Spring 2024



# CONNECTION



### **INVESTING IN STUDENTS**

Greetings, and welcome to the College of Communication & Information Spring 2024 *Connection* newsletter. When I chose a career in academia, I knew I was choosing a life dedicated to investing in students. Having taught more than 1500 students in classes, and now having the opportunity to interact with hundreds of students each semester as dean, I can confirm that this was one of the best investments I've ever made! Our students become wonderful alumni, colleagues, employers, and staunch champions. Their flourishing – *your* flourishing! – is truly the rising tide that raises all ships.

I delight in the fact that I am surrounded by staff, faculty, alumni, employers, Florida State University, and the State of Florida itself, all of whom invest profoundly in our students every day.

It gives me joy every time we are able to invest in our students by leveraging the resources of the College – many of which come from our incredibly generous and committed donors, to whom I offer my extensive thanks! Most often, we are investing in excellence among our students through scholarships, travel to hard-earned national competitions or important networking trips, or equipment needed to support career readiness. Occasionally, I am sobered by the need to invest in a student who is experiencing a grave challenge. Such situations, while thankfully rare, make me especially grateful that our college is able to help.

And I turn my attention to you, dear reader: How do you think the College of Communication and Information can make sure our investment in our students is the best it can be? And how would you like to engage with us? Please reach out to <u>info@cci.fsu.edu</u> and let us know how you are doing. I would love to hear from you and to meet with you if possible. I have 11 trips to various locations in the calendar for 2024, so you never know where I might appear!

As you flip through the pages that follow, you will encounter professional successes, global travel, and impactful applications of classroom learning. In each case, our collective investment in our students has led to meaningful success. I hope you enjoy reading about them in more depth throughout this issue of our *Connection* newsletter.



Michelle M. Kazmer Dean

## **INVESTING THROUGH THE GREAT GIVE**

<u>FSU's Great Give</u> is a 24-hour annual day of giving in which donors can support areas of FSU that they are passionate about. During this year's event, which took place on March 6, the College of Communication & Information (CCI) launched ten projects to support various studentfocused programs within the College. Thanks to the efforts of our incredible donors, the College saw the fourth highest number of gifts among academic units, as well as the seventh highest dollar amount raised among academic units. Thank you to our amazing donors for continuing to support student success!



### Learn more about some of the programs which our donors helped support:



### CENTER FOR HISPANIC MARKETING COMMUNICATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Within the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication at FSU, students and faculty conduct groundbreaking research in the field of Hispanic/multicultural marketing communication. Gifts to this project supported funding opportunities for student research, travel to conferences, research fellowships, immersion visits for career development, and much more.



### DHH/ASL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

FSU's <u>Deaf and Hard of Hearing/American Sign Language Educational Outreach</u> <u>Program</u> provides undergraduate students with valuable preclinical experiences while supporting the needs of the community. Gifts to this project helped in the purchase of educational materials to support the program's language and literacy tutoring services.



### **STARS - STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

STARS (Students & Technology in Academia, Research, & Service) is an alliance of dedicated and engaged young student leaders who work with the K-12 community and on campus to increase the participation of the individuals in IT/computing disciplines. Gifts to this project helped STARS students to reach children and young adults through mentorships, presentations, workshops, conferences, and clubs.



#### **VOICES OF TOMORROW: FSU SPEECH & DEBATE SOCIETY**

The FSU debate and speech teams have consistently qualified students to compete against many of America's finest undergraduate scholars. Support of this project enables these teams to host enriching student workshops, cover travel expenses to national tournaments, and ensure active participation in campus events and various team-related activities.



#### WVFS TALLAHASSEE 89.7 FM

Broadcasting from the heart of FSU, V89 serves as a topnotch training facility, offering students hands-on, real-world experience and professional development in all facets of radio operations, including News, Sports, Announcing, Production, Continuity, Development, Public Relations, Social Media Marketing, and Live Studio Recording. Gifts to this project help ensure the future of the WVFS broadcast.

## RECOGNITIONS



### **CCI CELEBRATES SEMINOLE 100 HONOREES**

Seminole 100 recognizes the 100 fastest-growing FSU alumniowned or alumni-led businesses at a celebration on FSU's campus each year, during which each company learns their numerical ranking and receives their award. CCI celebrated the 6 alumni honorees from the College at the 2024 Seminole 100 Celebration, which included **Ryan Cappy** (B.S. '97), **Jessica Clark** (B.S. '10), **Brian Dooley** (B.S. '05), **Dave Fiore** (B.S. '86), **Aaron Rich** (M.S. '03), and **Stephen A. Smith** (B.S. '02).

### **CCI AT THE DOMI AWARDS**

The Domi Awards saw incredible representation from the College. The event, which took place on March 28, 2024, recognized local entrepreneurs that are making a difference in the Tallahassee community. Of the thirty-two nominees, four came from CCI. Congratulations to award winner **Natasha Acoff** (Information Technology alumna) and nominees **Allison Aubuchon** (Communication alumna), **Allison Tant** (Communication alumna), and **Ebe Randeree** (CCI Associate Dean). The event also featured CCI Leadership Board member **Victoria Vangalis-Zepp** as the keynote speaker.





### ALUMNA RECOGNIZED AS CIRCLE OF GOLD HONOREE BY THE FSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Maura Hayes** (B.S. '82) was recognized as one of the newest members of the FSU Circle of Gold. The FSU Alumni Association's Circle of Gold recognizes worthy individuals who, through their service and achievements, personify the University's tradition of excellence. "The tradition of excellence at FSU is so phenomenal, and I'm so proud to be an alumna and to be honored by FSU for giving back," Hayes said.

### **ALUMNA NAMED PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER**

Kate Hamill (B.S. '18) recently received the 2023 Insight Global President's Award for its health division, the highest divisional award given out annually by Insight Global. Hamill was chosen because she helped execute one of the largest staffing projects of the year at Insight Global, a company that has over 70 office locations. As an account executive, she connects hiring managers with open positions to candidates that fit each role as well as oversees major accounts including their Walgreens account. She shared that the Public Relations program had helped prepare her by putting her in reallife work situations.



## SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION NEWS



### SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION HOSTS INAUGURAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The School of Communication hosted its inaugural research conference on November 3, 2023. The theme of the conference was "Inclusive Excellence." The participating scholars, who were both students and researchers, came together at the conference to share their perspectives on inclusivity and delve deeply into the concept. "Our board worked hard to ensure an exciting and enjoyable event for all attendees...We are excited to see how the conference grows over the next few years," said **Ashley Johns**, Conference Director.

### STUDENTS CREATE PSA FOR FSU CENTER FOR HEALTH ADVOCACY AND WELLNESS

Students spent the semester creating a marketing plan and a public service announcement (PSA) for the FSU Center of Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) as part of their Social Marketing course. "This kind of experience is unforgettable and sets students up with a solid portfolio for their future careers. I'm incredibly proud of my hardworking students and the success of our marketing plan for CHAW," said **Sun Young Park**, doctoral student and class instructor.





### STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE IN THE METAVERSE

**Dr. Andy Opel's** Immersive Documentary Production class joined students and faculty from the University of Tampere, Finland, and the Universities of Bergen and Volda, Norway, to exchange ideas about climate change. The interaction took place in the metaverse on the platform spatial.io, with each participant represented by a human-like avatar with the ability to speak, gesture, and move around the virtual space.

### **ALUMNA ESTABLISHES STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP**

Communication alumna and entrepreneur **Victoria Carlton** (B.S. '18, M.S. '19) established a scholarship through her business, Carlton Creative Company, to help cover the costs associated with studying abroad for students who participate in Florida State's Communication and Media in Florence study abroad program. "Study abroad was a life-changing experience for me," said Carlton. "I want someone to truly enjoy the program and not have to think about how [they are] going to do things financially." Carlton hopes students who participate in the program gain a new world perspective and embrace the sense of community that exists in Italy.



### **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS NEWS**

### **STUDENT SPENDS SUMMER HELPING IN LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Doctoral student **Kiana Hines** volunteered her time over the summer collecting data for Gadsden County Public Schools with multilingual learners in the Migrant Education Program. "The summer program allowed me to address the research questions of my dissertation, while also developing other research questions related to supporting the language and literacy development of multilingual learners," Hines said.





### **DOCTORAL CANDIDATES GET RESEARCH PUBLISHED**

Doctoral candidates **Miguel Garcia-Salas** and **Michelle Torres-Chavarro** had their research accepted for publication in the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. "Our study delves into the relationship between the use of morphologically complex words in writing (words with derivational morphemes like prefixes and suffixes) and teachers' evaluations of writing quality," said Torres-Chavarro.

### DOCTORAL CANDIDATE RECEIVES DISSERTATION RESEARCH FUNDING AWARD

Doctoral candidate **Diana Abarca** was among just ten scholars recognized by the Society of Research in Child Development for their 15th Annual Student and Early Career Council Dissertation Research Funding Awards. Abarca received \$2,000 toward her proposal, which will study development training programs on cultural responsiveness for early intervention (EI) providers who work with families of color.





Brianna Coltellino (right) with Dr. Michelle Therrien (left).

### **STUDENT ATTENDS ISAAC**

Doctoral student **Brianna Coltellino** attended the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference (<u>ISAAC</u>) in Cancún, Mexico, to present her research, "Factors Contributing to Diversity in Parent Beliefs about AAC Telepractice Services During COVID-19." Her findings showed that parents in suburban and urban communities and parents with higher income encountered more struggles with accessibility of speech services during the start of the pandemic.

### NEW ARTICLE ACCEPTED BY ASHA

A new article authored by **Dr. Kelly Farquharson** and doctoral students **Anne Reed** and **Mary Allison Moody** was recently accepted for publication in *Language Speech and Hearing Services in Schools* by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The article represents an effort to help support school-based speech language pathologists by providing action steps to improve the implementation of best practices.



## **SCHOOL OF INFORMATION NEWS**



### **STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 24-HOUR HACKATHON**

The Innovation Hub, in partnership with CCI and the FSU Career Center, hosted its first 24-hour hackathon, "Guardians of the Grid." This event challenged students to build new techniques to help restore power safely and quickly during the hurricane season and to improve how NextEra Energy communicates with customers. Students employed case studies, used background information on storm grids, and reached out to industry experts as they advanced in the design process. "Attending NextEra Energy's Hackathon provided a deep dive into Florida's power generation and the broader IT world, all in a highly engaging and informative setting," said senior **Orion Qualls**.

### **STEPHEN GORHAM JOINS THE IADVOCACY BOARD**

**Stephen Gorham**, Chief Operating Officer at <u>OPSWAT</u> and iSchool alumnus, joined the School of Information's iAdvocacy Board. The iAdvocacy Board is a collection of dedicated alumni and industry leaders who promote the iSchool by providing advice and support through active and informed advocacy, collaborations, education, and community involvement that will result in a better learning experience and inclusive environment for faculty, staff, and students.



### FACULTY HELPS FSU AND UF CO-HOST IEEE ICHI 2024

**Dr. Zhe He**, **Dr. Mia Lustria**, Assistant Dean of Development **Mafé Brooks**, and postdoctoral researcher **Dr. Balu Bhasuran** are representing FSU to co-host the 12th IEEE International Conference on Health Informatics with the University of Florida in Orlando, FL, this June. The conference highlights the most novel technical contributions to stakeholder-centered technology innovation for benefiting human health and the related social and ethical implications.



From left to right: Dr. Balu Bhasuran, Dr. Zhe He, Dr. Mia Lustria, and Mafé Brooks



## ALUMNA INDUCTED INTO GARNETONLINE G& GOLD SCHOLAR SOCIETYRETAINS

**Catalina Smith** (ICT '23) was inducted into the Garnet & Gold Scholar Society upon graduation. Prior to graduation, Smith was involved at FSU in STARS, CCI Student Leadership Council, and Lambda Phi Eta.

### ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAM RETAINS TOP 10 RANKING

The online <u>MSIT</u> program remained in the Top 10 for the fifth consecutive year, according to the 2024 U.S. News & World Report rankings, placing No. 9 overall and No. 5 among public universities.

## DEVELOPMENT

### MAKING PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENTS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development

Embracing the power of philanthropy to invest in student success is an incredible opportunity with farreaching benefits. Supporting students through annual gifts or endowments can truly change lives and help shape a brighter future for all. The success of our recent annual Great Give campaign is a testament to the commitment of our donors to help fund student experiential learning opportunities such as internships, leadership opportunities, participation in professional conferences, as well as providing funding to support graduate student research.

When you invest in student support, you're not just easing financial burdens – you're fostering a welcoming community of future leaders and innovators. Some of the most groundbreaking discoveries have come from the minds of students who were given the chance to chase their academic dreams. Through the generosity of donors like you, we're nurturing a generation of thinkers, creators, and change-makers ready to leave their mark on the world.

The impact of your philanthropic investment extends beyond academia. Investing in student success has profound economic implications, driving growth, innovation, and global competitiveness. As recipients of additional private funding, students flourish and they become catalysts for positive change within their families and communities, inspiring others to pursue their own dreams and aspirations.

Together, we're creating a world where education knows no bounds and opportunities are within reach for anyone willing to seize them. Thank you a million-times over for your commitment and for being a part of this incredible philanthropic journey toward a better tomorrow.



I would love to meet you and discuss opportunities on how the power of philanthronic investments to support studen

I would love to meet you and discuss opportunities on how the power of philanthropic investments to support student success can help shape a brighter future for our students and for all. I look forward to hearing from you.

On another note, I'm thrilled to announce that Sarah Straughn, our new Assistant Director for Alumni & Student Engagement, has joined our team! It's truly exciting to welcome her on board and to collaborate with her in reaching out and connecting with more of our alumni, students, and friends. We're looking forward to all the wonderful things we'll accomplish together!

To learn more about the incredible things that our students are doing, please visit <u>https://news.cci.fsu.edu/category/cci-student-news/</u>.



**Mafé Brooks** 

## **STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



### STUDENT TRAVELS TO D.C. TO REPRESENT PORCOLOMBIA FSU

Information Technology (IT) junior **Jennifer Sterling** recently traveled to Washington, DC, to represent FSU at the Colombian Embassy during the national PorColombia conference. PorColombia is a nationally recognized student organization created to promote and provide for the social welfare of the Colombian-American student body at FSU. "What I took out of this trip is to not be afraid to have conversations with strangers. Don't be afraid to join an organization on campus that doesn't have much to do with your major," Sterling said.

### **Doctoral Students and Faculty Publish Article**

Doctoral student **Anne Reed**, recent graduate **Rebecca Summy**, Associate Professor **Kelly Farquharson**, and FSU School of Teacher Education Associate Professor Dr. Lindsay Dennis had their article published in *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education Journal*. Their article examines the effects of practice-based coaching with scripted supports designed to support paraeducators and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) as they implement evidence-based shared book reading strategies on preschoolers with language delays.



### SOMMAIYA ANGRISH TRAVELS TO INDIA FOR RESEARCH THROUGH FSU'S GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Digital Media Production student **Sommaiya Angrish** spent twelve weeks in India conducting a self-directed research project through <u>FSU's Global Scholars Program</u>. He met with different Indian musicians to create an interview-based database in audio-format in both Hindi and English. He explained, "The purpose of this project was to demonstrate how the sonic environment of places is reflected and manifested in music and how different sounds can narrate different philosophies emotionally."



Sommaiya (right) with rapper Prahb Deep (left).

## **ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

### Nikki Méndez Helps Create the First-Ever Edible Mascot



The Pop Tarts Bowl featured the first-ever edible mascot, created by the Kellanova team at <u>Weber Shandwick</u>, which included Advertising alumna **Nikki Méndez**. As an Art Director, Méndez works with a team to develop brand activations, present them to internal account personnel, and later take them to clients. "When I'm in brainstorm mode, I just start thinking of like, what is bizarre? What is absurd? What has never been done before? Even if it's not physically possible, or biologically possible, or anything possible, I just write it down." When the idea for this came to mind, she proposed, "What if they ate the mascot?"

### <u>Chelsea Eagle Starts New Role at Disney</u>

ICT alumna **Chelsea Eagle** was promoted to Director of Public Relations at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. Eagle described this new role as "truly the dream job." The position involves leading the team responsible for earned media coverage, whether Disney is opening a new attraction or debuting new offerings. Eagle and her team launch innovative approaches to communicate this news with everyone. They also creatively strategize ways to keep the conversation of the Disney brand ongoing.





### **Dr. Keisey Fumero Publishes Dissertation**

Alumna Dr. Keisey Fumero (M.S. '19, Ph.D. '22) published her dissertation, titled "Supportive Language Strategies for Preschool Dual Language Learners: Associations with Early Language Outcomes" in the Early Childhood Research Quarterly journal on December 23, 2023, with Dr. Carla Wood and Dr. Beth Phillips as co-authors. "My dissertation focused on examining what is currently going on in preschools when it language development concerns supporting for dual language learners," Fumero said. The study included 21 preschool classrooms and 69 children from a Latine background who spoke Spanish at home.

## **COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **PROFESSOR AWARDED \$2.4 MILLION GRANT FROM NIH**

**Dr. Kelly Farquharson** was awarded a \$2.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) toward a 4-year project which she is pursuing with Co-PI Dr. Katy Cabbage (Washington State University) and methodologist Dr. Chris Schatschneider (FSU Department of Psychology). The project explores therapy environment factors and their relation to speech, sound, and phonological knowledge gains for students in kindergarten to second grade. The research team hopes the results of this project will help better understand the contexts in which certain children improve due to school-based speech-sound therapy.





### PROFESSOR AND ALUMNUS TEAM UP FOR WELL-BEING ON CAMPUS STUDY AND PUBLICATION

Assistant Professor **Dr. Elizabeth Ray** and CCI alumnus **Dr. Josh Hendrickse**, along with colleagues at the College of Social Work and Provost James J. Clark, recently had their study "Well-Being on Campus: Testing the Impact of a Web-Based Intervention for Resilience on First-Year Students" published in the Southern Communication Journal. The study examined the <u>FSU Student</u> <u>Resilience Project's impact on first-year students' self-efficacy</u> and intentions to engage in self-help behaviors.

### **PROFESSOR JOINS AI DEBATE AT FSU**

**Dr. Paul Marty** participated in a debate centered around the impact of AI on universities. The debate was coordinated by FSU's Office of Public Policy Events and was open to the public. Panelists included Marty, Jonathan Fozard (CIO, FSU Information Technology Services), and Dr. Fengfeng Ke (Professor, FSU College of Education). Panelists discussed how students can use AI in teaching and learning, how AI can help faculty and staff in their university work, how everyone can use AI effectively and ethically, and how universities can best prepare students for the future of work where AI will be everywhere.



## **CLASS NOTES**

<u>Bridgett Birmingham</u> (M.S. '04) elected Florida State University's Faculty Senate President.

Herneshia Dukes (B.S. '08) joined FSU CCI's <u>Speakers</u> <u>Bureau</u>.

**Schuyler Hample** (B.S. '20) promoted to Assistant Digital Marketing Manager at Florida Blue.

**Diana Haneski** (MLIS '98) honored with the "I Love My Librarian" award for going above and beyond as a librarian at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

<u>Alan Harkness</u> (MLIS '90) was named <u>Georgia's</u> <u>Public Library Director of the Year</u>.

**<u>Kallayah Henderson</u>** (B.S. '20) published her first book, *Nature Inspires*, under her pen name Lee Sunshine.

**Patric Holly** (B.S. '11) promoted to Director of EMR and Analytics at Mays & Schnapp Neurospine and Pain.

**Savannah Keys** (B.S. '17) became a certified flight instructor.

**Ryan McCormick** (B.A. '00) joined FSU CCI's <u>Speakers</u> <u>Bureau</u>.

**Justin McQuillen** (B.S. '18) started a new position as Managing Consultant, HITRUST at A-LIGN.

**Naomi Molina** (B.A. '11, M.S. '13) appointed Associate Director of Alumni and Student Engagement for the College of Social Work.

<u>Ahli Moore</u> (B.S. '93, M.S. '95) organized this year's "Speed Networking with Alumni" event with FSU Black Alumni on FSU's Tallahassee campus.

**Alexa Nikiforou** (B.S. '13) joined FSU CCI's <u>Speakers</u> <u>Bureau</u>.

<u>Alain Olguin</u> (M.S. '23) started a new position as a multimedia producer at TelevisaUnivision in Miami.

**Anna Owensby** (B.A. '11) started a new position as Associate Director of Marketing and Communications at Stetson University.

**Anushka Patel** (B.S. '17) promoted to Vice President of Marketing and Partnerships at Kyra Solutions.

**Elle Rains** (B.S. '17) started a new position as Senior Delivery Manager at Inventive.

**Milton Ramer** (B.S. '15) started a new position as Outside Plant Engineer at Smart City Telecom.

<u>Khelsea Rantanen</u> (MLIS '15) started a new position as Head of Reference and Information Services at the Bay County Public Library in Panama City, Florida.

**Dr. Martha D. Saunders** (Ph.D. '90) named No. 1 on Independent News' Power List.

<u>Nanette Schimpf</u> (B.S. '89) hosted Florida State's FPRA chapter at her company, The Moore Agency.

**Christopher Truncer** (B.S. '08) started a new position as Deputy Chief at Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

**<u>Paul Weaver</u>** (B.S. '87) received a Certificate in Fundraising Management from the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.

**Branigan Wright Rak** (B.S. '12) received the Best Customer Support award from the U.S. Department of State.

**<u>Ricci Yuhico</u>** (MLIS '12) made the New York Times list of "<u>Six New Yorkers Who Made the City a Better,</u> <u>Cooler, Fairer Place in 2023</u>."

Have an update to share with us?





Another year, another graduation. Congratulations to our incredible Fall 2023 graduating class!!!



CCI celebrated many graduating students this Fall, including our media interns Lauren Scala (left) and Valentina Vigliarolo (right).



The School of Communication celebrated the end of the Fall semester with a dinner for faculty, staff, and students.





STARS students volunteered at the Fall Festival of a local elementary school.



Students closed out the Fall semester with an alumni networking session at Momo's.



Spring 2024 kicked off with special donut deliveries to students in each of our three schools.



Congratulations to alumnus Eli Perl and his wife on their new baby girl!



CCI joined the festivities at FSU Day at the Capitol.



A new semester means providing new headshots for our students and faculty!



Students met local employers and discovered potential job and internship opportunities at the CCI Career Fair.



SCSD students traveled with Dr. Selena Snowden to Guatemala to administer hearing tests and fit hearing aids for the local community.



CCI alumnus Ahli Moore (left) helped organize a networking event with FSU Black Alumni to connect current students with FSU alumni and staff.



Students enjoyed games and sweet treats with their professors at the CCI Spring Social on Landis Green.

outside of their classroom building.



The 2024 <u>Women in Leadership Conference</u> brought 47 female leaders (many of them CCI alumnae) to campus to inspire the next generation of female leaders at FSU.



The CCI Leadership Board gathered on March 22, 2024, to collaborate on ways to support current students.



Rain Bellamy (left), Bella Bozied (middle), and Catherine Marshall (right) each received FSU's 21 Under 21 Award.



CCI student Emma Summers (bottom-right) was honored among FSU's Humanitarian of the Year nominees this March.



Transfer students met at the Innovation Hub to learn about opportunities available at CCI.

### **FOLLOW US!**





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## CONNECTION IS DIGITAL!

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## Return on Investment (in students!)

### BY JEANNE FORD, CCI LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

ROI. Everyone wants a great *return on (their) investment*. Any chance I get to spend time engaging our CCI students is a great ROI. The session is often arranged as an opportunity for them to ask me questions or to learn about my career.

Disney comes up a lot. Running events like the Olympics and professional sports are always popular topics and fun stories. But as much as I share, I always learn from the students as well. Their thoughts, questions, and experiences broaden my own perspective.

CCI students **Maggie Martin-McKinnie** and **Stacci Smith** recently joined us for the Spring Leadership Board meeting to share their thoughts and represent the students' POVs in our discussions, and student **Julia Hoffman** lent her video production skills to help produce the meeting. I was thoroughly impressed by each of these individuals for their poise, how well-spoken they were, and how intentional they were in where they were investing their time and focus to prepare for their futures. Seeing them in action made me very thankful for the investment the CCI faculty and staff have made in positioning them for growth, success, and ultimately contributions to the communities who are lucky enough to recruit these powerhouse young ladies.

If you could go back in time and tell your younger self who is about to graduate just three key thoughts, what would they be? Why not take just a few minutes to share those thoughts with a CCI student?

Set up a one-on-one. Be a guest speaker in a class. Host a virtual or in-person gathering in your city or at your business for new alumni. Set up an internship. Want to ensure students have experiential learning opportunity? Make a donation. There are many ways to invest in CCI students and get a great ROI. Contact us at info@cci.fsu.edu with questions.



Jeanne Ford info@cci.fsu.edu