



CONNECTION

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION | SPRING 2020

I hope this newsletter finds you and those you know doing well.

As they say, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Operating high-quality, experience-focused, education programs in an environment that enables everyone to stay safe and healthy has required a great deal of flexibility and innovation. CCI faculty and staff have done that exceedingly well. They continue to innovate and are preparing to offer safe, face-to-face classes in the Fall that also serve remote instruction and self-isolated, individual, remote learners. Everyone is experiencing significant difficulties and the University is better prepared than most organizations to identify and overcome challenges.

With over two decades of experience teaching online, CCI was able to convert our classes to remote instruction. However, courses such as internships, clinical experiences, media production, and our emerging technology courses require additional effort to make sure students can work in clinics, produce live broadcasts, and build and use many forms of technology.

One way alumni can help over the next year is to help us identify internships that can be done remotely or on site. Given our economic situation, students are struggling to find internship opportunities. In our programs where internships and clinical experiences are required, unpaid internships are allowed by federal labor laws.

You can help by telling us the story of how you are managing challenges in the COVID-19 world. What are your challenges and how are you coping with them? These stories help everyone create new ways of doing things and let students know they are not the only ones having a hard time. The 25,000+ CCI alumni network creates a huge creative resource that can help everyone get through this. For its part, the College will continue to summarize and distribute these stories through social media and newsletters (hello@cci.fsu.edu). Be well and stay safe.



Larry Dennis
Dean & Professor





6TH ANNUAL SAMCS CONFERENCE VIRTUALLY FOSTERS GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Year after year, **FSU's South Asian Media and Cultural Studies (SAMCS)** conference brings world-class research to Tallahassee. Taking place on February 7, this year's event was no different. With the open theme of "Rising Voices," SAMCS connected in-person attendees to a number of scholars in South Asia through virtual presentations. Seven of the speakers completed their talks in pre-recorded video then answered questions from the audience in real time via video call. Vaibhav Diwanji, a Ph.D. candidate in Communication, is the Executive Director of SAMCS. He said, "The hybrid nature of the conference, combining in-person and virtual presentations, was a huge success and appreciated by attendees."

The School of Communication understands how difficult the situation caused by COVID-19 has been for students, faculty, and staff. Our faculty and staff are here to support our students and each other through these unprecedented, challenging times. We moved quickly to transfer our face-to-face classes to online learning environments while considering accessibility issues. We focused on providing our students with continued personal contact via Zoom, Canvas, email, and other platforms and remaining flexible to meet student needs. It is our goal to maintain the relationships we have developed with our students, to maintain a supportive atmosphere, and to continue our commitment to learning. At the same time, we worked diligently to provide the equipment and support necessary for faculty and staff to work effectively and efficiently from home. The safety and health of all of our students, faculty, and staff remain our number one priority, and we continue to find ways to encourage each other and remain engaged even though we are apart.



Jennifer Proffitt

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DEBATE TEAM SWIPES COMPETITION

FSU Forensics (Speech and Debate) Program traveled to Valdosta State University for a tournament in early February. The Individual Events team swept the competition, taking home first place in the categories of Speech and Debate Sweepstakes, Individual Events Sweepstakes, Varsity Debate, Persuasion, Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Communication Analysis, and After Dinner Speaking. FSU's Forensic Program dates back to 1887, making it one of the oldest student activities on campus.



ALUMNA HEADLINES WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



*Sharon Delaney
McCloud*

Sharon Delaney McCloud ('89, B.S. Communication) is an Emmy Award-winning broadcaster and TEDx Speaker. She opened the 7th annual FSU Women in Leadership conference with her talk, "Having a Voice, Not Merely a Seat at the Table: Powerful Strategies to Amplify your Voice."

FACULTY MEMBER SPEAKS AT YALE BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE



Chanta Haywood

Instructor **Chanta Haywood** spoke on Intergenerational Spirituality and Social Consciousness at the 2020 Black Solidarity Conference hosted by Yale University. Haywood discussed how 19th century black women preachers used their spirituality as a form of resistance.

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Like other Schools, SCSD is feeling the impact of the global pandemic, especially at the graduate level. We have approximately 100 distance learning and 65 main campus students in our graduate programs. These students are required to complete supervised clinical practicums in our speech and hearing clinic and/or in community internships. Although face to face supervision stopped on campus after Spring Break, we have been able to offer clinical training for many of our main campus students using telehealth and simulation case presentation, and we will continue this in the Summer. With a bit of innovation, our audiology staff have also been able to continue their services for clients who had been seen for hearing aids. Through a combination of curbside pickup and telehealth, the staff have been able to assist clients with their hearing, a welcome gift in this time of uncertainty. Finally, for students in outside internships, we have also turned to telehealth and simulation case presentation to complete their clinical placements for this semester. We are now rearranging curriculum demands to address potential disruptions in outside placements. While the pandemic has disrupted much of our operations, it has brought out the best in our faculty and we will continue to make the necessary adjustments to assure that we are meeting our educational mission.



Hugh Catts

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM SOARS TO NO. 15 IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

According to U.S. News and World Report's 2021 edition of "Best Graduate Schools," FSU's **Speech-Language Pathology graduate program** is among the nation's best. Revealed in March, this year's annual ranking reflected a jump of eight spots to No. 20 in the nation and No. 15 among public universities. "It's exciting to see the hard work and dedication of this group of faculty, staff, and students pay off and get recognized," said CCI Dean Larry Dennis.



NSSLHA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NIGHT TO SHINE

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs. Students in FSU's chapter of the **National Student Speech Language Hearing Association** volunteered to help at Tallahassee's 2020 Night to Shine event, witnessing firsthand the incredible impact of this event.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR PUBLISHES WORK ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT & DISORDERS



*Shannon
Hall-Mills*

Assistant Professor **Shannon Hall-Mills** had her article, "A Comparison of Prevalence Rates of Language Impairment (LI) Before and After Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Implementation," published by Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools. The work presents secondary analysis of LI prevalence rates of children in public schools before and after a statewide mandate for RTI implementation.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AWARDS SUBCONTRACT TO EARLY STEPS PROJECT

Mollie Romano, assistant professor, works with researchers at the University of Florida's Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies for the "Florida Embedded Intervention and Practice with Caregivers: Early Steps Professional Development Project." The project was awarded a \$296,723 subcontract by the Florida Department of Health's Early Steps program.



Mollie Romano

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The School of Information has been delivering graduate courses online for 24 years, so we were exceptionally well-prepared to make the transition to 100% remote offerings without much difficulty. This has allowed us to focus on student engagement outside of classes and take care of those in our community who do not have the experience and resources we do. We have been able to chat with and advise our students online, help them through the initial transition, and ensure that they are making the best choice possible as they register for summer and fall courses. Some of our faculty and graduate students are involved in the FSU Innovation Hub's face shield initiative, staff developed extensions to our emergency operations plan to ensure that we can be even more resilient in future health emergencies, and our students and alumni continue to reach out a helping hand to those in need in a variety of ways.



Kathleen Burnett

ALUMNA COMMANDS FLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS FOR US AIR FORCE

April Bradley ('18, B.S. Information Technology) is the Communications Flight Commander for the United States Air Force at Lajes Field in The Azores, Portugal. Bradley manages all information transfers inside of base or off base to places around the world. She said, "I did well in technical training after college because I had an understanding of what we were learning before the instructors started their lessons."



ONLINE MSIT PROGRAM RANKED NO. 5 IN THE COUNTRY

After being ranked No. 7 in 2018 and 2019, FSU iSchool's **online Master of Science in Information Technology program** is now No. 5 among public universities, according to U.S. News and World Report's 2020 Best Online Programs rankings. CCI Dean Larry Dennis said, "Our faculty and staff's focus on student success continues to pay off for our students and alumni."



Angiah Davis

ALUMNA NAMED DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Angiah Davis ('08, M.S. Library and Information Studies) was selected as Director of Library Services at Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia. In this position, she will

oversee the library budget, manage electronic databases, promote the library, and participate in state and national professional organizations while developing a strategic plan. "I believe in the power of WE and look forward to promoting student success," Davis said. "At the Hightower Collaborative Learning Center and Library, we want the campus and the community to view us as a resource." In addition to her exciting new position, Davis is also featured in a new book about financial literacy in libraries titled *Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools*.

DOC STUDENT AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR PUBLISHED IN PRESTIGIOUS BIOMEDICAL JOURNAL

Neelufar Payrovnaziri, a Ph.D. candidate in Information, and Assistant Professor **Zhe He** published their first paper in the Journal of American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA). The two worked together to explore the adoption of electronic health records in their paper titled "Explainable Artificial Intelligence Models Using Real-World Electronic Health Records Data: A Systematic Scoping Review."



Neelufar Payrovnaziri



Zhe He

Staying Connected While We're Apart

by Mafé Brooks, Director of Development

DEVELOPMENT



I hope that all of you, your families, friends and colleagues are staying safe and healthy during these uncertain times. I am grateful to everyone who continues to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. This COVID-19 global pandemic has certainly affected all of us, in all aspects of our lives and in unexpected ways. What we are experiencing right now is unprecedented and navigating this evolving crisis continues to be challenging. As many of you know, FSU is delivering its classes fully online and faculty and staff are working remotely. While my daily work routine is the same and our mission remains just as vital, the most challenging aspect of working from home is the physical separation from colleagues, faculty, and students. I miss our beautiful campus tremendously and the opportunity to visit and engage with you, our donors and alumni in various parts of the country. However, this travel pause has also allowed me some quality time and opportunity to reboot, rethink and reimagine the ways we philanthropically engage with our alumni and donors.

We were all set to launch FSU's annual Great Give at the end of March with multiple CCI initiatives to benefit our students in various programs when COVID-19 showed up at our doorsteps. With your guidance, FSU pivoted quickly and repurposed this year's annual giving day to align with the greatest needs of our students, especially those who do not have a network of family financial support to back them up. On April 7, the reimagined FSU's Great Give: Support Our Students (SOS) went live for 24 hours and successfully raised almost \$450,000 benefitting the FSU Student Emergency Fund and the FSU Panama City Campus Student Emergency Fund. More than 1,300 students applied for these funds, and more than 600 awards were made, with an average award of just over \$600. With the outpouring of support of approximately 2,450 donors (with 145 CCI alumni contributing to the fund), the money raised was able to help students alleviate their financial stress — from food insecurity and medical bills to technology and housing assistance. Thank you for your generosity.

While our world has drastically changed, what remains strong is our unwavering Seminole spirit and our care and connections with each other. I encourage you to reach out to us and to fellow alumni and share what you are doing during these times of uncertainty. I want to hear from you — about your stories of hope, innovation, collaborations, big and small successes, creative ideas, and more. Let us get together for a virtual morning coffee, midday break, or afternoon tea. Let us find opportunities to come together as a CCI/Seminole family and assure that none of us are going through this difficult time on our own.

Stay well and stay safe. I look forward to visiting with you when the time is right to get back on the road.



Mafé Brooks

To reach Mafé Brooks,
please email
mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu
or call
(850) 645-8312.

If you wish to continue
to make an impact on
CCI students and
programs, please visit
give.cci.fsu.edu
or
[one.fsu.edu/foundation/
donate/college/
communication-
information/
donation-form](https://one.fsu.edu/foundation/donate/college-communication-information/donation-form)

To share your story,
please email
hello@cci.fsu.edu.

CLASS NOTES & COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

Jarryd Boyd ('14 B.S.) is the Public Relations Manager for Hinge.

Scott Cohen ('72 B.S.) received the 1st Scott Cohen Torchbearer Award from the West Tennessee Academic Library Consortium.

Pablo Correa ('18 Ph.D.) is the founding Director of Digital Media and Communication at University of Saint Joseph.

Robert I. Davidson ('89 M.S.) won the Florida Historical Society's 2019 Hampton Dunn Digital Media award.

Juan R. Guardia ('97 B.S.) won the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community Outstanding Senior Student Affairs Officer award.

Rodney McElveen ('07 M.S.) is the Director of Satilla Regional Library System.

Katherine (Clemens) O'Clair ('04 M.S.) was named Associate Dean for Academic Services at Robert E. Kennedy Library at California Polytechnic State University.

Kelly O'Keefe ('91 B.S.) joined Stearns Weaver Miller's new Government and Administrative legal practice area and group.

Linda Patton ('82 M.S.) founded the Research Library at Appalachian Trail Museum in Pennsylvania.

Bayard Stern ('11 M.A.) and **Hailey Walsh** ('19 B.S.) of the FSU Office of University Communications social media team won an international CASE Circle of Excellence Bronze award for Digital Communications: Student Life - Best Use of Social Media.

SHARE YOUR CLASS NOTE

Send your update, class year and degree to:

hello@cci.fsu.edu

Please note not all updates may be printed.



The 7th annual FSU Women in Leadership conference connected students to alumni and community members with panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities.



The FSU Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication celebrated its 15th Anniversary in Miami to benefit the Betty Ann and Felipe Korzeny Endowment for Hispanic Marketing.

SEMINOLE 100 HONORS 12 CCI ALUMNI-OWNED BUSINESSES

Seminole 100 recognizes 100 fastest growing FSU alumni-owned businesses in the United States, and is hosted by the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship within FSU College of Business. In February, the third annual ceremony awarded 12 alumni from CCI:

Joe Albano – Ardent Eagle Solutions (Tampa, FL)

Terrie Glover Ard – Moore, Inc. – (Tallahassee, FL)

Amanda Karmanos Barksdale – Barksdale Custom Pools, Inc. (Crawfordville, FL)

Charles Calise – Imaginuity (Dallas, TX)

Anthony "Dave" Fiore – Fiore Communications (Tallahassee, FL)

Sharon Delaney McCloud – Walk West (Raleigh, NC)

Brian McKenna – Social Catering & Events (Tallahassee, FL)

Kimberly Pautsch – Lucky Goat Coffee Co., LLC (Tallahassee, FL)

Aaron Rich – Aaron Rich Marketing (Panama City, FL)

Brian Rode – Premiere Computer Solutions (Tallahassee, FL)

David Southall – Innovations Federal Credit Union (Lynn Haven, FL)

Matt Thompson – Social Catering & Events (Tallahassee, FL)



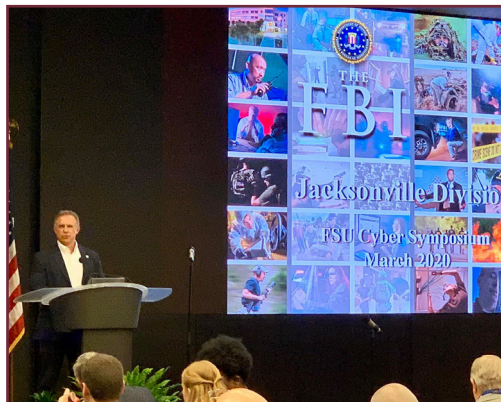
Applications for the 2021 Seminole 100 are now open! Visit seminole100.fsu.edu for details.



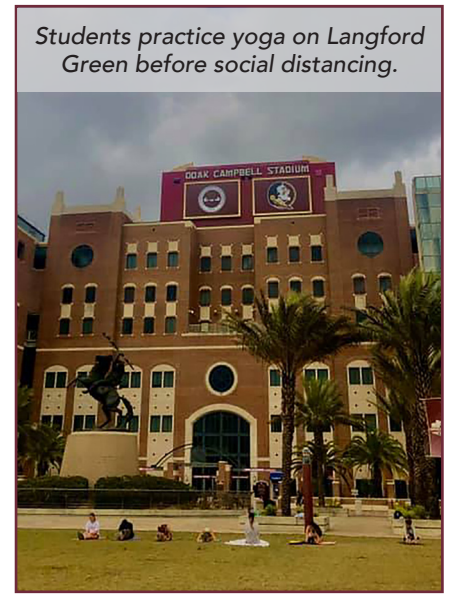
Dean Dennis (fourth from left) with 2020 Seminole 100 Honorees.



SCSD hosted a run to benefit FSU's L.L. Schendel Speech and Hearing Clinic Preschool.



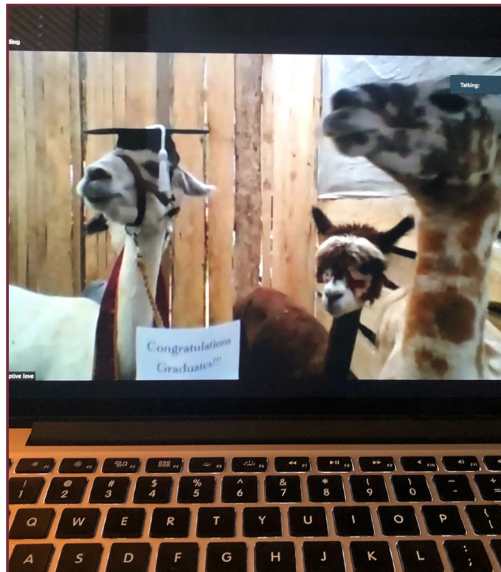
CCI partnered with the FBI and FL Tech Council for an event on cybersecurity.



Students practice yoga on Langford Green before social distancing.



Communication Professor Mark Zeigler delivered a historic virtual commencement speech for FSU's Class of Spring 2020.



Surprise guests joined students for a special farewell and recognition of grads during a final Zoom class session.



CCI shared initiatives with FL senators, representatives, and staff at Tech Day at the Capitol.



Tally Job Hop: Tech Edition exposed students to jobs and internships in Tallahassee.



Students connected with local employers at the CCI Career Fair.



The CCI Headshot Event provided students with free professional headshots.



The CCI Pie a Professor event still took place at Associate Dean Ebe Randeree's home.



STARS students coordinated events at the Florida Technology Student Association State conference.



Professor Houck delivered a speech in honor of MLK Day at the College of Wooster.

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Each of the three schools in the College of Communication and Information honored alumni who have made notable contributions to their distinguished fields.

Congratulations to the 2020 CCI Distinguished Alumni!



Cindy McGovern

'02 Ph.D., '99 M.S., '98 B.S.
School of Communication



Doreen Oyadomari

'68 M.S., '67 B.S.
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



Aisha Johnson-Jones

'15 Ph.D., '09 M.S., '08 B.S.
School of Information

ONE TRIBE, UNCONQUERED

How different this letter will be from what I would like to be writing! There is no way anyone could ever have imagined today's time—straight out of a science fiction novel! So what can CCI Alumni do to help? Of course, there is always a financial commitment. There are CCI students stuck in Tallahassee with many needs from food insecurity to housing assistance. An Emergency Fund, which was the focus of the Great Give on April 3, has been created to help them. The Great Give raised almost \$450,000; however, we as CCI alumni can do more. Just go online to give.cci.fsu.edu. Even a small amount will help!

Many of you may know a CCI student and, if so, now is a great time to personally contact them. Send some words of encouragement offering support. Let them know that they are a part of ONE TRIBE UNCONQUERED. Support should also be given to CCI Alumni whose career or business may be suffering because of the current situation. Reach out to them and offer encouragement.

We will remain ONE TRIBE UNCONQUERED!



Diane Ervin

'72 M.S.

Chair

CCI Leadership Board

