

CONNECTION

FALL 2020



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Since last March, COVID-19 has challenged how we live, work, play, and learn. The world is vastly different from what it was in January, 2020. I now run from one zoom meeting to another rather than through our hallways, the FSU campus, and even airport terminals, and I am certainly more concerned about the sound quality of my headset than my commute.

While our environment has changed, our approach to leading the disciplines and helping students has not.

CCI possesses the **expertise** to respond positively to our current challenges. Our college faculty and staff were ready to adapt to a remote context, because we have an established track record in high-quality online instruction.

You may remember or will be happy to learn that we pioneered online courses **25 years ago**. Many faculty blazed the trail for online education. Pre-COVID, all three schools scheduled online courses, certificates, and degrees to accommodate students worldwide.

When faced with the pandemic and the sudden need for radical change, many panicked. We, at the College, paused, took a deep breath, and drew from our vast experience that has benefited thousands of graduates. We expanded our high-quality online practices and innovated in an area of strength. We shared our expertise through well-attended campus-wide workshops and individual consultations.

Our objectives remain unchanged. We will continue to **provide excellent educational opportunities that build** on our pedagogical experience and innovation.

Prior to COVID-19, CCI's online programs enjoyed a 95% completion rate, and we intend to maintain that same high level of completion.

I am confident that COVID-19 has not changed CCI's focus on the traditions that have remained core to its mission: develop, support and empower faculty to prepare students for successful careers, build vital, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research efforts, and provide engaged educational experiences at the highest quality.



Larry Dennis
Dean & Professor

ALUMNA INSPIRES FUTURE GENERATIONS OF CHANGEMAKERS



Shruti Nair ('12, Ph.D. Communication) works for one of the world's largest networks of leading social entrepreneurs, Ashoka, overseeing their Youth Years program. Her research on information communication technologies and the economic empowerment of women during her time at FSU support her role at this India-based organization. She leads efforts to build a community of teens and institutional partners, supporting

Ashoka's mission to help form a society where youth can grow to become changemakers. Nair's passion for communication and social change drives her to champion this cause along with equal representation for women and opportunities for young girls.

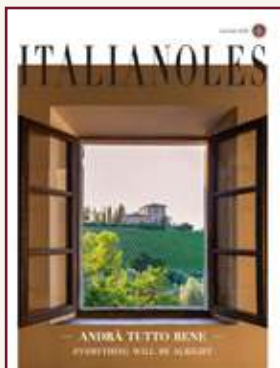
STUDENT MANAGES PUBLICATION REMOTELY AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lauren Martin, a senior media/communication studies major, is editor-in-chief of Her Campus FSU, a university-wide publication with over 120 active writers. Martin leads an executive board managing staff writers and editors who publish dozens of online stories weekly. She also plans writing and professional development workshops to provide members with tools and skills needed to prepare for their careers. But Martin's top priority is creating an inclusive community of women. In order to do this, she created an outreach coordinator position whose role is to communicate with cultural organizations at FSU in order to recruit members. "We always say that we are a publication written by college women for college women," she said. "We want to make sure that we are representing all the different faces that are present on our campus."



STUDY ABROAD PUBLICATION RELEASES FIRST REMOTE EDITION

Each semester since its inaugural year in 2017, students at FSU's campus in Florence, Italy, produce *ItaliaNoles*. With a class dedicated to creating the publication, students learn valuable editorial and writing techniques. Although study abroad programs were canceled over Summer of 2020 due to the pandemic, program alumni and faculty advisor **Patrick Merle** decided *ItaliaNoles* should continue with the publication of its first remote edition.



SAMCS PARTNERS WITH MEDIA MEET FOR INTERNATIONAL REMOTE CONFERENCE

FSU's **South Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference (SAMCS)** partnered with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) in Bangalore, India, for the international virtual conference, Media Meet 2020. With the theme of media literacy, FSU participants included faculty members **Stephen McDowell** and **Malia Bruker**, doctoral candidate **Vaibhav Diwanji**, and **Pablo Correa** ('18, Ph.D. Communication). The SAMCS/Media Meet partnership stems from the planners' connection with Media Meet organizer and FSU alumnus **Kailash Koushik** ('18, Ph.D. Communication). The collaboration expands the reach of SAMCS, an annual conference that takes place at FSU each February. The next event is February 4 - 6, 2021.

FACULTY PARTNER WITH FSU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 WITH ONLINE RESOURCE

Professor **Laura Arpan** and postdoc **Elizabeth Ray** ('20, Ph.D. Communication) work with researchers in FSU's College of Social Work on the FSU Student Resilience Project (SRP). The collaboration, begun in 2018, explores ways to enhance student well-being with an online, evidence-informed trauma resilience training tool to help students through difficult and stressful situations. As the COVID-19 crisis developed in the United States, the SRP team adapted the project to address new stressors faced by students. In addition to engaging animation, videos, and TED-talk style educational sessions, COVID-19 specific resources were added to the main page and accessible to anyone in need of help. Arpan said, "During this health crisis, we have been exploring the unique worries and stressors faced by students, particularly among those in communities who may be more adversely affected than others." Visit strong.fsu.edu for more.

DOC STUDENT RECEIVES \$10,000 ASHF SCHOLARSHIP

Doctoral student **Austin Thompson** received a New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship from the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (ASHF). The \$10,000 scholarship is given to candidates with strong plans of pursuing a career as a speech-language teacher-investigator in a university setting. Thompson was one of 15 individuals selected. After obtaining his Ph.D., he hopes to become a professor at a research-intensive university. As a researcher, he aims to advance the diagnostic and treatment practices that speech-language pathologists use with individuals with motor speech disorders such as Parkinson's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The scholarship will help Thompson as he completes the program and supports the recruitment of participants for his dissertation study.



NSSLHA DONATES 4,000+ MASKS TO TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY CENTER

FSU's chapter of the **National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)** participates in several fundraising projects to support the Tallahassee community each semester. In early September, the student organization raised enough money to donate over 4,000 face masks to Tallahassee's Kearney Center, a 24-hour emergency service center for those experiencing homelessness or economic hardship. In addition to asking for donations to NSSLHA through traditional channels, members utilized Instagram's 'stories' feature to post on their personal Instagram accounts. They raised a total of \$979.49 to purchase the masks for the Kearney Center. "I knew this year would be challenging in terms of events and fundraisers due to COVID-19," said NSSLHA president, Brooke Wadsworth. "We wanted to find a way to incorporate ourselves with a local cause that would benefit the people of Tallahassee and help out with the pandemic in some way. Donating masks to the Kearney Center was the perfect way for us to do this."

STUDENTS & FACULTY SUPPORT YOUTH LITERACY DURING THE PANDEMIC WITH PLEASE READ PROJECT

When the pandemic forced schools to close their doors to face-to-face learning, faculty and students at the **Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR)** responded to learning needs in Tallahassee. They wrote a grant proposal titled "PLEASE READ: Preventing Learning Loss At Home in Summer with Extension Reading Activities in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic." The project included a 5-week intervention to keep students engaged in literacy activities. FCRR also donated 600 backpacks filled with learning material for families of Title I first and second graders. **Lakeisha Johnson**, Assistant Professor and affiliated FCRR faculty, spearheaded the selection of children's books and the development of storybook guides used in the project. She said, "The goal of PLEASE READ was to ensure the children most vulnerable for learning loss were equipped with low-tech, engaging activities that were centered around diverse children's books and could be completed at home with families."



SAA HOSTS "ASK ME ABOUT AUDIOLOGY CAMPAIGN"

The **Student Academy of Audiology (SAA)** hosted an "Ask Me About Audiology Campaign" in October. The online initiative sought to empower members to educate the local community about hearing healthcare, the impact of hearing loss/noise exposure, and the profession of audiology. The campaign also raised funds for Porch De Salomon, an organization in Guatemala that SAA travels to each Spring to provide audiologic services.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RECEIVES GRANT FROM NIH

Associate Professor **Kaitlin Lansford** was awarded a grant in the amount of \$233,828 by the National Institute of Deafness and other Communication Disorders within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The two-year exploratory and developmental research award will support her project "Perceptual Training for Improved Intelligibility of Dysarthric Speech" in partnership with Stephanie Borrie of Utah State University.

iSENSOR LAB RELEASES "CV19 SELFDEFENSE" MOBILE APP

To encourage healthy and safe practices to help stop the transmission of the coronavirus, FSU's **iSensor Lab**, led by School of Information Associate Professor Shuyuan Mary Ho, developed an app for Android devices called "CV19 SelfDefense." Users can utilize a variety of tools including a testing center locator, symptoms checker, and news dashboard. The app's "Social Distance 'Nudge'" utilizes Bluetooth technology in order to help users practice social distancing. Via an automated or manual scan, users get "nudges" as a phone vibration or notification of other devices nearby. The app also features a quarantine monitor that helps users track personal whereabouts during a self-quarantine period. The project is part of a grant from FSU Office of Research's Collaborative Collision titled "Achieving economic normality and public health via deep learning modeling and contact tracing." It represents a larger partnership between the iSchool and FSU's Departments of Computer Science and Scientific Computing. Visit isensoranalytics.com to learn more.

PH.D. CANDIDATE AWARDED FELLOWSHIP FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES AND DISSERTATION

Christy Chatmon, a Ph.D. candidate and instructor, was named a McKnight Doctoral and Dissertation Fellowship Recipient by the Florida Education Fund. The program is designed to address the underrepresentation of African-American and Hispanic faculty at colleges and universities in Florida by increasing the pool of candidates qualified with Ph.D. degrees. To do this, the fellowship provides up to five years of support with an annual stipend of \$12,000, tuition waivers, and the coverage of other fees. Chatmon intends to use this fellowship to further her research regarding the representation of women of color in STEM fields. "With the resources the program provides," she said, "I will be able to focus on unique educational experiences and career trajectories of Black women in Computing Education."



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AWARDED JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP

Assistant Professor **Yolanda Rankin** was selected for a McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship that provides a one-year sabbatical with full salary and benefits. Rankin said, "The fellowship will enable me to (1) establish a baseline of the social capital of Black women in computing, (2) conduct multiple 'sister circles' of experiences of Black women navigating the computing ecosystem, and (3) create a digital repository of resources promoting professional development of Black women who aspire to have careers in the field of computing."



I.T. STUDENT IS FSU'S FIRST CADET TO DIRECTLY JOIN U.S. SPACE FORCE

Benjamin Johnson, a senior information technology major, is making history in Spring 2021 as the first FSU Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet to commission directly into the U.S. Space Force as a Space Operations Officer. "The lessons I've learned at FSU are what helped me decide to apply," he said. "I've developed a mindset of courage and that is something I will carry with me in the Space Force."



ALUMNA PUBLISHES BOOK CHRONICLING COVID IN FLORIDA

To chronicle a historic time, alumna **Janet Naughton** ('15, M.S. Library and Information Studies) published a book with over 60 contributors, *Pandemic in Paradise: Florida Stories from the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic*. As an academic librarian, Naughton understood that capturing the voices of people living through the pandemic while it was happening would help future generations understand how quickly our lives changed. She hopes the book will serve as a primary source for people's perspectives of the time. All proceeds from the book support the Florida Nurses Association in honor and support of healthcare workers.



It's the Season to be Grateful

A note from Mafé Brooks, Director of Development

It has been almost 9 months since I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you in person. The challenges we continue to face in 2020 have given me the opportunity to not only rethink how we continue to engage and stay connected but to also lean on and learn from many of you on how to find meaningful and creative ways to engage you with our students, faculty and programs.

I want to thank several of you who have already responded to our call when we launched our virtual development travel series earlier this fall. Dean Dennis and I “traveled” to NYC, DC, Atlanta, San Francisco, San Diego and in various Florida cities last month to hear about your career paths, where your journeys have taken you since you graduated and how you have overcome and continue to overcome the challenges of 2020. I even had the opportunity to visit with our alumni in South Korea, Japan, and Switzerland, all in a week’s time, minus the hassles of air travel and being stuck in traffic in major cities. While Zoom travel is not as personal as face-to-face visits, the conversations that transpired online were inspiring and filled with hope for better days ahead.

Our first virtual Scholars and Stars event honoring our donors and recognizing our outstanding students and faculty was successful because of your participation. Thank you for those of you who joined us. What has inspired me the most about these virtual events and conversations is that the Seminole spirit of strength, skill, character and

generosity remains strong in each of you, inspiring us to meet the challenges head-on as we innovate and adapt during these unprecedented times.

With the recent generosity of Dr. Marilyn Young and Dr. Michael Launer through a real estate gift to support the debate program and Dr. Jarred Clark’s gift to establish a fellowship for graduate students in the School of Information, CCI continues to lead efforts across campus to provide high quality education in a remote and hybrid environment, allowing students to effectively complete their academic programs and participate in experiential learning opportunities that are critical to their academic success.

I am now enthusiastically counting the days until we can meet in person. Grateful for the relationships we cherish with you, such visits, when they do happen again, will be even more meaningful. Until then, please swing by my Zoom room for a chat. My door is open.

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Sharing these few photos from pre-COVID visits with alumni. Miss you all!



*Mafé with Johnathan Butler ('15 M.S.);
New York, NY, 2018*



*Dr. Marilyn Young and Dr. Michael Launer
give real estate to debate program*

If you wish to make an end-of-year gift for tax credit purposes, contact me:

mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu
(850)645-8312

or give online:

fla.st/3kLYijf

Thank you!



*Mafé with Andres Bascumbe ('12 B.A.),
and Elaine Crepau ('73 M.S., '72 B.S.);
Washington, DC, 2019*



*Mafé with Betty Ann Korzenny (Faculty Emerita),
Alejandra Guacaneme ('13 M.A.), and Maria
Fernanda Bayona ('17 M.A.); Miami, FL, 2020*

CLASS NOTES

Daniela Agurcia ('14 B.A.) launched a jewelry company called Loulou La Mar.

Britny Anderson ('16 B.S.) is a security administration analyst at TECO Tampa Electric.

Lucille Spann Asbury ('14 M.S.) was named one of Tallahassee's Top 20 Under 40 by Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals for 2020.

Chloe Barr ('20 B.A.) is an account manager at Allison Aubuchon Communications, LLC.

Brianna Biancardi ('18 B.A.) is a production coordinator at Nickelodeon.

Bradley Wade Bishop ('10 Ph.D.) presented a paper on data management at ASIS&T's 2020 virtual conference.

Wonchan Choi ('15 Ph.D.) presented a poster during ASIS&T's 2020 virtual conference.

Michael Copeland ('09 B.A.) received the Associate Rising Star award from the Florida Society of Association Executives.

Diego Corzo ('12 B.S.) is the recipient of a 2020 Notable Noles award from FSU Alumni Association.

Ariana M. Davis ('18 B.S.) is a full-stack engineer for the Golden State Warriors.

Brett DeHart ('91 B.S.) is the new pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Augusta, GA.

Ashley Dias ('15 B.S.) was named one of Automotive News' 40 Under 40 for 2020.

Amy Dickinson ('17 M.S.) is the assistant branch manager for St. Mary's County Library System in Lexington Park, MD.

Qaree Dreher ('18 M.A., '16 B.A.) is the recipient of a 2020 Notable Noles award from FSU Alumni Association.

Sara Duff ('09 M.S.) published a book with co-author Tina Buck titled *Guidance for Librarians Transitioning to a New Environment*.

Erica Eckland ('15 B.S.) was named one of Tallahassee's Top 20 Under 40 by Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals for 2020.

Aaron Elkins ('14 Ph.D.) presented a poster about inclusive gaming communities at ASIS&T's 2020 virtual conference.

Erika Gianni ('05 M.A., '97 B.A.) is a new member of FSU's Hispanic Marketing Communication Advisory Board.

Jaime Goldman ('09 M.S.) was named president of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers.

Daniella Horváth ('20 M.S.) is the social media editor at Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty under the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Shantira Jackson ('08 B.A.) was a guest on a segment of the Amber Ruffin Show called "Journalism 101."

Jolanda Jakeyra ('15 B.S.) launched a vegan skincare line, Sanai's Skin.

Richard Johnson ('18 B.S.) is a cyber security analyst at Cognizant Infrastructure Services.

Shelly Joines ('07 B.S.) received the Executive Rising Star award from the Florida Society of Association Executives.

Trevor Madden ('18 B.S.) is a security analyst for Zoom Video Communications.

Greg Matthews ('90 B.S.) authored self-published books titled *Roses, Desires of My Father*, and *The Table*.

Chelsi McDonald ('12 B.S.) is a sports reporter for WHDH 7News, Boston.

Carson Mitchell ('15 B.A.) is a communications manager for Florida Conservation Voters.

Ana Ndumu ('18 Ph.D.) presented research on integrating immigrants into the library and information studies workforce at the ALISE 2020 conference.

Tiana Prince ('19 B.S.) is an SOC staff consultant at A-LIGN.

Elizabeth Ray ('20 Ph.D.) published a paper with FSU Associate Professor Patrick Merle on the influence of emojis on the interpretation of restaurant inspection reports.

Aaron Redda ('20 M.S.) is the youngest member to serve on the FAMU NAA-Leon County Executive Board. He is serving as fundraising chair.

Julia Skinner ('15 Ph.D.) was included in 40 Under 40 recognitions from Georgia Trend and Atlanta Business Chronicles for 2020.

Tyler Smith ('16 B.S.) is a cyber threat and forensics analyst at General Atomics.

Mega Subramaniam ('07 Ph.D.) presented research on youth digital information practices at the ALISE 2020 conference.

Margot Susca ('12 Ph.D.) is an assistant professor at the American University's School of Communication.

Kenneth Thomas ('08 B.S.) is OTT/IT operations director at the Black News Channel.

Jenn Topper ('07 M.A.) was a guest speaker about the role of media during elections for an FSU media ethics class with Professor Jennifer Proffitt.

Jennifer Whelihan ('02 M.A., '01, B.A.) received the Rotarian of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Westshore Tampa.

Shuheng Wu ('14 Ph.D.) presented a poster during ASIS&T's 2020 virtual conference.

SHARE YOUR CLASS NOTE

Send your update, class year and degree to:

hello@cci.fsu.edu

Please note not all updates may be printed.



Faculty participated in ASHFoundation's first-ever virtual 5K in August.



CCI took free professional headshots for students while following CDC safety protocols.



Katherine Perez, an SCSD master's student, was awarded an ASHA Minority Scholarship.



Under the leadership of new director Kirby Kander, Seminole Productions continues its legacy even during the coronavirus pandemic. For the first time ever, Seminole Productions controlled the ACC Network broadcast of the November 7 football game from its in-house studio.



STARS Alliance students presented outreach work at the national STARS virtual conference.



Joy Elaine Davenport ('09 M.A., '05 B.A.) received a Better Angels/Lavine Fellowship as a winner of the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for the film, Fannie Lou Hamer's America.

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Communication & Information
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You're invited!

CCI FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND

February 4-6, 2021

Virtually come back to campus! Join CCI faculty, students, staff and fellow alumni to learn about how our online learning environment provides hands-on, experiential opportunities for students.

cci.fsu.edu/family-friends-weekend

CELEBRATING STUDENTS, EVEN FROM AFAR

CCI's Leadership Board is committed to supporting and honoring the work of outstanding CCI students. Although we couldn't be in person this year, we've been fortunate to have a number of well-attended virtual events to celebrate CCI students, faculty, donors, and alumni. With support of college staff, we came together for events over Zoom. The Distinguished Alumni and Community Partners Celebration and Stars and Scholars events brought students, alumni, and friends together from across the country. I was especially impressed with the initiative of CCI's Student Leadership Council to host a diversity, equity, and inclusion event in October, where a panel of students shared their experiences with racism on campus. Students, alumni, and faculty attended the online event and had a productive discussion about steps to take to create lasting change.

For the second year in a row, the Leadership Board selected three students for our annual Student Leadership Award. The three recipients (pictured below from left to right) include iSchool senior Kathryn Manning, School of Communication doctoral student Christal Omni, and Kendall Walden, a senior in the School of Communication Science and Disorders. These outstanding students were selected for demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities and



Diane Ervin
'72 M.S.
Chair
CCI Leadership Board



have provided beneficial contributions to both FSU and their respective communities. Recipients were recognized at our Fall Leadership Board meeting and received a \$1,000 award to fund attendance at an in-person or virtual professional conference or workshop within the next year.

I am so proud of the work of CCI students like these award recipients, and many still need our support. If you are interested in engaging with CCI students and giving back to the College, learn more about our CCI Leadership Board, visit bit.ly/CCILeadershipBoard.

As always, go 'Noles!