



## A Note from the Dean

As a public university, service to the community is one of our top priorities. Whether that service is in the short-term or long-term, and whether that service is focused locally in Tallahassee, FL, or meant to impact people across the globe, our College is dedicated to expanding and improving its community outreach.

In this issue, we highlight some of our recent efforts to connect with communities in our geographic region. These efforts include a five-week "iCamp" in Tallahassee, which taught high school students critical tech skills, a filmmakers' workshop in Sumner, MS, which taught high school students about digital media production, and volunteer work in Orlando, FL, where students and faculty in the School of Communication Science & Disorders conducted hearing tests on athletes, coaches, and unified partners of the Special Olympics USA Games.

Our students learn about their academic and professional fields through applied service, and the connections they form during these experiences often help them make transitions into their professions. We hope that the desire for learning and community service stays with them long after they have graduated.

The strong connection of public universities to the communities they serve is an asset we value tremendously and work to cultivate and strengthen. We hope that the stories in this issue will help explain some parts of what we are doing, and also why we are reaching out to our communities.

Thank you again for your support, and please let us know about service activities and opportunities.



Stephen McDowell  
Interim Dean

**CONNECTION IS GOING DIGITAL NEXT SEMESTER!**

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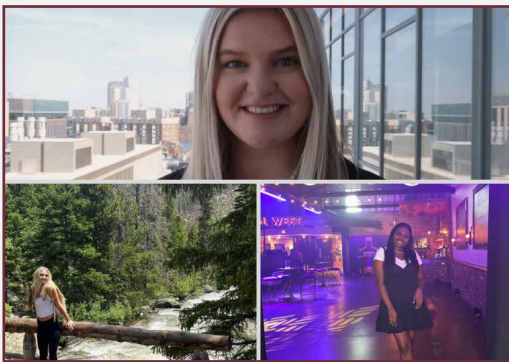
# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

## COMMUNICATION ALUMNA DR. ANIA RYNARZEWSKA FUNDRAISES TO HELP UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Dr. **Ania Rynarzewska** (Ph.D. '12) is supporting Ukrainian refugees with the proceeds collected by her business, Lux Leonis Skin Care. "When I first started the fundraiser, it was about Ukrainian refugees in general," said Rynarzewska. "Now, it is also about very specific refugees as my family has opened our (Polish) home to refugee families. Being so far away from my family and friends in Poland who are helping in every way possible made me feel useless. Doing the fundraiser gave me a new sense of purpose." Ania's drive to help others was evident even during her undergraduate studies as a PR major. "Dr. Gilbert, Dr. Grise, and Dr. Rayburn taught me that businesses need to serve communities and do good, and Dr. McDowell and Mark Zeigler taught me that you can be a quiet leader with a heart."



## PUBLIC RELATIONS SENIORS GAIN HANDS-ON COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY



This summer, students in the School of Communication completed internships throughout the nation. **Taylor Arnold** interned for the United Launch Alliance in Denver, Colorado, where she managed communications for a rocket launch and a STEM outreach event. **Savannah Gribbin** interned with Hundred Stories PR in Manhattan, New York, where she honed her public relations skills as she worked through the ranks to serve as Social Media Manager. **Kylee Mukeba** completed her internship remotely with the PR firm Taylor and was invited to attend a business trip in Atlanta. Professor Dr. Elizabeth Ray underlined the value of internships for students, stating, "Internships help our students sharpen their skillset, gain real-world experience and create networking opportunities."

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DIRECTS POWERFUL 360-DEGREE FILM

Associate Professor **Malia Bruker** directed and headed the cinematography and editing of the film *Threshold*, a 360-degree dance film which follows the transformational journey of four women. When asked about her experience with 360-degree technology, Bruker shared, "This is the first 360-degree film that I've made, so it was very exciting to steep myself in the new technology and to explore the best kind of storytelling to fit the medium... Working in this medium required a huge amount of trial and error. Having 20 years of filmmaking under my belt, this isn't a normal part of my process, but it was refreshing to have that kind of challenge."



## SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION PROFESSOR COMMEMORATES A MAJOR EVENT IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

Dr. **Davis Houck** attended the unveiling of an historic sign at Winona Jail. The sign recognizes the tragic beating of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer and six of her colleagues which occurred in the jail almost sixty years ago. "We are marking and remembering victims of violence," said Houck. "The events in Winona recall that history and hold its members, past and present, to account." Houck is working with a team of students and alumni to continue the story of Fannie Lou Hamer and the events at Winona Jail. Students **Clarence Fowler** and **Caylee Wilson** have been supporting social media efforts, while alumnus Dr. **Pablo Correa** designed the Bridging Winona logo. Learn more about their work on Instagram @bridgingwinona.



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS

## SCSD TRAVELS TO ORLANDO FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA

Dr. **Selena Snowden**, Dr. **Chelsea Alexander**, and several graduate and undergraduate students from SCSD traveled to Orlando, FL, from June 4-11 to conduct hearing testing on athletes, coaches, and unified partners for the Special Olympics USA Games. FSU SCSD students have been participating with Special Olympics USA since 2006. Students who volunteer their time gain experience in working with those with a variety of intellectual disabilities. "My favorite part is knowing I am a part of a movement to not only decrease health disparities for individuals with intellectual disabilities but also to invite others to think, feel, and act differently," said Snowden. "You leave the event knowing you are helping create a world of inclusion and acceptance." Snowden has served with the Special Olympics for 18 years, for which she received the [Golisano Global Health Leadership Award](#) earlier this year.

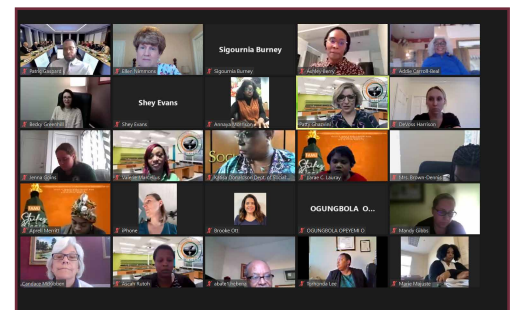


## THE LONDON PROGRAM RETURNS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS

From May 6 to June 1, SCSD students visited London for the study abroad program for the first time since 2019. During the program, students had the opportunity to visit globally renowned clinics and schools in the London area and learn from preeminent clinicians in speech-language pathology and audiology. "I learned an immense amount about the field of speech-language pathology," said student **Catherine Steele**. "We spent time shadowing speech-language therapists at Meath and Treetops, two schools specifically designed for children with communication disorders." In addition to studying and shadowing, students also explored the city, visiting famous sites such as the British Museum and Buckingham Palace.

## NSSLHA CHAPTER AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AWARDED 2022 GOLD CHAPTER HONORS

National NSSLHA has awarded the NSSLHA Chapter at Florida State University with 2022 Gold Chapter Honors. "This year, National NSSLHA members raised over \$4,000 in support of World Hearing Day, the FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic Playground, the Big Bend HOPE Community, and the FSU Food for Thought Food Pantry," said Dr. **Kimberlee Crass**, FSU NSSLHA Faculty Advisor. "Members also organized HOPE Bedtime Stories, NSSLHA Research Rounds, NSSLHA Senior Mentorship, and Graduate School Panel events to promote community involvement and professional enrichment."



## STUDENTS ATTEND INTERPROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EVENT

Graduate students from SCSD attended an interprofessional education training and practice event, hosted by FAMU, with FSU's participation coordinated by **Ellen Nimmons**. "More professional training programs are engaging in interprofessional education where students from two or more professions learn together to cultivate collaborative practice for providing patient-centered care," said Nimmons. Over 200 students partook in each training; they came from backgrounds including nursing, social work, public health, pharmacy, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.



# SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

## CCI STUDENTS SPEAK TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE PANHANDLE

CCI students **Dakota Lewis**, **Corbin Haney**, and **Lauren Scala** visited three high schools in the panhandle this spring. At each stop, they spoke to high school students about their post-graduation plans and answered questions the students had about going to college. "When I was invited to come on this trip, I had not really thought about the impact that this would have on high school students," said Lauren Scala, second-year CCI student. "It is extremely useful to talk to someone who is near your age and actively going through what you will soon be going through. I hope that our conversations made them more comfortable moving on to college and the real world."



## DR. YOLANDA RANKIN FEATURED AT ACM CHI CONFERENCE

Dr. **Yolanda Rankin** recently shared two of her papers at the ACM CHI Conference, a premier international conference that focuses on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). The first paper, "Unpacking the Complexities of Community-led Violence Prevention Work," showcases street outreach programs that hire residents to mediate conflicts in their neighborhoods. The second paper, "'All that You Touch, You Change:' Expanding the Canon of Speculative Design Towards Black Futuring," challenges the status quo as to whose contributions are recognized and included in the design canon in HCI. Rankin also sat on the panel, "Anti-Racism in Action: A Speculative Design Approach to Reimagining SIGCHI" where she was joined with four other panelists to speak on and discuss what kinds of anti-racism actions they can take in their workplaces and in HCI work.



## ISCHOOL PROFESSOR PRESENTS ON SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As a researcher, Dr. **Caroline Stratton** explores how information communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to the global development goals of ending poverty and ensuring access to quality education worldwide. In her recent presentation at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Stratton discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed or reversed progress toward these goals, and how ICTs can help to curb these negative effects. "About 120 million people fell back into extreme poverty globally, income inequality increased, and negative impacts to primary and secondary education are just now being seen," said Stratton. "This gives researchers an opportunity to investigate the roles of ICTs in these significant setbacks and consider how ICTs might be used for stronger recovery going forward."



## DIRECTOR OF FSU STEM LIBRARIES AND ISCHOOL ALUMNUS SECURES \$471,847 GRANT

**Renaine Julian** (MLIS '14) recently secured a grant for the FAIR Facilities and Instruments Research Coordination Network. "The grant will concentrate on building a research coordination network that focuses on the creation and assignment of persistent identifiers for research facilities and instruments," said Julian.



## INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS IN SPRING LEADERSHIP SERIES

Students in the IT Leadership class had the opportunity to hear from leading IT professionals (all CCI Alumni) during the Spring Leadership Speaker Series. Speakers from companies such as Amazon, Facebook, Deloitte, Lockheed Martin, and JP Morgan shared their experiences and expertise with students throughout the Spring semester.



## It Takes a Community

by Mafé Brooks, Director of Development

We are in the homestretch of 2022! It feels good to be back on the road again to meet with and reconnect with everyone. It has been an exciting year with board meetings, alumni engagement and donor recognition events, celebrations of student scholarships and faculty success, and many efforts to raise philanthropic support. Here are a few of the highlights:

In April, the CCI Leadership Board met in Alexandria, VA, and also hosted a well-attended alumni event. A group of stellar students actively involved with STARS presented at the board meeting. These hardworking students are committed to service and to inspiring the next generation of diverse students in STEM fields, having visited middle and high school students in various cities in Florida this year to talk about college and career paths. During the trip, the students, staff, and board members also visited the Library of Congress and attended the 2022 ACCELERATE Festival.



The iSchool hosted an alumni reception in May at the Florida Library Association Conference in Ponte Vedra, FL, that highlighted the establishment of the Dr. Elfreda Chatman Endowed Professorship. Dr. Chatman's legacy runs deep in the College, where she became a faculty member in 1998. Before coming to FSU, Dr. Chatman's research resulted in many middle-range theories, the impacts of which are still felt today, twenty years after her untimely death. As an African-American female researcher and professor herself, her professorship aims to provide opportunities for continued growth and expansion of the study of information behavior and provide opportunities for FSU to continue the tradition of being a supportive space for move through doctoral programs. Special thanks to iSchool professors Kathy & Gary Burnett for making the leadership gift to create the professorship and to our donors who have contributed to the fund.

CCI's Dean Emeritus Larry Dennis and his wife Elaine honored the legacy of Larry's parents in June with the creation of the Richard and Martha Dennis Endowment for Student Excellence at the iSchool. The endowment celebrates the commitment of Richard and Martha to helping others; Richard devoted much of his life to teaching students with limited educational opportunities and Martha was passionate in educating and assisting students with hearing disorders. This fund will support undergraduate scholarships, internships, leadership and research opportunities, student travel and presentation at conferences, and other opportunities that enhance the student experience and prepare them for successful careers in IT and ICT.



Bob Pekurny (middle) with Dean McDowell and donors.

In early July, Joseph and Nivia Facundo made a commitment to set up an endowment supporting Hispanic graduate students that are pursuing degrees in Integrated Marketing Communication. As life-long Seminoles and long-time supporters of CCI's Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication, the Facundos are eager to enhance the student experience through this fund, which will support graduate fellowships, leadership opportunities, research, and costs to attend and present at conferences, seminars, and other relevant activities that prepare students for successful careers.

In mid-September, I traveled to Los Angeles, CA, and touched base with several of our media production and Los Angeles Television Experience (LATE) alumni at small group gatherings. Soapbox Films co-hosted the successful "BobBQ" special fundraising event at their Burbank HQ in honor of Bob Pekurny, retired Communication faculty and former director of LATE.

Capping off 2022 was the Scholars & Stars Celebration in October where we honored our donors for their generosity and recognized the success of our student and faculty scholars. Speakers included CCI board member Linda Alexionok, who provided a lead gift last year for the creation of the Lawrence C. Dennis Endowment for Student Success, and Communication student and scholarship recipient Hanya Noussier. Hanya spoke on behalf of the student scholars, stating, "Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me, as it lifted many financial burdens. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career in the media industry. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me and other bright scholars achieve our goals."

In this season of giving, I remain grateful to our CCI alumni and donors who are passionate about giving back in a variety of opportunities. Some of you have a passion for reaching out to alumni and encouraging them to become a part of a growing CCI network. Others serve as mentors, guest speakers, and offer internship opportunities. Others have made and continue to make generous financial contributions. Together as a community, your generosity will help ensure that our students will be prepared to launch their careers after graduation. Thank you for being a part of our community of caring donors.

If you would like to make a year end charitable gift to CCI, please contact me:

[mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu)

(850)645-8312

or give online:



Thank you!

# CLASS NOTES/COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

Dr. **Ginevra Adamoli-Kalbli** (M.A. '09, Ph.D. '12) works as Strategy Director of Digital Customer Experience for Epsilon, one of the largest global advertising and media companies.

**Adrienne Agamasu** (B.S. '18, M.S. '19) started a new position as an Account Executive at Abbott.

**Andres Bascumbe** (B.A. '15) named a 2022 Reubin O'D. Askew awardee.

**Farhood Basiri** (SP '11, M.S. '17) was interviewed by CBC Radio Episode about his commencement management software, Tassel Turner.

**Patricia Brumley** (M.S. '95) returned to the U.S. after serving as the Chief Librarian and Asst. Professor at Xavier University School of Medicine in Aruba for 4 years.

**Juan Camilo Sanchez** (B.S. '13) started a new position at Spotify.

**Jessica Clark** (B.S. '10) recognized as a Notable Nole by the FSU Alumni Association.

Dr. **John DuBard** (Ph.D. '93) retired after serving for many years as a professor at FSU.

**Carlos Galindo** (M.S. '18) received the Excellence in STEM Innovation Award at the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network Summit.

**Clem Harrod** (B.S. '01) joined the CCI Leadership Board.

**TaRhonda Harvey** (B.S. '02) received a 2022 Influential Businesswoman Award from Acquisition International Magazine.

**Virginia Hennigar** (B.S. '88) joined the CCI Leadership Board.

**Myrna Hoover** (M.S. '84) retired as Director of the FSU Career Center.

**Janice Jones** (B.A. '92) co-founded CycleHere Media in 2012.

**Casey Jostine** (B.S. '13) launched tech-inspired apparel company <dresscode/>.

**Renaine Julian** (MLIS '14) secured a grant from NSF for the FAIR Facilities and Instruments Research Coordination Network.

**Kaitie Kiger** (B.S. '16) awarded first place for three of her news stories at the 2022 Florida Media Conference.

**Ariya Massoudi** (B.S. '17) joined ESPN and the ACC Network calling play-by-play in live games.

**Gregg McBride** (B.S. '86) published a children's book, *Biron the Bee Who Couldn't*.

**Sharon Delaney McCloud** (B.S. '89) joined the CCI Leadership Board.

**James Mullins** (B.S. '04, M.S. '06) joined the CCI Leadership Board.

**Meagan Nixon** (B.S. '11) recognized as a Notable Nole by the FSU Alumni Association.

**Orlagh O'Rourke** (B.S. '19) became a Marketing Coordinator at Cartoon Network.

**Linda Patton** (M.S. '81) retired in December 2021 as Director of the Research Library which she

founded in 2018 at the Appalachian Trail Museum in Pennsylvania.

**Drew Piers** (B.S. '14) named a 2022 Reubin O'D. Askew awardee.

Dr. **Neleen Leslie-Piper** (M.S. '11, Ph.D. '15) accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Strategic Communication and Public Relations at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio.

**Ana Rosa Ramirez** (MLIS '16) received the Minority Leadership Development award from the American Association of Law Libraries.

Dr. **Ania Rynarzewska** (Ph.D. '12) supports Ukrainian refugees with the proceeds collected by her own business, Lux Leonis Skin Care.

**Margot Susca** (Ph.D. '12) received a 2022 Outstanding Teaching Award from American University.

**Caroline Westrup** (B.S. '09) named University of Missouri Women's Golf Head Coach.

## SHARE YOUR CLASS NOTE

Send your update, class year, and degree to:

[hello@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:hello@cci.fsu.edu)

Please note not all updates may be printed.



CCI student Bianca Hamm led incoming FSU freshmen through New Student Orientation.



SCSD students mentored children who are experiencing hearing loss at the Rez



CCI graduating student Andy Pannelli led the Pledge of Allegiance at Summer Commencement.



CCI recognized student and faculty award winners at the Scholars and Stars Reception.



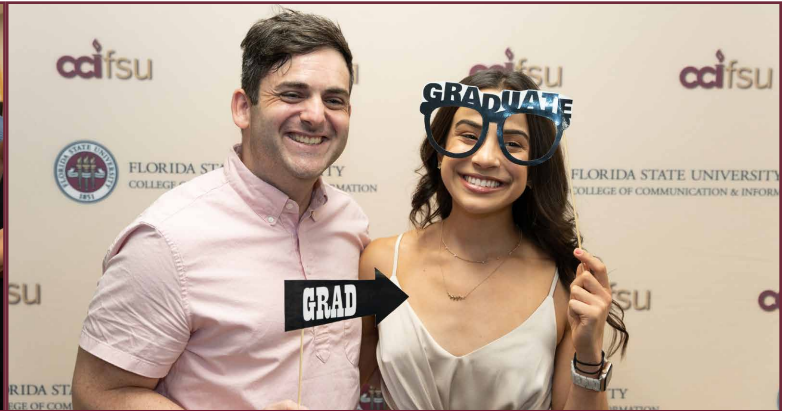
Mrs. Killings and Betsy Crawford met with undergrads at the Graduate and Law School Fair.



The Tallahassee tech community came together for the annual TalTech Conference, which featured a student-led panel.



Students celebrated their summer graduation at CCI-hosted events in the Innovation Hub and the Warren Building.



Dr. Jennifer Proffitt delivered candy to students as Charlie Brown (she got a rock).



SCSD students took part in Oral Boot Camp, where they performed oral mechanism evals.



FBI representatives spoke to students and faculty at the Cybersecurity Symposium.



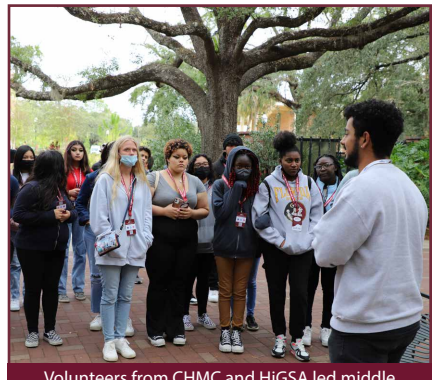
Students enjoyed another round of CCI cookies to start the Fall semester.



Students, staff, faculty, and alumni came together for the annual CCI BBQ.



Students networked with local tech companies at the Tally Job Hop.



Volunteers from CHMC and HiGSA led middle and high school students on a campus tour.

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## CONNECTION IS GOING DIGITAL!

Starting Spring 2023, all newsletters will be available in a digital format only. If you have not done so already, please use the QR code or [click here](#) to update your contact information with the best email address to send you future editions.



## Beyond Giving Back

by *Tim Giordano, CCI Leadership Board Chair*

We all know giving back is important: none of us got where we are without help, and a lot of that early help can be traced to our time at CCI. There are thousands of current students who could use our time and support. Still, when faced with the request to give, it's natural to sometimes wonder, in the words of a famous songstress that alumni of a certain age will recall: "What have you done for me lately?"

Turns out, a lot, if you'll make your presence known! I'll use my experience. I reached back out to CCI after many (many) years post-graduation, and what I found was a college and staff still willing to make my personal and professional life better. Now, if I need a place to work when I'm in town for an FSU football game, it's the 'keys' to the Innovation Hub, of which CCI is a founding member and which works as a delightful coworking space. If I want to learn something new, it's easy as Zoom: CCI faculty are willing to talk and partner with me on issues I grapple with as a (mostly) full-grown professional, from false advertising to diversity. If I need an expert, or speaker, it's the Faculty. If I've got an idea to better the community, the College hears it. If I do something good, they celebrate it. All these years later, I learned the College still has my back — and that's reason for me to give. That a current student may benefit is another. Everybody wins! While CCI takes its alumni forward, for life, it can only do so if you reach back to say hello. If you would like to explore how the College might help you, in your life today, contact me on LinkedIn or directly at [timothykgiordano@gmail.com](mailto:timothykgiordano@gmail.com). I will be happy to connect you with the array of people and resources available to you as an alumni. Together we are a community, and together we can make the community work better for students and alumni alike. I hope to hear from you soon, and Go Noles!



Tim Giordano  
'98 B.S.

CCI Leadership Board Chair