

# CONNECTION

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## CHANGES

Greetings, and welcome to our Fall 2023 *Connection* newsletter. Nothing is so constant as change, and I have experienced this to be particularly true working in a university setting. After all, our campus population changes by more than 10,000 people per year as students graduate into the workforce and we welcome each class of new 'Noles! We are also constantly refreshed by the opportunity to engage with new challenges, and I wouldn't trade that for anything. Another change I have embraced this year is trading my old office and role for a new one! As of July 1, 2023, the University and College have entrusted me with the role of Dean of the College of Communication and Information. I am awed by the responsibility of taking on the leadership role that was originated by our College's founding Dean, Larry Dennis, and held for the past two years by Steve McDowell. The College of Communication and Information, now 14 years old, continues disciplinary traditions that date back more than a century at Florida State University. I have stepped into a role that allows me to engage with a global community of alumni, family, friends, and employers.

I relish that engagement very much. It gives me the opportunity for learning how our College can support our global network of alumni, and what employers and other constituents need from our graduates and our scholarship. How can the College of Communication and Information help you? And how would you like to engage with us? I would love to hear from you and to meet with you if you will be in Tallahassee or if I will be in a location near you. Please reach out to [info@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:info@cci.fsu.edu) and let us know how you are doing.

Of course, the joy and pride in leading this amazing college is constant, and since I cannot meet individually with ALL of you (at least not in the next couple of months!), I'm glad for this newsletter as a chance to share our unique successes, new endeavors, and changing roles with you. The generosity of our alumni and friends in supporting our College and its students; our faculty's commitment to world-changing scholarship; our engagement with communities around the globe; our connections to the industries and professions that employ our graduates; and the extraordinary accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni are factors that never change. I hope you enjoy reading about them in more depth throughout this issue of our *Connection* newsletter.



**Michelle M. Kazmer**  
Dean

# CONGRATULATING OUR NEW DEANS

The past few months saw the promotion of *four* new deans within the College. Meet them below!

## MAFÉ BROOKS

ASSISTANT DEAN OF DEVELOPMENT

Since joining CCI in 2007, Ms. Brooks has developed a proven track record of success in advancement and has raised over \$21 million for the College and FSU. The new role expands her responsibilities as the first lead fundraiser for major gifts for International Programs and global initiatives at FSU. "I'm excited to thrive in this new role and continue supporting our students and university. It is an enriching experience to witness our world-class faculty and students succeed."



## ULLA BUNZ

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Bunz joined the faculty in 2005 under the former College of Communication. "It is a wonderful opportunity to find ways to help more people," said Bunz. "Weaving your way through FSU policy can be daunting at times. After many years of facilitating these processes in my own school, the School of Communication, I will now be able to work with staff, faculty, and students from across the College to make things run smoother and improve everybody's academic life."

## MICHELLE KAZMER

DEAN

Florida State University has selected professor of information, interdisciplinary researcher and administrator Michelle Kazmer as dean of the College of Communication and Information following a national search. Kazmer joined the FSU faculty in 2002 as an assistant professor, rising in the ranks to full professor in 2014 and becoming the College's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Advancement in 2018.



## RICHARD MORRIS

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND FACULTY ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Morris joined the faculty in 1988 under the School of Communication Science & Disorders. "The most exciting aspects of the Associate Dean position are the opportunities to work with the faculty and staff members in all three schools and the Dean's office to help the faculty members achieve their career goals and to create learning opportunities for the CCI students that meet their education purposes," said Morris.

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Every year, CCI selects alumni from each school in the College for the [Distinguished Alumni Award](#). The alumni chosen for the award go above and beyond in their professional careers. From their exceptional service to outstanding leadership, these alumni have made a significant impact in their fields. After two years of postponed celebrations, the distinguished alumni for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 were all recognized at this year's faculty/staff luncheon.



**Marcos Gabriel**

Digital Media Production  
B.S. '99



**Carol Gill**

Library Studies  
M.S. '76



**Marquita Gooch-Voyd**

Information Studies  
MLIS '11



**Charlette M. Green**

Comm. Science & Disorders  
B.S. '96, M.S. '98



**TaRhonda Harvey**

Information Studies  
B.S. '02



**Jamie Linden**

Digital Media Production  
B.S. '01



**Sully Moreno**

Media/Comm. Studies  
B.A. '10, M.A. '12



**Kaki Pope**

Comm. Science & Disorders  
M.S. '83



**Carlene Reid**

Comm. Science & Disorders  
M.S. '08



**Martha Saunders**

Communication Theory  
Ph.D. '90



**Dave Smith**

Digital Media Production  
B.S. '99



## **EDUARDO PEREZ ESTABLISHES NEW STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**

**Eduardo Perez**, an FSU alumnus, established The Perez Family Graduate Fellowship in Multicultural and Hispanic Marketing Communication. This fellowship will be awarded to outstanding graduate students seeking a master's or doctoral degree focusing on multicultural or Hispanic marketing communication. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to support outstanding graduate students with this Fellowship," said Perez. "My years at FSU set me on a path of lifelong success, and my desire is to give back to the great institution that has given me so much."

## **STUDENT RECEIVES THE DR. JAY RAYBURN SCHOLARSHIP FROM FPRA**

Public Relations rising senior and FPRA student chapter member **Christopher Schulze** received the Dr. Jay Rayburn Scholarship from the FPRA during the FPRA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, on August 7. Alongside the outstanding honor and recognition, Schulze received \$1,500 for education-based expenses.



## **PROFESSOR AND STUDENT FORGE NEW CONNECTIONS IN KOSOVO**

Associate Professor **Malia Bruker**, along with students **Julia Galli** (CCI) and Delaney Williams (College of Social Sciences and Public Policy), traveled to Kosovo from May 31 to June 7 as part of a project with the Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT). The KRCT works to promote, defend, and enhance the lives of victims of torture and other forms of violence, particularly survivors of sexual assault from the Kosovo War. Bruker, Galli, and Williams met with KRCT leadership to discuss the creation of a fundraising video for the organization.

## **ALUMNA WINS HBO SHORT FILM AWARD**

Alumna **Anndi Jinelle Liggett** (B.A. '15) recently received the HBO Short Film Award during the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) showcase for her short film "Jelly". The HBO Short Film Award Showcase is considered one of the most prestigious short film showcases in the world. Alongside the recognition, the winner receives a cash prize of \$10,000. "Winning this award meant the world to me. I've been following the ABFF for years and always dreamed of being a finalist in the prestigious HBO Short Film Award Showcase," Liggett said.



## SCSD LAUNCHES AAC CAMP

This summer, SCSD launched its first Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Camp under the direction of **Drs. Andrea Barton-Hulsey** and **Michelle Therrien**. AAC is used as an alternative or as a supplement to speech by individuals with disabilities who are unable to communicate effectively with speech. The AAC Camp offered families of children who use AAC, as well as children without disabilities, a place to participate in a summer camp in SCSD's brand-new Communication Corner. Graduate students in SCSD spent the early part of the summer learning how to best support children who use AAC so that they could serve as camp counselors.



## DR. SELENA SNOWDEN LEADS STUDENTS ON THE 7TH HELP GUATEMALA HEAR SERVICE TRIP

From February 25–March 4, **Dr. Selena Snowden** led an audiology team on the 7th Help Guatemala Hear Service Trip. The annual trip brought the team, which included 15 students from SCSD, to Sololá, Guatemala, where they administered 240 hearing tests and fitted 170 hearing aids. "To see such need in a country that is so humble is an eye-opening experience for my students," said Snowden.

## PRESCHOOL LANGUAGE PROGRAM OPENS

SCSD opened a brand-new Preschool Language Program in the Communication Corner at the FSU Speech & Hearing Clinic on June 1, 2023. Under the supervision of **Brooke Ott** and **Jennifer Westmoreland**, this program allows graduate students to gain hands-on experience implementing language skills in a group setting. "This program meets a need within the local community for families with children who have language difficulties to get support from speech-language pathologists," said Ott.



## PROFESSOR RECEIVES IMPACT AWARD FROM PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION

Associate Professor **Dr. Kaitlin Lansford** received an Impact Award from the Parkinson's Foundation. The Impact Award provides seed funding for "outside the box" projects that have the potential to positively impact individuals with Parkinson's disease (PD) but are less likely to be funded by traditional grant mechanisms. This award will support Lansford's proposal titled "Speaker and listener strategies to improve intelligibility in PD." Her research is centered around an innovative approach to addressing intelligibility impairments in PD.



## **DR. CHRIS HINNANT BECOMES DIRECTOR OF ISCHOOL**

**Dr. Chris Hinnant** has succeeded **Dr. Kathleen Burnett** as the Director of the School of Information. Hinnant earned his Ph.D. in Public Administration at Syracuse University and previously served as Assistant Director in the IT Team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. “I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work within an academic community where everyone works extremely hard to develop and deliver highly ranked programs that have transformative impacts on student lives,” said Hinnant. “I look forward to working with our outstanding students, staff, and faculty as they take on the most challenging issues in the information fields.”

## **ALUMNUS PROMOTED TO PARTNER AT DELOITTE**

IT Alumnus **Cedric Nabe** (B.S. '08) was promoted to Partner at Deloitte. “It’s like reaching the Olympics,” said Nabe. “I’m super excited to have reached the highest level of my company.” The new position means Nabe will be leading larger teams, bringing in new clients, and achieving greater sales at Deloitte. Nabe is based in Switzerland, where he has previously served as a Director of Risk Advisory at Deloitte, and credits much of his success to his time as an IT student here at Florida State.



## **CHRISTIE KOONTZ JOINED KEY LIBRARIES IN THEIR FIRST WORKSHOP IN KENYA**



From April 21–May 4, Adjunct Professor **Dr. Christie Koontz** joined Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY) Libraries as a facilitator in their first workshop for their librarians in Kenya. KEY has built 46 school libraries in Kenya, and Koontz provided not only her skills and expertise in storytelling but also 100 pounds of storytelling texts donated by Richard Owen Publishers. “I was honored to be invited to the very first one and I hope this helps set a model for future workshops,” said Koontz. “Storytelling is valuable not only to education and entertainment but to science, outreach, organizations, therapy ministry – any communication effort really.”

## **PROFESSOR INAUGURATED AS 2023–2024 AIS SIGSEC PRESIDENT**

**Dr. Shuyuan Metcalfe**, an Associate Professor in the School of Information, was recently named President of the Association of Information Systems (AIS) Special Interest Group on Information Security and Privacy (SIGSEC). The President provides leadership and a platform for information systems scholarship in fields in cybersecurity, privacy, and ethics. “Being President of AIS SIGSEC gives me more exposure and connection to international colleagues while also elevating my perspective of the IS Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Ethics research on an international platform and in global contexts,” said Metcalfe.





## NEW LEADERSHIP AND THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF PHILANTHROPY

*By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development*

I am excited to welcome new leadership in our College who will be instrumental in strategically charting the future of our College's philanthropic priorities as we prepare for our upcoming comprehensive campaign. I'd like to take this opportunity to applaud our new Dean, Michelle Kazmer, our incoming CCI Leadership Board Chair, Jeanne Ford, and our CCI Leadership Board committee co-chairs who will be leading and guiding us in shaping our College's philanthropic and development initiatives.

We are currently exploring new avenues to enhance and expand opportunities to continue to support our students, faculty, and programs and further the impact that we have not only in our local community but also nationally and globally. With the valuable insights and expertise that our leadership and you, our donors, will provide, I believe that we can all work together in achieving our philanthropic and fundraising goals.

The generosity of our donors has made a significant impact on the lives of our students and I am truly thankful for their commitment and dedication. I am confident that with the guidance of our donors and our new leadership, we can continue to shape the student experience and drive positive change in our community.

In today's rapidly evolving world, the spirit of philanthropy is finding innovative avenues to make a meaningful impact. Traditional methods of donation, such as giving to established charities or fundraisers, are being complemented by exciting new opportunities that harness technology and creativity. I believe that our College is well-poised to lead these new donation opportunities that reflect the changing landscape of philanthropy. By embracing technology, collaboration and creativity, CCI is finding innovative ways to make a difference.

I would love to hear from you as we explore exciting new fundraising opportunities that include digital currencies, micro-donations, crowdfunding campaigns, impact investing, and others. With your commitment and support, the spirit of giving at CCI will continue to thrive, bringing hope and positive change to communities worldwide. I look forward to collaborating with you and our new leadership as we look towards the future in charting new avenues that will have a meaningful impact in the work that we do in higher education and contribute to building a better, more compassionate world.



**Mafé Brooks**

# STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## SCSD DOCTORAL CANDIDATE RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD

Doctoral Candidate **Denisha Campbell** has been selected for a Fulbright Award for the academic year 2023-2024. As a recipient, Campbell will travel to Uruguay in March 2024. "Uruguay was unique within the Fulbright Program in that it gave me access to multiple populations in both urban and rural areas," explained Campbell. Her research, which focuses on language and literacy among children from largely minoritized backgrounds, benefits from sampling different populations to find differences in instruction. Ultimately, Campbell's goal is to use her findings to help improve literacy education in the U.S.

## ISCHOOL STUDENT WINS PANHELLENIC MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Information Communication Technology (ICT) student **Laini Little** received the 2023 Panhellenic Member of the Year Award. Laini has been involved in many activities during her time at FSU, most of which have been within the Panhellenic Association. "This award truly has me at a loss for words," said Little. "I think about the tremendous impact that Panhellenic and [fraternity and sorority life] have had on me, and am so grateful that I was able to give even an ounce back."



## FSU DEBATE TEAM GOES TO ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

On April 15, 2023, the FSU Debate Team participated in the ACC Debate Tournament, where it reached the championship round after having an undefeated season. Though the team lost in the final round to Wake Forest, it was not short of its own victories. Student **Nicole Sandoval**, who has competed with the FSU Debate Team since her freshman year, was awarded Top Speaker during the tournament. "Earning top speaker in my senior year served as a satisfying end to my run," Sandoval said. "The FSU collegiate debate team allowed me to better harness the skill of communication. It has shown me how powerful my voice is and how it is my greatest tool."





# ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## Alumnus Donates Two Tickets to RenderATL to iSchool Students

iSchool Alumnus **Casey Jostine** recently donated two tickets to the RenderATL Conference from May 31–June 2 at Americasmart in Atlanta, Georgia. As the Director of Operations at RenderATL, Casey is always looking for ways to advocate for current students in their pursuit of technology excellence. IT students **Efner Pierre** and **Owen Van Lenten** were awarded the opportunity to attend RenderATL to network with industry professionals and learn more about exciting innovations that are happening in the tech world.

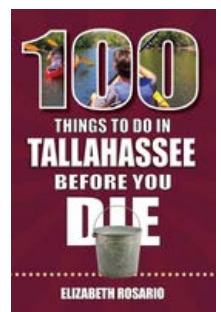
## Alumna Wins Reputation’s Innovation Award

iSchool Alumna **Ashley Dias** (B.S. '12) was a guest speaker at Reputation’s Transform 2023 Conference, where she received the Innovation Award. This award is dedicated to a Reputation client or partner who demonstrates innovation within the field of customer experience. “This award showed me how many people recognize the work that I do, even when I don’t recognize it myself,” said Dias. “In marketing and even in work life, things are constantly changing, and you must learn to adapt while being open to change.”



## Alumna Publishes Tallahassee-Themed Book

School of Communication alumna **Elizabeth “Ely” Rosario** published her 3rd book, “100 Things to Do in Tallahassee Before You Die.” After graduating in 2000, Rosario stayed in Tallahassee to work. She became heavily involved in the community, and, as a result, Reedy Press reached out to her and suggested that she write a book about all the things the city has to offer. “This started as a challenge because people are always saying there is nothing to do here. I told my friend ‘I bet you I can find 365 things to do here’ and so I did,” said Rosario.



# COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

## DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES FORMS CONNECTIONS AROUND CAMPUS

Digital Media Services (DMS), a new CCI auxiliary created by faculty member **Jim Garbarino** in 2021, gave students the opportunity to work alongside Provost James J. Clark, Dean of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) Thomas G. Blomberg, and former FSU President John Thrasher to produce online certification training videos. "I have gotten a true glimpse at what it is like in a professional atmosphere," said student **Sophia Lee**. "Working with former FSU President John Thrasher was such an amazing experience."



## CCI STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH TECH COMPANIES IN TAMPA

Associate Dean **Ebe Randeree** led a group of eight students to Tampa to meet with CCI alumni and companies in hopes of building connections and gaining more insight into what employers in their field are looking for. This trip was organized by FSU STARS, and the companies that welcomed the students for a tour included JP Morgan, CITI, Tampa Bay Wave, and Reliaquest.



Students (from left to right): **Jennifer Sterling, Ryan Surujballi, Jai Reed, Catalina Smith, Efner Pierre, Stacci Smith, Owen Van Lenten, Aya Saludo**

## PROFESSOR RECEIVES FSU'S 2022-2023 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

Associate Professor of Communication **Dr. Russell B. Clayton** received Florida State University's 2022-2023 Distinguished Teacher Award, the University's most prestigious honor for teaching. He had previously been the recipient of university and college-level teaching awards since joining the faculty in 2015. "I was surprised and honored upon hearing that I was this year's recipient," said Clayton, who is CCI's fourth recipient of the award. "For a group of colleagues and students to consider me has been surreal and a humbling experience."



# CLASS NOTES

**Stephanie Bertone** (M.S. '12) became the Monograph Cataloging Librarian at UCF Libraries.

**Courtney Caswell** (B.S. '19) named Director of Operations for Baseball for the Naval Academy Athletic Association.

**Alexandra DeCapua** (B.S. '21) worked at the 2023 Wimbledon Championships in London, England.

**Scott Edinger** (B.S. '92) published his book, *The Growth Leader*, debuted as #4 on the Wall Street Journal bestseller list (business category).

**Stephen Gorham** (M.S. '04) named a Tech Leader of the Year Finalist by Tampa Bay Tech.

**TaRhonda Harvey** (B.S. '02) had her company recognized as Most Innovative Business Solutions Provider by Global 100 and as Digital Marketing Agency of the Year by Corporate LiveWire Global Awards.

**Maura Hayes** (B.S. '82) inducted into the FSU Alumni Association's Circle of Gold.

**Thomas Hollar** (B.S. '12, M.S. '15) and his team launched *Streamlined Audience Building*.

**Kimberly King** (M.S. '16) recognized as a graduate of the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center's Milestone Circle Program with an appearance on the Market Site Tower in Times Square.

**Gina Lafleur** (B.S. '12) started a new position as the Senior Manager of Global Business Intelligence (BI) and Visualization within Pfizer.

**Jackie LaPointe** (B.S. '15) nominated for the Women Grocers of America's Woman of the Year Award.

**Anndi Jinelle Liggett** (B.A. '15) received the HBO Short Film Award during the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) showcase for her short film "Jelly."

**Jason McArthur** (B.S. '12) opened two new coffeeshops in Tallahassee under his company, Argonaut Coffee.

**Gregg McBride** (B.S. '86) released two films, "Would You Kill For Me? The Mary Bailey Story" and "The Christmas Ringer," in 2023.

**Neill McKee** (M.S. '88) published a memoir on his travels, *My University of the World*.

**Mike Mitchell** (M.S. '19) became Senior Director for Funding and Incentives with Gladstein, Neandross & Associates, a clean energy and transportation consulting firm.

**Captain Julie Kim Moss** (B.S. '88) honored as one of the FSU Alumni Association's Grads Made Good.

**Cedric Nabe** (B.S. '08) promoted to Partner at Deloitte.

**Alexa Nikiforou** (B.S. '13) honored as the NY chapter of the PRSA 15 under 30.

**Dr. Neleen Leslie Piper** (M.S. '11, Ph.D. '15) published her first children's book, *A to Z Affirmations: from a mother to her sons*.

**Samantha Rivers** (ICT '13) became Director of Communications at Revell Media, LLC.

**Ely Rosario** (B.S. '00) published her third book, *100 Things to Do in Tallahassee Before You Die*.

**Jocelyn Simmons** (B.A. '17) published her first poetry book, *Next Round On Me*.

*Have an update to share with us?*

**Share Your  
Class Note** 

# COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

Students, alumni, and faculty shared a delicious dinner at the CCI Fall BBQ.



Dr. Ferchoud (left) and Dr. Proffitt (right) got extra spooky this Halloween! 🎃



The Tally Job Hop gave students the opportunity to network with local companies.



Representatives from around the University welcomed Dean Kazmer into her new role.



What better way to kick off the fall semester than with free donuts? 🍩

# COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI alumni Caroline Benson (right) and Drew Piers (not featured) took leadership positions in the FPRCA Capital Chapter.



Student award winners were recognized at our Scholars and Stars event.



We celebrated our summer graduates with events around campus! 🎓



High school students attended iCamp over the summer, where CCI faculty and staff taught them essential skills in tech.



The annual TalTech Conference brought together local industry leaders, students, and Cosmo the Astronaut at FSU's campus. 🚀

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## Handling Change

**BY JEANNE FORD, CCI LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR**

Be honest. How do you handle change? Changes in the personal aspects of your life? Changes in the academic, work or other aspects of your life? There is certainly a lot of change going on in the world around us. Many articles, books, podcasts, and blogs have been written about “dealing with change.” The thing about change is it’s constant, so learning to deal with it, or better yet **influence it**, is a valuable skill set.

I like to think of change as an opportunity. Whether a good or challenging change, what does this change mean and what role do I want to play in this space? Or... there is a need for change. What is the current situation? What is the desired situation? What are the resources and variables involved? How can I influence the situation to drive the desired positive change?

So, what positive changes have Dean Kazmer and the CCI faculty/staff been driving? This year, they expanded the College’s leadership team, opened new experiential learning programs for students, and forged new connections both across FSU’s campus and around the globe.

During our Fall Board meeting, the CCI Leadership Board worked together to identify ways we can continue to serve and help drive the changes that will position the College for continued development and growth so the students are well-positioned for success and to be champions of positive change wherever they choose to work, live, and thrive!

We encourage CCI alumni, faculty, and students to contact the Leadership Board for speakers, mentors, consultations, with networking or internship opportunities, and more. We are here to serve.



**Jeanne Ford**

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