



A Note from the Dean

Spring semester is a special time to serve in our College, filled with opportunities to connect with many of our amazing alumni, students, faculty, and friends. And it's through these opportunities that I get to see the various ways we make an impact in our communities.

Throughout the semester, we recognized many outstanding members of the CCI community. These included three of our community partners at the CCI Career Fair in February, over sixty students and faculty at our Honors and Awards ceremony in March, and eleven Distinguished Alumni at our Faculty/Staff Luncheon in April. To top it off, three faculty also received top University teaching awards.

Our students continued to shine this spring as well. Twenty students were inducted into the Torchbearer 100, fifteen were inducted into the Garnet & Gold Scholar Society, and twenty-nine graduated from the FSU Honors Program. Many of our undergraduates participated in the University's Undergraduate Research Symposium in April, and many graduate students, along with faculty, presented at our annual Research Day. Students also participated in the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication's Gala in Fort Lauderdale, which provided them opportunities to network while also gaining experience managing a very successful fundraising event.

The CCI Leadership Board meeting this April in Charlotte presented a great opportunity to meet with alumni in the area and learn about their journeys. We also learned more about the importance of their time at FSU and in our College, and the ways in which many of them want to give back to current students.

The stories in this newsletter provide many more examples of community connections and the impact of our work together as a College. These stories remind us of the important mission of public higher education institutions, and the continued need to find ways to best prepare our students and serve our state and the world.



Stephen McDowell
Interim Dean

ALUMNI GIVING BACK

ALUMNI RETURN FOR NEW GUEST SPEAKER SERIES



In Fall 2022, CCI Development Coordinator **Betsy Crawford** and her undergraduate student assistants **Brooke Murray** and **Beatriz Carrizo** launched the Alumni Guest Speaker Series, which brought CCI alumni back into the classroom to speak to students in the Transfer Student Success class. "I wanted these students to not only gain information about engagement on campus but also learn about career development in their majors and understand the networking opportunities they have with Florida State University," said Crawford.

Guest speakers included **Gary Adler** (Game Show Network), **Russ Hill, Jr.** (PropLogix), **TaRhonda Harvey** (Kolmio Global), **Nicole Dial** (Walt Disney Animation Studios), **Jessica Clark** (Skye Creative Marketing), **Cassie Nicolace** (Bee & Blume), and **Michelle Winokur** (MW Consulting & Evaluation).

22 CCI ALUMNAE SPEAK AT ANNUAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Each year, the Women in Leadership Conference brings together students, faculty, alumni, and the local Tallahassee community for an evening of networking. Twenty-two CCI alumnae spoke at this year's event, providing their insights as leaders in the fields of communication, information, and communication science and disorders, while also serving as an inspiration to the next generation of female leaders.

"It's great that we have these networks to help the next generation and to create bonds that will hold each other up over the years," said alumna and CCI Leadership Board member **Michelle Winokur**.

"The conference was such an engaging event. I met a diverse group of women speaking who are distinguished in their respective fields," said alumna **Ashley Augustine**. "The vibrant interactions with students are always my favorite part. Can't wait for next year's conference!"



Samantha Vance (CEO, Impact Core Group) leading the opening session of the Women in Leadership Conference.

ALUMNUS SPEAKS AT TEDxFSU AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Emmy-nominated Director **Ritesh Gupta** (B.A. '99) returned to campus to speak at TEDxFSU on April 4, 2023. As one of six speakers, Gupta presented on "Using Emotion in Storytelling," focusing on the power of storytelling to inspire others and change lives.

During Gupta's visit, **Dr. Kelly Kelly** coordinated with several other CCI professors so that Gupta could give a separate, hour-long presentation to an auditorium filled with current students about his experiences and his career advice. "The most valuable part of my college experience was meeting alumni and learning from their experiences," said Gupta. "I want to pay it forward, and I hope that in 5-10 years these students will want to do the same."



CCI STORY SELECTS

EMMY-NOMINATED ALUMNA CONNECTS WITH STUDENTS

For **Jessica Yong** (B.A. '09), an Emmy nomination just scratches the surface of her sports broadcasting career, a career which began here at FSU.

"ESPN came to Florida State and met with students who were interested in interning with them," said Yong. "I was lucky enough to interview in person on campus and then, after a couple rounds of phone interviews, they let me know that I had an intern spot."

She has since spent the past 13 years at ESPN, where her work as an editor and effects artist has earned her a big reputation in the company. But her journey at FSU is far from over. Yong frequently engages with current students as a [ProfessioNole](#) mentor; most recently, she teamed up with the FSU Career Center on March 7, 2023, to lead a talk with students about her professional experiences.



9 CCI ALUMNI SELECTED FOR SEMINOLE 100

[Seminole 100](#) recognizes the 100 fastest-growing FSU alumni-owned or alumni-led businesses at a celebration on FSU's campus each year, during which each company learns their numerical ranking and receives their award.

The following CCI alumni were recognized at the 2023 Seminole 100 Celebration on February 25, 2023:

- Joseph Albano** (B.S. '06) – Ardent Eagle Solutions
- Terrie Ard** (B.S. '97) – Moore Agency
- Brian Campbell** (B.S. '99) – Epyon Technologies, LLC
- Ryan Cappy** (B.S. '97) – The Law Offices of Ryan Cappy
- Jesica D'Avanza** (B.S. '03) – Round Square, LLC
- Brian Dooley** (B.A. '05) – Independence Digital
- Brooke Pautsch** (B.S. '92) – Lucky Goat Coffee
- Aaron Rich** (M.S. '03) – Aaron Rich Marketing
- Stephen A. Smith** (B.S. '02) – The Law Offices of Stephen A. Smith



ALUMNA KELLY CORDER WORKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS' COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

School of Communication alumna **Kelly Corder** (B.A. '07) worked with Vice President Kamala Harris' communications team during the Vice President's visit to Tallahassee to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 2023. Corder serves as the Director of Sachs Media in Tallahassee.

"Working with the Vice President's advance and communications teams was incredibly rewarding and informative," said Corder. "Not only was the topic of the event one I'm extremely passionate about, but watching how the most skilled and experienced professionals operate can only make you a better professional."



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

ALUMNA JOINS THE NEW YORK TIMES

Lexie Diao (B.A. '10) recently joined The New York Times as a Senior Editor of The Daily, the Times's daily news podcast. "Being at The New York Times is a dream," said Diao. "I came to the Times hoping I would push myself as a journalist and an editor — and of course help make one of the most successful news podcasts in the world. This opportunity was my chance to do that."

She credits **Dr. Misha Laurents**, who serves as the General Manager/ Faculty Director of V89, for providing the opportunities and guidance which led her on her career path. When Laurents learned one of her former students was hired by The New York Times, she told CCI, "I had the privilege of having Lexie as a student in four different classes. She's been a star from the start and continues to shine brightly!"



PH.D. STUDENT HARNESSES HER ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND TO OFFER RESEARCH ON MESSAGES SENT BY HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS TO MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS



Amy Huber received the AEJMC Collaborative Scholar grant this year to further her research on the communication aspects of the built environment in primary care facilities. "I noticed a troubling pattern when teaching our healthcare design studio," said Huber. "My students from underrepresented backgrounds expressed more anxiety about attending our site visits to healthcare spaces and addressing their own healthcare needs. While I knew these anxieties were grounded in generational and systemic issues, I wanted to harness my architectural background to explore the messages sent by healthcare environments to marginalized populations."

SCOM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS ALLOW STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR STUDIES GLOBAL

Communication faculty offer several summer study abroad programs, including Communication and Media in Florence, Communication in London, Documentary Filmmaking in London, and Communication in Valencia. Students in these programs engage with local professionals, visit various historical spots, and complete real-world projects to put their learning into practice. "I will always recommend studying abroad and traveling," said **Dr. Patrick Merle**, Director of the School of Communication. "That was the best thing that ever happened to me; it will be the best thing for you as well."



ALUMNA'S COMPANY IS CERTIFIED AS A WOMAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS AND WOMAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Alumna **Victoria Carlton** (B.S. '18, M.S. '19) founded **Carlton Creative Co.**, a fully remote digital marketing agency, which is now certified as a Woman-Owned Small Business and Woman Business Enterprise.



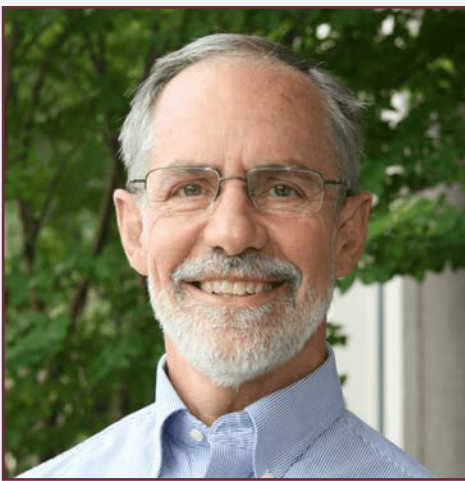
COMMVERSATION PODCAST RELEASES NEW EPISODE

A new episode of the School of Communication's podcast, **FSU COMMversation**, released on February 1. The episode features **Dr. Elizabeth Ray** and **Dr. Richard Waters**, who recount their experiences working in communication and share their advice to students.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SPEAKS TO FAMILIES IN LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

Assistant Professor **Dr. Lakeisha Johnson** spoke at the Leon County Government's Library Lecture Series about the importance of reading diverse books with children and building strong language and literacy skills for all ages. Families were invited to this talk to engage in hands-on activities and discussion about language and literacy.

"I absolutely loved this lecture!" said Johnson. "I received lots of feedback on how to choose books and the question types to ask during shared reading that resonated the most." As the Director of the community engagement and outreach division at the [Florida Center for Reading Research](#), Johnson explained that they are always striving to participate in the community through outreach activities like the Library Lecture Series.



RICHARD MORRIS AND CHORONG OH PUBLISH PAPER IN PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS ON ACOUSTICS

SCSD Professor **Dr. Richard Morris** and Ohio University Assistant Professor Dr. Chorong Oh published their paper, "Prosody Analysis as a Tool for Differential Diagnosis of Cognitive Impairment," in *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics*. Their findings indicate that different dementia types may be identified without expensive or invasive techniques, which is extremely valuable as the treatments for different dementia types can widely vary. "This platform will allow other acoustic scientists to see the work," said Morris. "They may use our model in their work and move our understanding of how to differentiate dementia types using speech. Any progress in this differentiation will be helpful for the people who have dementia and their loved ones."

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS PRESENT AT ARO

Drs. Yasmeen Hamza and Zilong Xie, both new assistant professors in SCSD, presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) Annual Midwinter Meeting from February 11-15, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. Hamza presented on her recent study which introduces a novel auditory biomarker for cognition. The biomarker would potentially detect those at high risk of cognitive decline at an earlier stage, allowing for improved outcomes through prevention and early intervention. Xie presented on the extent to which signal quality, cognitive load, and aging interact to influence the use of lexical contextual cues during speech perception.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT FROM KOREA HEALTH INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Dr. Yunjung Kim was awarded a research grant for her project, "Developments of speech rehabilitation software for persons with dysarthria secondary to stroke." This project aims to develop a smartphone-based, AI-assisted, and patient-driven speech rehabilitation software for people with dysarthria secondary to stroke and to examine its treatment efficacy. "Our team believes that this software has potential to be included in speech rehabilitation for those patients who find it hard to receive in-person speech therapy" said Kim.

ONLINE MSIT RISES IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

The School of Information's online [Master of Science in Information Technology](#) (MSIT) has risen to No. 5 overall and No. 3 among public institutions, according to the *U.S. News and World Report* 2023 rankings. "The high ranking is indicative of a highly innovative curriculum that prepares students for success within a highly competitive environment," said **Dr. Chris Hinnant**, Director of the School of Information. **Dr. Stephen McDowell**, Interim Dean of the College, added, "The recognition for the online program is well-deserved. The faculty are serial innovators in online instruction and continually seek out ways to better serve students in online platforms and engagement."



FSU PROJECT TO PROVIDE OPIOID EPIDEMIC ASSISTANCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVES \$1.3 MILLION GRANT

Assistant Professor **Margaret Sullivan** is Co-PI for the College of Social Work's project "Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Regional Centers (RO-TA-R)," which recently earned a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The project will work to provide technical assistance and training on opioid harm reduction and prevention to rural communities. It will also partner with local stakeholders including colleges and universities across 8 states to train community members. "We are currently recruiting members for the consortium and having our initial meeting," said Sullivan. "We are casting as wide of a net as we can and inviting many community members to generate excitement and support." The grant team also sponsored a symposium on opioid misuse at FSU in March 2023.



SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN FLORIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS MEETING

Drs. Don Latham and **Marcia Mardis** attended this year's Florida Public Library Directors Meeting, which brings together public library leaders from across the State of Florida to learn and share new trends, ideas, and best practices from the library community. "There simply is no more efficient way for iSchool faculty to connect directly to public library leaders," said Mardis. "This event allows us to hear more about public librarians' concerns, needs, and victories, and this information helps us to be responsive educators and agile researchers." Latham added, "Public libraries are one of the iSchool's important constituents. We educate librarians for positions in libraries, and many of them end up working in public libraries in Florida. By participating in the PLD meeting, we're able to demonstrate our commitment to public libraries and get valuable feedback from library directors about our programs and graduates."



Don Latham (left) and Marcia Mardis (right).

PROFESSOR ELECTED AS AMIA KDDM VICE CHAIR

Associate Professor **Dr. Zhe He** was recently elected as the Vice Chair for the American Medical Informatics Association's Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (AMIA KDDM) Working Group. This group focuses on the process of extracting meaningful patterns from biomedical data (knowledge discovery), and using automated computational and statistical tools and techniques on large datasets (data mining).



STARS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ATLANTA TO NETWORK WITH CORPORATE COMPANIES

Students in the FSU STARS program traveled to Atlanta, GA, to meet with six companies to learn about corporate culture, job opportunities, company growth trajectories, and what it takes to land a position at a corporate company. Companies included General Motors, Atlanta Tech Village, State Farm, The Home Depot, Meta, and Chick-Fil-A.



Supporting Students — Your Donation Makes a Difference

by Mafé Brooks and Hanya Noussier

The financial challenges many students face often hinder their ability to access quality education and pursue their desired career paths. Scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial assistance made possible through the generosity of donors provide invaluable and life-changing opportunities for deserving students who might otherwise be unable to afford to pay for professional and academic activities.



Alumni Reception during the CCI Leadership Board meeting in Charlotte, NC, on April 13, 2023.

Students at the College of Communication and Information are at the forefront of driving technological advancements, evolving communication strategies, and cutting-edge training in speech therapy and audiology. Through their innovative thinking, creativity, and dedication to staying ahead of the curve, these students are shaping the future of communication, information technology, and communication science and disorders in a rapidly changing landscape. With a deep understanding of emerging technologies and the training in effective communication, speech therapy and audiology, students within the College of Communication and Information are actively exploring and harnessing the potential of cutting-edge tools and platforms.



Leadership Board member Eduardo Perez (right) founded a new fellowship to support students in Multicultural & Hispanic Marketing Communication.

From social media and communication methodologies to virtual reality, telehealth, and artificial intelligence, these students are becoming more proficient in utilizing these technologies and pushing the boundaries of their applications. Donors enable students to focus on their studies without the burden of excessive financial stress. By alleviating the financial strain of tuition, fees, conference registrations, support for internships, travel to conferences, research activities, award ceremonies, and living expenses, among others, alumni giving empowers students to devote their time and energy to academic pursuits and extracurricular activities that enhance their personal and professional development. This financial support fosters an environment where students can fully immerse themselves in their studies and research opportunities and participate in internships or co-op programs that complement their learning experiences.

The College is grateful to our donors whose impact on students is life-changing in many aspects. These contributions open doors to educational and professional opportunities and change not only the lives of our students but also their families and the communities that they serve. By providing financial support, donors empower students to pursue their passions, fulfill their academic potential, and contribute meaningfully to society.

If you would like to know more about how your philanthropic support can change a student's life for the better, visit <https://give.cci.fsu.edu/>. #CCIGIVES

To learn more about giving opportunities, please contact me:

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

**DONATE
TODAY**

**LEARN
MORE**

Thank you!

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TWENTY CCI STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO TORCHBEARER 100



This year, 20 CCI students were inducted into FSU's Torchbearer 100. Torchbearer 100 seeks to recognize 100 of the most outstanding undergraduate leaders and achievers across campus who have made a significant impact on student life at Florida State.

CCI students from across all three schools who received this award include **Adriana Nguyen, Alexandra Schaffer, Alyssa Cuevas, Anaya Daniel, Bianca Hamm, Blake Novack, Brynlie Burley, Carley Stubbs, Emily Boden, Emma Roberts, Jason Puwalski, Kelsey McDermott, Lindsay Wilson, Maddie Wager, Mary Thomas, Meredith Grimm, Michelle Evangelista, Piper Green, Sophonie Desvaristes, and Travis Waters.**

"I feel recognized, awarded, and appreciated for this opportunity," said SCSD student **Caroline Stubbs**. "I express and gain my passion through leadership, which is why I feel honored that I am being recognized as part of the 2023 Torchbearer 100 class."

CCI STUDENTS LEAD AND JUDGE AT FLORIDA TSA CONFERENCE

CCI students in the STARS Alliance traveled to Orlando in February for the annual Florida Technology Student Association (TSA) Leadership Conference. Every year, these students judge the projects and performances of middle and high school students at the conference.

In total, eight CCI students participated in the trip, including **Rebeckah Anestin, Anni Douberly, Olivia Kennedy, Zakari Kostzer, Arianna Nicolas, Owen Van Lenten, Emma Roberts, and Aya Saludo**. "Connecting with others that understand the importance of STEM, encouraging the youth to keep on pursuing STEM, and personally reflecting on how I use STEM ideologies to better my future and goals were the main outcomes of this outreach," Nicolas said.

"Our students are perfect for engaging and developing the next generation of tech leaders," said **Ebe Randeree**, Associate Dean at CCI. "Students from our STARS group embody outstanding leadership in everything they do. They come from a variety of majors, interests, and backgrounds, and their mission is to broaden the pipeline in STEM."



CCI STUDENTS ATTEND THE 31ST ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MARKETING THEORY AND PRACTICE CONFERENCE

From March 15-18, 2023, CCI students attended the 31st Annual Association of Marketing Theory and Practice (AMTP) in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. AMTP is an international academic marketing conference focusing on bringing together academic theory and real-world marketing practices. Students **Islam Gouda, Ashley N. Johns, Faren Karimkhan, Hanya Noussier, Meng Tian**, and alumna **Antonia Manzella** all presented at the conference. "This conference provided me with an amazing opportunity to receive valuable feedback on my research from fellow scholars before I submitted my paper to a major academic journal in the field," said Johns.

CLASS NOTES

Dr. Amelia Anderson (MLIS '08, Ph.D. '16) presented a webinar for ALISE on February 23, 2023.

Brian Campbell (B.S. '99) recognized as a Seminole 100 recipient for his company Epyon Technologies, LLC.

Victoria Carlton (B.S. '18, M.S. '19) had her company, Carlton Creative Co., certified as a Woman-Owned Small Business and a Woman Business Enterprise.

Jennifer Ceratti (B.S. '17) promoted to Senior Brand Manager at Bulletproof 360.

Kelly Corder (B.A. '07) worked with Kamala Harris's communications team during the Vice President's visit to Tallahassee in January 2023.

Jesica D'Avanza (B.S. '03) recognized as a Seminole 100 recipient for her company Round Square, LLC.

Lexie Diao (B.S. '10) joined The New York Times as a Senior Editor of The Daily, the Times's daily news podcast.

Brian Dooley (B.A. '05) recognized as a Seminole 100 recipient for his company Independence Digital.

Warrick Dunn (B.S. '97) donated two homes to single-parent families in Tallahassee through Warrick Dunn Charities.

Danielle Eldredge (B.S. '07) became Gelato's head of PR.

Savannah Greene (B.S. '17) received a 2023 Moxie Award.

Ritesh Gupta (B.S. '99) spoke at [TEDxFSU](#) on April 4, 2023.

Maurice Johnson (M.S. '11) spoke at the Leon County Library Lecture Series on using Hip Hop as an educational tool.

Erica Lovelace (B.S. '13) became Sr. Food Service Partnership Manager at Meati.

Ahli Moore (B.S. '93, M.S. '95) inducted into the FSU Alumni Association's [Circle of Gold](#).

Brian Parrish (B.S. '98) became the Chief Marketing Officer for ActiveHealth Management and Health Data Management Solutions (HDMS).

Samantha Rivers (B.S. '13) became Director of Communications at Revell Media.

Julia Skinner (Ph.D. '15) had her book, *Our Fermented Lives*, included in Salon's "Favorite Books of 2022" and Smithsonian Magazine's "The Ten Best Books About Food in 2022."

Dr. Plato Smith (Ph.D. '14) appointed Program Director for Learning and Workforce Development and Public Access at the National Science Foundation.

Stephen A. Smith (B.S. '02) recognized as a Seminole 100 recipient for his company The Law Offices of Stephen A. Smith.

Brandon Tirado (B.S. '19) promoted to Director of Threat Research at ReliaQuest.

Misti Turnbull (B.S. '95) promoted to Executive Director of News for Cox Media Group.

Alison Vincent (B.S. '16) promoted to Vice President in the healthcare sector at Hill + Knowlton Strategies.


Else Volker (B.S. '18, M.S. '21) became a Digital Marketing Strategist at Acumen Studio.

Michael Walsh (B.S. '17, M.S. '21) published a book, *Project Vortex*.

Alexandra Wendling (B.S. '19, M.S. '20) became a host and reporter for Karate Combat.

Susannah Wesley-Ahlschwede (B.S. '05) returned to FSU as the University's first Chief Marketing Officer.

Have a career update?

**CLICK HERE TO
SHARE YOUR
CLASS NOTE** 

or email us at

hello@cci.fsu.edu

Please note not all updates may be printed.



CCI BBQ
Friday, October 6
5PM - 7PM
Outside the Shores Building (by the Landis Green)

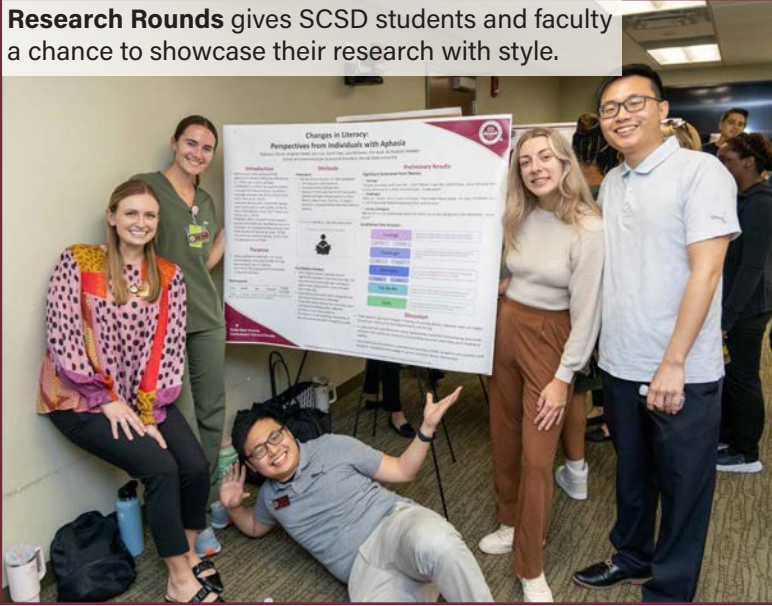
Connect with CCI students, staff, faculty, and fellow alumni for an evening of free food and fun!

RSVP NOW!



COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

Research Rounds gives SCSD students and faculty a chance to showcase their research with style.



The **Tally Job Hop** gave students a chance to tour local tech companies to learn about employment opportunities.

CCI students like **Emma Roberts** teach first-year students as part of FSU's **Engage 100** program.



The **2023 Honors and Awards Ceremony** celebrated students and faculty for their outstanding achievements in the College.

FSU Day at the Capitol is a chance to reconnect with CCI alumni, including FSU's Chief Marketing Officer **Susannah Wesley-Ahlschwede**.



The **Spring Social** brought students, staff, and faculty together to enjoy delicious snowcones and games on Landis Green.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



This year's **Leadership Board meeting** in Charlotte, NC, gave alumni in the area a chance to reconnect.

The **South Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference** brought Dr. Robert Smith to campus to speak about "Moving Beyond GDP."



High school alumnus **Ahli Moore** was inducted into FSU's Circle of Gold.



Students enjoyed **free donuts** to kick off the semester.



The staff got festive at the annual **CCI Holiday Party**.



Faculty and staff gathered at the Dunlap Champions Club to celebrate **Rob Levine's 30th work anniversary** at CCI.



Students met with local recruiters at the **CCI Career Fair**.



CCI recognized **11 Distinguished Alumni** at the annual Faculty/Staff Luncheon.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



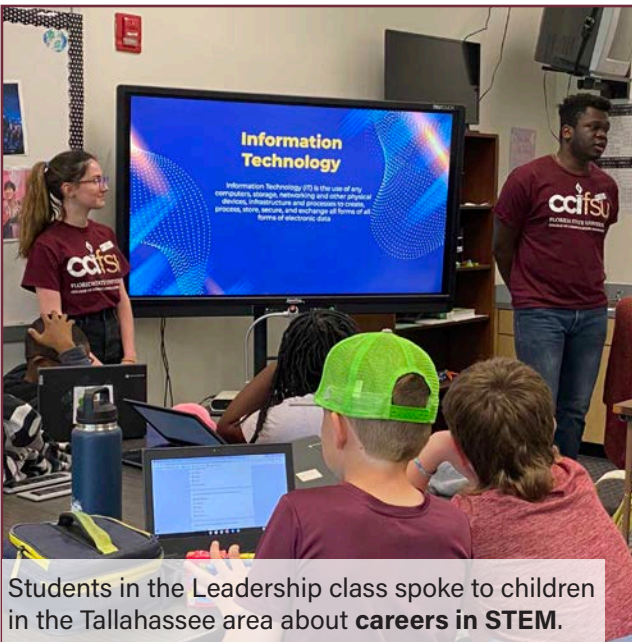
15 CCI students were inducted into FSU's **Garnet & Gold Scholar Society**.

Alumna **Jessica Clark** (middle) and others were recognized at FSU's **Young Alumni Awards**.



CCI alumnus **Brian Dooley** and others were recognized at the **Seminole 100 Celebration**.

Student Leadership Council members enjoyed dinner with the Dean to cap off the semester.



Students in the Leadership class spoke to children in the Tallahassee area about **careers in STEM**.



20 CCI students were inducted into FSU's **Torchbearer 100**.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



Students celebrated their **Spring Graduation** at events hosted by all 3 CCI schools.

Alumnus and Director of the Challenger Learning Center **Alan Hanstein** cut the cake at the Challenger's 20th Anniversary Celebration.



Students networked at the **Women in Leadership Conference**.



SCSD students enjoyed a night of axe throwing at Tomahawk 51. The event was organized by SCSD alumna **Miller McKenzie**.

FOLLOW US!



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CONNECTION IS DIGITAL!

Have a preferred email address? Fill out our [alumni update form](#) using the link or the QR code so that you never miss a newsletter!



Staying Connected

by *Jeanne Ford, CCI Leadership Board Chair-Elect*

Whenever I have the opportunity to do a phone call, zoom session, or in-person meeting with a CCI student, faculty member, or staff member, I always come away with the same thoughts: I am inspired by their enthusiasm and talent, and humbled by their drive and dedication. No matter what time I devote in my role on the Board or as an alum, what I get in return from our CCI community is far greater.

Within our College and throughout the university system, you will find a universal dedication to making a positive impact. Whether as a student, faculty member, staff member, or alum, this higher purpose mission prevails, creating an incredible community that lifts each other up, fuels innovation and productivity, and drives discovery. The outcome? A culture of continuous growth and development that enriches the lives of those involved and the communities they live in.

If you are not already involved, I would like to personally invite you to become involved in the CCI community. As you can see from the stories featured in this issue, this is a dynamic community that is making an impact, from supporting youth in STEM, to dementia research, to an Emmy-nominated alumna and many current students being recognized for their leadership. There is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of this community with whatever time you have available to share. It will be one of the best ROI's you've ever gotten.

To learn more about participating, donating, Leadership Board service, and more, please email us at info@cci.fsu.edu.



Jeanne Ford
B.S. '81
CCI Leadership Board
Chair-Elect