

CONNECTION



Photo by FSU Marketing/Bill Lax

RESEARCH

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

Greetings, and welcome to the College of Communication & Information Spring 2025 *Connection* newsletter, in which we review some of the ways our wonderful students collaborate with our faculty and staff to build knowledge that keeps us at the forefront of our disciplines and professions. I want to acknowledge that our celebration of the achievements of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff is strongly tempered by our shared grief as a result of the tragedy on our campus on April 17, 2025. Lives were lost, and lives were irrevocably changed; our campus is different because of that horrific day.

Even in this sobering time of grief and reflection, 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 how our students, faculty, staff, and partners work together to improve lives and make the world better. Thank you to all the incredibly supportive alumni that reached out after the event through calls, emails, and visits to offer resources, support, phone calls, cards, check up — our community is strong

You will find stories about some of the bright spots over recent months for our students and graduates. The FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic was named Best in Tallahassee, a School of Communication alumna was awarded for hurricane relief work with the Red Cross, and a School of Information alumna received the Connie Van Fleet Award for her research contributions that improve public library services for adults. I invite you to celebrate their accomplishments, and more, with us.

In addition, some of our excellent graduate programs were ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* this fall and two master's programs were the highest-ranked of their kind in the State of Florida. Information was #10 among public universities and Communication Science and Disorders was #14 among public universities. It is wonderful that our stellar programs, faculty, staff, students, and alumni have been recognized in this way.

I know that for many of us, our time at FSU and our interactions with the College of Communication and Information center on the new knowledge we have built and the lives we have improved as a result. As you reflect on those memories for yourself, 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 thoughts with all of you. We treasure the resilience of our shared community and our willingness to support each other in hard times. I hope you find hope and inspiration throughout this issue of our *Connection* newsletter.



Michelle M. Kazmer
Dean

RESILIENCE

ALUMNA AWARDED FOR HURRICANE RELIEF WORK WITH RED CROSS



School of Communication (SCOM) alumna **Sandi Poreda** has been a long-time volunteer with the American Red Cross. This year, Poreda faced one of her most challenging tests as she led critical relief initiatives in response to the effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton on the State of Florida. To honor her hard work, Poreda was awarded the Golden Cambro Pin, a special symbol within the Red Cross community. The pin, specially created by Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) volunteers, is rare and symbolizes extraordinary service under special circumstances.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY EMBARK ON 9TH ANNUAL HELP GUATEMALA HEAR TRIP

From February 3-7, School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) students, faculty, and alumni traveled to Guatemala for the annual Help Guatemala Hear service trip. Led by **Dr. Selena Snowden**, this initiative targets outreach and training for future professionals by providing hearing services to the community abroad. The audiology team contributed over 140 hours of training and service, provided hearing healthcare to 214 patients, fit 174 hearing aids, performed ear cleanings, and fit a bone-anchored hearing aid.



ALUMNA KEY TO U.N. ADVOCACY

As an FSU student, **Dr. Mariam Shaikh** was inspired by the University's hurricane alert system to research risk communications, especially those used by low-income nations to prepare communities for disasters. Her interest led her to the United Nations, where she serves as Communications Advisor to the President of the General Assembly. Now she develops advocacy campaigns that reach millions. "My research degree helped me a lot," Shaikh said. "I knew not to believe everything without evidence and it helped me with negotiating resolutions."



MAP-R PILOT STUDY MARKS A STRONG START FOR FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT

The Morphological Analysis Pathway to Reading (MAP-R) project is a five-year project funded by a \$2.5 million Stepping Up Technology Research Grant through the Office of Special Education Programs. The study, led by **Drs. Carla Wood, Sana Tibi, Michelle Torres-Chavarro, Chris Schatschneider, and Fengfeng Ke**, is designed to enhance vocabulary instruction, particularly for multilingual learners and students with language-related disabilities through interactive, computer-delivered supplemental instruction.





FSU SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC NAMED BEST IN TALLAHASSEE

The FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic was selected as the Best Hearing Aid/Hearing Specialist Center in Tallahassee in the 2024 Tallahassee Community Choice Awards. The award was achieved through a three-part process, beginning with public nominations, followed by voting by members of the Tallahassee community, and finalized with the announcement in the Tallahassee Democrat. The audiology team consists of **Drs. Selena Snowden, Catherine Johnson, and Chelsea Alexander**, who are dedicated to providing exceptional audiology care through the latest technology and best practices.

PROFESSORS JOIN FSU DISCOVERY DAYS

Drs. Zhe He and **Mia Lustria** participated in a panel on the intersection of aging and technology at the Tallahassee Senior Center as part of FSU Discovery Days, a week-long celebration of FSU research, creativity, and discovery enterprise. “We want to empower patients to take charge of their health using different tools,” Lustria said in response to a question about the challenges facing technology use. “I emphasize to my students the importance of adopting the technology appropriate to the needs of the patient.”



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR RECEIVES CRC GRANT

Dr. Braidyn Lazenby received a seed grant from the FSU Council on Research and Creativity (CRC) for her project, “One Size Doesn’t Fit All: Creating a Communication Guide for Healthcare Providers During Interactions for Patients Seeking and Utilizing Weight Loss Medication.” Lazenby’s research addresses weight stigma by developing a communication guide to help patients navigate conversations about being prescribed weight loss medication. The goal is to understand the social challenges around discussions about taking this medication and provide suggestions on how to navigate such conversations.

PROFESSOR RECEIVES NIH PHASED INNOVATION AWARD

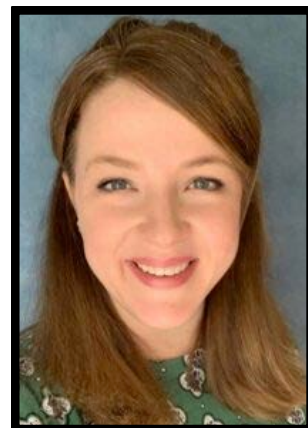
Dr. Zhe He was part of a research team that recently received a five-year \$801,110 R21/R33 Phased Innovation Award from the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This award will fund a project designed to tackle the HIV epidemic among youth in North Florida through an innovative, community-engaged approach. “It feels like a significant acknowledgment of the importance of our work in addressing the HIV epidemic among youth, particularly in underserved areas like North Florida,” Dr. He said. North Florida is characterized by high HIV prevalence but has fewer resources compared to other parts of the state.



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON AI-SCRIPTED RESPONSES TO CRISES

The *International Journal of Strategic Communication* published a study on artificial intelligence and crisis communication authored by **Dr. Elizabeth Ray**, **Dr. Patrick Merle**, and doctoral student **Kaylin Lane**. “Increasingly, professionals in communication are using AI to develop written statements,” Ray said. “We wanted to see if people would accept those messages, especially during times of crisis.” The study tested whether the use of AI (with and without a label to identify the message as AI-generated) affected message acceptance and organizational credibility.



ALUMNA HELPS LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE IN AI

Information Technology (IT) alumna **Sara Beeler** (B.S. '19) just landed a new role as the Senior Supervisor of the Enterprise AI team at L3Harris Technologies. The position entails overseeing a team of AI developers, providing mentorship and career development opportunities, and fostering a collaborative environment that encourages innovation and productivity. “The challenge was monumental: to not only establish but also lead a successful AI project that would significantly enhance our company’s technological advancements,” Beeler said. “Our endeavors culminated in a groundbreaking achievement—the launch of the first AI assistant within the government cloud space by a leading aerospace and defense company.”

PROFESSOR PARTNERS WITH MICROSOFT COPILOT

Dr. Paul Marty is working with FSU’s Information Technology Services, Office of Digital Learning, and faculty across campus to partner with Microsoft on a pilot test of Microsoft Copilot in the Classroom. In this pilot test, participating faculty are using Microsoft Copilot Studio to train a custom AI on their course materials including syllabi, readings, assignments, lectures, and more. “We are excited about the potential of this pilot test to improve our understanding of the role of AI in higher education and look forward to sharing our experiences about what worked, what didn’t, and how we can improve the software to make it more useful for our faculty and our students in the future,” Marty said.



FSU LAUNCHES DIGITAL APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE CERTIFICATE

FSU’s College of Communication & Information and College of Social Sciences and Public Policy now offer a graduate certificate in Digital Applied Social Science (DASS) to address complex social science questions using cutting-edge digital tools and ethical frameworks. Graduates of the DASS program will be uniquely prepared for impactful careers at the intersection of data science and social science, with opportunities in various fields including social research, public policy, marketing, communication, business intelligence, and academia. “Collaboration among disciplines provides the opportunity for students to gain more knowledge from more sources, and in ways they may not otherwise have imagined, to approach an issue or a topic,” said **Dr. Michelle Kazmer**.

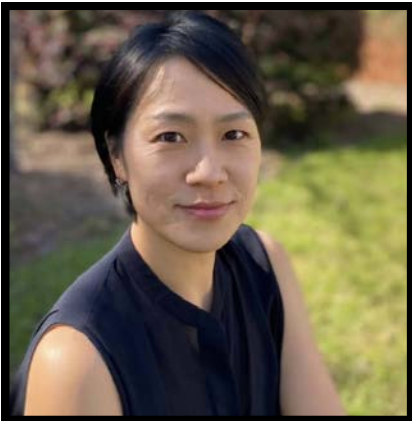


DOUBLE ALUMNA JOINS FSU OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Dr. Tracy Ippolito (M.S. '20, Ph.D. '23) started a new role as Program Director of Strategic Research Advancement in the Office of Research at Florida State University. Ippolito works with faculty to form, develop, and manage research proposal teams that go on to conduct highly collaborative research once their proposals are funded. "One of the most exciting things I've been doing since taking on this position centers around Team Science, which was the subject of my dissertation," Ippolito said. Currently, she is developing a curriculum on Team Science aimed at helping faculty enhance their collaborative research skills.

PR STUDENTS PRESENT AT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Public Relations majors **Mitch Krueger** and **Isabella Giles** presented their respective research projects at the 2025 International Public Relations Research Conference (IPRRC) in Orlando, FL. "Being selected to present at the IPRRC is genuinely an amazing feeling," Krueger said. "I did not anticipate that I would be accepted. When I applied, I don't think I fully comprehended the significance of this conference...As my understanding developed, I began to appreciate how incredible this experience is going to be."

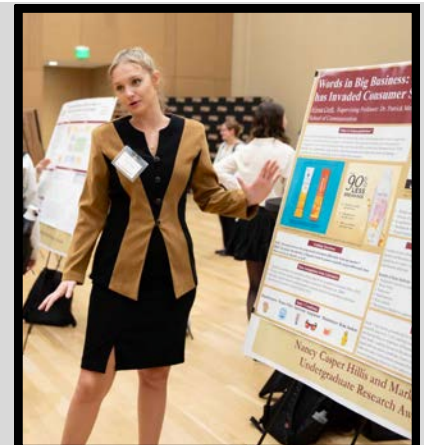


DOCTORAL STUDENT PUBLISHED IN TOP JOURNAL

Doctoral candidate **Sunah Lee** recently published her research in *Social Media + Society*, a top journal in the communication and media studies field. The article, "'I Had My Hair Cut Today to Share #Women Short Cut Campaign': Feminist Selfies Protesting Misogyny," examines the hashtag activism that South Korean women initiated on Twitter (now X) in 2021 to defend South Korean Olympic gold medalist An San from misogynistic attacks over her short hairstyle. The findings suggest that the #Women_Short_Cut_Campaign functions as a networked, effective counter-public, where women challenge efforts to control their bodies.

STUDENT PRESENTS AT FSU PRESIDENT'S SHOWCASE

Public Relations student **Alyssa Croft** presented "Words in Big Business: How Scienceploitation has Invaded Consumer Society" at the President's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. The presentation was the culmination of 10 months of work on the project, made possible by an IDEA Grant Croft received last March. Croft, who is only the seventh student in SCOM's history to be awarded an IDEA grant, focused her research on the use of misleading scientific claims for marketing purposes. She found that scientific jargon affects how people process advertisements.



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AWARDED WITH GRANT FROM NIH

Dr. Elizabeth Madden and her research team received an R01 subaward through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) at the National Institute of Health (NIH). The team has been funded to explore how improving blood flow to the brain through aerobic exercise might improve the effects of a phonologically based reading treatment delivered to stroke survivors with aphasia, an acquired language disorder. "It is very exciting to receive NIH funding. This award will help to further SCSD research productivity and provide research opportunities for students," Madden said.

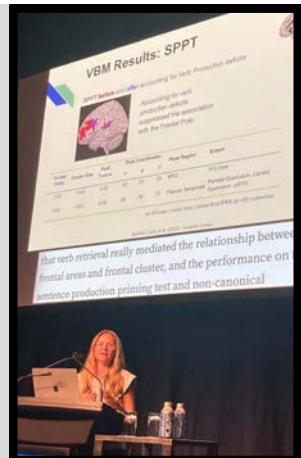


DOCTORAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AS ILA 30 UNDER 30 LITERACY CHAMPION

Doctoral student **Miguel Garcia-Salas** has been named one of the International Literacy Association's (ILA) 30 Under 30 Literacy Champions, an honor recognizing rising leaders in literacy education worldwide. "This recognition inspires me to strengthen collaborations with speech-language pathologists, educators, and families, and to advocate for equitable literacy initiatives," Garcia-Salas said. "It also drives my pursuit of research that addresses gaps in literacy access, ensuring a meaningful and lasting impact in the field."

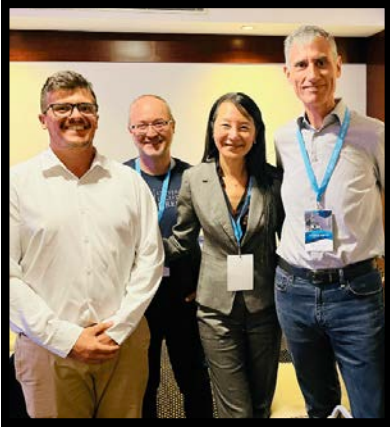
PROFESSOR SERVES AS GUEST EDITOR FOR TOP-TIER JOURNAL

Dr. Yunjung Kim was invited to serve as Guest Editor for the *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, a leading journal in the field. Her forum, "Native Language, Dialect, and Foreign Accent in Dysarthria," was published in a collection of papers from international scholars. "Although it is a small collection, I am really excited to provide a variety of article types including tutorial, commentary, and research articles offering experimental and clinical outcomes," Kim said. She aims to bring attention to the way language variation affects dysarthria symptoms, serving as a foundation for further research and promoting awareness of the diversity of the clients studied and served.



Assistant Professor Travels to Australia and Japan to Present Research

Dr. Sladjana Lukic delivered two presentations at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Aphasia in Nara, Japan, and gave a talk in a symposium at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language Conference in Brisbane, Australia. Her presentation in Australia focused on a treatment study in which she successfully identified both behavioral and neural changes following therapy, and her presentation in Japan focused on omission of clitics (function words) in the speech production of individuals with post-stroke aphasia, specifically in Serbian speakers.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMBARKS ON FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP IN BOLOGNA, ITALY

Dr. Shuyuan Ho Metcalfe began her Fulbright Scholar's journey at the University of Bologna in Italy, where she is part of a research team exploring different perspectives of anonymity between Europeans and Americans, and expanding their research in cybersecurity and operations technologies research to understand human-computer interactions' broader societal impact. The team plans to conduct surveys to compare perceived anonymity practices across both continents and administer studies on deepfakes and social engineering.

ALUMNUS PUBLISHED IN PLOS ONE JOURNAL

Alumnus **Muhamad "Prabu" Wibowo** and iSchool Associate Professor **Lorri Mon** published their study, "Investigating the Practices and Preferences of Health Scholars in Sharing Open Research Data," in PLOS ONE, a peer-reviewed journal. Their study explores how health researchers engage with sharing open research data, their motivations, and the challenges they face. "Through this publication, I hope to encourage further research on open data practices in health sciences and influence institutional policies to support more transparent and ethical data-sharing frameworks," Prabu said.



DOCTORAL STUDENT PUBLISHES RESEARCH

Doctoral candidate **Lateef Ayinde** had his research published in *Business Information Review*, a Sage Journal. He was the lead author, with co-authors **Ayoola Oluwaseun Ajayi** and **Ayansewa Adedeji**, fellow doctoral students in the iSchool. His paper, "Reimagining the Roles and Skills of Information Professionals in the 5IR," dives into how the fifth industrial revolution (5IR) is reshaping the role of information professionals and outlines crucial strategies for these professionals to not just survive but thrive in this rapidly evolving landscape. "There is a need for awareness, learning, upskilling, re-skilling, and mega-skilling to survive in the 5th industrial revolution," Ayinde said.

Professor Leads PLAN Jam Workshop

Dr. Marcia A. Mardis led PLAN Jam, a workshop designed to empower public library professionals to enhance their disaster preparedness and community engagement strategies during and outside of natural disasters. This event brought together emergency operations officials, library leaders, and researchers to focus on revising public library disaster plans. The goal of the workshop was to create actionable frameworks for libraries to serve as community resiliency hubs, master the essentials of local government collaboration, and leverage Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to effectively map and address the needs of vulnerable communities.



STUDENT SUCCESS



Student Presents Research at ASHA

SCSD student **Samantha Bikulcius** presented her Honors in the Major research at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference in Seattle, Washington. Bikulcius's research was selected as a Meritorious Poster at the convention, a special designation for proposals judged to be exceptional during their review process. Her study examines the relationship between cognitive factors and the listening effort required to comprehend intelligible, dysarthric speech. Dysarthria, a motor speech disorder, affects the muscles used for speaking, making communication challenging. Bikulcius hopes to attend graduate school and continue her research. "Specifically, I am hoping to tie my interest in motor speech in with another passion of mine: theater and performing arts," Bikulcius said.

PR TEAM WINS DIRECT EFFECT INNOVATION CHALLENGE AT THE USF

Four Public Relations students won the Direct Effect Innovation Challenge at the University of South Florida (USF) on November 8. The team—**Allison James, Paige Peterson, Victoria Pires, and Mitchell Krueger**—was presented with the challenge of attracting attention from food enthusiasts to Tampa Bay's emerging food scene by designing a campaign with a United States Postal Service direct mail piece and a presentation in less than 3.5 hours. "I'm proud to say that our team won the competition with a well-thought-out campaign and delivered one of the best presentations of the day," said **Dr. Richard Waters**, who accompanied the students on the trip. Krueger added, "Together, we were able to come up with creative and innovative ideas. That's what PR and marketing are. They aren't one-person jobs; they're a team sport."



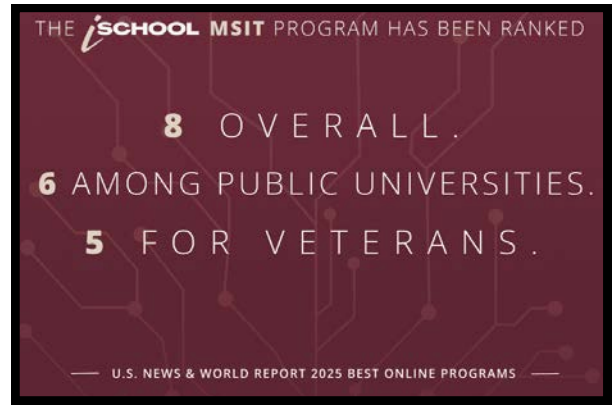
STUDENT ATTENDS THE IRTS MULTICULTURAL CAREER WORKSHOP

Information Technology (IT) student **Jennifer Sterling** attended the International Radio & Television Society Foundation (IRTS) Multicultural Career Workshop in New York City. IRTS is an organization dedicated to all aspects of electronic media, with a mission to build future media leaders in the industry. During the two-day workshop, Sterling attended panels, listened to guest speakers, engaged in Q&A sessions, and met with recruiters and representatives from a variety of media companies. "Being able to take time away from classes and work to focus on my future felt like an immense privilege, one I don't take for granted," said Sterling.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

iSchool's MSIT Program Ranked #8 for 2025 Best Online Programs

The iSchool's online Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program continues to excel as a leader in online education, ranking No. 8 overall, No. 6 among public universities, and No. 5 for veterans by *U.S. News & World Report*. One of the key drivers behind the program's ongoing success is its ability to adapt to emerging technologies and trends. Recent faculty hires with expertise in artificial intelligence demonstrate the school's proactive approach to addressing future workforce demands. "The School of Information has been a long-time model of excellence in the content and delivery of online IT education, with a strong focus on student success, and I am delighted that their efforts continue to be recognized by this ranking," said **Dr. Michelle Kazmer**.



SCSD LAUNCHES LISTEN, SPEAK, AND SING

SCSD recently launched "Listen, Speak, & Sing" in collaboration with Music Therapist Jessica DeKleva. The program supports early language development and strengthens the bond between young children and their caregivers through music. This Program aims to make early language learning accessible, fun, and interactive by using music as a natural medium to engage children in meaningful ways. "Ultimately, we want families to feel empowered, supported, and equipped with practical strategies they can use at home to nurture their child's speech and language growth," said SCSD faculty member **Brooke Ott**, who co-designed the program alongside her colleague, **Linda Sasser**. Through this program, graduate student clinicians are learning the critical components of caregiver education and interprofessional practice by preparing and presenting lessons every week.

New SCOM International Program in Switzerland

SCOM introduced a new study abroad program in Geneva, Switzerland. This program allows students interested in climate change and geography to highlight these issues through journalism and reporting. Students will be abroad for two weeks and have the chance to immerse themselves in the environment and experience the extent of climate change by taking part in mountain treks, glacier excursions, and staying in the Alpine town of Brig to see the region's natural beauty up close. "The program in Switzerland is an exciting new addition for our students. It is specifically designed to see first-hand the impact of climate change in the Alps," said **Dr. Patrick Merle**, Director of the School of Communication. He emphasized that the program provides opportunities for students to engage with experts from organizations like the World Meteorological Association and with Geneva city officials.



DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS AND ADVANCING FACULTY RESEARCH

By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development

We remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support of you, our College of Communication & Information donors. Your generosity plays a pivotal role in advancing our mission to foster academic excellence and innovation. Now, more than ever, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude and highlight the profound impact your contributions have on our students and faculty.

Your donations empower student success by directly providing them with the resources they need to excel academically and professionally. Scholarships and experiential opportunities funded by your generosity enable talented individuals from all backgrounds to pursue their education without the burden of financial constraints. These scholarships not only recognize academic achievement but also encourage students to strive for excellence.

Our faculty members are at the forefront of interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and your donations are instrumental in driving their success. Research funding allows our faculty to explore new ideas, conduct experiments, and collaborate with experts worldwide. These endeavors lead to innovations that address pressing global issues, from healthcare advancements in successful longevity, resiliency, natural disaster preparedness and response, workforce development, environmental issues, technology advancements such as artificial intelligence, and so much more.

The impact of your generosity extends beyond our campus and helps us build a stronger and more resilient community. When students and faculty thrive, the entire community benefits. Graduates who have received your support go on to become leaders in their fields, contributing to economic growth and societal progress. Faculty research often leads to partnerships with industry, government, and non-profit organizations, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

Your donations also foster a culture of giving within our institution. By setting an example of philanthropy, you inspire others to contribute and make a difference. This collective effort strengthens our community, creating a supportive environment where everyone can succeed.

On behalf of our students, faculty, and the entire College of Communication & Information community, we extend our deepest gratitude to you, our donors. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to supporting education and research are truly inspiring. We are honored to have you as partners in our journey toward excellence. I look forward to connecting with you this summer and fall to discuss how we can further collaborate and build on our shared vision.



Students and faculty celebrated their awards at our annual Honors & Awards Ceremony



Mafé Brooks
mbrooks@fsu.edu



SAVE THE DATE!
Scholars & Stars Reception
10.9.2025



CLASS NOTES

Erin Coffey (B.S. '17) started a new position as Senior Account Manager at Google.

Jenna D'Aniello (B.S. '15) started a new role as Senior PR Manager at OpenTable.

Sydney Dell (B.S. '17) started a new position as Director of Digital Merchandising at JD Finish Line.

Brian Dooley (B.A. '05) had his company, Independence Digital, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

John Doughney (B.S. '02, M.S. '03) served as the keynote speaker for the 2025 Seminole 100 ceremony.

Michelle B. Griffin (B.S. '91) launched her new book, *Position Yourself: The Four-Step Roadmap to Know, Show, and Grow Your Personal Brand Authority*.

Bana Habash (B.S. '23) started a new position as Marketing Manager at Vehicles in Video.

Katie Harris (B.S. '13) started a new position as a Marketing Director at the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

Dr. Pooja Ichplani (Ph.D. '25) attended the Visiting Future Faculty Program at SUNY Buffalo in Buffalo, New York.

Hope Knepper (B.S. '21) was promoted to Senior Analyst at Avicado Construction Technology Services, LLC.

Lauren Lachowsky (B.S. '12) joined the social measurement team at Google.

Ni'A Landon (B.S. '22) started a new position as a Social Strategist at Wieden + Kennedy.

Emily Logan (B.S. '21) started a new position as Presentation Designer at AdventHealth.

Sila Lott (M.S. '15) presented at the AECT Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Brian F. McKenna (B.S. '98) and **Matthew J. Thompson** (B.S. '99) had their company, Social Catering & Events, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Michael McDonald (B.S. '22) started a new position as a Senior Information Technology Audit Analyst at Florida Auditor General.

Nikki Mendez (B.S. '20) joined the 2025 Campaign US Inspiring Women class.

Luis A. Montanez (B.S. '07) had his company, Blind Tiger Enterprises, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Clint Morrow (B.S. '09) was promoted to Chief Information Security Officer at the Florida Department of Financial Services.

Amber O'Connell (B.A. '07, M.S. '12) started a new position as Director of Integrated Marketing at Tallahassee State College.

Drew Piers (B.S. '14) had his company, Piers Property Group, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Chance Preshia (B.S. '20, M.S. '21) started a new position as Senior Media Operations Manager at RVO Health.

Jason Randall (B.S. '20, M.S. '22) started a new position as a Program Operations Associate at Jewish New Teacher Project.

Aaron Rich (M.S. '03) had his company, Aaron Rich Marketing, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Leah Solomon (B.S. '24) joined the Ad 2 Tampa Bay board.

Stephen A. Smith (B.S. '02) had his company, Law Offices of Stephen A. Smith, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Damon Steffens (B.S. '04) had his company, Canopy Management Consulting Group, recognized among the FSU Alumni Association's Seminole 100.

Have an update to share with us?

**Share Your
Class Note**



COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



Spring Semester kicked off in regular fashion with donuts for the students, staff, and faculty 🍩😊



Students explored CCI clubs at Club Day



Snow in Tallahassee??? Our students certainly enjoyed the unexpected weather ❄️



Students and employers connected at the CCI Career Fair 📄💡



CCI staff member Elaine Howard (left) received FSU's 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award 🏆

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



The annual SAMCS Conference brought keynote speakers Maher Nasser (United Nations) and Farwa Aamer (Asia Society Policy Institute) to FSU's campus 🌐



The dean gave students a Valentine's Day treat: a presentation on the poisons, clues, and culprits found in Agatha Christie novels 🕵️♀️



We loved catching up with CCI alumni at our mixer in Atlanta, hosted by the William Mills Agency



Students explored the National High Magnetic Field Lab during its Open House 🚀



CCI saw 8 alumni join the 2025 Seminole 100

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



FSU Day at the Capitol is a great opportunity to connect with CCI alumni and students!



Leadership 2025 connected students with alumnae leaders from multiple industries

Our Development team traveled to Florence, Italy



Students enjoyed games, ice cream, and more at the CCI Spring Social 🍦



CCI celebrated 75 years of the FSU Debate Program 🎉



Happy tears were shed at Larry Dennis's Retirement Party 😭

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI celebrated its inaugural class of Dean's Laureates 🏆



Our first Relay for Life team raised over \$1800!



CCI was proud to sponsor this year's TEDxFSU conference



Students befriended therapy animals across campus 🐕



And nothing beats celebrating our students at graduation 🎓🎓🎓

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CONNECTION IS DIGITAL!

Want to engage more with the College? Complete the form to learn ways to engage and to update your contact information.

**Connect
with us!**



INNOVATION AT ALL LEVELS

BY JEANNE FORD, CCI LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

I am always so impressed and proud to read about the innovation, contributions, and accomplishments of our FSU CCI family. The impact students, faculty, and alumni have had and are continuing to have locally, across the United States, and globally is diverse and transformative. To highlight just a few...

- A five-year, \$800K+ Innovation Award from the National Institute of Mental Health of the NIH funding a project designed to tackle the HIV epidemic among youth in North Florida
- A Fulbright Scholar's experience, which blossomed out of a teaching opportunity in FSU's study abroad program in Florence, increasing the University's international engagement and long-term collaboration with transformative potential
- An iSchool alumna's award for research contribution in the field of public library services including special adult populations such as people with disabilities, minority groups, and older adults
- FSU iSchool's MSIT Program ranked #8 by *U.S. News & World Report* for Best Online Programs
- A keynote address in Mexico emphasizing FSU's role as a premier research institution in STEM and computing

Since the next newsletter will be shared after my 2+ year term as Chair of the CCI Leadership Board ends, allow me to take this opportunity to say thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you and for the collaboration and support of the dedicated CCI staff, faculty, and my amazing fellow board members.



Jeanne Ford
info@cci.fsu.edu