

CONNECTION



15 YEARS OF THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

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

Greetings, and welcome to the College of Communication & Information Fall 2024 Connection newsletter, in which we mark the milestone of 15 years as a merged college. I want to acknowledge that our celebration of this anniversary is strongly tempered by our keen awareness of the damages and injuries caused by severe storms this hurricane season. We are mindful that recovery efforts are ongoing and that the impacts were severe.

Even in this sobering time of storm recovery, we take hope in the resilience and industriousness of our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. Throughout the newsletter you will find a focus on alumni from the academic year 2009–2010 class, the first students to graduate from the College of Communication & Information at Florida State University. In keeping with the beautiful history of the colleges that preceded us – and the amazing graduates who have come since – they have achieved extraordinary things.

You will also find stories about some of the bright spots of 2024 for our students and graduates, with a focus on awards. What a stunning array of awards it is, including Emmy Awards, a Tavistock Trust for Aphasia Distinguished Scholar, and a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship...plus many more. I invite you to celebrate their accomplishments with us.

You will get to glance through the recent past in pictures, enjoying posed and candid images of various college happenings. Look closely: you might spot a College of Communication and Information "celebrity," a familiar face, or a fond memory!

And once those memories are jogged, or if you want to share a brand-new story with us, this is a wonderful time to engage with us. Please reach out to info@cci.fsu.edu and let us know how you are doing. 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.

We at the College of Communication and Information share our warm thoughts with all of you this fall. The foundation of the College set in its first 15 years by our students, alumni, staff, and faculty is incredibly strong and the next 15 years – and beyond – promise to be stellar. Our academic programs are growing, our world-class faculty and staff are changing the world, and our students and alumni are excelling in every scholarly and work setting. I hope you enjoy reading about them in more depth throughout this issue of our Connection newsletter.



Michelle M. Kazmer Dean

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (SCOM)



DANIELLE PINNOCK (B.A. '09)

Current Occupation: Sales Director at Microsoft Advertising

"I did not know that a career in technology would be possible for a communication major. After spending my final semester interning in New York City, I moved after graduation and started working in the non-profit sector until I landed a position at an advertising agency. I was an Account Executive working on traditional advertising (TV, radio, print, OOH, etc.) for a variety of brands and

while working on a first-ever digital campaign for a client, I was exposed to what a career could be on the publisher side. After meeting a recruiter from Microsoft in 2014 at a conference, I learned more about digital advertising and marketing. I started my career at Microsoft Advertising in 2015 and have not looked back since."

KAROL VARGAS (M.A. '09)

Current Occupation: Manager at Disney, Data Outcomes & Attribution

"The IMC program helped me develop my soft skills (teamwork, problem-solving, time management and empathy to name a few). Technology and measurement are constantly changing and I would encourage anyone going into media to embrace any new tech and learn as much about it as possible. Most employers are looking for someone to fit in a collaborative environment - the job itself can be taught."



LAUREN ANTISTA (M.A. '09)

Current Occupation: Media and Communications Manager at the FSU College of Social Work

"My favorite memory at FSU was my classroom discussions and experiences with the stellar students and faculty including Drs. Davis Houck, Andy Opel, Laura Arpan, Donna Nudd, and so many others I can't name them all here and my classmates. I met so many kind, passionate, and brilliant people who inspired me and helped me grow personally and professionally. One highlight of my undergrad

experience was working with Dr. Davis Houck and a group of other students on research for one of his books on rhetoric, religion and the civil rights movement. The experience challenged and expanded my perceptions of the world around me, not to mention my research and critical thinking skills."

STEVEN SCHALE (M.A. '09)

Current Occupation: Chief Executive Officer at Unite the Country

"I was at FSU in the early days of social media becoming a fixture in society, and I did research in several classes about the intersection between social media and democracy. I actually ran President Obama's Florida campaign while in graduate school. I largely do the same work now, though I also do more work advising corporate clients as well as playing in the political space."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (SCSD)



JOSIE GUSTAFSON (M.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Speech-Language Pathologist at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Outpatient Neurological Rehabilitation

"Upon graduating from FSU, I accepted a PRN position at TMH as a Speech-Language Pathologist in 2009. The SCSD prepared me for my career through rigorous courses, clinical training, mentorships, alumni relations, research experiences, and continued learning."

LORRAINE BOOK (PH.D. '09)

Current Occupation: Program Director for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program at D'Youville University

"The knowledge I gained and skills I developed from my courses and research assistant position made me a better clinician, teacher, and scholar. All the CSD faculty and clinical supervisors played a part in preparing me for my academic journey ahead, but in particular Dr. Juliann Woods inspired me the most. Her knowledge, research and passion for early intervention inspired me to teach courses on the topic, direct the Interdisciplinary Early Intervention Program at Northeastern and serve the profession."





JINGER DEASON (M.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Graduate Program Coordinator for Distance Learning at the FSU School of Communication Science and Disorders

"I was approached by a faculty member to determine interest in a position for an adjunct professor. I was definitely interested! From there, after a couple of semesters of teaching a practicum course, I applied for a position that came open on faculty for the clinical placement coordinator. I had phenomenal clinical supervisors during my time as a student at CCI that served as great examples as I developed my own skills as a clinical supervisor out in the community and now as a faculty member mentoring students in the DL program."

MOLLIE ROMANO (M.S. '09, PH.D. '12)

Current Occupation: Associate Professor in the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University

"I came to my current role in 2018 after working in professional development for early interventionists for about five years. Those experiences were critical to my current line of research, and they still keep me connected to community-based programs. So much has changed related to the physical space. We are in a different building now, and we continue to grow! Other things remain unchanged. Our faculty are still so caring and top notch, and our students are still passionate and dedicated to changing the lives of others through their work."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (ISCHOOL)

NICHOLAS SWAINE (M.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Technology Consultant at Infinity Software Development "I worked for the CCI Helpdesk during the merger and helped bring all three schools' technologies together. We went from supporting just the School of Information (then SLIS) to also providing support services to Comm. and Comm. Sci & Disorders. It was a fantastic challenge in learning how different infrastructural approaches to technology can be enmeshed."



PAMELA MONROE (M.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Library Director for the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

"Our LEAD professors, Drs. Nancy Everhart and Eliza Dresang, really helped our cohort not only learn the fundamentals of librarianship and how teaching played a huge part in how a school library could be successful. I attribute my genuine love for this profession to those developmental days."

THOMAS GORNICK (B.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Sr. Technical Account Manager at Bluecore

"I was a lifelong nerd coming into the IT program at CCI, however progressing through courses that paralleled the Network+ and Security+ certification routes was essential in establishing a technical understanding that was fully and immediately applicable in the career space. I also always champion the business/technical communication courses and group work as being able to communicate effectively in this industry is just as valuable as being proficient at the tech itself, if not more."





HOWARD RODRIGUEZ-MORI (PH.D. '09)

Current Occupation: Associate Professor at Texas Tech University

"Among my experiences at CCI, teaching as a lecturer and then as an Associate Professor helped me hone skills I still practice to this day. As a Project Athena scholar, I had the opportunity to teach not only for CCI, but other universities as I completed my Ph.D. The combination of those varied experiences provided a wealth of skills and practical knowledge."

MICHELLE DEMETER (M.S. '09)

Current Occupation: Head of Undergraduate & Instructional Services at New York University Libraries

"One of my most pivotal experiences at FSU was my leadership role in the ALA Student Chapter. I coordinated various activities for CCI students, forging strong friendships and professional connections that endure 15 years later. My year as Vice President significantly impacted future collaborations and professional service, inspiring me to become more involved in library associations, such as ALA, FLA, and ACRL. Building on this legacy of service, I continue to mentor emerging professionals and actively participate in library organizations."



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION NEWS



ALUMNUS ADAM WALLS RECEIVES EMMY

Adam Walls (B.S. '05) received a Children's & Family Emmy Award for The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special, his first award as a makeup artist. "At Florida State, I worked on projects with my friends. How cool is it that all these years later, I'm still doing the same thing: working with friends, just on a much bigger stage," Walls said. In 2021, Walls began production on this project working alongside a team of 30 makeup and hair artists. His primary focus was providing makeup for one of the holiday special's characters, Kraglin, who had a prosthetic "fin" attached to his head, requiring Walls and fellow makeup artist Samantha Ward over an hour to assemble each day of filming.

ALUMNA KRISTA WITIAK RECEIVES EMMY

Krista Witiak (B.S. '19) was awarded an Emmy for her series "Outdoor Colorado!" which is part of FOX21's lifestyle show, *Loving Living Local*. In the series, Witiak is seen engaging and encouraging Southern Colorado viewers to explore various Colorado outdoor locations and activities. "I hope my reporting gets people excited about exploring the amazing outdoor spots in Colorado," Witiak said. "I would love for my work to help people feel more connected to their community and take pride in the natural beauty around us."





ARROWHEAD ADVERTISING PLACES IN TOP 8 IN 2024 NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION

Florida State's <u>Arrowhead Advertising</u> reached the final round of the 2024 National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC). The team advanced through the district and semi-final rounds, ultimately ranking 6th out of the 103 schools that initially entered. "I'm incredibly proud of the collective accomplishment of our team," said **Dr. Kelly Kelly**, Arrowhead's faculty advisor. "Our team earned a spot in the top 8 out of 103 schools. So that's an elite group. It takes an ambitious team to accomplish that."

ALUMNA NIKKI MÉNDEZ RECOGNIZED AS AN AD AGE RISING STAR 2024

Nikki Méndez (B.S. '20) has been recognized as an Ad Age Rising Star 2024. The Rising Star awards are designed to celebrate those who are up-and-coming, making their mark on the marketing and advertising industry. The Stars have worked to demonstrate substantial growth, creativity, and initiative in non-managerial roles. "It feels very surreal, like a 'pinch me' moment," Méndez said. "It's reassuring knowing that what I've been doing built up to something that is really important and cool." Méndez currently works as an art director at Weber Shandwick.



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS NEWS

GRADUATE PROGRAM RISES IN RANKINGS

The speech-language pathology graduate program in the School of Communication Science and Disorders ranked No. 14 among all public and private institutions and No. 10 among publics according to U.S. News & World Report. "As the director of FSU's School of Communication Science and Disorders program, I am immensely proud of our rise in the rankings," said **Dr. Carla Wood**. "This historic achievement is a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students."





DOCTORAL CANDIDATE RECEIVES AWARD

Doctoral candidate **Miguel Garcia-Salas** has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Vanderbilt Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences Rising Star Award. "I'm deeply honored and humbled to receive the Rising Star Award," Garcia-Salas said. "It's incredibly validating to know that my work resonates with others in the field, especially at such an early stage in my career."

GRADUATE STUDENT WINS MASTER'S IN FOUR COMPETITION

Graduate student **Korrin Sheahan** won first place in Florida State University's fifth annual <u>Master's in Four competition</u>. "I've been working on this project for the past two years as part of my master's thesis, so being able to showcase it to a group of people that might not be familiar with augmentative and alternative communication is great, just to be able to provide that awareness of what communication devices are out there for people with disabilities," said Sheahan.





PROFESSOR RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AWARD

Dr. Elizabeth Madden was awarded the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia 2024 Distinguished Scholars Award. This award recognizes research excellence related to quality-of-life issues in aphasia, an acquired language processing disorder that affects a minimum of two million individuals within the United States. "This award will help me connect with others who are working to improve language abilities and life participation for stroke survivors with aphasia and help open doors to new collaborations and opportunities for me, students, and those who participate in my research," said Madden.

PROFESSOR MADE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF CAPCSD

Dr. Tricia Montgomery has been elected President-Elect for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Science and Disorders (CAPCSD). "It is a profound honor to serve in this capacity and give back to a profession and organization that has brought me immense joy," Montgomery said. <u>CAPCSD</u> is a membership organization with over 350 CSD programs from the United States, Canada, China, Puerto Rico, and New Zealand.



SCHOOL OF INFORMATION NEWS



IT STUDENT LEADS FSU RELAY FOR LIFE TO RAISE OVER 120,000 DOLLARS

As the executive director of Relay For Life at FSU, IT student **Catherine Marshall** managed all of the organization's fundraising efforts and led it to raise over \$120,000. "Hosting a big event like this is a lot of work and very stressful. I was glad to see that it paid off and that everyone was smiling," Marshall said. She began her involvement with Relay For Life four years ago. In that span, she has participated in various programs and teams, working her way up to the executive director role where she had the goal of realigning the organization with its original mission.

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE RECEIVES FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Doctoral candidate **Vashalice Kaaba** has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship which will take her to Kenya in January, 2025. "I always gravitated toward how libraries and children's literature could help in improving education outcomes, specifically for low-income and BIPOC students," Kaaba said. As someone who came from a rural area with limited access to a local library herself, Kaaba has made it her life's mission to make library resources more accessible and efficient to better meet the needs of their communities.





PROFESSOR LEADS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH INFORMATICS

FSU co-hosted the 12th IEEE <u>International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI 2024)</u> with the University of Florida in Orlando, Florida, under the direction of **Dr. Zhe He**. "Organizing ICHI 2024 has been an unforgettable journey," said Dr. He, who served as Leading General Co-Chair of the conference alongside Drs. Yi Guo and Jiang Bian of the University of Florida. "Over the past ten months, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to ensure both the highest quality of scientific content and a seamless live event."

ISCHOOL COURSES RECOGNIZED BY NIST

Over 60 courses in the iSchool are now recognized as aligned and in compliance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity. This has resulted in the addition of these courses to the NICCS online education and training catalog. This achievement comes after the MSIT online graduate program was ranked No. 9 overall and No. 5 among public universities.

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The iSchool has launched the <u>Cyber Intelligence Graduate Certificate Program</u>. "As information security threats impact even more segments of society, we are pleased to provide ways to help our students undertake careers that address these issues," said iSchool director Chris Hinnant.

STUDENT SUCCESS

SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM GOES TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The School of Communication Speech and Debate team capped off a successful season with a winning performance at the National Championship in April. Highlights include Harleigh Demchak and Jack Merkel's performances as Double Octa-finalist and Octa-finalist, respectively, and Taylor Kaminsky's Novice Semi-finalist placement. The team's overall performance secured them sixth place in the Team Debate Sweepstakes, cementing FSU's status as a force within collegiate debate. "This year can only be described as an incredible success. I am so proud of everything the team accomplished and am looking forward to seeing what they will do next season," said Dr. Avery Henry, Director of Forensics.

SCSD Students Attend and Win Award at AAA Convention

Undergraduate students from SCSD attended the National American Academy of Audiology (AAA) convention April 17-20 in Atlanta, Georgia. Among these students were Allison Matula, Hayley Krush, Chloe Milinaro, Katie Mcgrane, and Brooke Self who returned with the Student Academy of Audiology Best Chapter Fundraising Award. "Their endless curiosity enthusiasm remind me what I love most about this profession and what an inspiration it is to know that the passion for audiology lives on for future generations," said Dr. Selena Snowden, Director of Audiology Services.





STARS STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT KILLEARN **LAKES STEM DAY**

Ten STARS (Students & Technology in Academia, Research Service) students volunteered at Killearn Elementary School's Fall Festival. They tabled stations to bring attention to the world of technology to the over 800 children and parents in attendance. "STEM engagement starts early-getting your college students to interact with and talk with young kids helps inspire the next generation of tech leaders," said CCI Associate Dean Ebe Randeree.

DEVELOPMENT

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPIC EXCELLENCE: THE COLLEGE OF **COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION HONORS ITS JOURNEY AND SUPPORTERS**

By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development

This year marks a significant milestone for the College of Communication & Information as we celebrate our 15th anniversary as a merged college. It has been a journey of growth, innovation, and impact, fueled by the unwavering support of our donors, alumni, faculty, staff, and the broader community. As we reflect on the past and look forward to the future, we recognize that our success has been built on a foundation of generosity and

shared vision.

Over the past 15 years, CCI has grown into a dynamic learning, research, and professional development. We've expanded our academic offerings, introduced leading-edge programs, and established ourselves as a leader in the fields of communication, communication science & disorders, and information. Our students have gone on to achieve remarkable success, making meaningful contributions to their industries and communities.



College, where they met current CCI students.

None of this would have been possible without the philanthropy and support of our donors. Their contributions have enabled us to provide scholarships for deserving students, fund groundbreaking research, and invest in student success. These gifts have not only enhanced the quality of education we offer but have also ensured that financial barriers do not stand in the way of student success.



One of the most impactful areas of donor support has been in scholarships. Over the years, hundreds of students have received financial assistance, allowing them to focus on their studies and pursue their dreams without the burden of overwhelming debt. For many, these scholarships have been life-changing, opening doors to opportunities they might otherwise have missed.

Beyond financial contributions, our community of supporters has played a crucial role in mentoring students, offering internships, and serving as guest speakers and advisors. This kind of engagement enriches the student experience, providing realworld insights and connections that are invaluable as they prepare to enter the workforce.

The 15th anniversary celebration is not just a time to look back; it's also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the future. As we embark on the next chapter of CCI's journey, philanthropy will continue to play a central role. The challenges facing higher education today are significant, but so are the opportunities. By working together, we can ensure that CCI remains a place where innovation thrives, inclusive excellence is celebrated, and every student has the chance to reach their full potential.

Philanthropy is more than just financial support; it is a testament to the belief in the power of education to transform lives and communities. Every gift, whether large or small, is a vote of confidence in our mission and a contribution to a brighter future.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of our journey. Your generosity, passion, and commitment have made all the difference. Here's to 15 years of excellence and many more to come! Together, we will continue to build a legacy of impact and innovation that will inspire future generations.

Mafé Brooks

Thank you for believing in us.

CLASS NOTES

Amelia Anderson (M.S. '08, Ph.D. '16) was selected for the 2024-2025 ALISE Connie Van Fleet Award for Research Excellence in Public Library Services to Adults.

Stephanie Baarman (B.S. '20) was promoted to Senior Satellite Control Systems Engineer at Intelsat.

Sara Beeler (B.S. '19) started a new position as Senior Supervisor of the Enterprise Al team at L3Harris Technologies.

Rocky Bonasorte (B.A. '19) started a new position as a Certified Personal Trainer at Premier Health & Fitness Center

Lesly Cardec (B.A. '04) was promoted to Chief Marketing Officer at ClearEdge.

Kara Darcy Chaffin (B.S. '19) was promoted to Assistant Vice President at Cl.

Lauren Chipman (B.S. '12) started a new position as Director, Digital and Website Operations at Children's Hospital Association.

Dara Cohen (B.S. '14) started a new position as Senior Director, Strategic Communications & Media Relations at American Gaming Association.

Nicole Cox (B.S. '07, M.S. '08, Ph.D. '12) was promoted to Interim Dean of the College of the Arts at Valdosta State University.

Aiven Davis (B.S. '24) started a new position as a Studio Production Intern with the Buffalo Bills.

David Dejtiar (B.S. '24) started a new position as a Business Analyst at Deloitte.

Joseph Dellosa (M.S. '23) received a Florida Library Association award for his project, "Storytimes Together."

Andie Garcia (B.S. '19) started a new position as an Associate Production Manager at Warner Bros. Discovery.

Brooke Garringer (B.S. '13) was chosen as an honoree for the 2024 Cynopsis Top Women in Media under the "PR Gurus" category.

Aisha Johnson (M.S. '09, Ph.D. '15) was named a 2024 Mover and Shaker by Library Journal.

Olivia Kennedy (B.S. '24) started a new position as PR & Marketing Coordinator at Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and Public Relations.

Jenny Lauer (M.S. '16) started a new position as Director of Franchise Development at Franchise FastLane.

Ivanna Leitner Perez (B.S. '16) was promoted to Senior Associate at Cushman.

Laura Luque (B.S. '19) started a new position as Jr. Consultant Marketing Specialist at Holafly.

Bethany Swonson McAlister (B.S. '13) started a new position as Director of Public and Government Affairs for Florida at Walmart.

Meredith McNulty (B.S. '19) was promoted to Senior Consultant at Deloitte.

Nikki Mendez (B.S. '20) was promoted to Senior Art Director at Weber Shandwick.

Rachel Mulcahy (B.S. '19) started a new position as Associate Creative Director at Sony Music Entertainment.

Sang Hoo Oh (Ph.D. '23) started a new position as Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

Daniel Patton (B.S. '23) completed Navy Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a United States Naval Officer.

Shayla Perry (B.S. '02) served as Program Director for the 48in48 2024 Social Justice Event.

Anna Ponder (B.S. '16) was promoted to Social Media Marketing Manager at Fiore Communications.

Sandi Poreda (B.A '05) was awarded the Golden Cambro Pin by the American Red Cross.

Andrew Rawlings (B.S. '12) started a new position as Proposal Manager at Harmonia Holdings Group, LLC.

Katelyn Rumenik (B.S. '14) started a new position as Manager of Software Engineering at JPMorganChase.

Alejandra Sanchez (B.S. '19) started a new position as Public Relations Specialist at Nicklaus Children's Health System.

Donnica Smalls (M.A. '12) was promoted to Senior Press Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gabriella Teresi (B.S. '18) was promoted to Senior Manager, Integrated Marketing, at Newell Brands.

Michael Walsh (B.S. '17, M.S. '21) published his third book, *Beyond the Rift*.

Julio Whalen-Valeriano (M.S. '10) started a new position as Senior Director of Communications at Environmental Defense Fund.

Muhamad Prabu Wibowo (Ph.D. '23) started a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Indonesia.

Jaliya Wilson (B.S. '21) started a new position as a Public Affairs Officer at the United States Navy.

Krista Witiak (B.S. '19) was awarded an Emmy for her series, "Outdoor Colorado!"

Vincent Yan (M.S. '20) started a new position as Lead Data Scientist at Blend.

Have an update to share with us?



COLLEGE HAPPENINGS REWIND

Since 2009, the College of Communication & Information has worked tirelessly to set its students, alumni, faculty, and staff on the path to success. In this section, we look back at some of our favorite moments from CCI history as well as celebrate some of our most recent happenings.









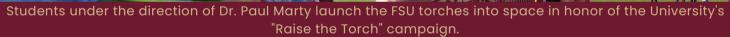


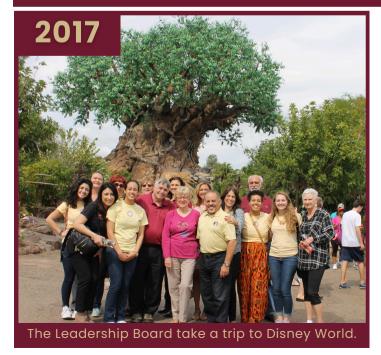
COLLEGE HAPPENINGS REWIND













COLLEGE HAPPENINGS REWIND





CCI found new ways to come together during the pandemic, like virtual Halloween-themed meetings.



Students, faculty, and staff celebrated their long-awaited return to campus with sweet treats from the College.





COLLEGE HAPPENINGS (FALL 2024)







Discovery Days.





COLLEGE HAPPENINGS (FALL 2024)













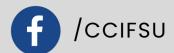
The Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication celebrates its 20th anniversary in a star-studded gala.

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CONNECTION IS DIGITAL!

Have a preferred email address? Fill out our alumni update form so that you never miss a newsletter!



THE SKILLS TO SUCCEED

BY JEANNE FORD, CCI LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

Happy 15th Anniversary College of Communication and Information! You may be young in years but your impact runs deep in helping educate and prepare students to head out into the world and pursue their dreams.

CCI sure set me up for success. My first role after I graduated was handling media relations while traveling across the country on the professional tennis circuit. I leaned heavily into what I had learned at CCI about communications, public relations, research, writing, and utilized those presentation and nonverbal communication skills to write stories, manage post-match press conferences, and learn to read the journalists in the room.

Throughout my years on the tennis circuit, working the Centennial Olympic Games, and over two decades at Walt Disney World Resort, I've employed the skills and the networks garnered through my time in the classrooms, as an alumna, and serving on the CCI Leadership Board.

My favorite connections with CCI now are when I'm asked to speak to a class or have a meet and greet with a student. I'm always impressed by how well the students conduct themselves, the experience they've already gained, and the dedication faculty and staff have in setting them up for success.



Jeanne Ford info@cci.fsu.edu