

# THE CONNECTOR

FSU COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION



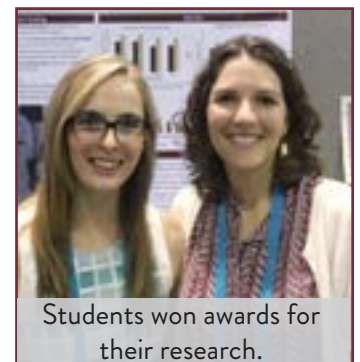
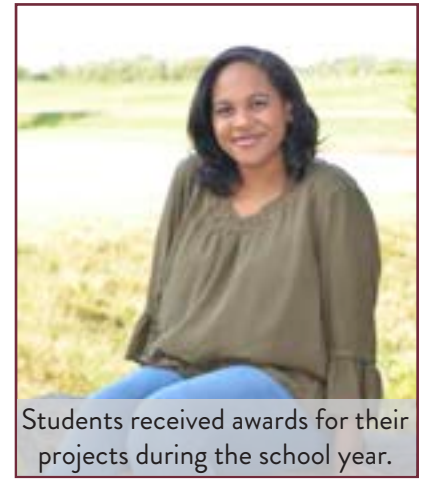
SPRING 2021

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# VIRUTAL HAPPENINGS



# CCI ALUMNI NEWS

## CCI ALUMNI-OWNED BUSINESSES SELECTED FOR SEMINOLE 100

Florida State University's Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, part of the College of Business, virtually hosted the **2021 Seminole 100 Celebration** on Thursday, February 18. The event recognized the 100 fastest growing FSU alumni-owned businesses in the United States. The fourth annual ceremony honored 11 alumni from the College of Communication and Information (CCI):

- **Aaron Rich** – Aaron Rich Marketing (Panama City, FL)
- **Joseph Albano** – Ardent Eagle Solutions (Tampa, FL)
- **Amanda Karmanos Barksdale** – Barksdale Custom Pools, Inc. (Crawfordville, FL)
- **Charles Calise** – Imaginuity (Dallas, TX)
- **David Southall** – Innovations Federal Credit Union (Lynn Haven, FL)
- **Kimberly Pautsch** – Lucky Goat Coffee Co., LLC (Tallahassee, FL)
- **Brian Rode** – Premiere Computer Solutions (Tallahassee, FL)
- **Brian McKenna** – Social Catering & Events (Tallahassee, FL)
- **Matt Thompson** – Social Catering & Events (Tallahassee, FL)
- **Christopher Hooks** – Spotless Logistics Commercial Cleaning services (Pensacola, FL)
- **Sharon Delaney McCloud** – Walk West (Raleigh, NC)

Congratulations to all our Seminole 100 honorees.



# CCI

## STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

### VIRTUAL COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASES STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



On February 4-6, 2021, the College of Communication and Information (CCI) hosted its first virtual CCI Family and Friends weekend. The event provided an opportunity for students and their families meet faculty, staff, students, and alumni from the three Schools within CCI: School of Communication, School of Communication Science and Disorders, and School of Information.

The six-hour event was divided into 12 Zoom sessions over three days, and offered meetings with CCI Dean **Lawrence C. Dennis**, faculty from all three schools, students, and advisors. **Ken Baldauf**, Director of FSU Innovation Hub, and **Kirby Kander**, Director of Seminole Productions, offered virtual tours of their facilities and presentations on experiential learning opportunities. CCI Leadership Board members, who are alumni of the three Schools, shared their FSU and career experiences.

Throughout the event, CCI's focus on student success through engagement and involvement came through as a consistent theme. For example, some students from the School of Communication shared their experiences working with faculty on thesis projects for **Honors in the Major**, on the **Ad Team**, and as student ambassadors, while students in Information discussed research they conducted as part of faculty-led research teams. The School of Communication Science and Disorders demonstrated how their students incorporate their learning into clinical practical settings.

Many hours of time and talent went into the preparation and execution; thanks to all for a successful event, and we look forward to the next one.

### CCI STUDENTS RECOGNIZED WITH UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Students from the College of Communication and Information were recognized at various Spring 2021 events for outstanding accomplishments throughout the semester and school year.

**FSU's Leadership Awards Night** honors students, faculty, and staff each Spring with an awards ceremony hosted by the Division of Student Affairs. The following CCI students were recognized:

- Academic Leadership Award recipients
  - **Abigail Ellis** and **Kristen Fessler**
- Global Citizen Award recipient
  - **Hanya Noussier**
- President's Undergraduate Humanitarian of the Year Award nominee
  - **Jaya Smith**

Additionally, 12 CCI students were selected for the Torchbearer 100. A program which recognizes change-making student leaders. The following undergraduates were selected for this distinction:

- **Mackenzie Aranda**
- **Bridget Duignan**
- **Kayla Gallagher**
- **Kathrine Gibson**
- **Emily Gordon**
- **Georga Guzman**
- **Nicole Kelly**
- **Ni'A Landon**
- **Emily Logan**
- **Jenna Leval**
- **Kathryn Manning**
- **Hanya Noussier**

Congratulations to all university award recipients from CCI.



# CCI STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

## 31 CCI STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO GARNET AND GOLD SCHOLAR SOCIETY

The **Garnet and Gold Scholar Society** is a prestigious designation undergraduate students can earn upon graduating. These students submit a synthesis reflection project before graduating to be inducted, reflecting on their experience in three of five engagement areas: international experience, internship, leadership, research, and service. Recognizing outstanding involvement and well-roundedness, the Garnet and Gold Scholar designation celebrates students who excel beyond the classroom.

The College of Communication is proud of the 31 undergraduate students inducted into the Spring 2021 Garnet and Gold Scholar Society class

Abigail Ellis	Glennetria Harold	Mary Gerety
Alexa Kaufman	Grant Gibbs	Meredith Freeman
Amanda Prozeralik	Isabella Escobar Osorio	Rachel Corry
Brooke Brennan	Jenna Ward	Rachel Levenbaum
Cameron Chisolm	Jenny Ralph	Samantha Klupchak
Danielle Hovespian	Julia Williams	Savannah Tindall
Emma Metzler	Kate Manning	Shannon Wichmann
Gabriella Bellamy	Kathryn Coorneveld	Sophie Nelsen
George Guzman	Kelly Newbrough	Sudney Grossman
Gisele Martin	Lauren Martin	Summer Cortes
	Lexi Boynes	

## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT VIRTUAL CCI HONORS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

Each spring, the College of Communication and Information (CCI) hosts the **Honors and Awards Program and Reception** to celebrate the academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to service of our students and faculty.

For the first time ever, this event was held virtually, via Zoom, where awardees and their friends and families were able to honor their accomplishments from near and far. At its peak, over 230 Zoom users attended the event on April 1, 2021.

Congratulations to all of our students and organizations who received an award.

Briana Acevedo	Diana Ferguson	Krista Parrinello
Areannah Agathe	Anthony Fernandez	Kathy Perez
Louis Akkermans	Kristen Fessler	Carolina Perez
Obianuju Aliche	Keisey Fumero	Austin Reichart
Hany Alsalmi	Jacob Garcia	Blair Reid
Hyerin Bak	Mallory Glaser	Asif Shaikh
Martin Barbieri	Kaye Grandstaff	Jaya Smith
Elizabeth Bennett	Audrey Hendrix	Jillian Speck
Kaitlyn Bludau	Madeline Hill	Meng Tian
Lexi Boynes	Erica Hope	Savannah Tindall
Kassidy Monique Charles	Danielle Hovsepian	Jennifer Vasbinder
Lenoir Clancy	Svitlana Jarosyznski	Tara White
Aryanna Clark	Nicole Irene Kelly	Muhamad Prabu Wibowo
Rachel Corry	Shirin Khambalia	Shannon Williams
Chelsea Crosslin	Ni'A Landon	Rheannah Wynter
Matthew Cusic	Emily Leto	Qijia Zang
Anabel Daugherty	Sabrina Linares	Director's Ambassadors
Vaibhav Diwanji	Naomi Lopez	FSU Chapter National Student Speech,
Abigail Ellis	Paige Lovell	Language & Hearing Association
Johanna Eugenio	Lucia Maldonado	(NSSLHA)
Lori Feingold	Kathryn Manning	Blacks in Computing
	Kelly Newbrough	
	Cassie Nicolace	
	Lauren Olmsted	

## CCI FEATURES NINE STUDENT-FOCUSED PROJECTS FOR FSU'S GREAT GIVE

On March 10, the College of Communication and Information (CCI) participated in **FSU's 10th annual Great Give**. For this year's Great Give, CCI was raising funds for nine student projects:

- Arrowhead Advertising team
- Debate Now, More than Ever
- Mark Zeigler Excellence in Public Speaking Education
- For a Brighter Future – Center for Hispanic Marketing
- Come Learn & Play with Us – Preschool Playground (Communication Science and Disorders)
- School of Communication Excellence Fund
- STARS Leadership Initiatives
- Students First – ALA Student Chapter
- WVFS-V89 33 Years of Radio Programming

Thank you to everyone who donated, and we will see you for next year's Great Give.



## EIGHTH ANNUAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CONNECTS STUDENTS VIRTUALLY



On Monday, March 8th, the College of Communication and Information (CCI) hosted the annual **Women in Leadership Conference** as a part of Women's History Month, joining an international effort to highlight female leaders.

To facilitate a virtual setting for the conference, CCI partnered with live stream and media consultant Christine Souders to execute livestreams of the event on both Facebook and YouTube as we continued to build on our guiding theme: "Learn, Inspire,

and Engage." Our speakers and interviewers were all CCI alumni and students with the addition of our honorary alumna, WFSU's Kim Kelling, a strong supporter of our programs. The streaming sessions were watched by 50-60 viewers throughout the five hours and the conference's recording reached over 392 views.

In her reflection, interviewer and alumna **Mary Carson Mitchell** said that the "FSU College of Communication and Information instilled in me a curiosity for all things 'comms' and Melissa Angel and I talked about how a CCI degree in Media Studies gave us a wide array of skills and interests in our field. You can make a difference in how we communicate change both globally and here at home in Tallahassee, FL."

"I really enjoyed participating in the Women in Leadership Conference for a second time," said student attendee **Isabella Escobar**. "I had the opportunity to live post on Instagram throughout the event and enjoyed listening to all of the sessions learning everything from embracing change to living uncomfortably."

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of this event. We look forward to returning to the FSU Turnbull Conference Center next year with a face-to-face event that brings us back as a community to meet in person, to shake hands, connect, and engage.

## STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH AT THE 2021 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



30 College of Communication and Information (CCI) students presented their research projects at the **2021 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS)**, an annual showcase for students of all majors to present their work to a wider audience.

This year's URS was hosted on Whova, a conference management app that allowed students to speak alongside their posters virtually on Zoom while engaging with members of their respective break-out rooms.

During their presentations, CCI students discussed their findings with the over 800 URS attendees.

"Being able to present the research that my fellow students and I worked on was a very rewarding experience," said student presenter **Kelly Newbrough**. "I learned so

many skills working on these projects and I enjoyed being able to discuss what I learned and answer questions about my findings during the event."

This year's URS was a major success for CCI students as each student got to showcase their hard work to a wide audience and have their projects recognized.

"The Undergraduate Research Symposium was a wonderful experience overall," said student presenter **Nicole Kelly**. "Having the opportunity to present our semester-long research to peers, educators, and the public was truly an honor. The event allowed us to interact with attendees, answer questions about our research, and receive thought-provoking feedback that can be used to further improve our work in the future. I am so grateful for the opportunity to present at URS."

# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION ALUMNI NEWS

## SHANTIRA JACKSON BECOMES EXECUTIVE STORY EDITOR FOR NETFLIX'S "BIG MOUTH"

As a guest on the FSU COMMversation podcast, **Shantira Jackson** ('08, B.A. Media and Communication Studies) recalled her time at FSU and how it impacted her current career. She spoke about her time as a journalist and how she eventually made the switch into the entertainment industry.

Jackson recalled her time as a Media and Communication Studies major with fond memories of connections made and experiences gained. Some of her favorite experiences include her work with WVFS as a sports broadcaster and the strong connection she formed with her favorite professor, Dr. Jennifer Proffitt.

"Dr. Proffitt always said, when tasked with writing to a broad audience you must always be sure everyone, from every walk of life, can understand and react to your message," Jackson remembered. "It shouldn't matter if the person reading it has a doctorate in physics or never finished the eighth grade, they should be able to comprehend your main points and form their own opinion from there."

Jackson quickly applied such writing principles in her career. After finding early on that journalism and broadcast media wasn't the work she wanted to be doing long-term, she shifted her focus towards the entertainment industry to thrive into the accomplished professional she is today. As the new Executive Story Editor for the award-winning Netflix show "Big Mouth," Jackson emphasized the importance of being authentic in a creative role. "You might want to be great like the Beatles, but nobody is better at being great like the Beatles than the Beatles themselves, so be great at being you," she explained. "People want content that is fresh and authentic, and no one has ever lived exactly like you before. Leave your own mark on the world, not someone else's."

## ALUMNA RETURNS FOR CLASS PRESENTATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

**Melissa Angel** ('16, M.S. Media and Communication Studies) had the opportunity to speak in Dr. Stephen McDowell's Comparative Systems of Mass Communication class.

Her presentation titled, "Building Transnational Connections and Projects," reviewed her time working for the United Nations and encouraged students to expand their horizons.



## MARION HARGETT RECOGNIZED AT 2021 INSPIRE AWARDS

**Marion Hargett** ('93, B.S. General Communication) was one of four alumni honored with an **Inspire Award by the Florida State University Alumni Association**. This award honors women of distinction who have proven to be leaders in their industry. As the Senior Vice President of Agency Partnerships and National Sales at Ampersand, Hargett is innovating the TV industry by developing ways for brands to reach their target audience.



## ALUMNA CREATES FSU MUSIC INDUSTRY LINKEDIN PAGE



Communication student and Director's Ambassador, **Jessie Colegrove**, had the opportunity to catch up with Communication alumna **Samantha Kane** ('19, B.A. Public Relations) who created a LinkedIn group for FSU students hoping to break into the music industry.

"Over the last couple years and even more so this year, I've had a bunch of students reach out to me to ask about my journey and any advice for getting into the industry," said Kane. "The more people reached out, the more I thought about what I wish I would have had when I was trying to get into the industry. I wanted to give students something I didn't have. A networking group where they could easily connect with alumni in the industry. An internship/job board where they could find companies that they may have never even known about! Also, being an alumna, new to the industry, and always looking to learn, I wanted a place where I could connect with fellow alums in the industry. I've had so many help me along the way, I wanted to be able to help others too."

Kane's biggest advice to students hoping to work in the music industry is to network. "Don't be afraid to reach out to someone about an opportunity, even if nothing goes anywhere," said Kane.



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

## ARROWHEAD ADVERTISING ENDS SUCCESSFUL 2021 COMPETITION IN SEMI-FINALS AFTER VICTORIES AT DISTRICT LEVEL



**FSU's Arrowhead Advertising** virtually competed in the semi-finals of the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) sponsored by the American Advertising Federation (AAF). Students were tasked with creating an integrated marketing campaign for the popular dating app, Tinder. Although the team did not advance onto the final round, they chose to celebrate their previous wins and a successful academic year.

"Arrowhead has been a beacon of light for me this school year," said **Janelle Altamirano**, a student on the team. "We have come together to create an amazing campaign and friendships to last a lifetime. This win (editor's note: the district's win) only solidified what I had known this entire year – that there is no other team with as much heart as Arrowhead."

Members of the 2020-2021 Arrowhead Advertising Team:

Sean Flynn, Jake Lenze, Evangelina Alonso, Janelle Altamirano, Valerie Esquivel,

Courtney Gifford, Maidson Jozsa, Axel Lagergren, Elle Menzel, Carter Montgomery, Hanya Noussier, Anastasia Novitski, Paxton Perry, Morgan Pinna, Zoe Risch, Isabella Serrano, Martha Sizemore, Jordan Wiener, Jessica Zide, Avery Centrella, Madison Getgood, Andriana Peters, and Graduate Faculty Advisor Cassie Nicolace.

## FSU HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL SAMCS CONFERENCE

On February 4-6, Florida State University virtually hosted its seventh annual **South Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference (SAMCS)**. This year's theme, "South Asia: Beyond Borders," focused on sharing the various aspects of the increasing global influence of South Asia. Communication doctoral student **Zaibhav Diwanji** directed the conference and recruited a skilled group of students and thought leaders in South Asian studies to speak at the event.

For the first time since the conference's beginning, SAMCS partnered with the **Media Meet conference**, hosted by the Department of Media Studies of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) in Bangalore, India. The partnership stems from planners' connection with the Media Meet organizer and FSU alumnus **Kailash Koushik**, who is now an assistant professor at CHRIST.



## STUDENTS BUILD RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SKILLS WITH HONORS IN THE MAJOR PROGRAM

Many communication students are opting to complete an **Honors in the Major Thesis (HITM)**. Twelve students within the school are currently completing the HITM, making them the largest group to do so in the school's history. By choosing to earn HITM, students complete a research thesis or creative project in their major area of study under the guidance of a faculty committee. The committees help the students in the process of selecting a topic, developing a prospectus, and completing a written document based on their research or creative project. Students then defend their thesis orally before their committee.

**Rheannah Wynter**, a digital media production major, is developing a creative project with **Malia Bruker** as her mentor. In the spring of 2020, Wynter began brainstorming ideas for a short documentary project, but experienced many barriers as the COVID-19 pandemic played out. Adapting quickly and with the help of her mentor, she chose a new format for her project that was more plausible given a global pandemic.

"I pursued completing an Honors in the Major project because I wanted to be involved in every aspect of filmmaking, rather than just the few roles I normally fulfill," said Wynter. "I think it's the best way to build a relationship with the mentors you've admired, especially during the pandemic. It's great to have that one-on-one work with your professors. It can be challenging to pursue a project of your own, but you don't quite know yourself until you do which can be very rewarding."

# COMMUNICATION STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

## FSU DEBATE TEAM DOMINATES THE BLAZER VOL CLASSIC

The **Florida State University Debate Team** captured second place in the IPDA Blazer Vol Classic, a debate tournament hosted by Valdosta State University. Nicole Sandoval, a sophomore at FSU, made it to the final round and debated the University of Florida's Debate Team, losing a tough round on a 2-1 decision. On the way to the final round, Sandoval won four single-elimination rounds debating topics surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and other current political issues. In addition to being finalists at the Blazer Vol Classic, the Florida State Debate Team also received awards for their preliminary success. Senior Grace Findley received a second-place speaker award and sophomore Nicole Sandoval received fifth-place.

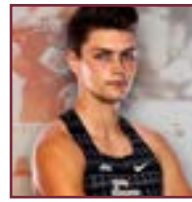
## COMMUNICATION DOCTORAL CANDIDATE IS TWICE PUBLISHED



Doctoral Candidate **Christopher Garcia** had his research published in the Environmental Communication academic journal. His paper titled "Elite Company: Sourcing Trends in 2014-2017 Prestige Press Climate Change Editorials" examined the sourcing practices of climate change editorials published by several high-profile newspapers between 2014-2017. Garcia was also published in The

Political Economy of Communication. His paper titled "'Betting on Women': A Feminist Political Economic Critique of Ideology Sports Narratives Surrounding the WNBA" investigates women's basketball and the struggles they encounter while trying to play domestically and internationally.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT NAMED ACC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Senior Public Relations student **Trey Cunningham** was named **Men's Indoor Track and Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year** by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). He is the first athlete to win four straight titles in the 60-meter hurdles and is one of four male athletes in ACC

history to win four indoor gold medals in any event.

Academically, he posted over a 3.938 grade point average for the Fall 2020 semester and made it to the Dean's list for both the 2020 Spring and Fall semesters. Cunningham is one of 12 FSU athletes to be recognized by the ACC in 2020.

## DOCTORAL STUDENT LEADS PROJECT ON MASK WEARING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Tracy Ippolito**, a School of Communication doctoral student, was selected to present at the 2021 FSU Fellows Forum for her work titled "Mask Wearing During the COVID-19 Pandemic as an act of Civic Engagement." Faculty members Jessica Wendorf Muhamad and Patrick Merle as well as fellow doctoral student Pooja Ichplani helped with the project. Together they investigated the impact of messaging that encourages civic engagement among university students and how that communication occurs during times of crisis. Their goals were to better understand and maximize the efficacy of health communication strategies during a public health crisis.

## ARTICLE ON INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIPS EARNS COMMUNICATION STUDENT OUTSTANDING DIGITAL REPORTING AWARD

**Erika LeFlouria**, a junior Media Communication Studies major, was one of two recipients of the **Outstanding Digital Reporting Award** at the 2021 North Carolina A&T Short Course Program for her article discussing the interview between Oprah Winfrey and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The article titled "The Interracial Impact of the Meghan and Harry Interview," discusses the interview between Oprah Winfrey and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, and shares reactions from other interracial couples around the United States.

The program is a four-day course that teaches students more about the journalism industry and connects them with mentors across the United States. Sponsored by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the NBCU Academy, this program separates students into different sections, so students learn to specialize in certain reporting areas.

"Interracial relationships are such a beautiful topic and learning the pain that Meghan went through because of love, I decided to seek out the stories of others who don't have a platform as big as hers," said LeFlouria. "By bringing in the American draw to a British discussion, I began looking for subjects who voiced their opinions via social media and used the connections I have to find subjects."

LeFlouria's goal was to model her subjects after the Duke and Duchess, interviewing couples with one black woman and one white man. She wanted to show the variety of interracial relationship experiences through her article in order to add to the importance of her message.

"By learning the stories of these black women, I learned the struggles and the joys that come from what should be a simple thing: love," said LeFlouria. "By allowing these average couples to share how impactful and familiar the Oprah Winfrey interview was for them, I wanted to help the audience fully understand just how powerful that interview actually was."

"To be recognized for my hard work and research in this short course program meant a lot to me," said LeFlouria. "For two weeks, I stressed and gathered interviews for this article, staying up until 2:00am to get the article complete and perfected. Editing for a couple hours the next day while balancing classes, it felt like my work would never end. In the end, it felt good to know that my hard work had paid off."



# SCHOOL OF INFORMATION ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNUS WORKS REMOTELY WHILE TOURING THE COUNTRY



**Gilberto Parada** ('13, B.S. Information Communication Technology) has always had a knack for adventure. When March 2020 came around and his job switched to remote operations, Parada saw this as an opportunity to go his next big adventure through America.

"I set sail on a Jeep Wrangler with a few off-road add-ons, an LTE receiver, and portable lithium battery," Parada said. "The route? Baja, California, Mexico, to Mt. Hood, Oregon, along the Pacific Coast then east to Glacier National Park, and south through Idaho to the Rockies. From there, south to New Mexico in route to Florida for the holidays.

Over the span of 13 weeks, Parada traveled across 14 states staying mostly in his Jeep Wrangler's rooftop tent, rental properties and U.S. Forest cabins. His days consisted of setting up internet and solar panels, a light breakfast, and finding a good place to work for the day. An early start would ensure enough daylight to hit the road and find a place to settle in for the night.

"These 13 weeks have shown me a new approach to finding happiness and fulfillment," Parada said. "Landscapes were truly awesome, but the joy of living free, removed from the chaos, in control of my own environment was the most energizing and exciting part of it all."

In the future, Parada hopes to build an "adventure van" that is better suited for these types of expeditions. His goal is to assemble a photography series that reveals the essence of all the places he saw.

## ALUMNA PUBLISHES BOOK ON SERVING STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



**Julia Skinner** ('15, Ph.D. Information Studies) and iSchool Professor **Melissa Gross** have collaborated to publish a book titled, *Underserved Patrons in University Libraries: Assisting Students Facing Trauma, Abuse and Discrimination*. The book serves as a collection of stories from contributors who have experiences with underserved patrons on college campuses, especially those facing

trauma, abuse, and discrimination with the goal to teach readers practical skills that they can use in their work.

## ALUMNA SHARES EXPERIENCE WORKING ON NEWLY RELEASED MEMOIR



**Elaine Crepeau** ('73, M.S. Library Science, '72, B.A.) has had a lengthy and diverse career of 47 years as a professional librarian, archivist, and information consultant both in the United States and Japan. She has spent the past five years working on the memoir of J. Blanton Belk, the founder of Up with People, a nonprofit organization he started

in 1965. The memoir titled, *J. Blanton Belk: it's an unfinished world, and it's still in the making...* was successfully published on August 21, 2020.

## ALUMNA SPEAKS AS PART OF SRYGLEY LECTURE SERIES



On February 24, 2021, iSchool alumna **Dr. Amelia Gibson** gave a presentation as part of the iSchool's Srygley Lecture Series.

Her presentation, titled "Prefigurative Information Politics: Strategies for Survival, Resilience, and Liberation" reviewed her research on

information poverty and marginalization.

## ALUMNA IS FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S RESEARCH LIBRARIES

As part of **Women's History Month**, the New York Public Library (NYPL) recognized iSchool alumna **Ann Thornton's** work in revolutionizing the leadership in the library system. Thornton was the first woman to serve as Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Library's Research Libraries. As Mellon Director, she had a vision for expanding the Library's resource-sharing networks to increase access to collections for NYPL patrons, and also to reduce barriers to access. She was a trailblazer for the NYPL and brought the noble institution forward.

# SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

## IT STUDENT AWARDED GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program** is an international learning initiative created by the U.S. Department of State to encourage students to study or intern abroad. iSchool IT student **Alex Bustamante** was one of eight FSU students selected for this prestigious program and will be using his award to travel abroad over the Summer semester barring any COVID restrictions.

## DUAL DEGREE STUDENT COMBINES PASSIONS FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Senior **Suzanne Raybuck** is pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in Editing, Writing and Media and Information Technology. After starting her freshman year as an IT major, Raybuck found that she missed engaging with literature like she did in high school, leading her to pursue a dual degree in English. Studying both spheres of learning led Raybuck to begin her research on digital humanities where she is now investigating digital narratives and the methods of 21st-century writers use to create and publish their work.

## SPRING ALUMNI LEADERSHIP SERIES BUILDS INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Florida State University's undergraduate **Information Technology (IT) Leadership class** has a tradition of hosting 4 to 6 alumni each semester as part of an effort to introduce students to potential career options. However, due to travel restrictions caused by COVID-19, **Ebe Randeree**, Associate Dean of the College of Communication and Information (CCI), transformed the class from in-person presentations to virtual discussions with alumni from all across the nation, coining it as the **Alumni Leadership Series**.



This semester, the Leadership Series expanded to include more alumni speakers from across the United States working in various career fields, allowing students to view a variety of career options.

"This semester's leadership series was a great opportunity to connect with leaders at various companies in the US," said Information Communication Technology (ICT) student **Brandon Tottle**. "I really enjoyed learning how our speakers succeed in a remote workspace."

**Oliver Veras**, an IT student in the class, boasted about his experience, saying, "I really enjoyed how diverse the cast of speakers was, not just in terms of who they were and where they came from, but also in the actual roles that they filled within their companies. It didn't really matter what your career aspirations were; Ebe invited a speaker that you could relate to and gain some insight from."



ICT student **Jenna Ward** learned more about potential careers through the series. She explained that "when people think of IT jobs, they might think of tech support or web development or people just sitting in front of a computer from 9 to 5 every weekday, but there is so much more beyond that. There is a job in IT and communications for every type of person and there is plenty of creativity and collaboration involved."

**Sydney Sawyer**, an ICT student gained some clarity from the Leadership Series. "Before this series, looking through job postings for 'entry-level' positions in my desired field was intimidating, but hearing graduated students speak about their experiences in the workforce made my aspirations feel obtainable," said Sawyer. "It was also comforting to hear that employers do not expect us to know everything when we are hired. I loved how the speakers invited showcased a variety of careers throughout the semester. It was interesting to see how many career options there are for someone with degree in IT or ICT."



"I love the speaker series because I got to ask recent graduates real questions about real topics," said ICT student **David Williams**. "That level of access and honesty isn't commonly found. The speaker series definitely helped me get a job, and it's helping me in my current role."

For ICT student **Shannon McWaters**, the Leadership Series was instrumental in her starting her career. After reaching out to an employer who spoke as part of the Alumni Leadership Series, McWaters secured a position at Brandt Information Services after graduation. "I would say the Leadership Series was extremely helpful in gaining insight into the employment process from an employer's perspective," said McWaters. "I had the opportunity to speak with multiple employees and recent graduates about what was important and how to stand out in the employment process."



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS STUDENT & SCHOOL NEWS

## JSLHR PUBLISHES STUDY ON DYSARTHIC SPEECH BY FSU DOCTORAL STUDENT



On February 17, 2021, the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research published work by SCSD doctoral student **Megan Hirsch**. The paper is titled “Generalized Learning of Dysarthric Speech Between Male and Female Talkers.” The paper was completed as part of Hirsch’s master’s thesis and marks their first-authored publication. Hirsch wrote the manuscript for the publication while balancing rigorous

coursework during their first year in the doctoral program.

“Previous research has shown that listeners can improve their understanding of speech produced by talkers with dysarthria through perceptual training,” said Hirsch. “However, what previous research has not shown is whether generalization of learning is constrained by the talker’s sex.” Hirsch’s research addresses this gap by investigating how a talker with dysarthria can generalize to another regardless of sex.

Thompson’s mentor and SCSD Associate Professor, **Yungjung Kim**, spoke fondly of her time working with him. “Austin has worked with me on various research projects focusing on the relationship between acoustics and kinematics in people with Parkinson’s disease,” said Kim. “I am sure that the scholarship from ASHF not only provides financial support for Austin’s doctoral studies and dissertation, but also reinforces his aspirations.”

## STUDENT RESEARCH ON STROKE VICTIMS AND APHASIA WINS POSTER COMPETITION



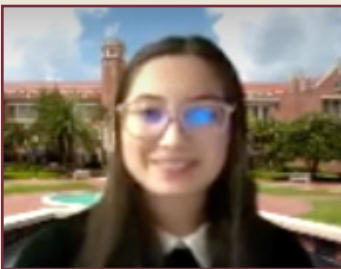
**Ashley Archer**, a graduate student working with Faculty Affiliate **Elizabeth Madden**, Ph.D., was one of six graduate students to win the Institute for Successful Longevity’s (ISL) Student Poster Day competition. Archer’s poster and presentation, “The Effect of Cognitive-Linguistic Load on Gait Performance in Persons with Aphasia,” summarized her work so far on victims of

stroke and the problems they have with aphasia, the diminished speech ability that afflicts many stroke victims. Archer looked at how the demands of speech can cause problems with walking in some people with aphasia.

“The results of this study suggest that caution may be warranted when engaging in dual-task activities with individuals with aphasia,” Archer said. “After stroke, up to 73 percent of people fall during the first six months after being discharged home. I believe these data reinforce the relevance of this study, as persons with aphasia from a result of stroke may show gait disturbances.”

Archer is continuing this examination of the effects of cognitive-linguistic load and walking in her graduate-level work. “I want to further understand how aphasia might influence the dual-task activity of talking and walking,” she said.

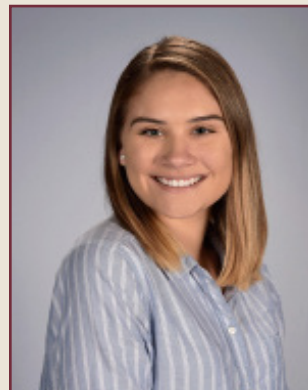
## STUDENT PLACES THIRD IN MI4 COMPETITION



SCSD master’s student **Briana Acevedo** placed third in the **2021 Master’s in Four (MI4) Competition**. Her video, titled “Emergent Literacy Training for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss,” showcased her research on literacy interventions for parents and

children. Her study evaluated parents as they read to their child with hearing loss to gather information on how to better support children who are learning how to read.

## STUDENT NOMINATED FOR HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Jaya Smith** was one of 12 FSU students to be nominated for the **President’s Undergraduate Humanitarian of the Year Award** sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Social Change. The award was created to recognize the outstanding community contributions and humanitarian actions of FSU undergraduate students.