



CONNECTION **Spring 2026**

FSU Health By Michelle Kazmer, Dean of the College of Communication & Information

Greetings from lovely Tallahassee, where we are enjoying the warming weather and the end to a successful spring semester. I'm delighted to invite you into the pages of the College of Communication & Information Spring 2026 *Connection* newsletter. Here you will find what is truly the tip of an iceberg: some examples of the important work the faculty, students, staff, and alumni of our college are doing with the exciting new FSU Health initiative.

In many ways, absolutely everything that happens in our college and its three schools is dedicated to improving the life experience of people, and thus contributes to health and wellness across everyone's lifespan. But this issue of our newsletter focuses on some of our specific programs, research projects, interdisciplinary collaborations, and clinical services that are closely related to health. Even so, these pages only encompass a small portion of what we do!

Spending time with the College of Communication and Information means you will meet folks like Dr. Rachel Bailey, James E. Kirk Professor of Communication and Director of the Communication Wellness Research Center; Dr. Zhe He, Professor of Information, Director of the Institute for Successful Longevity, and leader of the iSchool's eHealth Lab; and Dr. Elizabeth Madden and Faculty Clinical Supervisor Ellen Nimmons, leaders of the new Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program.

You will meet School of Communication Distinguished Alumnus Bob Knight and Herbert Wertheim College of Business Hall of Fame Honoree Gail Knight, who have generously invested the very first endowed professorship in the School of Communication Science & Disorders: the Bob & Gail Knight Distinguished Professorship in Audiology. We are grateful for this incredible philanthropic investment in the School's ability to educate the next generation of audiology professionals. Thank you Bob and Gail Knight!

You will also find stories about conferences attended, presentations shared, and academic programs developed. You will be inspired by the health care and research we do throughout the world. You will, as always, have the opportunity to enjoy posed and candid pictures of various college events since our last issue. Look closely: you might spot a College of Communication and Information "celebrity," a familiar face, or a happy memory!

Whether you are fondly remembering your time in Tallahassee, or if you want to share a new story with us, this is a great time to engage with us. Please email info@cci.fsu.edu and tell us how you are doing. I would love to hear from you, and to meet with you—whether you will be in Tallahassee or I will be in a location near you.

We at the College of Communication and Information share our warm thoughts with all of you this spring and look forward to an amazing summer. We at the college continue to enjoy—thanks to the brilliant work of everyone here!—the highest level of success in our academic programs, research and creative accomplishments, clinical services, and student experiences. I hope you enjoy reading about them in more detail throughout this issue of our *Connection* newsletter.



Michelle M. Kazmer, Dean

FSU Health at our College

Driven by Discovery

SCSD Faculty Part of Team Awarded \$5M to Develop AI Tools for Children with Speech and Language Challenges

Drs. Andrea Barton-Hulsey and Michelle Therrien are part of a multi-institutional team awarded a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop AI-enhanced tools for children with speech and language limitations. They will lead two projects under a five-year Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CACCS) grant, focusing on improving communication and literacy for children who use AAC. The work also incorporates input from adults who use AAC to ensure research is guided by lived experience and supports real-world communication needs.



Dr. Michelle Therrien Dr. Andrea Barton-Hulsey

SCOM Alumnus Plays Significant Role in iGem Gold Medal Wins



Aidan Marengo served as Visual Arts Lead for the FSU iGEM team, part of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition, a global synthetic biology program focused on solving real-world problems through genetic engineering. The team earned a gold medal for the second consecutive year at the iGEM Grand Jamboree in Paris. Marengo produced both a promotional video and presentation highlighting the team's research on genetically engineered E. coli aimed at reducing microplastic absorption. Drawing on skills from the Digital Media Production program, he used storytelling and animation to document the team's scientific process, challenges, and growth.

iSchool Professor Gretchen Stahlman Helps Lead Forum on Actionable Public Health Data Dashboards

Dr. Gretchen Stahlman is helping reshape how public health dashboards are designed and used. She helped organize a 2025 forum in New Jersey that brought together researchers, designers, and community partners to develop a research agenda for actionable public health data tools. Building on her work with collaborators at Rutgers University, Stahlman focuses on how dashboards support decision-making, their sustainability, and the partnerships needed to maintain them. She emphasizes that effective dashboards require collaborative, community-informed design and play an important role in improving data literacy and public health outcomes.



CCI Establishes the Bob & Gail Knight Distinguished Professorship in Audiology

Bob and Gail Knight have established the Distinguished Professorship of Audiology, the first-ever distinguished professorship in the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD). The endowed position was created to support the expansion of audiology education and services within the College of Communication and Information and will fund an inaugural faculty member to lead innovation in the field across the region.



The investment will help position FSU as a leader in audiology education and care while addressing a growing regional need. Longtime supporters of the University, the Knights have previously contributed through scholarships, guest lectures, and involvement with programs across campus.

The idea for the professorship emerged after Mr. Knight toured SCSD's L.L. Schendel Speech and Hearing Clinic in Fall 2024 as part of an FSU Foundation Board of Directors visit. During the tour, he met Dr. Selena Snowden, Director of Audiology Services, and observed students practicing ear exams ahead of the clinic's annual Help Guatemala Hear Service Trip. Learning more about the college's vision for expanding audiology offerings inspired the Knights to establish the professorship and invest in the future of audiology education at FSU.

CCI Researchers Network at 2025 Research Summit



CCI hosted the 2025 CCI Research Summit on Oct. 23 at the FSU Turnbull Conference Center, bringing together faculty, researchers, and campus leaders to highlight interdisciplinary research and real-world impact. Panels covered healthcare communication, cybersecurity, and translating research into practice. The summit also showcased graduate student research and strengthened connections across communication, information, and health fields.

CCI Undergraduates Present Research at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference

Jad Dargam, an Information Technology student, and Angel-Amon Wildgoose, a Media Communication Studies student, presented their research at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference in Jacksonville. Dargam's study examined how avatars shape identity, belonging, and self-expression in virtual environments, while Wildgoose analyzed how Canadian media practices affect the visibility of Black artists.



Angel-Amon Wildgoose Jad Dargam

Rising in the Rankings

School of Information Secures Elite Top 10 Spot in 2026 National Rankings

CCI's iSchool continues its national leadership in digital education, earning strong placement in the 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs rankings. The online Master's in Information Technology (MSIT) ranked No. 8 nationally and No. 5 among public universities. The program was also recognized for its support of military-affiliated students, ranking No. 4 among public universities and No. 5 nationally for veterans. "The ranking is a recognition of the hard work and innovative teaching of the iSchool's faculty as well as the highly professional student support provided by our staff," said iSchool Director Charles Hinnant.



College Success

CCI Students, Faculty, and Organization Recognized at 2026 Leadership Awards

FSU's 2026 Leadership Awards Night honored students, faculty, and organizations for leadership, service, and involvement. CCI members earned multiple awards. Doctoral candidate Akansha Kharkwal received the Dean's Cup, while Alyson Mizanin and Yasamin Khosh won Outstanding Leadership and Service Awards. Mylah Tate earned the Sean A. Pittman Award, and Snailley Dol received the Bob E. Leach Award. Associate Dean Ebrahim Randeree was named Advisor of the Year. The STARS Alliance won Organization of the Year after hosting 175 events that reached over 9,000 students, both on campus and in K-12 schools.



School of Communication Science and Disorders Recognized as Top Speech-Language Pathology Program in Florida



The SCSD speech-language pathology program was ranked No. 1 in Florida, No. 13 among public programs, and No. 17 overall in U.S. News & World Report rankings. The recognition reflects the dedication of faculty, the talent of students, and the real-world impact of research and clinical training. The program prepares future clinicians and researchers who improve lives daily, underscoring its strong national reputation and impact. "Being recognized as the top speech-language pathology program in Florida reflects the dedication of our faculty, the talent of our students, and the real-world impact of our research and clinical training," said Dean Michelle Kazmer.

CCI Students Recognized in FSU Torchbearer 100 Ceremony



Sydney Simon (right)

FSU's Torchbearer 100 ceremony recognized 100 outstanding students for leadership and service, including several from CCI: Tatiana Garcia and Karlie Jackson (Advertising); Margot McFadden, Sydney Simon (pictured), and Jacqueline Tinoco (Communication Science and Disorders); Alyson Mizanin, Vega Scholpp, Sydney Sherry, and Emily Woo (Media Communication Studies); Megan Olivero and Samantha Randall (Public Relations); Jose "JJ" Sigurani Rivera (IT); and Sela Teplin (Political Science and Media Communication Studies). They were honored achievements such as academic excellence, campus involvement, and leadership.

School of Communication Selected to Host 2029 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) has selected the School of Communication to host the 2029 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium. The colloquium is a regional conference bringing together scholars, professionals, and students to advance journalism and mass communication research and education. AEJMC promotes high standards in the field and supports inclusive, interdisciplinary collaboration, with an emphasis on accessible participation for graduate students across the Southeast.



CCI Faculty Recognized at 2026 University Teaching Awards

FSU honored several CCI faculty at the 2026 University Teaching Awards. Drs. Elizabeth B. Madden and Mia Lustria received the Student-Centered Teaching and Mentoring award. Mr. Ebrahim Randeree and Dr. Sana Tibi were recognized for Outstanding Teaching in the Major. Drs. Elizabeth Ray and Jaejin Lee received Outstanding Graduate Teaching awards, and Dr. Zhe He earned the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. "Exceptional teaching is at the heart of everything we do," said CCI Dean Dr. Michelle Kazmer.



School of Communication News

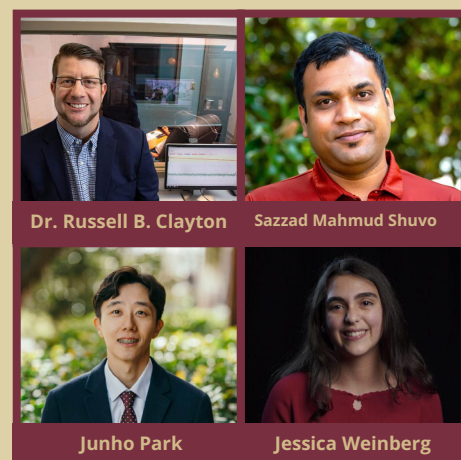
School of Communication Launches Inaugural Advisory Council

The School of Communication held the first meeting of its inaugural advisory council on Jan. 27, a milestone led by School Director Dr. Patrick Merle. The council brings alumni and industry leaders together to review curriculum, identify opportunities, and ensure programs align with evolving industry needs and FSU Health priorities. Members, including journalist Stephen Langel, Drew Piers President and Partner at Sachs Media, and entrepreneur Victoria V. Carlton, focused on mentoring, data-driven skills, AI integration, and real-world career preparation. The group's goal is to strengthen connections between the classroom and the communication industry.



Dr. Patrick Merle

Cognition and Emotion Lab Team Published in Health Psychology



Dr. Russell B. Clayton
Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo
Junho Park
Jessica Weinberg

Researchers from the Cognition and Emotion Lab at Florida State University, led by Dr. Russell B. Clayton, published a study in *Health Psychology* examining how young adults respond to anti-oral-nicotine-pouch videos on TikTok. The team measured participants' physiological reactions and self-reported cravings after viewing content with and without disgust-eliciting imagery. Results showed that videos using moderate disgust captured more attention and reduced intentions to use nicotine products. The findings suggest strategically placed health messaging on social media can help discourage nicotine pouch use and support public health efforts.

SCOM Assistant Professor's Research Featured in Journal of Eating Disorders

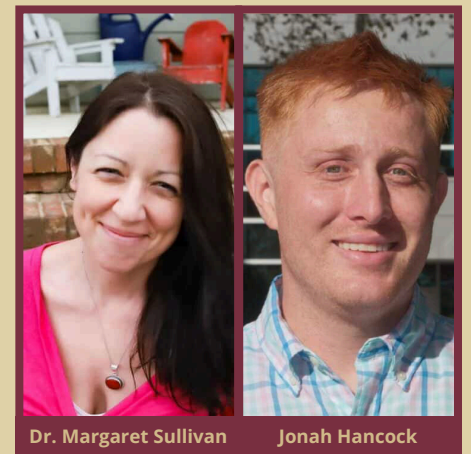
Dr. Braidyn Lazenby, Assistant Professor at the School of Communication, published a study in the *Journal of Eating Disorders* exploring how informal caregivers express uncertainty in eating-disorder discussions on Reddit. The research shows caregivers often face conflicting fears; balancing concern for a loved one's health with worry about harming their relationship. The study highlights the need for accessible resources outside healthcare settings and recommends creating social media and nonprofit-based support to help caregivers navigate difficult conversations and uncertainty in recovery.



School of Information News

iSchool Student and Faculty Member Research Opioid Crisis and Internalized Stigma

Dr. Margaret Sullivan and graduate student Jonah Hancock studied how internalized stigma shapes opioid use and health-information-seeking behavior in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood. Their research, "The effect of self-stigma on the health information seeking and health behaviors of opioid users," found that shame and stigma can increase overdose risk and discourage individuals from seeking medical care, even for serious conditions. Through work with over 100 participants, the team emphasized that compassionate, nonjudgmental engagement is critical to improving health outcomes and addressing addiction-related harms in vulnerable communities.



Dr. Margaret Sullivan
Jonah Hancock

iSchool Researchers Secure National AI Infrastructure Award to Advance Patient-Clinician Communication



Dr. Zhe He
Dr. Balu Bhasuran

A team researchers from the School of Information received a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Pilot Program allocation to advance AI in healthcare. The project focuses on fine-tuning open-source large language models to improve how patients and clinicians communicate about laboratory test results. Led by Drs. Zhe He and Balu Bhasuran, the work builds on the LabGenie system to generate clearer, patient-centered explanations and questions. Supported by NSF and DOE partners, including 2,000 NVIDIA H100 GPU-hours from Purdue's Anvil AI, the project aims to enhance transparency, trust, and shared decision-making in healthcare.

Two iSchool Faculty Receive IMLS Grants for Data Curation and Disaster Resilience Research

Drs. Gretchen Stahlman and Marcia Mardis received more than \$331,000 in Institute of Museum and Library Services grants. Stahlman's project develops a data curation internship for Library and Information Studies students while supporting the Unified Astronomy Thesaurus. Mardis's grant strengthens disaster resiliency and crisis leadership in libraries through national convenings, virtual training, and a public report with recommendations. Together, the projects advance hands-on learning, collaboration, and applied research to strengthen libraries' roles in data management, community support, and emergency response.



Dr. Gretchen Stahlman
Dr. Marcia Mardis

FSU Audiology Program Brings Record Number of Students on Guatemala Service Trip

Students traveled to Guatemala for the largest-ever “Help Guatemala Hear” service trip, completing 250 hours of training before providing hearing care in low-resource communities. Led by Program Director Dr. Selena Snowden, the team fit 276 hearing devices, treated more than 200 patients, and performed over 100 ear cleanings in just four days. Students described the impact of their experiences, including having some patients hear for the first time. This trip is a long-standing partnership with local communities and a chance to for clinical training, cultural preparation, and student growth.



SCOM Alumna Laura J. Downey Named One of Atlanta’s Most Influential Women

Laura J. Downey, a School of Communication alumna and editorial director of WebMD Magazine, was named one of Atlanta’s Most Influential Women in the February 2026 issue of Modern Luxury’s The Atlantian. Downey began her career at People magazine and has since built a national reputation for thoughtful storytelling and leadership in journalism. She credits her time at FSU for strengthening her writing, confidence, and sense of community; foundations that continue to shape her work and commitment to amplifying diverse voices.



SCSD Associate Professor Awarded R56 Research Grant



Dr. Elizabeth B. Madden is a co-investigator on a newly awarded R56 grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. The interdisciplinary project, led by William Graves (Rutgers University), focuses on “Evidence-Based Modeling Approaches to Customizing Treatments for Acquired Dyslexia.” The team is developing neural network models to simulate post-stroke reading impairments and predict effective interventions for individuals with aphasia and alexia. The research aims to reduce ineffective therapy trials and improve rehabilitation outcomes for stroke survivors through personalized treatment.

SCSD Alumna Robyn Hillison Honored at Seminole 100 Annual Celebration



Robyn Hillison, a School of Communication Science and Disorders alumna, was recognized in the 2026 Seminole 100 annual celebration for her work as founder of Capital Speech & Language Therapy Services. Established in 2015, her practice provides pediatric, research-based language and occupational therapy. In their state-of-the-art facility, Hillison and her team of dedicated speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists provide effective, engaging interventions tailored to support patients. She joins an elite group of FSU alumni celebrated for heading the fastest-growing businesses in the nation.

The School of Communication Science and Disorders’ Impact on Deaf Communities

Families of Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children are learning American Sign Language (ASL) through the Family and Friends ASL Class series hosted by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing American Sign Language Educational Outreach Program. Led by Drs. Kristen and Casey Guynes, the program helps families build early communication skills and address language access gaps, since most Deaf children are born to hearing parents unfamiliar with ASL. The series also fosters community support and connection while teaching that early exposure to sign language strengthens communication outcomes for DHH children.



iSchool Alumna Lenese Colson Named Department Head at Valdosta State

Dr. Lenese M. Colson, a School of Information alumna, has been named head of the Department of Library and Information Studies at VSU. An associate professor at VSU since 2019, Colson earned both her Master of Library and Information Studies and Ph.D. in Information Studies at FSU. She credits her graduate training for shaping her leadership approach and now focuses on advancing online education, fostering inclusive learning environments, and preparing future information professionals for the evolving impact of AI.



Alumni Highlights

CCI Alumni Celebrated as Circle of Gold Honorees

CCI alumni Zach Heng and Jennifer Collins were inducted into the FSU Alumni Association's Circle of Gold this year, celebrating their outstanding service and professional achievements. Heng, Founder and Owner of The Heng Group, LLC, Partner and Co-owner of Yunnan by Potomac Restaurant Group, and National Head of Partnerships of Ascend, credits FSU for shaping his leadership style and community focus. Collins, a dedicated attorney and child advocate, and has been instrumental in strengthening the bond between families and the University's core mission by founding the FSU Parents & Family Advancement Council.



SCOM Alumna Lyndsi Edgar Named Seminole 100 Honoree



Lyndsi Edgar, a School of Communication alumna, was selected as a Seminole 100 honoree, recognizing the fastest-growing businesses owned or led by Florida State alumni. Edgar is COO and founder of eLuminate Marketing, a boutique agency she launched after graduating with degrees in public relations and integrated marketing communication. Her time at FSU shaped her passion for marketing through hands-on coursework and campaign development experiences. She builds a strong workplace culture through recognition, collaboration, and growth, and encourages students to adopt a growth mindset and pursue challenging opportunities.

iSchool Alumnus Launches Orphiq, a New AI Business for the Music Industry

Juan Camilo Sanchez, a School of Information alumnus, co-founded Orphiq, an AI productivity platform for music artists and their teams. The platform helps artists manage content creation, marketing, and career development by providing up-to-date, personalized insights and creative ideas, including social media strategies. Sanchez, who has worked across the music and tech industries with companies like Sony, Meta, and Spotify, said Orphiq addresses gaps in general AI tools by offering more current and tailored recommendations.



Faculty Highlights

SCOM Professor Appointed as an Associate Editor of JMP

Dr. Rachel Bailey, James E. Kirk Professor of Communication, was appointed associate editor of the Journal of Media Psychology after earning multiple reviewer awards from the journal. The peer-reviewed publication examines how individuals interpret media and how it shapes emotion and behavior. Bailey's research focuses on motivated processing, decision-making, and emotional responses to media. She also co-edited the De Gruyter Handbook of Media Psychology and leads the Communication Research Center and her Interactions in Communication Contexts Lab, which studies real-time physiological and behavioral responses to media using advanced tracking technologies.



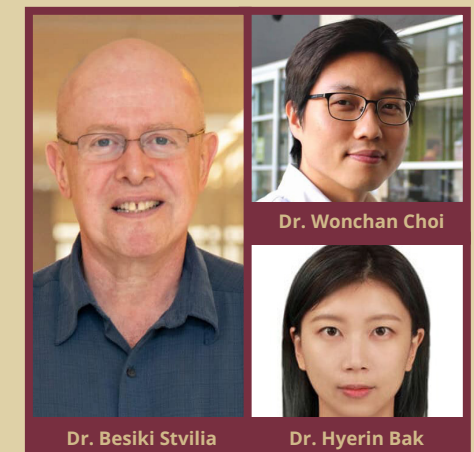
Dr. Richard Morris Retires After Nearly Four Decades of Shaping SCSD at FSU



After nearly four decades, Dr. Richard Morris is retiring from the School of Communication Science and Disorders, leaving a lasting legacy of mentorship, innovation, and student-centered teaching. Over the years, he helped shape the program through his leadership and commitment to academic excellence. His legacy is reflected in the countless students he guided, the colleagues he supported, and the impact he made on the department's culture and community. He will be remembered for his dedication to experiential learning, faculty support, molding generations of clinicians, and strengthening SCSD's programs for years to come.

iSchool Faculty and FSU Alumni-Led Collaborative AI Research Wins 2024 SIG AI Best Paper Award

The iSchool is celebrating alumni Drs. Wonchan Choi and Hyerin Bak, and Professor Besiki Stvilia, alongside collaborators for receiving the 2024 SIG AI Best Artificial Intelligence Published Paper Award which was presented at the Association for Information Science and Technology annual meeting held in Washington D.C., in November 2025. Their study focused on how college students evaluate the credibility of AI-generated information for academic work. The research found students use tools like ChatGPT to support writing, clarify ideas, and enhance learning.



Dr. Besiki Stvilia

Dr. Hyerin Bak

Dr. Wonchan Choi

Celebrating Our Distinguished Alumni

Dr. Dania Bilal: Distinguished Alumna

Dr. Dania Bilal, School of Information alumna, and Patricia D. Williams Professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's School of Information Sciences, is an information scientist focused on human information behavior, human-AI interaction, and human-centered AI design. Her recent project, funded by a UT System Grand Challenges Grant, studies 4-H students' interactions with generative AI tools during immersive learning experiences. Bilal led the IDEA Institute on AI (2020–2023), supported by the IMLS, and serves as invited editor for a 2025 special issue on AI in education.



Dr. Cindy McGovern: Distinguished Alumna

Dr. Cindy McGovern, a School of Communication alumna, is an internationally recognized speaker, sales strategist, and bestselling author widely known as the "First Lady of Sales." With a doctorate in organizational communication, she began as a college professor before moving into consulting and founding Orange Leaf Consulting and Academy. She teaches that sales is a life skill and helps individuals build confidence, advocate for themselves, and communicate effectively—inspiring confident communication, leadership, and self-advocacy skills today globally.



Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan: Distinguished Alumna

Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, a School of Communication Science and Disorders alumna, is a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Valdosta State University. She received a bachelor's and master's degree in speech-language pathology from Florida State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and she remains a proud Seminole fan. Her clinical and research areas of interest include adult voice and swallowing disorders as well as the development of critical thinking skills in Communication Sciences and Disorders students.



Celebrating Our Dean's Laureates

Pablo Correa: Dean's Laureate

Dr. Pablo Correa is an Associate Professor and Program Director of Digital Media and Communication at the University of Saint Joseph. He holds degrees from Florida State University and previously taught at Willamette University. His work focuses on documentary filmmaking and digital media exploring racial justice, as well as youth and education initiatives within Black and Hispanic communities in America.



Kaki Pope: Dean's Laureate

Kaki Pope was born in New Orleans and raised in Atlanta. She received her B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Auburn University and her M.S. in Audiology from Florida State University. She has owned Audio Rehab Lab since 1988, focusing on ethical, patient-centered hearing care. Pope is active in community giving, supporting hearing and elder care causes. She has received multiple Best Audiologist awards and an FSU Distinguished Alumni Award.



Natalie Woods: Dean's Laureate

Natalie Woods received her M.S. in Information Studies from Florida State University in 2015. She previously was Branch Manager of the historic Western Library (2017 - 2025), the first U.S. public library fully staffed by African Americans for African American patrons. Her role included preserving the library's legacy, relaunching programs, digitizing archives, and supporting community initiatives. She now manages Parkland Library and continues community engagement through local partnerships and councils.



Kimberly Leigh Amos-Tata: Dean's Laureate

Kimberly Amos-Tata, whose passing on July 20, 2025, our community still mourns, dedicated over 30 years to supporting students at FSU. She most recently was Assistant Director of Academic and Student Services in the School of Information. At FSU she held multiple roles across campus and earned awards for mentorship and service. Known for her compassion, she opened many doors for CARE and international Ph.D. students. She is honored by the Florida Library Association's "Kimberly L. Amos-Tata Florida State University iSchool Scholarship."



Faculty Promotions

With Gratitude: Advancing Health-Focused Innovation Together



ERIN BUSH

Promoted to Associate Professor



RICHARD WATERS

Promoted to Associate Professor



REBECCA GREENHILL

Promoted to Teaching Faculty II



KELLY KELLY

Promoted to Teaching Faculty II



ANCHALEE NGAMPORNCHAI

Promoted to Instructional Specialist II



BROOKE OTT

Promoted to Teaching Faculty II



JIM GARBARINO

Promoted to Instructional Specialist II

Congratulations to these faculty for their hard work and dedication to our students and our college!

These seven faculty promotions will take effect in the Fall 2026 semester.

By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development



Mafé Brooks

At the College of Communication & Information, I'm reminded every day that our greatest strength is the community around us. It's your generosity, your belief in what we do, and your willingness to invest in our mission that make this work possible. Because of you, we're able to educate, inspire, and empower the next generation—your support is changing lives. Thank you.

Because of your partnership, we're able to grow programs and initiatives that sit at the intersection of communication, information, and health—areas that are so critical to improving quality of life and building stronger, healthier communities. You're helping create opportunities for students to learn, to lead, and to step into careers that require both compassion and innovation.

One of the most powerful examples of your impact can be seen in our health-focused initiatives. From advancing audiology and speech-language pathology programs to supporting interdisciplinary research and community outreach, your contributions are creating meaningful change. Students are gaining hands-on experience through clinics and community engagements, preparing them to step into careers where they will serve individuals and families with care and expertise.



At the same time, your support is empowering our faculty to push boundaries. They are leading important research that addresses real-world challenges—from expanding access to hearing care to exploring how communication and technology can improve patient outcomes. Leading our research that contributes to health and wellness across everyone's lifespan are Dr. Rachel Bailey, James E. Kirk Professor of Communication and Director of the Communication Wellness Research Center; Dr. Zhe He, Professor of Information, Director of the Institute for Successful Longevity, and leader of the iSchool's eHealth Lab; and Dr. Elizabeth Madden and Faculty Clinical Supervisor Ellen Nimmons, leaders of the new Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program. Their research doesn't just stay within our College—it extends into communities and helps shape the future of healthcare.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of the Langford family, we will soon be launching a speech and hearing mobile clinic that will truly transform lives. This initiative will bring essential services directly into underserved communities while providing our students with meaningful, hands-on experience that prepares them to lead and serve with compassion. We are deeply grateful to our alumni and friends at the Moore Agency—led by Karen Moore and Terrie Ard—for their generous time, creativity, and expertise in designing the bus wrap. Their team was exceptional to work with, and we truly appreciate their partnership.



We are deeply grateful to School of Communication Distinguished Alumnus Bob Knight and Herbert Wertheim School of Business Hall of Fame Honoree Gail Knight for their extraordinary generosity and vision. Their investment in establishing the very first endowed professorship in the School of Communication Science & Disorders—the Bob & Gail Knight Distinguished Professorship in Audiology—marks a truly meaningful milestone for our college. Because of their philanthropic leadership, we are better equipped to educate and inspire the next generation of audiology professionals who will make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Bob and Gail, thank you for your belief in our mission and for the incredible impact of your support.

I invite you to consider deepening your impact in this work. Your philanthropic investment can help us provide experiential learning opportunities for students pursuing health-focused careers, fuel faculty research that improves lives, strengthen and enhance programs and facilities, and expand outreach efforts that meet people where they are.

Every gift—no matter the size—contributes to a larger vision: a future where communication and information are harnessed to improve health outcomes and strengthen communities. Your investment is not just in programs, it's in the student who finds their calling, the faculty member whose research changes lives, and the individuals and families who receive care, connection, and hope.



Thank you again for all that you make possible—it truly means so much. I'd love to stay connected and hear how you're doing, so please don't hesitate to reach out at mbrooks@fsu.edu. I hope we'll have the chance to connect in person as well—whether that's the next time you're in Tallahassee or when I'm traveling to your area. It would be wonderful to spend some time together.

Class Notes

Kelsey Carver (B.S. '15, M.S. '23): Accepted a role with PwC as a Senior Associate on their Identity and Access Management team

Ryan Corwell (B.S. '24): Promoted to System Engineer at Syntech Systems - FUELMaster

Danielle Cuccaro (B.S. '15, M.S. '17): Promoted to Senior Project Manager, Global Rental Operations at Travel + Leisure Co.

Joshua Duke (M.S. '24): Started a new position as Director, Branding & Creative Services at Florida State University

Ryan Egleston (B.S. '09): Started a new position as RHEL Engineer at GuideWell

Elizabeth Goldfarb (M.A. '19): Started a new position at NBCUniversal as Manager, Digital Inventory

Cortney Hamilton (B.A. '18, MS'23): Started a new position as Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement at St. Petersburg College

Sebastian Joshi (B.S. '26): Started a new position as CTO Engineer I at C5MI

Olivia Linton (B.S. '16): Joined ProjectTeam, Inc. as Product Marketing and Content Manager

Laura Luque (B.S. '19): Started a new position as Operations Manager at Dark Digital

Chelsea Moore (B.S. '16): Promoted to VIP Coordinator at the Circuit of the Americas on the Music & Entertainment team

Regine Nelson (M.A. '08): Started a new position as Principal Consultant, Employee Experience & Internal Communications at Forty1

Jacquelyn Pfeil (B.A. '22): Promoted to Assistant Editor at St. Martin's Publishing Group

Anna Prentiss (B.A. '09, M.S. '24): Started a new position as Director of Communications at FSU Information Technology

Tiffany Seeber Taylor (M.S. '97): Started a new position as Founder and Director at Project SmallTalk

Courtney Stephenson (B.S. '11): Started a new position as Sr. Full Stack Web Developer at Illumia

Have an update to share with us?



College Happenings



CCI and International Programs Alumni Mixer in Washington, DC



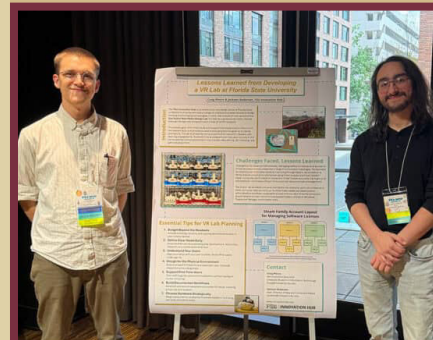
The Bob & Gail Knight Distinguished Professorship in Audiology is established



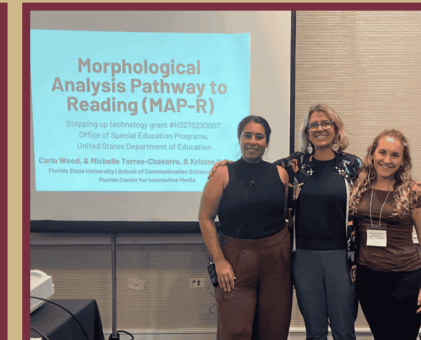
2025 Research Summit with faculty, researchers, and campus leaders



CCI hosts the Building Resilience Communities Forum, where experts discuss crisis communications across industries



Innovation Hub researchers at the Visual Resources Association conference



SCSD faculty and student present at the FEDHH conference



STARS students present at the the Technology Student Association Leadership Training



eHealth Lab hosted a workshop and presented research at AMIA 2025



The Dean welcomes back CCI students and faculty with donuts for the Spring semester



CCI Treats You Right

College Happenings



iSchool researchers present AI deepfake research at ICIS 2025



Spring CCI Leadership Board meeting with speaker VP of University Advancement, Dr. Marla Vickers



Student and Alumni Mixer March 26, where students met CCI Alumni and our Leadership board



CCI Professor Avery Henry (not pictured) leads FSU Speech and Debate team at the International Forensics Association Tournament in Athens, Greece



CCI Students Present at the 26th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium



CCI Staff and Faculty Appreciation Luncheon on April 9, in recognition of all of the hard work of our CCI community



SCSD Research Rounds Mini-Conference



SCSD Audiology Program brings record number of students on Guatemala Service Trip



Distinguished Alumni & Dean's Laureates Luncheon on April 11



ITS student interns present research at ITS Rise 2026



CCI alumna Dr. Sara Blakely speaks at Spring Commencement



Students and faculty were celebrated at the 2026 Honors and Awards Ceremony



Spring Commencement ceremony on May 2, 2026



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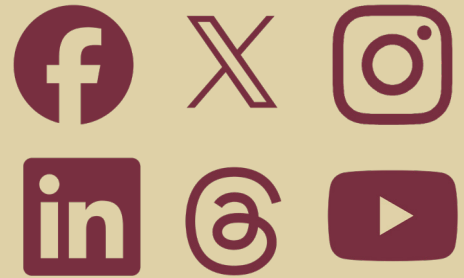
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National Rankings, Local Impact

By Joe Snowden, College of Communication & Information Board Chair

As the latest US News & World Report rankings attest, CCI and its programs continue to rank among the best in the nation—and the trajectory seems to be ever-upwards.

Having served for many (many!) years on the Leadership Board, I was there when the college received the directive to grow its graduate programs and we see the fruits of those labors in a Top 20 ranking for graduate programs at the School of Communication and Science Disorders and a Top 10 spot for the iSchool's Online Master's program in Information Technology. I'm particularly proud that this program is also Top 5 for veterans. And our School of Communication grad students continue to be among the most-recruited in the nation by private sector employers.

Of equal importance, CCI's programs are impacting the lives of the community. After a very strong advancement initiative, the college will be rolling out a mobile clinic that brings support to people's doorsteps and will be especially helpful for those who have less access to traditional services.

Three cheers for the leaders, faculty and staff who are making CCI's programs a success and positively impacting the lives of many.



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