

CONNECTION



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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

Warmest greetings; I'm glad to welcome you to the College of Communication & Information Fall 2025 *Connection* newsletter, in which we celebrate the *Student Experience* by exploring how our students are excelling inside and outside the classroom. I know from my inspiring daily interactions with the approximately 2500 students who call our College their academic home that they are excelling in hundreds of varied ways. Thanks to our innovative and award-winning faculty, our stellar students have life-changing classroom experiences. Students also participate in – and lead – our incredible co-curricular clubs, groups, and activities, gaining unparalleled experience and opportunities that prepare them for their careers and lives. Our students travel to conferences to share with and learn from professional colleagues, work with faculty on research that helps people throughout Florida and the world, and do many other wonderful things you will get to enjoy as you peruse this edition.

Throughout the newsletter you will find a focus on our students. We are glad you will get the chance to read about amazing accomplishments such as: a prestigious and competitive doctoral scholarship in Communication Science and Disorders; the founding of the ThinkAI Association, a new FSU student organization designed to introduce students of all skill levels to AI; and a student whose work on production, design, organization, and filming of a project with WLWT News 5 won an Emmy Award.

You will also find stories about conferences attended, presentations shared, and academic programs developed. You will be inspired by the humanitarian works of our students throughout the world. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy posted and candid pictures of various college events since our last issue. Look closely: you might spot a College of Communication and Information “celebrity,” a familiar face, or a fond memory!

Whether you are reminiscing about your time in Tallahassee, or if you want to share a brand-new story with us, this is a wonderful time to engage with us. Please reach out to info@cci.fsu.edu and let us know how you are doing. I would love to hear from you, and to meet with you if you will be in Tallahassee or if I will be in a location near you.

We at the College of Communication and Information share our warm thoughts with all of you this fall. We at the College continue to enjoy – thanks to the incredible hard work of everyone here! – the highest level of success in our academic programs, research and creative accomplishments, clinical services, and student experiences. I hope you enjoy reading about them in more depth throughout this issue of our *Connection* newsletter.



Michelle M. Kazmer
Dean

STUDENT SERVICE

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEM AT FSU'S PANAMA CITY CAMPUS

Students traveled to FSU's Panama City campus to table at the 2025 Tech Expo. The expo was put on by the Advancing Science and Career Education in New Technologies (ASCENT) group, which works to uplift and amplify the IT crowd on campus and emphasize the T in STEM. Hundreds of K-12 students and parents attended the event, which offered robotic, Minecraft, and other interactive, technology-based activities. CCI students planned, set up, and ran six technology and innovation-based stations, with each station intertwined with different angles of technology. "Working the AI table and seeing the kids really get into the systems and games was so much fun," said student **Heath Davis**.



STUDENTS LEAD CCI'S RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

Students formed a College of Communication & Information (CCI) team at FSU Relay for Life, the University's annual philanthropic event in support of the American Cancer Society. Members from various majors, years, involvements, and schools within the College came together to fundraise and support at the 12-hour, all-day event held in the Student Union Ballrooms. The team raised over \$1,800 and ranked 15th out of 68 total teams across the Tallahassee-wide event. The team's captain, master's student **Bella Bozied**, also received the award for Most Organized Team Captain. "It was great to see the College come together for such an important cause; you could see throughout the day how members of the CCI team became more and more engaged," Bozied said. Those interested in supporting the CCI Relay for Life team can [donate here](#).



STARS STUDENTS MENTOR AT ANNUAL TSA CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE

Nine students and two alumni from the Students in Technology, Academia, Research and Service (STARS) Alliance attended the 2025 National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Over 12,000 students attended the conference from a multitude of TSA chapters nationwide. 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. "Attending and presenting at a national conference is a huge opportunity for our FSU student leaders. They are also visible as FSU and CCI with students from across the country (and world)," said CCI Associate Dean **Ebe Randeree**, who has organized these annual trips since 2008.



STUDENT ADVANCEMENT



SCOM STUDENTS EXPLORE NEW POSSIBILITIES IN FILMMAKING

School of Communication (SCOM) students in **Dr. Andy Opel's** Immersive Media Production class stepped into a new world in the FSU Immersive Media Dome. The dome is a 360° screening space that allows groups of up to twenty people experience immersive video together without the need of a VR headset. Students took full advantage of the experience, crafting video projects catered to the technology using two 360° cameras: the GoPro Max and the Insta360 RS One. "I hope students learn the fundamental camera and editing skills required to produce effective immersive media content alongside the visual storytelling that is reinforced by an immersive experience," Opel said.

BUILDING INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS DURING TAMPA NETWORKING TRIP

Nine students gained industry insights and career guidance during visits to major tech companies in Florida's growing tech hub of Tampa. The trip provided students with valuable industry exposure and networking opportunities, including tours of ReliaQuest, Citibank, and A-Lign — three companies with strong relationships with the College. Students also attended the Synapse Summit, a major regional technology conference, which showcased innovations from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and local industry leaders. "This was my first networking trip and it showed me what is really possible in this field," said IT student **Javin Vance**. "Visiting the companies and hearing directly from FSU alumni who made it gave me a new level of motivation — realizing that I am capable of getting there too."



DOCTORAL STUDENTS PRESENT AT SSSR CONFERENCE

Eight doctoral students in the School of Communication Science and Disorders (SCSD) presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR) conference in Calgary, Canada. The SSSR annual conference aims to advance reading as a scientific study through the dissemination of knowledge about reading, language, and literacy. SCSD's presenters covered topics such as reading anxiety, literacy environments, and linguistic educational supports through their seven presentations. "As a first-year doctoral student, I think that the conference offers so much for younger scholars like me in the form of cutting-edge research presentations, international connections with other literacy researchers, and opportunities to display the research we undertake at Florida State," **Audrey Hendrix** said.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT FSU LEADERSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

Five CCI students and one CCI student organization were recognized at the FSU Leadership Awards, an annual recognition of students, organizations, and employees who have demonstrated a commitment to student success and giving back to the community. Awardees included **Elizabeth Lavitman** (President's Award), **Malena Romero** (Dean of Students Award), **Snailey Dol** (Sean A. Pittman Award), **Sophia Ferraro** (Outstanding Leadership and Service Award), **Paige Elkin** (College Humanitarian of the Year Award), and the FSU STARS Alliance (Impactful Partnership Award).



STUDENT RECOGNIZED IN THE 2025 FLORIDA NEWS AWARD CONTEST

SCOM student **Kaitlyn Walsh** was named a finalist in the 2025 Florida News Award Contest. Walsh, a student in the cooperative journalism program between FSU and FAMU, earned her finalist award in political reporting for her project, "Race to 24." This recognition puts her among the top young journalists in the State of Florida. "Since middle school, I've known I wanted to pursue journalism," Walsh said. "I grew up watching local TV news with my family and was always curious about the world around me. I wanted to know how our government worked and how news impacts our communities."

CCI HOSTS LEADERSHIP 2025 CONFERENCE

CCI hosted its 12th annual Leadership Conference at the FSU Alumni Center, bringing together speakers, volunteers, and attendees of all backgrounds to inspire, learn, and engage. The event included multiple sessions featuring 26 student, faculty, and alumnae speakers. "The Leadership Conference has allowed me to become a more effective leader by hearing about everybody's leadership journey," said Information Technology student **Maggie Martin-McKinnie**. "It's not linear, which is really helpful to remember. Knowing that everybody is going through something similar is really refreshing."



PHD CANDIDATE RECEIVES NEW LEADER AWARD FROM ASIS&T

Lateef Ayinde, PhD candidate in the School of Information (iSchool), received the New Leader Award from the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). By receiving this award, Ayinde will be assigned to work closely with a Chapter, SIG, Volunteer, or Staff Leader in ASIS&T, where he will help shape the future of information science education. Ayinde also led a panel discussion on AI at the ASIS&T conference in November 2025. "AI is the future, and the future starts now. We will be talking about the future of AI in information schools, which is how we teach AI literacy in iSchools," Ayinde said.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION NEWS



STUDENT WINS EMMY FOR INTERNSHIP WORK

Student **Marissa Rouse** won an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) for her work with WLWT News 5 Hearst Media. 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*. "Winning this award is a huge recognition of both the team's and my work, and something that still blows my mind," Rouse said. "The team was super supportive of me getting involved and throwing in my ideas. We worked together, but more importantly, had a ton of fun."

STUDENT COLLABORATES WITH MICHELIN-STAR RESTAURANT

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. "Students had the opportunity to directly apply theoretical concepts learned during weekly classes to a practical, real-world setting," Park said. "This experiential approach goes beyond merely recording notes; it enables students to genuinely understand and internalize course content." On a typical Friday class, Park's students would vote for their favorite marketing plan and Park would send the winning proposal to Yingtao.



DOCTORAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY PRESENT AT AEJMC

Doctoral students and faculty presented at the 2025 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference in San Francisco, California. Their presentations covered topics such as social media reader engagement, activism washing, and decoding health technology. Among the team, doctoral candidate **Junho Park** was awarded as an AEJMC Diversity & Inclusion Career Development Fellow by the AEJMC Career Development and Mass Communication and Society Division, and **Dr. Patrick Merle** and his coauthors were awarded third place in the AEJMC Public Relations Division for their research.

STUDENT RECEIVES 2025 DR. JAY RAYBURN, APR, CPRC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Public Relations (PR) student **Camille Hewitt** was selected as the 2025 Dr. Jay Rayburn, APR, CPRC Student Scholarship Recipient by the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA). The scholarship attributes the work of the late Dr. Jay Rayburn, who devoted his career to advancing the PR field. Hewitt joined the FPRA Student Capital Chapter as an FSU first-year and has since served as Networking Chair and Secretary. "I am honored to receive this scholarship in his name, and I hope to use it to learn and grow in public relations in a way that Dr. Rayburn would be proud of," Hewitt said.



GRADUATE STUDENTS VISIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN PANAMA

Six SCSD graduate students visited Materno Infantil Jose Domingo De Obaldia, a Panamanian hospital for children with rare diseases. They worked directly with children who receive specialized care under the direction of FSU clinical supervisors, using their skills in a new cultural environment and gaining valuable experience in collaborative service delivery. "We wanted them to see firsthand the importance of person-centered, culturally responsive care and interdisciplinary collaboration when working with children with complex needs from backgrounds that differ from their own," said post-doctoral researcher **Michelle Torres-Chavarro**.

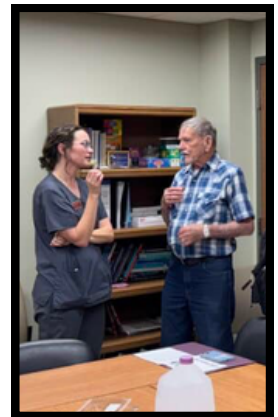


STUDENT AWARDED 2025 CAPCSD PHD SCHOLARSHIP

PhD student **Mary Allison Moody** was awarded the 2025 Council for Academic Programs in Communication Science and Disorders (CAPCSD) PhD Scholarship. CAPCSD is a membership organization with the mission of supporting, promoting, and advancing higher education programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders. "I am truly honored and humbled to receive a \$12,000 dissertation award, especially given that applications were considered nationally," Moody said. "The findings of the dissertation could serve as a vital initial step toward establishing a foundation necessary for enhancing assessment and treatment materials for children with speech sound disorders."

SCSD TEAMS UP WITH FSU'S IMS TO CREATE V-PACT PROGRAM

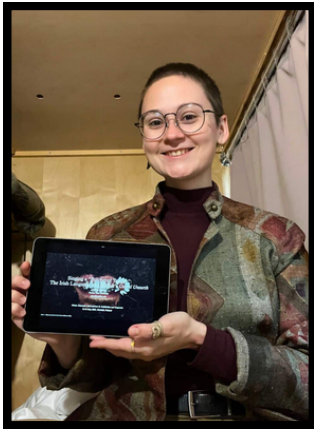
SCSD is collaborating with the FSU Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS) program to create the Veterans Peer Assistance & Collaboration Team (V-PACT), a team of students and professionals that engage with and provide support for veterans diagnosed with communication disorders who are also facing psychosocial challenges related to their impairments. "Collaboration between these two programs recognizes the strength of multidisciplinary approaches in tackling difficult issues in communication and aging," said **Dr. Selena Snowden**. The V-PACT team includes 3 SCSD graduate students and 5 IMS undergraduate students; together, they will provide small-group settings to support veterans.



PHD STUDENT PRESENTS AT NSA CONFERENCE

PhD Student **Angelica Barnabe** spoke at the National Stuttering Association (NSA) conference in Denver, Colorado. Barnabe's presentation, "Empowering Students who Stutter," focused on validating stuttering rather than treating it as something that must be rectified. "I chose this topic because I'm passionate about shifting the narrative around stuttering and helping young people see their voices as strong and worthy, exactly as they are," Barnabe said. "This perspective can empower students and their families by fostering confidence, encouraging self-advocacy, and building a sense of pride."

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION NEWS

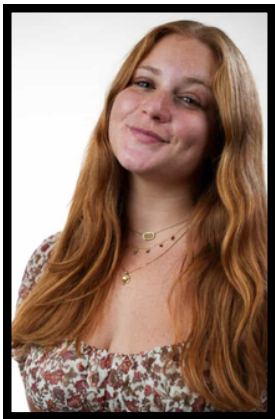


SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDS CONFERENCE IN FINLAND

Master's student **Allison Rollins** attended "Music, Research, and Activism II: Solidarities and Urgencies," an international conference held at the University of Helsinki in Helsinki, Finland. As an interdisciplinary conference, it was a prime opportunity for Rollins to gain connections in other career fields. "In every presentation I attended, I saw connections between my field and others, and I think it's incredibly important for us to transcend disciplinary boundaries to make real change in the world around us," Rollins said. She presented her paper, "Singing a 'Butchered Tongue': The Irish Language and Hozier's Unreal Unearth," which explored the impacts of trending and popular music.

STUDENTS CREATE THINKAI ASSOCIATION

Introducing the ThinkAI Association, CCI's new student organization designed to introduce students of all skill levels to AI. Students in the organization are encouraged to experiment with AI and to engage with the local community, where they introduce AI tools and concepts to senior centers and K-12 schools. "I think there's a fear when a lot of people see 'ThinkAI Association' and think it's more coding or development heavy, so they feel pushed away, but we're trying to open it up more and get soaked into the minds of FSU students," said **Orion Qualls**, graduate student and President and Founder of the ThinkAI Association.

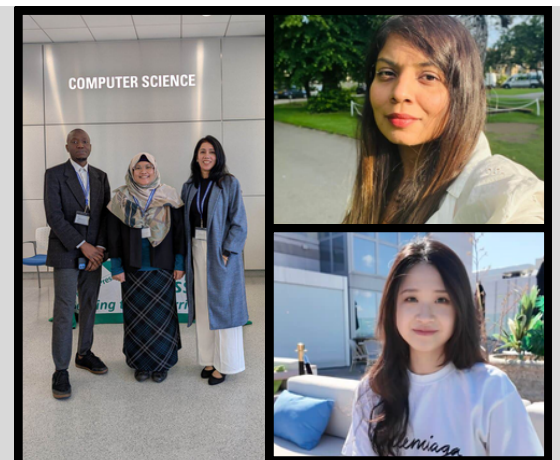


CCI'S 2025 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR HONOREE

Information Technology student **Paige Elkin** was named as CCI's 2025 nominee for Humanitarian of the Year. Florida State University's Undergraduate Humanitarian of the Year Award is a prestigious honor recognizing students who demonstrate exceptional commitment to service. Elkin has dedicated herself to studying the impact and effectiveness of artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT and CoPilot in academic settings. "I am so honored to be chosen for the Humanitarian Award for CCI!" Elkin said. "Community service has always been a big part of my life, and continuing to serve my community throughout college has helped me find a sense of belonging at FSU."

STUDENTS PRESENT AT SAIS CONFERENCE

Doctoral students **Ghazal Hussain**, **Shezin Hussain**, and **Yue Liu** presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Southern Association for Information Systems (SAIS). Their research topics included how IT managers navigate crises, deepfake misinformation, and data privacy issues with smart home devices. They also had the opportunity to collaborate with others in the field of information systems. "These interactions greatly contributed to advancing my Ph.D. journey and broadening my academic perspective," Shezin Hussain said.



CCI PROMOTIONS

This year saw an unprecedented 17 promotions for CCI faculty! The College congratulates each of them for their hard work and dedication to our students.



RACHEL BAILEY
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



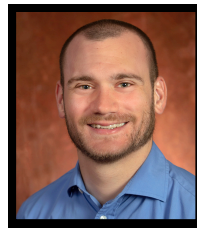
ANDREA BARTON-HULSEY
Promoted to: Associate Professor
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



SINDY CHAPA
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



RUSSELL B. CLAYTON
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



CHRISTOPHER CONSTANTINO
Promoted to: Associate Professor
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



JULIANN CORTESE
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



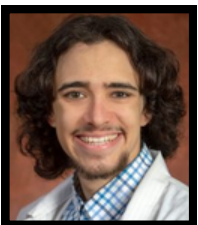
JINGER DEASON
Promoted to: Teaching
Faculty II
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



KELLY FARQUHARSON
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



ZHE HE
Promoted to: Professor
School of Information



LUCAS VON HOLLEN
Promoted to: Teaching
Faculty II
School of Information



FAYE R. JONES
Promoted to: Research
Faculty III
Office of the Dean



KAITLIN LANSFORD
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



JAEJIN LEE
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



ELIZABETH MADDEN
Promoted to: Associate Professor
School of Communication
Science & Disorders



PATRICK F. MERLE
Promoted to: Professor
School of Communication



SHUYUAN HO METCALFE
Promoted to: Professor
School of Information



EBE RADEREE
Promoted to: Instructional Faculty III
Office of the Dean

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

SCOM ALUMNUS EARNS TWO EMMYS

Media Production alumnus **J. Marty Dormany** earned two Sports Emmys in 2025, one in Outstanding Graphic Design in Event and one in Outstanding Technical Team in Studio, for his work with the NBC team at the Paris Olympics. “I was sitting there that night wondering how could we possibly lose this one, and then we won and I just started crying...it was really a rewarding moment,” Dormany said. Dormany, who runs his own graphics company, takes a month off every other year to freelance at the Olympics.

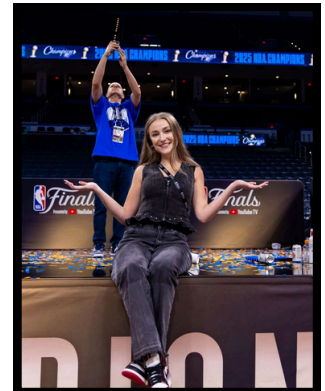


ISCHOOL ALUMNUS BECOMES FIRST-TIME RESTAURANT OWNER

Information Technology (IT) alumnus and self-proclaimed foodie **Zach Heng** became a co-owner of the restaurant, Yunnan By Potomac, with his business partner Chef Shao Bruce. Heng’s corporate career spans nearly two decades across global brands like Accenture, Deloitte, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Vanguard. Throughout his career, however, Heng wanted to find a way to have a more creative influence in his work. “This role bridges everything I care about: heritage, experience design, food, and people-first leadership,” Heng said. “We’re not just serving food – we’re curating experiences and sharing the story of Southwest China in a way that sparks curiosity, pride, and connection.”

Alumna Covers 2025 NBA Champions

Brooke Brennan (Media Communication Studies '21, Sport Management '22) covered the 2025 NBA champions, the Oklahoma City Thunder, as their Social Media Content Producer this year. Her role includes capturing photos and video of the team, covering events, and managing social media channels. “Being a part of the postseason and NBA Finals created new opportunities for me and my team to continue to be creative, cover our team and our community by telling stories, bring Thunder basketball to an even larger and global audience, and continue to push the envelope in all that we do,” said Brennan.



CCI CELEBRATES SEMINOLE 100 HONOREES

On February 22, 2025, FSU celebrated the Seminole 100, which recognizes the 100 fastest-growing FSU alumni-owned or alumni-led businesses. CCI alumni honorees included **Aaron T. Rich** (Aaron Rich Marketing), **Luis A. Montanez** (Blind Tiger Enterprises), **Damon Steffens** (Canopy Management Consulting Group), **Brian R. Dooley** (Independence Digital), **Stephen A. Smith** (Law Offices of Stephen A. Smith), **Brian F. McKenna** and **Matthew J. Thompson** (Social Catering & Events), and **Drew Piers** (Piers Property Group).

FUELING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH GIVING

By Mafé Brooks, Assistant Dean of Development

Warmest fall greetings from Tallahassee! I'm excited to share that this edition of our *Connection* newsletter focuses on celebrating the transformative power of philanthropy and its profound impact on the student experience. This edition shines a light on how generosity—through gifts of all sizes—helps shape the academic and professional journeys of our 2,500 students in meaningful and lasting ways.

Every day, I'm inspired by the passion, creativity, and drive of our students who call our College home. Their success is fueled not only by our award-winning faculty and innovative programs, but also by the unwavering support of our alumni, friends, and donors who believe in the promise of education. Philanthropy opens doors: it funds scholarships that ease financial burdens, supports travel to conferences where students present groundbreaking research, and allows them to connect with professionals in their respective fields. Philanthropic support additionally provides experiential opportunities that enable students to have immersive experiences in labs, studios, and communities across our campus, and also nationally and globally!

Donor support helps students thrive in many ways, as you'll discover from the various stories in this edition—whether they are receiving awards, presenting at national conferences, leading humanitarian efforts, or building and participating in programs that reflect their values and ambitions of becoming a successful communicator, speech therapist/audiologist, or information scientist. These stories are a testament to what's possible when philanthropy meets purpose.



As you browse this issue, I hope you feel the warmth and gratitude that fills our hearts. I'd like to express my deepest gratitude and special thanks to our recent donors, Bob & Gail Knight for their generosity in establishing the Bob & Gail Knight Distinguished Professor in Audiology, our first-ever distinguished endowed professorship in the history of our School of Communication Science Disorders and in our College; the Langford Family for realizing our dream to build a speech and hearing mobile clinic that will have a tremendous impact in our community and in the North Florida panhandle; Mrs. Marjorie Turnbull for honoring her late husband's legacy, Dr. Augustus Turnbull III, a champion debater and beloved and respected FSU leader, through the creation of the Dr. Augustus Turnbull III Endowment for Intercollegiate Debate; and to Ms. Jeannette Cox for supporting student success in the School of Information through her vision in setting up the Jeannette Cox Endowment for Student Success.

To every donor—whether you've made an annual gift, established an endowment, or supported a specific initiative through FSU's Great Give, Giving Tuesday, or through ForeverFSU—thank you. Your generosity is more than just a contribution; it's a catalyst. It empowers students to dream bigger, reach farther, and achieve more. You are part of every success story we share.

I would love to invite you to stay connected, whether it's to share your story or engage with our students and faculty. I can be reached via email at mbrooks@fsu.edu. Do let us know if you plan to visit Tallahassee soon, and I would also love to connect when I'm in your city.

With heartfelt appreciation and warm wishes this fall, we hope you enjoy this special edition of *Connection*.



Mafé Brooks
mbrooks@fsu.edu

CLASS NOTES

Laila Alfares (M.S. '23) passed the NAPLEX exam, a major milestone in her journey to become a pharmacist.

Kennedy Banks (B.S. '24) started a new role as a Customer Service Representative at Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions.

Gabriela Brown (M.A. '25) started a new role as Director of Marketing at Hearth & Soul.

Erin Cotter (B.S. '24) started a new role as an IT Auditor at FIS.

Mercy Cray (B.S. '14) started a new role as a Clinical Therapist at Step Up.

Kaitlin Davidson (B.S. '14) was selected to serve on the Transportation Research Board's standing committee on Communications and Public Engagement.

Michelle B. Griffin (B.S. '91) became a Resident Entrepreneur at CO:LAB Pensacola.

Demi Harms (B.S. '23) started a new role as an Insurance Technician at Wallace Welch & Willingham.

Zach Heng (B.S. '17) was promoted to Interim Head of Partnerships at Ascend.

Patric Holly (B.S. '11) started a new role as as Senior Director, EMR Optimization and Strategy at Better Health Group.

Kyeongwon Kwon (M.S. '20, Ph.D. '24) presented her research at the AEJMC conference in San Francisco, California.

Ivanna Leitner (B.S. '16) was promoted to Director at South Florida Industrial Real Estate @ Cushman & Wakefield.

Neleen Leslie-Piper (M.S. '11, Ph.D. '15) joined the faculty at John Carroll University as an Assistant Professor of Marketing in the Boler College of Business.

Maggie Martin-McKinnie (B.S. '25) started a new role as a Cybersecurity Risk Analyst at the University of Florida.

Jordan Manecke (B.S. '21) was promoted to Digital Media Manager at Facet.

Sarah Megna (B.S. '23) started a new role as an Information Technology Business Consultant at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Kelsey Mustra (B.S. '13, M.S. '18) started a new position as a Product Owner at the University of South Florida (USF).

Christopher Neff (M.S. '07) was named to the 2025 AI Trailblazers Power 100 by Adweek.

Christen Petruzzelli (B.A. '19) was recognized as one of 850 Business Magazine's 30 Under 30.

Jamie Rich (B.S. '99) started a new role as President of the Florida Magazine Association.

Rafaela Rossi (B.S. '15) started a new role as a Senior Product Operations Manager at GrubHub.

Juan Camilo Sanchez (B.S. '13) started his own business, Orphiq, an AI operating system for music artists.

Martha Saunders (Ph.D. '90) was inducted into the Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business Hall of Fame.

Leah Solomon (B.S. '24) was promoted to Account Executive at Sachs Media.

Catherine Steele (B.S. '23, M.S. '25) started a new role as a Speech-Language Pathologist Clinical Fellow at Lama Pediatric Therapy.

Kelly Tolliday (B.S. '14) started a new role as Director of Sales & Marketing for the North American market at Travel Kinship | Representation.

Brandon Tottle (B.S. '21) started a new role as Senior Enterprise Customer Success Manager at Drata.

Kaitlyn Walsh (B.S. '25) started a new role as a multimedia journalist for WVLT 8 in Knoxville, TN.

Valerie Wickboldt (B.A. '08) started a new role as Chief Strategy Officer at ADELE.

Michael Walsh (B.S. '17, M.S. '21) published a new children's book, *Gabatha the Green Bean*.

Kendall C. Williams III (B.S. '12) started a new position as a Technical Project Manager at Lenovo.

Have an update to share with us?

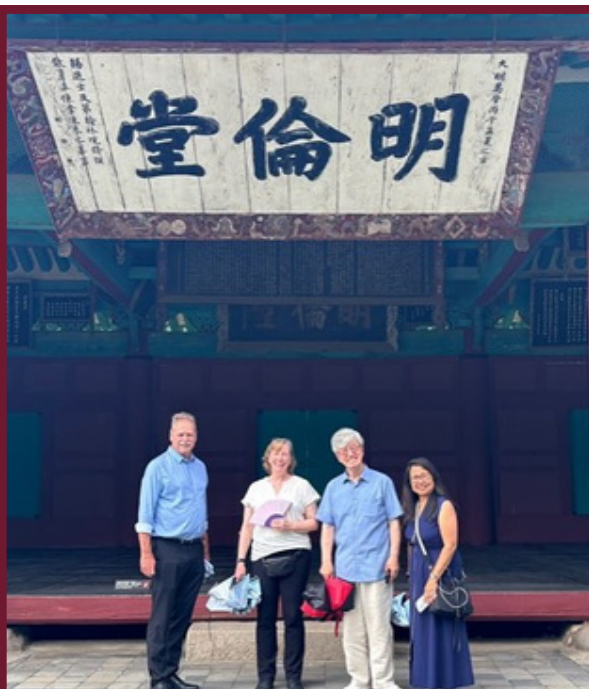
**Share Your
Class Note**



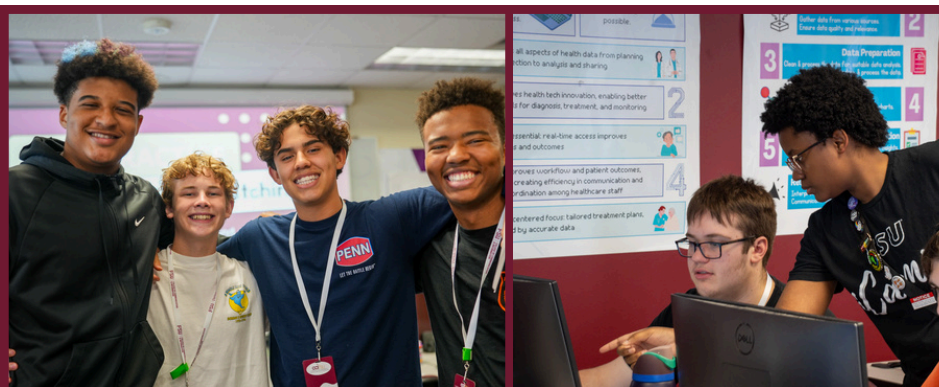
COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI reconnected with alumni in Washington, DC, during the Alumni Association's FSU Comes to You tour in June and again at a mixer cohosted by FSU International Programs in November. 🏛️



CCI ventured across the Pacific to explore partnership opportunities with various universities in South Korea. ✈️



Local high school students had a blast learning about tech tools at FSU's iCamp! 🤖



The College honored the life and legacy of FSU President Emeritus John Thrasher.



Summer may be a quiet time, but our summer graduates were loud and proud! 🎓

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI's annual retreat at the Challenger Learning Center was a great place for faculty and staff to reconnect and prepare for another amazing year with our students.



The Seminole Innovators Open House introduced students to the many tools available at the FSU Innovation Hub. ⚙️



We wished the fabulous Dr. Donna Nudd a happy (and bittersweet) retirement! 🥹



What's a new fall semester without donuts from the dean?? 🍩



The first-ever CSD Fest connected students with local businesses and organizations in the field of speech-language pathology. They also walked away with free flowers! 🌸

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI's Betsy Crawford visited schools across the Southeast to promote our grad programs. 🍌



Did someone say free food?! The CCI Student Leadership Council brought the College together for the annual CCI BBQ. 🍌



Ad Club made a return trip to the Big Apple!



The Scholars and Stars Reception recognized our stellar students, faculty, and donors!



The CCI Research Summit, part of [FSU Discovery Days](#), brought together CCI researchers from all three schools to discuss their intersections with the healthcare industry. 🧐🧪

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



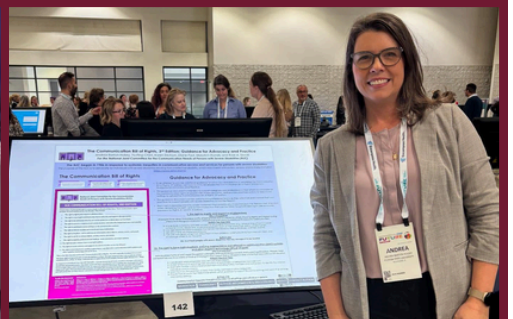
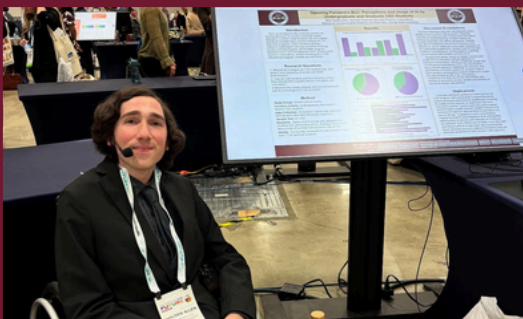
CCI showed up BIG at the FSU Homecoming Parade. We even brought a mariachi band! 🎷



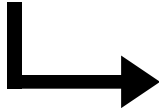
Dean Michelle Kazmer showed off some stylish new footwear, courtesy of Sneex Founder and CCI alumna Sara Blakely.



SCOM students organized a conference to practice presenting their research for future conferences and events.



Conference fever! CCI students and faculty attended NCA, ASHA, and ASIS&T in the same week.



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BY JOE SNOWDEN, CCI LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

I'm honored to be taking on the role of CCI Board Chair, following in the footsteps of the remarkable Jeanne Ford.

If asked about the top three aspects of an FSU CCI education, I would certainly rank student experience among them. Thinking back to my own experiences, with a professor who changed the course of my career (Dr. J.D. Rayburn) and an internship that set me on the path to open my own agency at 22, I know it was the most critical element for me.

The opportunities students have today are a multiple of those we enjoyed during my time at FSU. Arrowhead Advertising, in its infancy in the 1980s, is now a national powerhouse in the School of Communication. In the School of Communication Science and Disorders and School of Information, students are deeply involved in life-changing research and groundbreaking, hands-on work. Our students are gaining national (and international) caliber experiences and developing into the next generation of national and international leaders.

As alumni, we have the opportunity to be experience catalysts. We make the difference! It's a privilege I encourage you to embrace.



Joe Snowden
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