



Fall 2025
35th Edition

THE CONNECTOR

Student Newsletter

FSU

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION &
INFORMATION

We are pleased to present the Fall 2025 edition of *The Connector*, the College of Communication and Information's student newsletter. This fall semester, our students shone in the spotlight as presenters, innovators, and leaders who pushed the boundaries and gave back to their respective communities. We are honored to highlight these students and their amazing accomplishments in the 35th edition of *The Connector*. We hope you enjoy reading about their achievements as much as we did!

Isabelle Krukoski, Kristen Rembisz, and Sydney Sherry



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COLLEGE HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



SCOM students and faculty attend the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference



CCI seniors graduate at 2025 Fall Commencement



CCI students work with K-12 kids at the 2025 Tech Expo at FSU Panama City



SCOM graduate students share their research in Denver, Colorado



Students connect at the Seminole Innovators Open House

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



SCOM Welcome Back Donuts in UCD



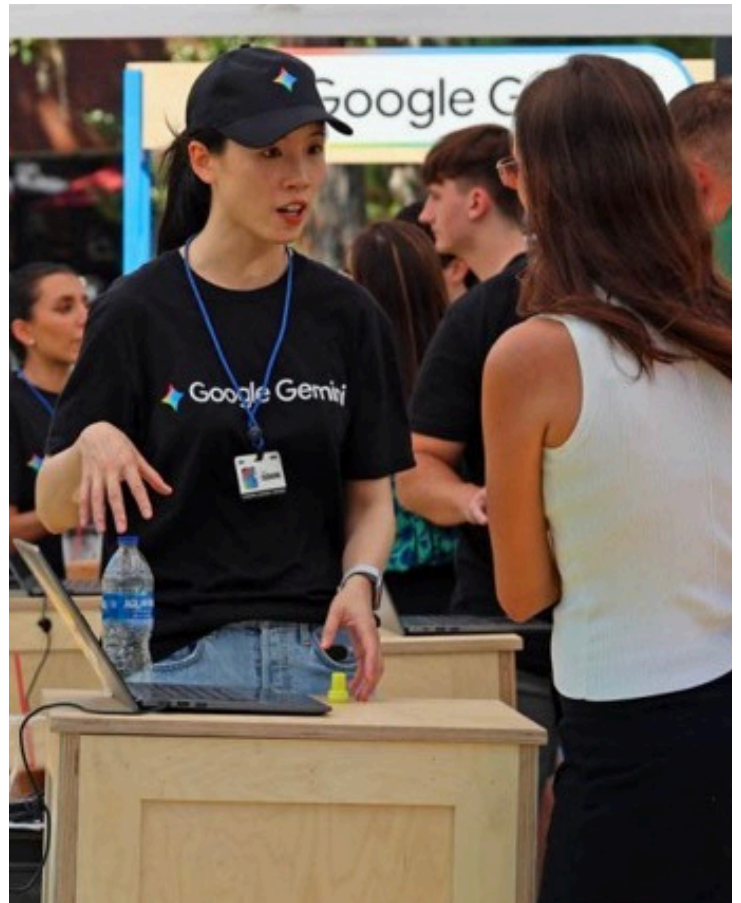
Students at CSD Fest 2025



CCI students start their first day of Fall 2025 classes



SCOM Graduation Celebration



Students explore AI platforms at the Google Gemini iSchool Event

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



Graduate Students present at the SCOM Research Conference



iSchool Graduation Celebration



CCI walks in the 2025 Homecoming Parade



CCI students thrive abroad



CCI gathers for the annual CCI BBQ

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



CCI tours iHeartMedia



CCI supports the Campus Resource Fair & Food Distribution Event



Students and Faculty share research at the 2025 CCI Research Summit



CCI says "cheese!" for their headshot at CCI Club Day



CCI makes some new friends during midterms

STARS Students and their Road to the 2025 National TSA Conference

Nine students and two alumni from Students in Technology, Academia, Research and Service (STARS) Alliance attended the 2025 National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, which ran from June 27 to July 1, 2025. Joining the trip were CCI students **Sierra Blythe, Bella Bozied, Heath Davis, Ava Downes, Paige Elkin, Sophia Ferraro, Julia Sveen, Javin Vance, and Orion Qualls** as well as CCI alumni **Jamie Guterman** and **Owen Van Lenten**. The students and alumni of STARS were led by their advisor, Associate Dean Ebe Randeree, who started and has maintained the partnership between Florida TSA and STARS. The students were able to interact with both high school and middle school students and present them with tools that they could utilize in their professional careers.



Spotlighting FSU CCI Study Abroad Programs

Florida State University (FSU) was recognized by Forbes as one of the leading universities for study abroad programs in December 2024, ranking No.10 among major universities with over 2,500 students studying abroad in 2024. In light of this recent accomplishment, we are spotlighting all study abroad programs available through the College of Communication and Information (CCI). Dr. Patrick Merle, Director of the School of Communication (SCOM), spoke about the SCOM study abroad programs and their benefits. "These programs are all specifically created to add value to students' experiences, allowing them to create something tangible to strengthen their portfolios," he said. In addition to CCI's newest study abroad program, Strategic Communication in Switzerland, CCI now has five study abroad programs through FSU International Programs.



COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION NEWS



FSU iCamp Introduces High School Students to Careers in Media and Technology

As CCI's four-week, pre-collegiate, academic summer program, FSU iCamp wrapped up its eighth consecutive year of teaching high school students about various careers in technology and computing fields. iCamp 2025 included 25 students, seven ambassadors, and over 10 guest speakers and instructors to discuss the four primary topics of this year's program: mobile apps, graphic design tools, health information technology, and artificial intelligence (AI).

CCI Students Discuss the Impact of the Torchbearer 100

The Torchbearer 100 represents 100 undergraduate leaders that have made significant impacts on the FSU community. The Torchbearer 100 plays on the phrase "Leaders and achievers" to encompass a wide range of students and their continuous commitment to the community. Torchbearer 100 students **Michael Alfele**, **Anna Savacool**, and **Snailey Dol** are student leaders that have displayed their achievements through their involvement at FSU. Torchbearers is an organization that fosters connection and community.



STARS Alliance at FSU Attends the National STARS Celebration in Dallas

On September 13, 2025, six students from Students in Technology, Academia, Research, and Service (STARS) Alliance at Florida State University attended and presented at the National STARS Celebration in Dallas, Texas. The STARS Celebration connects the next generation of computing leaders and hosts a space for participation in computing through education, mentorship, and collaboration. The attending STARS at FSU students were **Bella Bozied**, **Paige Elkin**, **Sophia Ferraro**, **Natalie Johnstone**, **Orion Qualls**, and **Tanya Raphael**.



AI Stories: CCI's ThinkAI Association

The College of Communication & Information (CCI) is excited to spotlight CCI's ThinkAI Association, a new FSU student organization designed to introduce students of all skill levels to AI. Formerly known as the Group for Artificial Intelligence Navigation (GAIN), ThinkAI Association initially focused on AI development but has expanded its scope to include AI literacy, engagement, and learning. Joining CCI in February 2025, ThinkAI maintains an extensive community reach in Tallahassee by visiting local senior centers, speaking at K-12 institutions, collaborating with other registered student organizations, and engaging in cross-campus partnerships. ThinkAI maintains a focus on experimentation and welcomes students from all majors, skill levels, and backgrounds.

STARS Students Present at TSA Leadership Training Conference in Orlando

On October 22-25, 2025, twelve Students in Technology, Academia, Research, and Service (STARS) students presented at the Technology Student Association (TSA) Leadership Training Conference in Orlando, Florida. The TSA Leadership Training Conference focuses on preparing student leaders to successfully lead a TSA chapter, work in teams, deliver on project and timelines, and learn from advisor training workshops. During their time at the TSA Leadership Training, the STARS students each mentored teams of over 20 middle and high school students from various schools and backgrounds, fostering creativity, enthusiasm, and engagement through their leadership.



CCI Student Wins Emmy Award from The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

College of Communication and Information Student **Marissa Rouse** won an Emmy Award for her work with WLWT News 5 Hearst Media on July 19, 2025. As WLWT's Summer 2024 Creative Services Intern, Rouse assisted with the production, design, organization, and filming of the award-winning project, WLWT Weather 13 Years Most Accurate. Rouse shared that the 'WLWT Weather 13 Years Most Accurate' project was especially imaginative. The team capitalized on the idea of "Who needs luck when you have accuracy?" and worked with the WLWT meteorologists to execute numerous bad luck superstitions, including opening umbrellas indoors, breaking mirrors, spilling salt, and featuring a black cat. Rouse's role in the promotion involved designing the salt sequence, creating the WLWT logo, filming various parts of the video, and even offering her uncle's crowbar for the shoot.



SCOM Student Receives 2025 Dr. Jay Rayburn, APR, CPRC Student Scholarship

Public Relations (PR) Undergraduate Student **Camille Hewitt** was selected as the 2025 Dr. Jay Rayburn, APR, CPRC Student Scholarship Recipient on August 4 by the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA). The Dr. Jay Rayburn, APR, CPRC Scholarship attributes the work of the late Dr. Jay Rayburn, who devoted his career to advancing the PR field as a School of Communication faculty member. This scholarship, along with others offered by the FPRA, aims to support the professional development of rising seniors who demonstrate a strong interest in the PR profession. Hewitt joined the FPRA Student Capital Chapter as an FSU first-year student after discovering their work at the College of Communication and Information (CCI) involvement fair. Since joining the chapter, Hewitt has served as Networking Chair and will start as Secretary in Fall 2025.





SCOM Doctoral Student Sun Young Park Collaborates with Michelin-Star Restaurant to Provide Students with Real-World Experience

School of Communication Doctoral Student **Sun Young “Sunny” Park** collaborated with New York City Michelin-star restaurant, Yingtao, during the Spring 2025 term to teach students in her Principles of Advertising class practical skills that can be applied beyond the classroom. Every Friday, Park would pose one significant question related to the week’s class material, which asked students to apply theoretical concepts to create marketing strategies for Yingtao—this was Park’s Friday activity. Through this joint participation, Park offered benefits to everyone involved: her students learned practical advertising strategies, Yingtao gained outside marketing insight, and Park fostered a valuable real-world experience.

SCOM Alumna Speaks on her Experience as a Sideline Reporter

Meredith Grimm, Media Communication Studies alumna and current Sport Management graduate student, showcases her creative process as a sideline reporter in the sports industry. Grimm appears on ESPN digital shows, covering a variety of Florida State University (FSU) sports teams ranging from volleyball, women’s soccer, women’s basketball, baseball, and softball. In her role as a sideline reporter, she coordinates with two other talent heads while communicating with the producer prior to each game she is featured in. As a former athlete herself, Grimm utilizes this prior knowledge to aid her in understanding the content of a game and curating questions for her interviews. Grimm comes overly prepared and makes sure she has done the proper research on each player before even beginning the process of interviewing coaches or athletes. Athletes’ hobbies or work that they do outside of their sport are personal interests that Grimm loves to bring attention to humanize and bring the full picture of an athlete to light.



SCOM Alumnus Ariya Massoudi and His Journey to ESPN

When **Ariya Massoudi** first stepped onto the Florida State University (FSU) campus, he had one goal: aid athletes in the form of medicine. But life had a different direction for Massoudi. But after taking his first biology class and having a conversation with a close friend, he quickly pivoted, realizing that this career path didn't align with him. Massoudi's friend, a college football player, reinforced the notion that Massoudi was heavily knowledgeable in sport even joking that he knew more about football. With this insight, Massoudi went into Digital Media Production and Sport Management at FSU.



FSU Double Alumna Works with 2025 NBA Champions as Social Media Content Producer

FSU double alumna, **Brooke Brennan** (B.S. Media & Communication Studies '21, M.A. Sport Management '22), worked with the 2025 NBA champions, the Oklahoma City (OKC) Thunder, as their Social Media Content Producer. The Thunder has had Brennan on their social media team since January 2023, when she started as their Social Media Coordinator immediately after she graduated from FSU. Brennan's role includes capturing the team by taking photos and videos, creating and publishing content, covering events, and managing social media channels across various platforms.



Emily Peters SCOM Alumna Discusses Her Roles in Broadcasting

Emily Peters, a Media Communication Studies alumna, previously, she served as Promotions Producer at the Sinclair Broadcast group full-time. As a Promotions Producer, she worked at increasing audience engagement for a variety of media platforms. Peters began her broadcast career at Seminole Productions, where she developed her skills as both a sideline reporter and a graphics operator for shows with ESPN's ACC Network, ACC Network Extra, ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN+. Through these roles, she has become a "complete storyteller," having the awareness of how the visual aspect of what is happening on camera will turn out while also speaking as a reporter.



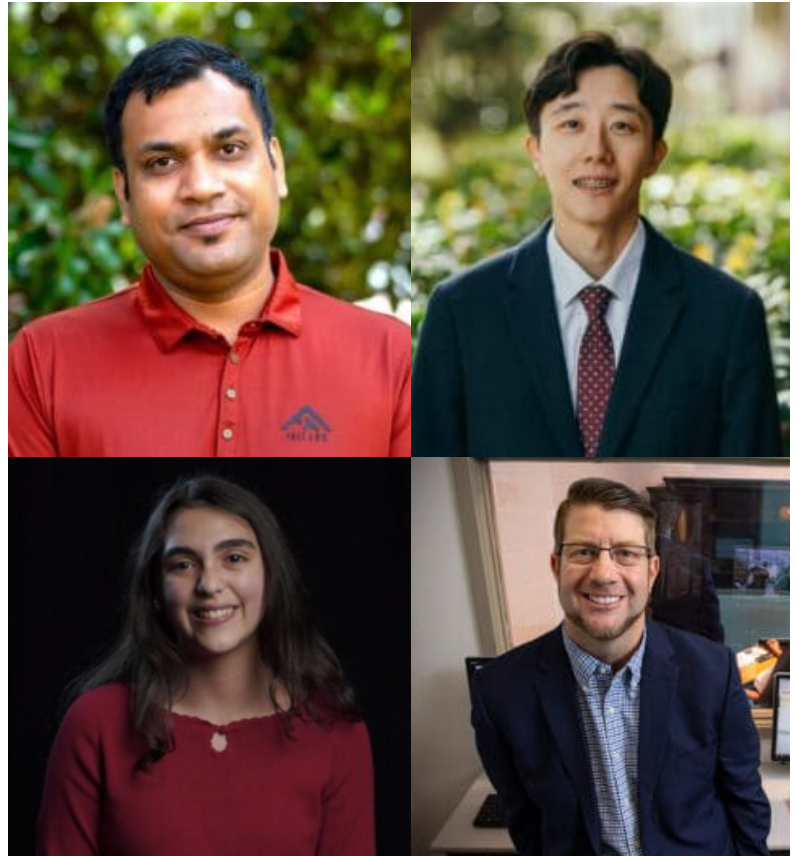


SCOM Doctoral Students and Faculty Present at the AEJMC Conference

On August 7-10, 2025, School of Communication (SCOM) doctoral students and faculty presented at the 2025 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference in San Francisco, California. Among SCOM's attendees were **Sunah Lee, Junho Park, Alessandra Noli Peschiera, Ashley Johns, Oladoyin Abiona, Sun Young "Sunny" Park, Akansha Kharkwal, Talalah Khan**, Assistant Professor Yin Yang, James E. Kirk Professor Rachel Bailey, and Professor and School Director Patrick Merle. SCOM's presentations at the conference covered topics such as social media reader engagement, activism washing, decoding health technology, and gendered precarity in Korean TV newsrooms.

Cognition and Emotion Lab Team Published in Health Psychology

Distinguished and Endowed Provost McKenzie Professor and Founding Director of the Cognition and Emotion Lab (CEL) in the School of Communication (SCOM), Dr. Russell B. Clayton and his Florida State University student co-authors, doctoral students **Junho Park, Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo**, recent graduates of SCOM master degree programs **Kristina Simon and Sherry Rasul**, and undergraduate student **Jessica Weinberg** along with colleagues from The Ohio State University Center for Tobacco Research and the University of Massachusetts Center for Tobacco Treatment Research and Training published a study in *Health Psychology*, a premier health journal. The study, "Investigating Psychophysiological and Self-Report Responses to Antioral Nicotine Pouch Social Media Videos," examined young adults', all current users of oral nicotine pouches, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral responses to antioral nicotine pouch social media content that varied in the presence and absence of disgust-eliciting content.



CCI Alumna Discusses the Impact of Second Harvest of the Big Bend

School of Communication (SCOM) Alumna **Ashleigh Kittrell** sat down with the College of Communication and Information (CCI) to discuss her work with Second Harvest of the Big Bend. This organization keeps FSU's Food for Thought pantry shelves stocked, providing students with the proper nutrition for success. Kittrell graduated from the School of Communication and is now a Marketing and Communications Specialist at Second Harvest of the Big Bend. The Food for Thought Pantry is one of the primary food contributors to students facing hunger and food insecurity in the Florida State community. It partners with Second Harvest of the Big Bend, an organization that addresses food insecurity throughout Tallahassee and the Big Bend region.



SCOM Doctoral Student Receives First Paper Acceptance from the NCA

School of Communication doctoral student **Gabrielle Lamura** received her first paper acceptance from the National Communication Association (NCA). The 2025 NCA Annual Convention, scheduled for November, will focus on commitments to professional support and dedication to communication scholarship, highlighting research, innovation, and collaboration as a service to the field of communication. Lamura's paper, "Moral Dilemmas: Horror Video Games Narrative Mechanics," is the first paper Lamura has submitted to the NCA, which explores horror video games through a coding analysis of in-game characters and how game designers develop narrative frameworks for characters and their decision-making.



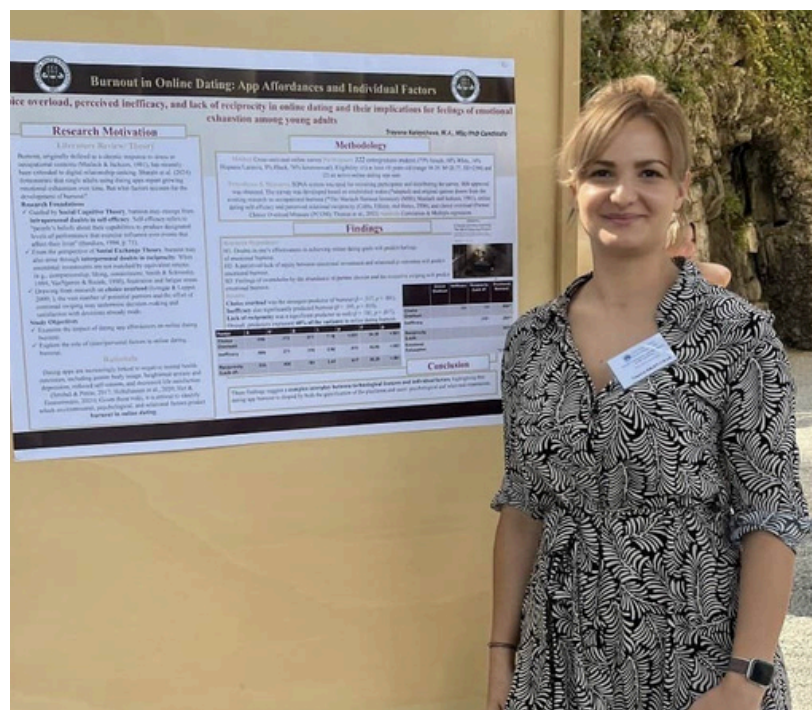


SCOM Doctoral Candidate Presents Research at Lake Como Summer School Conference

SCOM doctoral candidate **Trayana Kaleycheva** presented her research at the Lake Como School of Advanced Studies Conference in northern Italy. This year's theme, "Social Connections and Well-being in the Digital Era," explored the impacts of digital technologies on human interaction and well-being with a focus on the intersection between technology and social connection. Kaleycheva's presentation, "Burnout in Online Dating: Choice Overload, Perceived Inefficacy, and Lack of Reciprocity and Their Implications for Feelings of Emotional Exhaustion Among Young Adults," investigated how the gamified design of dating apps affects users' psychological and relational states, producing dating app burnout. Among all of her insightful takeaways, Kaleycheva emphasized her inclination to promote the Lake Como School of Advanced Studies to other graduate students at FSU, underlining its cultural, intellectual, and professional opportunities.

CCI Student Athlete Shares Her Experience Balancing the Best of Both Worlds

Media and Communication Studies student **Jordan Boulware** is a junior beach volleyball player who recently interviewed with the College of Communication & Information (CCI), giving insight into how she juggles her commitments both on the court and in the classroom. Boulware describes how CCI has served as a major aid in getting the accommodations needed to travel for her sport. Boulware has faced moments where she was on the road when assignments were due. With CCI professors being understanding and communicative, she excels in both her role as a student and as a player. Jordan Boulware was able to truly grow up in the Florida State culture, shaping both her own path in athletics and as a student. Taking this childhood love of sport and living it out as she has grown; Boulware continues to work on building her own legacy.



Digital Media Production Students Blossom at WFSU

School of Communication (SCOM) Digital Media Production (DMP) students **Erin Welch** and **Ian McGorty** are currently WFSU part-time employees. Welch and McGorty represent a continuing partnership between WFSU and DMP, providing students with experience in real-world public media settings. These students have been producing for the station and making a name for themselves in the public media world. McGorty and Welch are active participants in the content the station produces on a national level, teaching them to work professionally within strict timelines. Devin Bittner, an adjunct instructor for the College of Communication and Information and DMP alumna, also worked at WFSU during her time as an undergrad before being employed full-time as a television producer. Her involvement with DMP gave her the foundation to thrive in her position and understand industry practices on a deeper level. This partnership allows these students to contribute to our community's wealth of knowledge.



Lisa Primiani White Recognized for Her Dedication to the American Heart Association

SCOM alumna **Lisa Primiani White** (BS '10) has been honored with the American Heart Association's Star of Excellence Award, a distinction recognizing individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment and impact in their roles. The Star of Excellence Award is presented by AHA's Mission Advancement department, which partners with donors and foundations to advance philanthropic strategies and amplify the organization's lifesaving mission. For nearly a decade, White has played a key role in shaping those partnerships. Her work has helped secure support for initiatives such as expanding CPR access in youth sports across the Southeast, advancing anti-tobacco advocacy, and funding groundbreaking cardiovascular research. Since then, White has learned to balance her professional responsibilities with the realities of new motherhood—an evolution that has shaped both her outlook and her approach to leadership.



iSchool Student Presents at National Association of College and University Residence Halls Conference

Information Technology (IT) undergraduate student, **Tanushree Dhage**, presented her first educational session as a National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) delegate of FSU's Garnet & Gold Chapter at the annual National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) conference. The 2025 conference, "Stepping Through the Looking Glass," was hosted by Illinois State University (ISU) and encouraged attendees to explore bold ideas, visionary insights, and dynamic leadership. The annual NACURH conference is the largest student-run conference connecting residence hall leaders from colleges and universities across North America. As an NRHH delegate of FSU's Garnet & Gold Chapter, Dhage represented the top one percent of student leaders in residence halls for their service and leadership at FSU.

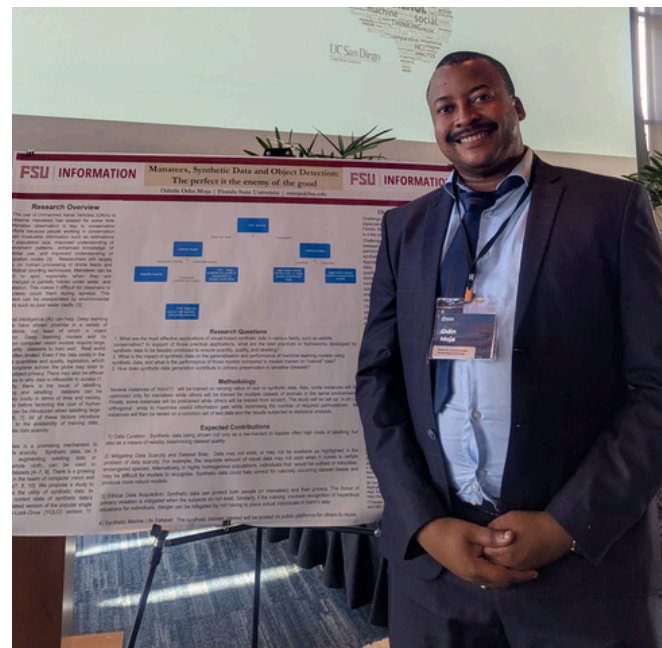


iSchool Student Attends Render ATL

Javin Vance has become a recurring figure in the information technology space, attending the heavily anticipated Atlanta Tech Week where he explored the resources at Render ATL. Atlanta Tech Week was held from June 8 – 13, 2025, and serves as a space to bring industry leaders together in a citywide connection. Vance, a senior undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology (IT), attributes this opportunity at Render ATL to his recent involvement in Students in Technology, Academia, Research and Service (STARS), which connected him to IT alumnus Casey Jostine, Technical Program manager at Microsoft, who provided Vance and recent FSU Alumnus Vedant Mishra with a ticket to the event.

iSchool Graduate Student Presents at 2025 ACM Collective Intelligence Conference

School of Information graduate student **Odin Moja** presented his research, "Synthetic Data and Object Detection: The Perfect is the Enemy of the Good," at the 2025 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Collective Intelligence Conference in San Diego, California, on August 4, 2025. Hosted by one of the leading computing associations, the ACM conference prioritizes the practical applications of technology research and collaborative problem-solving. Moja's presentation highlighted applications of synthetic data generated by AI to optimize existing real data and promote more accessible information. Moja emphasized that this research may advance areas such as medicine, environmental conservation efforts, population data collection, and even credit card fraud detection software.



CCI Alumnus Selected as Circle of Gold Honoree

College of Communication and Information (CCI) alumnus **Zach Heng** was inducted into the FSU Alumni Association's Circle of Gold, an honor given to those who exemplify FSU's excellence through their service, achievements, and dedication to the University. These honorees were recognized at the FSU Alumni Awards ceremony on October 31, 2025. Heng emphasized Florida State's impact on his incredibly successful career, highlighting the opportunities and platforms that led him to where he is today. He also stressed that his current understanding of leadership and desire to invest in the next generation of leaders are because of his time as an FSU student.



Alumni Spotlight: Kristie Escobar

Dr. Kristie Escobar (PhD '19), a Tallahassee native, is a proud alumna of Florida State University (FSU). She earned her Master of Science (MLIS) degree and PhD in Information from the College of Communication and Information (CCI), where she developed a solid foundation that fueled her ongoing commitment to advancing the field. Escobar currently works as a Lecturer for the MLIS program at Old Dominion University, which received ALA accreditation in 2020.

iSchool Doctoral Student Presents at AMCIS 2025

School of Information doctoral student **Ghazal Hussain** presented her research at the America's Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) 2025 in Montreal, Canada, on August 14-16. AMCIS 2025 focused on how information systems research can contribute to sustainability and innovation through this year's theme, "Intelligence Technologies for a Better Future." Hussain shared. Hussain presented her paper, "From Avoidance to Action: IT Managers' Information-Seeking Behaviors in Crisis," which explored information technology (IT) crisis management and how organizational environments can influence crisis response from avoidance to proactivity.



SCSD Doctoral Students and Faculty Present at the SSSR Conference

On July 16-19, 2025, eight doctoral students and faculty from the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR) conference in Calgary, Canada. Among the attending doctoral students were **Ashley Ippolito**, **Audrey Hendrix**, **Jasmine Smith**, and 2024 graduate **Dr. Kiana Hines**. The presenting SCSD faculty included Drs. Hugh Catts, Carla Wood, Sana Tibi, and Shannon Hall-Mills. SCSD's presenters covered topics such as reading anxiety, literacy environments, and linguistic educational supports through their seven presentations.



iSchool PhD Candidate Receives the New Leader Award from ASIS&T

Lateef Ayinde, PhD candidate at the School of Information, received the New Leader Award from the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). Ayinde's work focuses on artificial intelligence and information policy and the impacts they have on the development of society. By receiving this award, Ayinde will have the opportunity to become a global leader in the shifting the future of information science.

FSU's Resident Foodie Zach Heng Becomes First-time Restaurant Owner

Zach Heng is an FSU Information Technology (IT) alumnus and a self-proclaimed foodie who has become a co-owner of the restaurant, Yunnan By Potomac, with his partner Chef Shao Bruce. Previously, Heng founded his own company, The Heng Group, while continuing to pursue a corporate career in human resources and technology that spans nearly two decades across global brands like Accenture, Deloitte, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Vanguard including leadership roles in Hacking HR, Fruit Street Health, and Ascend. With such a stark shift in Heng's professional path, it brings attention to the partnership between the two co-owners of Yunnan By Potomac and how this impacted the trajectory of the restaurant.



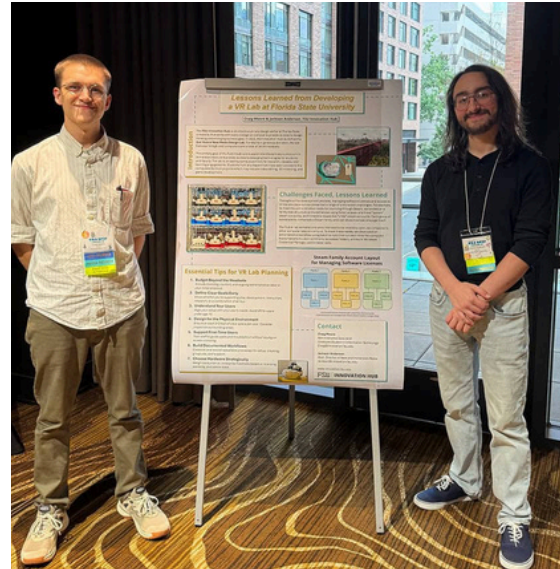


iSchool Doctoral Student Appointed Co-chair of ALA Subcommittee on Information Literacy

Ayansewa Adedeji, a doctoral student at the School of Information, has been appointed Co-chair of the Science and Technology Section (STS) Information Literacy Committee, a subcommittee under the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Adedeji's two-year appointment began July 1, 2025, and runs through June 30, 2027. In this leadership role, he will help guide the committee's efforts to promote science and technology information literacy in academic libraries and higher education institutions across America.

Innovation Hub Researchers Present at Visual Resources Association Annual Conference

Florida State University (FSU) Innovation Hub researcher **Craig Moore**, from the School of Information (iSchool), and **Jackson Anderson**, a PhD student in Anne's College, presented their findings on virtual reality at the Visual Resources Association Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, in early October. The presentation, "Lessons Learned from Developing A VR Lab at Florida State University," homed in on the work the researchers have done over the last three years in the Gail Rubini New Media Design Lab.



IT Alumnus Lands Tech Role in U.S. Army

Information Technology (IT) alumnus **Andrew Mance** has big plans after graduation. After crossing the stage at Spring Commencement, Mance stepped into the role of Cyber Warfare Officer in the U.S. Army, where he will lead teams in defending critical networks, countering cyber threats, and launching digital offensives to protect national security. Mance is no stranger to the military, having served for three years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS



SCSD Students Publish Study in the Journal of Medical Internet Research

School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) Associate Professor Mollie Romano, master's student **Fran Baehman**, and doctoral candidate **Diana Abarca** published their study, "A Low-Cost, Social Media-Supported Intervention for Caregivers to Enhance Toddlers' Language Learning: Mixed Methods Feasibility and Acceptability Study," in the Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR) Publications on June 23, 2025. Baehman hopes that the audience understands that quality information delivered via concise social media content can empower caregivers to try some new strategies that may improve their children's language and communication skills.

SCSD Students and Faculty Attend the 2025 AAA + HearTech Expo

Drs. Selena Snowden and Chelsea Alexander accompanied nine undergraduate students from the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) to the annual American Academy of Audiology (AAA) + HearTech Expo conference from March 26 - 29 in New Orleans, Louisiana. For the students, the AAA + HearTech Expo was a chance to learn about graduate programs in communication science and disorders and gain a first-hand look into the programs' cultures and what they should expect from graduate school.



SCSD Doctoral Student Presents at Summer Conferences

School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (SCSD) doctoral student, **Holden Allen**, presented at two conferences in June 2025: the 27th Annual Family Café conference in Orlando, FL, and the Florida Council for Exceptional Children (FCEC) conference in Gainesville, FL. Allen's presentations ranged in topics from supporting disabled individuals in higher education contexts to enhancing collaboration success between speech-language pathologists and special educators.



SCSD PhD Student Presents at the National Stuttering Association Conference

Angelica Barnabe, PhD student in the School of Communication of Science and Disorders (SCSD), spoke at the National Stuttering Association (NSA) conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference was held from July 2-4, 2025, and Barnabe presented "Empowering Students who Stutter," where she delved into the philosophical side of stuttering therapy. The NSA is well-known in the stuttering community for their work in curating life changing programs for those who stutter. As a speech-language pathologist, Barnabe saw the conference as a pathway to speaking to other pathologists like herself. Barnabe's presentation comes from the perspective of validating stuttering rather than treating it as something that must be rectified. Having this reframe in mindset can be essential when approaching stuttering through a lens of empowerment rather than one of shame.

SCSD Graduate Students Visit Children's Hospital in Panama

Six School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) graduate students visited Materno Infantil Jose Domingo De Obaldia, a Panamanian hospital for children with rare diseases, as part of their Project Team Enhanced Outcomes (TEO) experiential learning component. These students worked directly with children who receive specialized care, allowing them to use their skills in a new cultural environment and gain valuable experience in collaborative service delivery. These graduate students, **Hadley Borg, Isabella Diaz, Nina Garcia, Sarah Garven, Alabanza Loera-Gracia, and Jordan Rauch**, also traveled to Panama alongside their FSU Clinical Supervisors, post-doctoral researcher Michelle Torres-Chavarro and SCSD School Director Carla Wood, who oversaw these students' work. Project TEO prepares graduate scholars to assist children with disabilities and connects students with opportunities to learn service strategies firsthand. This group of graduate students worked with Artes Expressivos, a not-for-profit organization, to coordinate their visit to Materno Infantil Jose Domingo De Obaldia.



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND DISORDERS

SCSD Doctoral Scholar Alexis Moser Honored by ASHA

Alexis Moser, doctoral scholar in the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD), has been recognized as a 2025 ASHA Distinguished Early Career Professional. This recognition highlights the contributions of Early Career Professionals (ECPs) in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology, who are making significant strides in leadership, volunteering, and advocacy at multiple levels. A few key achievements of Moser's include presenting research at the ASHA Convention, having the research published in an ASHA Journal, sharing research and collaborating with her clinical team, and helping her company launch a new speech therapy clinic in an underserved area. Moser said her early leadership goals centered on raising awareness of speech-language pathology and communication disorders, as well as translating research into everyday clinical practice.



SCSD's DHH/ASL Educational Outreach Program Hosts Community Gathering at Wakulla Springs State Park

SCSD's Deaf and Hard of Hearing/American Sign Language (DHH/ASL) Educational Outreach Program hosted a community gathering at Wakulla Springs State Park for families of children who are Deaf and hard of hearing. The DHH/ASL Educational Outreach Program was established to support families in the FSU and Tallahassee communities with Deaf and hard-of-hearing children. This Fall semester, **Kristen Guynes**, alongside fellow DHH/ASL Coordinator **Casey Guynes**, prioritized hosting monthly community bonding events for families with Deaf and hard-of-hearing children to connect with each other, speech professionals, and others in the Deaf population. Kristen and Casey both emphasized the significance of bringing together these families and offering support and guidance since, oftentimes, the first Deaf person these hearing parents have ever met is their child.





PhD Student co-host Stuttering Affirmative Therapy workshop for the Spanish- speaking community.

Angelica Bernabe, PhD student in the School of Communication of Science and Disorders (SCSD), and Christopher Constantino, SCSD Associate Professor, hosted a Stuttering Affirmative Therapy workshop for the Spanish-speaking community through Centro Especializado en Tartamudez. As a speech-language pathologist (SLP) and Director of Centro Especializado en Tartamudez (a specialized center for stuttering) Bernabe is known for her work in stuttering. Bernabe is from Peru, having this firsthand insight on Hispanic culture and how it feels to be a person who stutters in this community. With most information on stuttering being in English, there is disconnect from getting the proper information to a diverse audience that needs it. A primary goal of Bernabe's work is to make sure that Hispanic SLPs have the proper resources to research and therapy approaches in Spanish. This workshop serves as a catalyst for bringing stuttering therapy to other countries who have these needs.

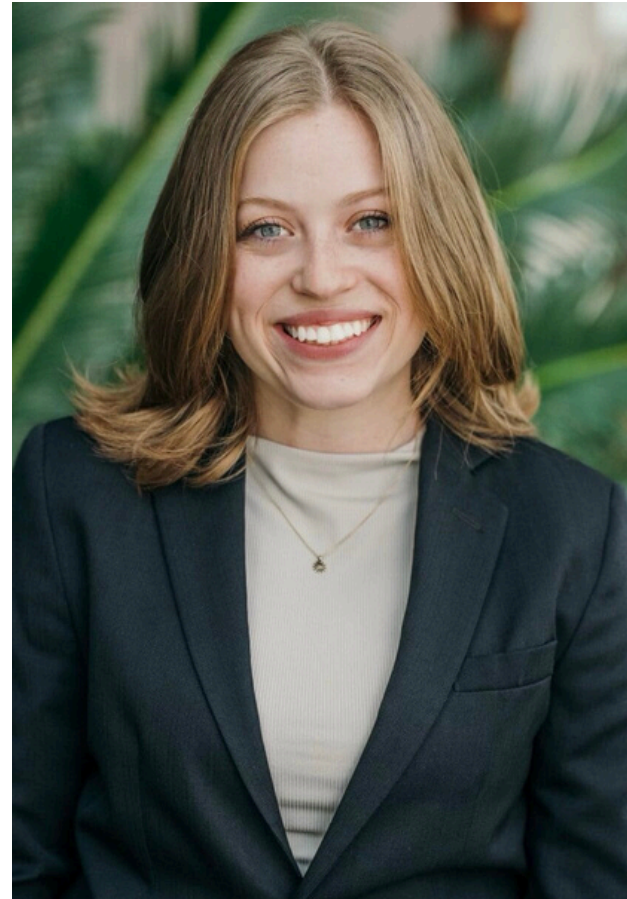
SCSD Hosts FSUs Inaugural Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program

This summer, Florida State University's School of Communication and Science Disorders (SCSD) hosted its inaugural six-week Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program (ICAP). The program, designed by **Dr. Elizabeth Madden** and Faculty Clinical Supervisor **Ellen Nimmons**, focuses on utilizing a new clinical service delivery model to better the communication skills of those with aphasia. Aphasia, an acquired language disorder due to brain injury or stroke, affects a person's ability to speak, understand, read, and write, making ongoing therapy often necessary to regain these skills. The ICAP program is intended to become a yearly event through further collaborations with FSU faculty and staff members, such as this year's collaboration with **Suzanne Smith** at FSU's Opening Minds Through Art, and other aphasia intensives at different universities.



SCSD Alumna Takes a Deep Dive Into Her New Research at Boston Medical Center

Morgan Raskin, a Florida State University (FSU) double alumna who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD), is pursuing her PhD at the Mass General Hospital (MGH) Institute of Health Professions, where she works at the Boston Medical Center (BMC). At BMC, she is currently working on two separate studies for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), both of which are funded under a P50 grant. These projects aim to enhance the detection and phenotyping of vocal hyperfunction and assess the effectiveness of ambulatory biofeedback in voice therapy to improve clinical outcomes. Raskin remains committed to advancing her research and continuing her work as a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) at BMC to improve the treatment of voice disorders.



SCSD Students Participate in Florida's Special Olympics Healthy Hearing Event

Two School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) undergraduate audiology students, **Eva Gegovski** and **Hannah Figueras**, represented Florida State University at the [Florida Special Olympics Healthy Hearing \(SOHH\)](#) event this fall. These students provided valuable assistance to clinicians by assisting with hearing screenings and showcasing their skills. Gegovski and Figueras delivered otoscopy, otoacoustic emissions testing, and tympanometry tests, among other assessments, under the supervision of a licensed audiologist. The Special Olympics Healthy Hearing event served as a strong reminder to Gegovski and Figueras about why they chose the field of audiology. FSU's partnership with SOHH will continue to provide upcoming audiology students with clinical experiences combining skill and empathy, making a lasting impact on their community.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH CCI

Student Leadership Council

The **CCI Student Leadership Council (SLC)** meets monthly with the Dean of CCI to discuss student affairs and what is going on in the College from a student's perspective. The SLC **hosts events with the College, promotes student involvement, and helps students gain professional experience!**

To learn more and get involved, contact:

Betsy Crawford

Betsy.Crawford@cci.fsu.edu



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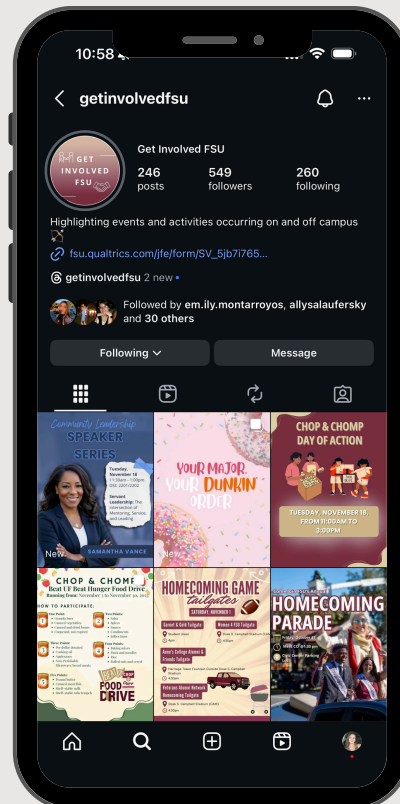
FSU College of
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Information

Recent CCI graduate? Stay connected!

- Sign up for the end-of-semester alumni newsletter, **Connection**.
- Fill out the **Alumni Keep in Touch form** by scanning the QR code to the right and follow the steps.
- If you're looking to join CCI for a master's or doctoral degree, please **reach out to Betsy Crawford** at Betsy.Crawford@cci.fsu.edu for more information.



Learn how to get involved by following **Get Involved FSU** on Instagram



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