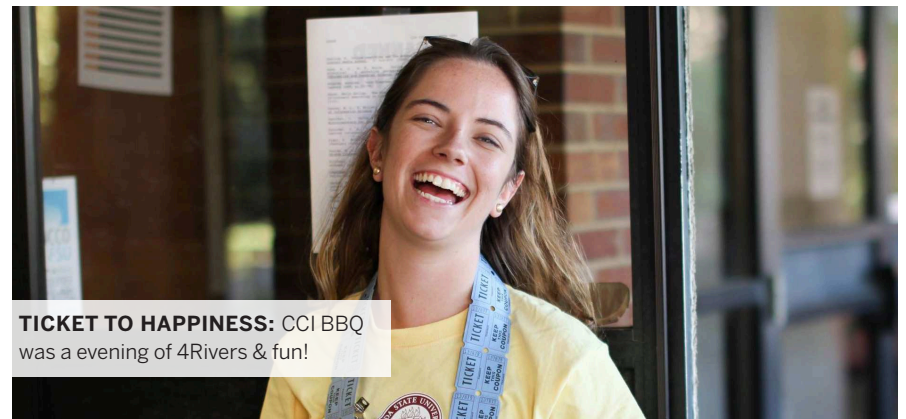
**CLUB DAY:** WVFS at Club Day in October recruiting students



**IN THE GAME:** Students visit EA Tiburon to tour office and meet with alumni.



**DAD GRAD:** Cuong Huynh with son Cameron at Summer '16 graduation.



**TICKET TO HAPPINESS:** CCI BBQ was an evening of 4Rivers & fun!

## Kopplin Finds Inspiration in Speech Pathology



With an extensive extracurricular history in vocal performance and musical theater, and an early affinity toward the medical field, it seems only fitting that **Stephanie Kopplin** (M.A. '13) ended up pursuing a career in Speech-Language Pathology. As an SLP, Kopplin works with an extremely diverse patient population with a massive array of impediments. Kopplin believes that, between her time in the Master's program at FSU and her internship, she is well prepared her for the challenges ahead. In reflection of her time in the program, Kopplin says, "The faculty empowered me as an individual and enhanced my confidence as a professional."

## American Sign Language Club Creates Community of Compassion



Senior **Francesca Reith** has taken her passion for helping others and applied it to her pursuit of higher education. As a member of the School of Communication Science & Disorders, Reith founded the American Sign Language Club. Reith says she was inspired after a Silent Dinner with the Tallahassee ASL & Deaf Club. The club has since collaborated with FSU Best Buddies to teach nonverbal communication. Reith plans to pursue a career working with individuals affected by brain-based communication disorders.



## Doctoral Candidate Recognized by ASHA

Doctoral candidate **Lisa Fitton**'s early education sparked her interest in the dynamics of language, and her work today continues to concentrate on helping students.

Her research at Florida State has the goal of understanding how we can better support minority-language speakers learning in the English-based environment of the United States. As a one of ASHFoundation's New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship recipients, Fitton is excited her research can provide solutions for a student population who's needs are ever changing.

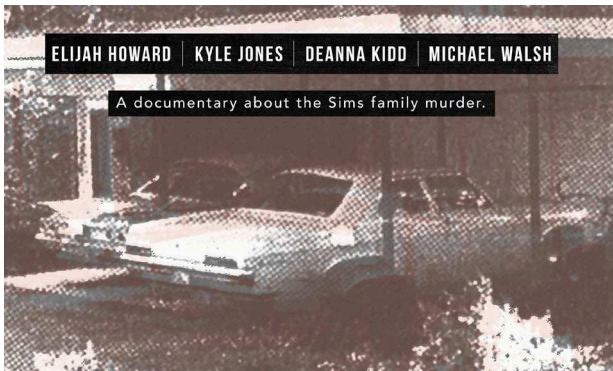




## Caleb Castro Honored as TA

School of Communication Teaching Assistant (TA), **Caleb Castro**, was recognized by the FSU Office of Distance Learning at their November awards ceremony. Castro was honored with the Online Mentoring award, and was the only TA recognized from the College of Communication and Information. The award recognized successful strategies for student support and engagement in the course materials and learning environment. As education continues to move into non-traditional spheres, it's teaching assistants like Caleb who enrich the learning environment of our students, regardless of where they are.

## Students Produce Documentary on Unsolved TLH Murder



On October 22, 1966, the Sims family of 641 Muriel Court Tallahassee, Florida were discovered murdered in their home in a crime that has remained unsolved for the last half century. On the 50th anniversary of this chilling mystery, four students in our Media Production program tell the story of the investigation, speculation, and research that has transpired around the case. **Elijah Howard, Michael Walsh, Deanna Kidd, Kyle Jones** are the documentarians behind 641 Muriel Court. The film started as a class project and evolved into investigative journalism. The group plans to show the documentary on the festival circuit.



Left bottom: Student documentarians at the premiere of 641 Muriel Court at local establishment, The Moon Nightclub. The premiere was well attended, Dr. Andy Open shared, “I have never seen this many people attend a documentary screening in my 15 years in Tallahassee.”

## Ad Students Among Top 50 Multicultural AAF Students



Since 1997, the American Advertising Federation has selected a class of Promising Multicultural Students, aiding them in their pursuit of careers in advertising, media and marketing industries. Students selected represent the top of their class and have demonstrated strong potential for future success through internships, service, leadership, innovation and creativity. Two CCI students, **Nadia Mousa** and **Wesley Paez** made the list of 50 students from across the nation. Mousa and Paez are members of FSU's advertising competition team, Arrowhead. Executives from Arc Worldwide, Bloomberg, Droga5, FCB and Omnicom Health Group selected the 2017 class.

“It is a particularly meaningful time to be selected as one of AAF's Most Promising Multicultural Students because diversity needs to be celebrated.”



Arrowhead advertising team during their Fall 2016 trip to New York City, pictured with advisor Barry Solomon. Students visited agencies: Translation Mekanism, Code & Theory, Ogilvy & Mather, Horizon Media, Droga5, BBDO, 72andSunny, Mullen Lowe, BuzzFeed, Miami Ad School, Vice, iHeartRadio & New York Times

## Seminole Productions Paves Future for Media Pro Students



It was 1987 and Florida State's football coaches were ready to switch from film to video. Working with the team was then undergraduate Mark Rodin, who was up to the challenge. Thirty years later, Rodin is the Executive Director of Seminole Productions and oversees 75-100 students who gain invaluable experience in state of the art digital production facilities. Students are invested in every part of production – directing, camera operation and even

on-air talent. Each year, Seminole Productions handles much of the production for FSU athletics, including over 100 live productions and nearly 100 television programs annually. Part of summer renovations was the ESPN quality technology for live production, making Seminole Productions' facilities one of the best in the country.

## STARS ALLIANCE RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY WORK

On April 15, the FSU Student Foundation hosted its first annual Totika Philanthropy & Service Showcase. The banquet and awards ceremony recognized organizations that are dedicated to philanthropy and service projects. Among the recipients was the STARS Alliance, an organization under CCI dedicated to increase the participation of women, under-represented minorities and persons with disabilities in IT and computing disciplines through multifaceted interventions. The group received the Spark award as an organization with no more than 25 members for its commitment to service within the greater Florida State community in 2015.

## Cybersecurity Club Rises in Ranks



Florida State University's Cybersecurity Club concluded September's Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW) Capture-the-Flag (CTF) 2016 qualifying competition with a top 25 national ranking among North America Undergraduate teams and a place in the top 10% of professional, graduate and undergraduate teams competing internationally. Their group beat out 237 North American undergraduate teams and placed 127 out of 2,060 international cohorts including professional teams and teams from Europe and Asia that were tasked with solving a slew of cybersecurity problems.

“ I was introduced to computer security competitions late last year, and I've really enjoyed being a part of the team. These are events where everyone gains experience from each other.

- Nathan Nye,  
Cybersecurity President

## Students Mentor STEM Students Across Florida



FSU STARS were on the road again, connecting current students with alumni as well as mentoring middle and high school STEM students.

Ten students **Alissa Ovalle, Kylee McPhail, Megan Mulhall, Tiffany Carpenter, Hannah Brock, Nicolaus Lopez, Andrew**

**Pendergast, Chelsea Schneider, Deanna Sand, and Allie Cannan** attended and presented at the 2016 Florida Technology Student Association (TSA) Leadership Conference last week. The FSU team worked with 419 Middle and High School students for three days, delivering 10 presentations, running five groups of 20 student teams, interacting with STEM teachers across the state, and having tons of fun!

## FSU Students Present at Annual STARS Alliance Conference



FSU students recently returned from Atlanta after presenting 6 posters, 3 lightning talks and delivering 3 presentations to computer science and technology students from 51 colleges across the country. Funded by the National Science Foundation for the past 11 years, STARS Alliance aims to broaden participation of women and minorities in computing/IT through best practices and community building. The students were accompanied on their 3-day conference by Dean Larry Dennis, Associate Dean Ebe Randeree and CCI Development Officer Mafe Brooks. Students had the opportunity to meet with multiple CCI leadership board members as well as alumni in Atlanta to talk about internships and employment. Three IT Alumni and former STARS joined the group while in Atlanta: **Megan McGilvray, Courtney Lisenbee, and Alex Lehner.** FSU STARS Alliance student Hannah Brock was recognized with the “Outstanding Corp Student” award, amongst 300+ students. Associate Dean Ebe Randeree was recognized for “Outstanding Corp Faculty Liaison” award.



### Dawn Betts-Green Named Point Scholar

The Point Foundation is the nation’s largest scholarship granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) students. This year, one of the new Point Scholars is iSchool doctoral candidate, **Dawn Betts-Green.** Dr. Don Latham recommended Betts-Green for the award. He says, “Dawn is a hardworking and gifted individual, and she is well deserving of the support that a Point Foundation Scholarship will provide.” In her doctoral dissertation, Betts-Green will be focusing on LGBTQ young adults in the context of rural libraries in the Southern U.S.



FSU STARS Travel  
**1,388**  
Miles to Talk with  
K-12 Students

In 1388 miles, 29 hours of driving, 12 stops, and 5 long days, FSU's chapter of the Students & Technology in Academia, Research & Service Alliance (STARS) was able to make a huge impact on K-12 students across the state of Florida. The team of five, led by Associate Dean of the College of Communication and Information Ebe Randeree, left with no time to recover from finals. Instead, these students chose to spend their very first week of summer break driving across the state with the goal of connecting with companies, linking with alumni, and promoting the CCI program at FSU. Throughout the road trip, the STARS team was able to speak at four high schools, reaching a grand total of 430 students. Covering topics such as engineering, graphic design, manufacturing, and IT, the team inspired connections will hopefully lead these students to one day attending FSU and start their own careers in technology.

## CCI Women Leading in Tech

Since the beginnings of the computing era, women like Ada Lovelace, Grace Hopper, and Margaret Hamilton have made significant contributions to the computing field. Yet, despite the achievements of these role models, women have historically been underrepresented in the technology industry. CCI students **Alissa Ovale, Chelsea Schneider, Val Rodriguez & Hannah Brock** are all student leaders looking to flip the script on tech. Ovale is a hackathon veteran competing in multiple events and a STARS student leader, Schneider is a Technology Student Association mentor and cofounder of travel based startup Driftour, Rodriguez is also a cofounder of Driftour

and a project manager with the Devoe Moore Center, and Brock is the president of STARS overseeing eight organizations promoting tech on FSU's campus. With the support of Tallahassee's startup community and programs like Women Wednesdays and Lean In Lunch & Learn's, CCI students and local entrepreneurs are paving the way for women in the field.



# Doctoral Grads Research, Teach Across the Nation



School of Information doctoral graduates Lenese Colson, Jennifer Luetkemeyer and Abby Phillips recently graduated from the PhD in Information program. Up next, taking the academic world by storm.

**Lenese Colson** will be joining Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia as a Lecturer in the Department of Teaching & Learning within the Darden College of Education.

**Jennifer Luetkemeyer** is joining Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. She will be working as an Assistant Professor of Library Science in the Reich College of Education.

**Abby Phillips** has accepted a post-doctoral position at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. She will be working on an IMLS grant with the Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences Department.

The CCI Seminole Nation continues to grow!



## Ellen Sends Alumna to Haunted House

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is infamous for sending her staffers into haunted houses at Universal's Halloween Horror Nights - and filming the process. Alumna **Jenny Knipe** (B.S. '15) works as a Production Assistant on the Ellen DeGeneres Show in Los Angeles, Ca. She previously interned with the Rachael Ray Show and found the fast-paced work of television was a perfect fit.



## PR Alumna Olivia Wilson Brings Skills to ESPN



**Olivia Wilson** (B.A. '14) chose public relations to prepare her for a career in journalism. Soon after starting her program, she was “pleasantly surprised” to find that branding and public relations was interesting. Today, Wilson is a Senior Publicist at ESPN, focusing mainly on media relations regarding ESPN’s action sports competition, the X Games. She’s based out of Los Angeles and travels to each event throughout the year, working on publicity.

Wilson on scene at the Winter X-Games. She credits hard work and paying attention to detail for her progression in the public relations industry.

**Her Advice to Students:**  
“All your work is not for nothing and everything will work out.  
Try to worry less.”



## Screenwriter Jamie Linden on Life, Luck and Persistence

Screenwriter and alumnus, **Jamie Linden** (B.S. '01) is best known for his screenplays, *Dear John* and *We Are Marshall*. After graduating from the Digital Media Production program, Linden traveled to California for a taping of *The Price is Right*. He won \$5,000 on the show and decided to stay in California. As time passed, Linden faced several setbacks and was considering leaving Hollywood when Warner Bros. picked up his first screenplay and offered him a deal to write a second. His second screenplay would become *We Are*

*Marshall*. Linden returned to talk to current students about his experiences and offered some perspective: “What you want to do, finds you.”



### Alumna Named Grad Made Good

**Marion Taormina Hargett** (B.A. '93) was honored during Homecoming 2016 with the Grad Made Good distinction from the FSU Alumni Association. The award is given to graduates who have embodied the Unconquered spirit and made a significant difference in their field. Hargett is a Senior VP of Olympics and Sports Sales for NBC-owned Television Stations. She leads the team that sells all of NBC & Telemundo's offerings, including FIFA World Cup, NFL, NHL and Olympics.



### Megan Bobiak Shines in Orlando

**Megan Bobiak** (B.S. '00) loved her time as a student at Florida State and continues to uphold the Seminole creed in her professional career and through her work at the Seminole Club of Greater Orlando. Bobiak credits her involvement on campus and the relationships she created to her successful advertising career. Today, Bobiak is an Account Executive with Anson + Stoner, a Winter Park-based agency, using her corporate marketing expertise to her relationships with clients.

## Catching up with Alum Michael J.A. Davis



**Michael J.A. Davis** came to Florida State to pursue a Master's in Integrated Marketing Communication, a program he credits his career success to. Today, Davis is the Brand Manager and Senior Designer at the National Institute of Health's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, a position Davis describes as being a "brand geneticist". He delves into NIH's organizational DNA and reasserts the values that contribute to how the rest of the world views the organization. Davis says each day is interesting, because he loves what he does.

Share your alumni  
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online: [news.cci.fsu.edu](http://news.cci.fsu.edu)  
and on Twitter @FSUCCI

## PR Alumna Lisette Calveiro on NYC, Storytelling & HuffPo



**Lisette Calveiro** (B.S. '14) has always liked telling stories. After graduation she turned her passion into a reality by joining the Max Borges Agency after graduating and went on to become a Contributing Writer at the Huffington Post. As an Account Executive at Max Borges Agency, Calveiro still finds time to pursue her journalistic interests, writing at Huffington Post and continuously seeking new content and creative ways to frame it through an integrated marketing lens.



## McKinley Lewis Promoted to Rick Scott's Deputy Communication Director

**McKinley Lewis** (B.S. '13) has never been without a great opportunity under way. Not long after graduating from FSU's Public Relations program, Lewis landed a job as the Communication's Director at the Florida Department of Corrections. Just recently, Lewis accepted his new position as the Deputy Communications Director for the Governor's Office. Fortunately, Lewis feels that his experience at FSU and at his previous position at the Department of Corrections has

well prepared him for his fast-paced future working directly for Governor Rick Scott. His goal is to effectively educate the public on what Florida is doing to become a national and international leader in job creation, education, and public safety. Perhaps most of all, Lewis is looking forward to this opportunity to work directly with the Governor to meet each of these goals.

## Amy Graham Brings Knowledge to U.S. Senate

**Amy Graham** (B.S. '07) has been taking the world of public relations by storm ever since stepping foot onto FSU's campus. From securing a position as a press intern in then Governor Jeb Bush's office while earning her undergraduate degree to currently working as a deputy communications director in the U.S. Senate, Graham has found her niche in governmental public relations. Her job involves helping Senator Shelley Moore Capito's voice be effectively communicated to the media and to constituents in West Virginia, planning events and helping advance important pieces of legislation. Graham has also helped manage media appearances for Governor Mitt Romney during his 2012 presidential campaign, worked as a spokesperson at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and operated as a traveling press secretary for Governor Rick Scott.

### ALUMS NAMED ON FLORIDA POLITICS' 30 UNDER 30

Each year, Florida Politics chooses 30 high-achieving "rising stars" under 30 years of age who are involved in the many facets of Florida's political sphere. The 2016 class of Rising Stars of Florida Politics, or "30 under 30," includes FSU College of Communication and Information (CCI) alumni **Drew Piers, Elizabeth Ray, Clair Van Susteren, and McKinley Lewis**. FSU's CCI program produces some of Florida's most impactful and influential communicators. Congratulations to our FSU alumni and students, and to all of the 30 chosen as this year's "Rising Stars of Florida Politics!"



## Alum Corey Saban Finds Newstation.com and TheLaw.tv

When **Corey Saban** (B.A. '93) graduated from FSU, it didn't take him long to begin his 20-year-long career in sports and news casting. He then transitioned into media coaching, and now he works as co-founder of two mass media communication companies, newstation.com and thelaw.tv. Though he has made in big in the world of mass media and communication, Saban fondly remembers where it all began: at Florida State University. Over his extensive career in the field of communication, from his first position with the FSU radio station V89 to recognizing evolving communication patterns and developing and implementing solutions to accommodate this evolution, Saban has gained a unique understanding of the field. Now, thelaw.tv has grown immensely and has even been made a member of the Florida Bar as a way to benefit lawyers across the state. Also, Newstation.com has just signed a contract with a company called Xumo, which will add Newstation as a channel option in millions of homes.

## Michael Goldberg, CEO & Alum Trains Future Ad Fighters



Alumnus **Michael Goldberg** (B.S. '88) is the CEO of Fort Lauderdale-based Zimmerman, a company that identifies less as an advertising agency and more as a retail growth machine. Zimmerman is home to a rigorous internship program, InfuZion, that teaches students to look at advertising as a creative medium that must also yield significant business results. This past summer, four Florida State students called Zimmerman home for twelve weeks. At Zimmerman, Goldberg leads the charge for growth in business, culture, talent, retail expertise, work quality and reputation. Annually, Zimmerman sees over \$3 billion in billings and employs over 1,000 people across the country. The agency has an impressive list of clients: Nissan, Party City, Dunkin' Donuts, hhgregg, Michaels and more.



## Alumni Named 2016 Notable Noles

Two alumni, **Kelly Alvarez Vitale** and **Anisha Singh**, have been named Notable Noles by the FSU Alumni Association. Formerly Thirty Under 30, Notable Noles honors and recognizes outstanding accomplishments of young alumni from Florida State University.

Kelly Alvarez Vitale (B.A. '04, M.A. '06) is President of Strategic Philanthropy in south Florida. The company is a community relations consulting firm, focused on corporate philanthropy and employee volunteer programs. Vitale is a two-time graduate of CCI, graduating from the Communication and Integrated Marketing Communication programs. After graduation, she worked for the American Heart Association before starting her own company in 2012.

Anisha Singh (B.A. '09) has led a successful law career, working as a Campaign Manager for the Center for American Progress legal progress team. Singh earned praise for winning an anti-discrimination case against the U.S. Army, representing a Sikh male who was denied joining his university ROTC program. Her case led the U.S. Army to create procedures for individuals to request religious accommodations. Singh was named earlier this year in Forbes 30 Under 30 for Law and Policy for her work. Singh is a graduate of the Communication program and received her JD the University of Virginia. Before joining the Center for American Progress, she worked for UNITED SIKHS as a Policy Attorney.

## Alumna Leads Dispute Resolution for FL Supreme Court



After studying Political Communication at FSU, **Kimberly Kosch** (B.S. '91) was ready for her journey to becoming the Senior Court Operations Consultant for Supreme Court of Florida. Today, Kosch works in the areas of policy, education, and ethics for certified mediators and other conflict resolution practitioners through her position as Senior Court Operation Consultant for the Florida Supreme Court- a position obtained as a result of the drive and ambition instilled in Kosch at Florida State. Her position not only entails long workdays, but also employs her skills in both written and verbal communication.

## Alumna Kara Hamilton Publishes Children's Book



Actress, model, and author **Kara Hamilton** (B.A. '97) graduated with a degree in Media Performance and immediately began receiving overwhelming opportunities for potential careers. After dabbling in the fields of her many talents, she decided to do something totally new with her degree: write a children's book. Entitled *A New Leash on Life*, the book provides parents with concrete tips to aid in the difficult transitional time of helping your children and dog adjust to each other. Including a Q&A section from the United States Humane Society, her book has earned 5/5 stars from both the San Francisco Book Review and Kids' Book Buzz.

## MORIAH MCLAUGHLIN JOINS MINDSHARE

**Moriah McLaughlin** (B.A. '15) only graduated last year, but she has already found major success in the communications field. Moving to NYC immediately following graduation, McLaughlin flourished as an account executive at Yelp. Last December, she moved on to a new position working as an associate negotiator at Mindshare. In this new position, she will have the opportunity to work on the national broadcast team at Mindshare, purchasing national commercial spots for General Mills.

## Meet Sarah Merrill, Business Dev at Atrium Staffing

**Sarah Merrill** (B.S. '11) leads a very busy life. Not only is she the Director of Business Development at Atrium Staffing in the bustling location of New York City, but she is also a Social Media Influencer running the account @Bigkidproblems. Having received a degree in Public Relations from Florida State as well as having worked as a PR intern at Loreal and VBH Luxury Inc., Merrill was well equipped to take on her life of social media and business development. Although her primary occupation is through Atrium, Merrill is determined to work toward her goal as a Social Media Influencer and grow @Bigkidproblems beyond the realm of



## Betty Jeanne Taylor Brings Passion for Equality to UT Austin

**Betty Jeanne Taylor** (Wolfe) (B.S. '97) has used her degree in Communication, love of writing and passion for diversity and inclusion to make the world a better place. Today, Taylor has a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from UT Austin, where she works as the Assistant VP for Inclusion and Equality. Her daily activities include responding to bias incident reports with the Campus Climate Response Team, collaborating with colleagues on research and strategizing how to navigate situations related to classroom climate issues. She takes her responsibility as an accountable member of society seriously, and believes that if you're not interrupting oppressive systems, then you're perpetuating them. Five years from now, she sees herself continuing to utilize her skills, experience and intuition as a strategic thinker to critically consider the role of institutions in higher education.





## The Science Behind Opening Happiness

**Ashleigh McDonald** (B.A. '05) was balancing two majors and volunteer work during her time at FSU, which prepared her for a fast-paced career in marketing. Getting her start at a sports marketing agency in North Carolina, McDonald credits her public speaking and presentation experience from class as a pillar to her success. Her advancement in the field saw a transition to managing brand activation at Newell Brands, where she helped build the brand's persona. Today, McDonald is the Director of Marketing Commercialization at Coca-Cola where she leads a team of channel marketing managers. "The merchandising equipment and point-of-sale material you see in the market stems from my team and I... to be a part of that is a really great feeling." •

## Kathryn Lyons Shines as FamousDC Editor

**Kathryn Lyons** (B.A. '11) has always had a genuine interest in understanding people and communicating stories. Her degree in Mass Media Communication has matched this passion to take her to great heights, allowing her to hold positions with shows like NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams and the TODAY Show. Today, the alum is the managing editor of FamousDC, a website dedicated to telling the behind-the-scenes stories of Washington, D.C. She manages the day-to-day content published on the website and helps the publication engage with an even larger presence in D.C. Her favorite part of the digital world is the reach that it has and its constant growth and evolution.

## Lt. Tanesha Tutt Prevails in Health Care Industry

**Lieutenant Tanesha Tutt** graduated with her Master's degree in 2005 with the goal of working for a public relations or advertising firm, or even using her English degree to pursue higher education. Among several applications, one of LT. Tutt's submissions was for a job as an Editorial Assistant at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. She shares, "Nine years later, I am still at the Agency and love my job immensely." Her confidence and experience from her time at FSU and as campaign leader have shaped her into the professional she is today, as well as prepared her for her future as a Lieutenant Senior Assistant Scientist.



## Dr. Sandra Phoenix Leads HBCU Library Alliance

Alumna **Sandra Phoenix** (M.S. '07) combined her passion for non-profit and social services with her passion for library science as the executive director for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance. Dedicated to developing library leaders, preserving collections and planning for the future, the organization cultivates leadership within member institutions, supports an extensive digital collection, seeks collaborative opportunities, and hosts education opportunities by experts in the HBCU Library Alliance community as well as the broader academic community. Phoenix's involvement with the HBCU Library Alliance has helped bring the organization great success, and she and her colleagues have received funding through numerous grants to pursue leadership development, mentoring programs, internships, digitization initiatives and preservation projects for HBCU special collections.



## Gina Oviedo-Martinez Embraces Library Love

**Gina Oviedo-Martinez** (M.S. '10) has lots of untraditional experience under her belt. The trilingual alumna was homeschooled during high school, lived in Mexico for three years to develop her research interests and has worked in academic, school and public libraries. Because the MLIS program is completed online, Oviedo-Martinez was able to live in Mexico while earning her degree. She found herself in a unique situation, traveling across the border to work as a reference clerk at the University of Texas Pan Am and a library specialist at South Texas College. The experience taught her about the lack of information being trickled down to new immigrants in regards to libraries, government information and college access, and helped inform her research interests and career. Oviedo-Martinez has returned to Florida and is working for Hillsborough County Public Libraries as a senior librarian while earning a specialist degree from FSU's School of Information.

## IT Alum Ryan Sullivan Thrives as Window Systems Administrator

**Ryan Sullivan** (B.S. '10) has used his degree to gain experience in a variety of fields under IT, such as infrastructure and support, technical operations and system administration. He has a passion for understanding how technology works and a deep appreciation for the benefits that users can experience from technology. He currently works as a Windows systems administrator at WestRock Company. A packaging company that supports 45,000 employees in over 200 locations domestic and worldwide, WestRock has a lot of data to keep up with. Sullivan assists them with this by helping support, maintain and administer the IT infrastructure at his location outside of Atlanta, Georgia. His primary roles include being an escalation point for Tier 1/Tier 2 groups, administering Windows Server Operation Systems and supporting the maintenance of server hardware.



## Skibicki Makes Strides at Chick-filA

**Rachel Skibicki** (B.S. '14) always knew she wanted to work for a company that focused on giving back to the community, a virtue instilled with her during her time studying Information Communication Technology at FSU. Now, Skibicki serves on the Chick-fil-A One Digital Experience team as the menu management and digital ordering support lead; the team is accredited with the development of the new CFA smartphone app. The CFA Digital Experience team meets once a week to refocus on their goal, “When you know someone’s story, you can care for them personally.” Skibicki believes in the weekly meetings, expressing that they act as a driving force for one of the most innovative projects she has ever had the privilege of serving on. Although her experience has been positive, she has experienced some difficult times with her team. According to Skibicki, one of the most challenging aspect of being a part of the team was learning that it is okay to make mistakes and “fail.”



## Community Library Manager Carol Russo Shines

As a child, **Carol Russo** (M.S. '99) spent a lot of time reading in the library. In her current position as the community library manager, senior of Northwest Regional Library, Russo can usually be found writing projects like performance appraisals, planning the opening of the new Creative Station, speaking with customers or reading and responding to numerous emails. Russo loves what she does because she knows what an integral role the library plays in the community and how much it is able to enrich customers' lives.

## Alum & Olympian Leads at Deloitte Switzerland



Information Technology alum **Cedric Nabe's** (B.S. '08) dual identity as an IT professional and Olympic hopeful has seen him travel across the world in pursuit of his goals. After graduating,

Nabe spent three years in Miami as a consultant for Deloitte. In 2010, he began training for track and field in the 2012 Olympics, traveling to training camps in South Africa, Italy and France. Today, he can be found working as a senior manager for Deloitte's business in Switzerland. He credits the creative mindset instilled in him.

## Alexis Carter Serves as Youth Services Librarian

**Alexis Carter** (M.A. '15) always knew she wanted to work with youth, but she didn't initially see herself in the library field. It wasn't until her sophomore year of college that she knew the library field would become her passion for life. Upon graduating from her undergrad at Gonzaga University in Communication and Media Studies, she began her path to a career in the library field at Florida State's Library and Information Science master's program. It was at FSU that Carter learned how to identify important and popular books for children, as well as addressing children's different learning needs.

# Alumna Finds Place with Sally Corporation



With a unique combination of skills and experience including communication, visual arts, and technology, **Frankie Ironside** (B.A. '15) perfectly prepared herself for her dream job: working for a small business that designs and manufactures interactive dark rides and animatronics. Sally Corporation has possessed the rights to major brands such as DC Comics and LEGO, installing rides all over the world at small and big name parks such as Six Flags. It was Ironside's own vision of what she wanted to do with technology that drew her to Sally, and it's also what made her stand out among other applicants.

## ICT Alum Gerard Massey on Designing a Career You Love



**Gerard Massey** (BS '13) obviously has a passion for continual learning, and that drive has taken him from intern to Director of IT at The Zimmerman Agency in the time since he graduated from Florida State University. As a student in the College of Communication and Information, Massey was interested in how technology is utilized in advertising and social media. The ICT major allowed him to combine these interests, and he credits his internship experience at Zimmerman with making him a well-rounded job candidate.

**“I think of my life and career like Tarzan, always swinging vine-to-vine – to move on to the next thing, you must let go of your current vine and grab the other.”**

## Alumna Emily Diehm Awarded Top Honor

Alumna **Dr. Emily Diehm** (M.S. '10, Ph.D. '15) is an assistant professor of speech-language pathology at the University of Toledo, and the recent recipient of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's 2016 Advancing Academic Research Career Award. The award honors young faculty members in the field of communication science and disorders by providing mentorship and funding to advance their academic and research careers. She began researching child language and literacy problems as an undergraduate in 2007 and became a speech-language pathologist after graduating with her Master's from FSU in 2010. Along with child literacy problems, Diehm's research delves into the content and pedagogical knowledge that speech-language pathologists and teachers have with respect to variation in dialect.



## Barrios Brings the Mambo to Speech Pathology



**Elizabeth Barrios** started out wanting to build things. As a student in her last year of high school in Cuba, she was preparing to become an architect or engineer, until one day she visited a school for children with behavioral disorders. Her experience there altered the course of her career, a particular teacher/ student interaction stood out.

Barrios recalls the moment as the first time she recognized the constructive power of speech pathology, "I found myself thinking about the powerful words the teacher used with the boy." The activities and exercises that the boy was completing in class fascinated Barrios as well, "in just a few minutes, I could see a positive change in his attitude." Barrios currently works in Port St. Lucie, FL, where more than 60% of the patients in her caseload at November & Associates Speech Therapy come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Drawing a connection across these groups, music has become a staple in her work.

# Spring Events

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

## SEMINOLE FUTURES

January 26, 9-12 & 1-4 @ Turnbull

## IT INFORMATION SESSIONS

January 23-25

## HEADSHOT EVENT

January 31, 2-4 PM @ Shores

## CLUB DAY

January 31, 1-3 PM @ Goldstein Library

## CCI CAREER FAIR

February 7th, 1-4 @ Miller Hall, UCC

## COMM GRAD SCHOOL WORKSHOP

February 15th, 3:30-4:30 @ UCC 4400

## HOME DEPOT HACKATHON

February 17 & 18 @ TBD

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

February 28th, 4-8 PM @ Turnbull Center

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

March 23rd, TBD @ Goldstein Library

## TALLY JOB HOP, TECH

TBD

## TALLY JOB HOP, COMMUNICATION

TBD

SUBSCRIBE TO EVENTS @ [FB.ME/CCIFSU](https://fb.me/ccifsu)  
FOR UPDATED INFORMATION & EVENTS!

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## 21 Tips for College from Mark Zeigler

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- 1.** Go to class, all classes, all lab meetings.
  - 2.** Read assigned readings before class.
  - 3.** Visit all of your professors and teachers during office hours. Prepare before you go, start an ongoing dialogue. This will help when it is time for a reference letter.
  - 4.** Go to everything you can: games, music events, theatre and dance performances, debates, films, speakers, residence hall programs, spinning classes, gathering days at the student union.
  - 5.** Establish a study location. Use it.
  - 6.** Make friends who are not from your hometown. Make friends with people who are very different from you.
  - 7.** Take classes from the hard professors. When I was not enjoying a history class my sophomore year at Stetson, my dad suggested I wasn't bringing anything to the table. He was right.
  - 8.** Exercise daily. Eat right. Sleep right.
  - 9.** Get involved, but do it because you care about the cause or the people involved. It is very easy to spot the resume builders.
  - 10.** Don't let anyone have your mind (a minister, mentor, yoga guru). Again, this is a suggestion from my mom and dad, but they are right. Think for yourself.
  - 11.** Develop a relationship with your university. Learn to love the place and do what you can to make it better. Don't be a complainer, looking for reasons to transfer. If you aren't happy at Auburn, you won't be happy at FSU.
  - 12.** Have a good attitude. Rain is an opportunity to have some fun. No parking gives you a chance to listen to some good music (get there earlier, by the way).
  - 13.** Be kind to others, say hello as you walk to class, befriend those sitting at a lunch table by themselves.
  - 14.** College is a game changer. It prepares you to handle anything that will be thrown your way in life. It is not a guarantee of success, but your life starting point will be far beyond those who choose not to go.
  - 15.** Be kind to your parents and grandparents. They aren't all perfect, but most are doing their best. It is very exciting for them when they visit. Let them enjoy it and learn to negotiate the boundaries.
  - 16.** The friends you make in college will be your friends for life. Cultivate the relationships, value them.
  - 17.** Don't drink too much. It ruins the experience. However, a couple of beers are fun.
  - 18.** Everyone will tell you this: The four years go by VERY fast. You won't believe or understand this until you are 40.
  - 19.** Your major is your choice, not your parents' decision. Choose one for which you have a blinding passion. If you do, the career and opportunities will take care of themselves.
  - 20.** And do not stress over grades. Do your best. "A" grades are earned, not a right. "B"s and "C"s happen and sometimes that is alright. The goal is to learn something. If you get a "D" or an "F", it is usually because you don't go to class or get behind early.
  - 21.** Enjoy yourself, your life. Drink coffee. Sit under a tree between classes. Have a burrito. Sing the school song. Go on a date. Read a book. Go on a road trip. Be a good person.
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