

THE CONNECTOR



The College of Communication and Information
at Florida State University

30th Edition
Spring 2023

As we bid farewell to another remarkable semester, we find ourselves reflecting on the journey we have shared together. Just as a garden blossoms with an array of vibrant flowers, our time spent together has been filled with growth, beauty, and the sweet scent of success. It is with great pleasure that we dedicate the 30th Edition of The Connector to the students, and celebrate the moments we have experienced throughout the semester. Each day, we witness dedication, resilience, and determination as we nurture our minds, allowing knowledge to take root and flourish. Beyond the academic pursuits, we have also witnessed the start of friendships, and the forging of lifelong connections that transcend the classroom. While we reminisce on the Spring 2023 semester, we encourage you to take a moment to appreciate the growth that has taken place, reflect on the challenges you have overcome, consider the knowledge you have gained, and appreciate the friendships you have cultivated. We hope you enjoy looking back on the Spring 2023 semester with us.

Lauren Scala and Olivia Kennedy



Table of Contents

College Happenings	2
Seminole 100	6
CCI News and Events	7
School of Communication	11
School of Communication Science and Disorders	16
School of Information	19
Ways to get Involved with CCI	22

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



Director, producer, and CCI alumnus Ritesh Gupta connected with current students to share his experiences.



Students took part in a discussion with local tech professionals on topics such as AI and Web3x at a TalTech luncheon.



Students participated in a photoshoot for the CCI holiday card.



Over 20 students from FAMU, FSU, and TCC toured top tech companies in the Tallahassee area to learn about company culture and job opportunities.



The CCI family celebrated our 2023 grads at our SCOM, SCSD, and iSchool graduation receptions!



Students received professional photos at our free headshot event.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



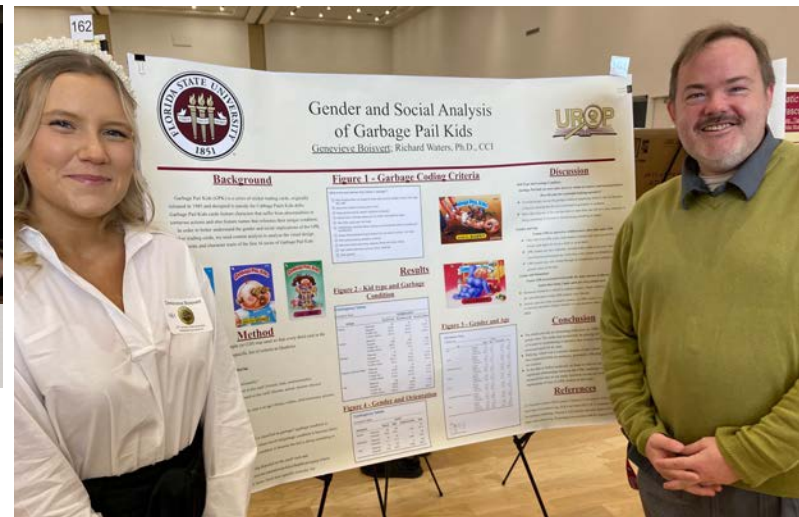
CCI honorees recognized at the Seminole 100 Celebration.



Students, faculty, and alumni celebrated FSU's achievements and contributions during FSU Day at the Capitol.



ICT student Jamie Guterman hosted "Highlight Reel," a student art exhibit focused on the effect of social media on mental health.



Several CCI students showcased their research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

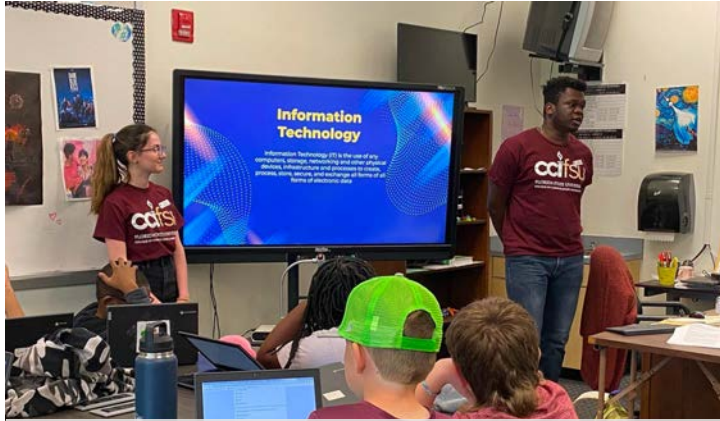


The Student Leadership Council hosted CCI's annual Spring Social with games, subs, snow cones, and more.



CCI welcomed students back to campus with free donuts in UCD.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



CCI Leadership students visited Florida State University Schools today to talk to students about STEM careers.



10 SCSD students were inducted into the National American Sign Language Honor Society.



CCI students prepared for CCI's summer iCamp!



STARS students hosted the Tech Expo event at FSU Panama City.



PLAY team administered speech/language screenings for the Early Learning Coalition's Spring Development Screening Day.

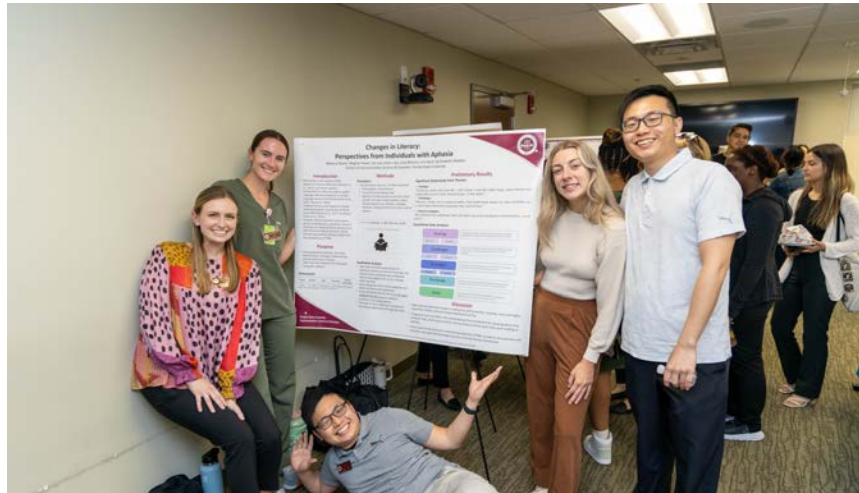


Students were able to network with over 30 companies at the CCI Career Fair.

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



Students enjoying their time working as CCI Help Desk Technicians at the Innovation Hub!



SCSD students showcased research with poster presentations at Research Rounds.



IT Student Arianna Nicolas worked as a Character Design/Illustrator for AnswerCampus, a game designed by the University of Miami.



STARS Alliance students hosted STEM Night at Montford Middle School.



CCI students spoke at the Black Men in STEM event at the Innovation Hub.



Students from local Tallahassee high schools come together for CCI's iCamp.

9 CCI Alumni Selected for Seminole 100

Seminole 100 recognizes the 100 fastest-growing FSU alumni-owned 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.



Brian Dooley (B.A. '05)
Independence Digital



Terrie Ard (B.S. '97)
The Moore Agency



Jesica D'Avanza (B.S. '03)
Round Square, LLC



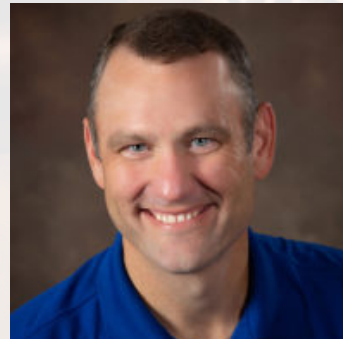
Ryan Cappy (B.S. '97)
The Law Offices of Ryan Cappy



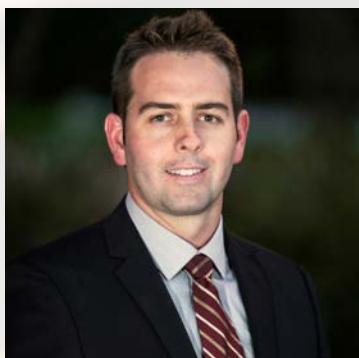
Stephen A. Smith (B.S. '02)
The Law Offices of Stephen A. Smith



Aaron Rich (M.S. '03)
Aaron Rich Marketing



Brian Campbell (B.S. '99)
Epyon Technologies, LLC



Joseph Albano (B.S. '06)
Ardent Eagle Solutions



Brooke Pautsch (B.S. '92)
Lucky Goat Coffee



CCI Recognizes 11 Distinguished Alumni

On April 21, 2023, CCI recognized 11 of its distinguished alumni.

Every year, CCI selects alumni from each school in the College for the Distinguished Alumni Award. The alumni chosen for the award go above and beyond in their professional careers. From their exceptional service to outstanding leadership, these alumni have made a significant impact in their fields. After two years of postponed celebrations due to the pandemic, the distinguished alumni for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 were all recognized at this year's faculty/staff luncheon.

Congratulations to **Marcos Gabriel, Carol Gill, Marquita Gooch-Voyd, Charlette M. Green, TaRhonda Harvey, Jamie Linden, Sully Moreno, Kaki Pope, Carlene Reid, Martha Saunders, and Dave Smith.**



CCI Hosts 10th Annual Women in Leadership Conference

On March 9, 2023, CCI hosted its 10th Annual Women in Leadership Conference at the Florida State Conference Center in honor of Women's History Month. The conference is open to students, faculty, alumni, and the local community; what makes this conference unique is that the speakers are primarily College alumni that are leaders in their industries. The conference hosted 42 female leaders, 22 of which are CCI alumni, as speakers and panelists that covered an array of topics, including writing a book, starting a business, exploring careers in tech, exploring careers in communication science and disorders, exploring careers in the media and public relations, advocating your financial future, taking charge of your career with effective leadership, getting involved with student organizations on campus, and a closing panel with a focus on the future of working hybrid. The conference would not have been a success without the ample amount of help from the student volunteers across CCI and its student organizations.

CCI Students Lead and Judge at Florida TSA Conference

Following the Florida Technology Student Association (TSA) Leadership Conference in the Fall, CCI students traveled back to Orlando for the Annual State Conference. Every year, students from the CCI STARS Alliance (Students & Technology in Academia, Research & Service) judge the projects and performances at the TSA State Conference. With the wide variety of projects, the FSU STARS judged competitions ranging from innovations and inventions to drone flights and board game development. Through judging these competitions, the CCI students not only lead the students, but learned from them as well. The STARS students that participated were: **Rebeckah Anestin, Anni Douberly, Olivia Kennedy, Zakari Kostzer, Arianna Nicolas, Owen Van Lenten, Emma Roberts, and Aya Saludo.**

Twenty CCI Students Inducted Into Torchbearer 100

Torchbearer 100 seeks to recognize 100 of the most outstanding undergraduate leaders and achievers across campus who have made a significant impact on student life at Florida State. This achievement leans on the fact that as an individual grows, their potential grows with them and that this growth creates avenues for an exponential positive impact on their communities. CCI students from across all three schools who received this award include **Adriana Nguyen, Alexandra Schaffer, Alyssa Cuevas, Anaya Daniel, Bianca Hamm, Blake Novack, Brynlie Burley, Carley Stubbs, Emily Boden, Emma Roberts, Jason Puwalski, Kelsey McDermott, Lindsay Wilson, Maddie Wager, Mary Thomas, Meredith Grimm, Michelle Evangelista, Piper Green, Sophonie Desvaristes, and Travis Waters.**



CCI Hosts Career Fair

On February 13, CCI hosted a Career Fair at the FSU Alumni Center with over 35 companies from the local community. Over 130 students from all three of our schools attended to connect with these companies about possible internships and post-grad opportunities. The companies in attendance ranged from tech, healthcare, government, and media agencies. Employers had a variety of roles open, ranging from Communications, Information Technology, Public Relations, Web Development, Marketing, and more. During the Career Fair, each school in CCI awarded a company as a Distinguished Community Partner: **Hillsborough County Public Schools, Syntech, and The Zimmerman Agency.**



CCI Students Participate in Engage 100 Leadership Program

Engage 100 is an exciting, immersive program unique to Florida State University.

The program is designed to create fascinating experiences that help students flourish in their first year. Through Engage 100, students get to meet great people, explore their passions, and see all that university life offers. Through small, mentor-guided courses, students learn in a supportive and creative environment designed to unlock their potential.

This past Fall semester, CCI had 5 undergraduate students leading Engage 100 courses that cover a variety of topics. Students involved in leading an Engage 100 Course include: **Bianca Hamm, Emma Roberts, Korrin Sheahan, Lauren Piotrowski, and Rebeckah Anestin.**

CCI Students Help Organize TEDxFSU Event

On April 4 TEDxFSU hosted their annual conference where CCI students **Amy Ni, Laila Alfares, McKinnon Bell, Jack Bart, and Rachel Adeogun** helped coordinate and plan the event. This year's conference "Rooted In Reality" featured six speakers, which included Florida State undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professors and alumni.

In addition to the student volunteers, CCI had two alumni involved at the TEDx event. **Ritesh Gupta**, a Digital Media Production alumnus and award-winning filmmaker, spoke during the event and **William Walker (Chef Will)**, an Information-Communication Technology alumnus and musician, performed in between the conference speakers.

Congratulations to all of the CCI students on helping put together another amazing TEDxFSU conference, and a huge thank you to our alumni who volunteered their time to share their experiences at TEDxFSU.





Marvin Suarez-Pimienta



Sommaiya Angrish

CCI Students Present at FURC

On February 17-18, 2023, two CCI students, **Marvin Suarez-Pimienta** (IT) and **Sommaiya Angrish** (DMP), presented at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (FURC) at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

The purpose of Marvin Suarez-Pimienta's presentation "Dos Bocas Oil Well Explosion in Indigenous Veracruz, 1908" was to recount the fire's health and socioeconomic impacts on San Diego de la Mar residents and the municipality of Tamalin's Totonac and Huastec Indigenous communities. The goal of Sommaiya Angrish's presentation "Sounds of a Wonder City: La Paz, Bolivia" was to investigate how the sonic environment of the Bolivian capital city of La Paz is reflected and manifested in music. In order to build a profile of the sound landscape of the city, hundreds of sounds recorded throughout the city were analyzed for similarities and consistencies and rhythmic patterns.

29 CCI Students Graduate from Florida State University Honors Program

The Florida State University Honors Program awarded over 300 graduating students with their honors medallions on May 1, 2023 at the Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. Out of those 300 students, 29 of them were from CCI. Several students in CCI were awarded with University Honors, Honors in the Major, Dual Honors, and Outstanding Senior Scholar. Congratulations to all 29 of our CCI students who received an honors distinction! **Kaya Youngquist, Grace DiMario, Catherine Cooper, Andre Merchan Revilla, Sophia Pendleton, Marvin Suarez-Pimienta, Megan Maschhoff, Emma Padgett, Kyla Cacoilo, Meg Cabras, Adriana Nguyen, Lindsay Wilson, Amelia Riches, Mira Gaitanis, Parker Franklin, Sophia Upshaw, Victoria Cabral, Bridget Gorman, Madison West, Grace Ryan, Lindsey Wood, Alyssa Ranieri, Emma Beaudoin, Caroline Brooks, Gian Stanco, Megan Dalton, Delaney O'Hara, Jessica Rizzardi, and Hannah Linenkugel.**



CCI Recognizes Faculty and Students at 2023 Honors and Awards Ceremony

On March 31, 2023, CCI hosted its annual Honors and Awards Ceremony and celebration to recognize outstanding faculty and students that excel in leadership and academia, along with dedication to bettering the College. The Honors and Awards Ceremony was held both in-person and online via Zoom, giving our students and staff, as well as their friends and families outside of Tallahassee, the opportunity to watch the event live. CCI would like to extend a huge congratulations to all of the award winners from the event. Click the title to see the full list of awardees!



AMERICAN ADVERTISING AWARDS



Arrowhead Advertising Wins Silver ADDY Award

Arrowhead Advertising, FSU's award-winning advertising team, won a Student Silver ADDY award from the District Four AAF American Advertising Federation for their "Where to Next?" campaign. The team won for the 2023 Consumer Campaign category. The 2021-2022 team responsible for the award included: **Isa Serrano** (captain), **Sarah Arcella, Tara White, Maria Chencinski, Abbygale Cloud, Madison Dodd, Valerie Esquivel, Melissa Garcia, Abby Gerald, Courtney Gifford, Lauren Horner, Camryn Koziarski, Grace Wu, Axel Lagergren, Naomi Lopez, Harrison McNeill, Sarah Morris, Kylee Mukeba, Tyler Peterson, Daniel Rauchwerger, Zoe Risch, and Martha Sizemore**

Graduate Student Named One of The "Most Promising Multicultural Students" by AAF

Hanya Noussier, a graduate student earning her Master's in Public Interest Media and Communication has been named one of the "Most Promising Multicultural Students" by the American Advertising Federation (AAF).

The AAF's Most Promising Multicultural Students (MPMS) program connects the advertising industry with the nation's top multicultural college students. This experience provides opportunities to recruit talent and further prepare the industry's best young prospects. Each year, the selected MPMS individuals have the opportunity to meet with professionals from top advertisers, media companies, and advertising agencies at an exclusive recruiting expo. This year, the expo was held from February 13-16 in New York City.

"It is an honor to be amongst the nation's top multicultural students and be able to network and connect with industry leaders and executives. It feels incredibly great to make my family, favorite professors, my team, and everyone I love and care about proud of me" says Noussier.



Hayley Seibert



Julia Galli

SCOM Students Named Florida News Awards Finalists by the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists

Communication students **Julia Galli** and **Hayley Seibert** were named finalists in the 2022 Florida News Awards Contest presented by the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists for a feature video created for their Advanced Feature Production/Reporting class. Hayley and Julia's project "Garnet and Gold Guys" was named as a finalist in the Best Light News Feature in the College competition. Both Hayley and Julia expressed their absolute excitement and gratitude for this award; Julia stating, "Throughout the past few years, I have worked incredibly hard and dedicated a massive amount of time toward bettering myself as a videographer and producer. With the help of classes like Advanced Feature Production and my work with Seminole Productions, I have gained so much confidence and regained my love for filming and editing. I am so honored to be named a finalist in this contest, because I truly feel that my hard work has paid off and my dedication to the field is being recognized."



SCOM Student Receives USAB Scholarship to Attend Women in the Game Conference in Dallas

School of Communication student **Amanda Golson** received a full scholarship from USA Basketball to attend their Women in the Game conference in Dallas. Amanda is a sophomore double majoring in Media/Communications Studies and Sport Management. She serves as the Chief Anchor of V89 Sports, an ACCNX sideline reporter for Seminole Productions, a bat girl for the FSU baseball team, and a teaching assistant for Tim Fordyce's Advanced Feature Reporting Class. After graduation, she aspires to eventually work for the NBA, NFL, or MLB as a media correspondent.

The 2023 Dallas Women in the Game conference was held on March 30 and brought together guest speakers from a variety of sports business fields to inspire and educate female students and young professionals in the sports industry. Amanda told CCI about her experience, sharing, "I am honored that I now get to represent USA Basketball and their efforts to inspire the next generation of women leaders in the sports industry. Seeing the appreciation for women's basketball in person was really eye opening. I sense that there will be a major shift next year with how people view and support women's basketball, and I'm just thrilled I got to be a tiny part of it."

CCI Alumni Find Success in Karate Combat

While **Alex Wendling** and **Nicholas Rivero** were in Seminole Productions at different times, they now both work on events for Karate Combat, a professional, full-contact karate league. Described as the "combat sport of the future," Karate Combat combines the art of karate with cutting-edge video production.

As a host and reporter, Wendling conducts live pre and post-fight interviews for Karate Combat, interacting with famous martial artists such as former two-time Glory Featherweight champion Gabriel Varga. Supporting the virtual reality side of Karate Combat, Rivero and the company he co-founded, Meptik, work with Karate Combat to create the multi-reality experiences the fans love.





SCOM Alumna Kelly Corder Works with Vice President Kamala Harris Communications Team During Visit to Tallahassee

FSU School of Communication alumna **Kelly Corder** works as the Director of Media Relations at Tallahassee's Sachs Media, where she recently had the opportunity to work with Vice President Kamala Harris communications team during the Vice President's visit to Tallahassee to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Corder shared, "Working with the Vice President's advance and communications teams was incredibly rewarding and informative. Not only was the topic of the event one I'm extremely passionate about, but watching how the most skilled and experienced professionals operate can only make you a better professional."

"One thing that I suppose surprised me is that no matter if you're working in DC with the Vice President, or if you work in Tallahassee at a Florida PR agency, many of the challenges we face are the same. To be successful in PR or communications, you have to be nimble, you have to think strategically and quickly, and you have to be prepared for anything. That's why I love it."

School of Communication Alumna Joins The New York Times

Lexie Diao (MCS '10) recently joined The New York Times as a Senior Editor of The Daily, the Times' daily news podcast.

"Being at The New York Times is a dream," said Diao. "I came to the Times hoping I would push myself as a journalist and an editor — and of course help make one of the most successful news podcasts in the world. This opportunity was my chance to do that."

"I do what I do in service of the people who trust our storytelling," said Diao. "My hope is that when they hit 'play' on something that I'm behind, that story leaves them with a better understanding of what is happening in the world, maybe a better understanding of the people around them...or even just a little entertained."



PR Major Anna Gutfreund to Become FSU 2023 Homecoming Director

This year, **Adriana Nguyen** (left) is passing the torch to fellow Public Relations major **Anna Gutfreund** (right).

Gutfreund will take on the role of overall director on the Homecoming Executive Council at Florida State University. Homecoming is an entirely student-run tradition consisting of week-long on-campus events headlined by an executive council responsible for working with volunteers and student groups, managing communications, and seeking sponsorships. Gutfreund shared, "I'm honored to have this position and be part of FSU history, especially for the 75th anniversary of Homecoming. To me, being overall director means that I've been given a chance to achieve my dream of making a difference at FSU, and I'm so excited to continue guiding and supporting the council so that we can all accomplish it together!"



CCI Students Attend the 31st Annual Association of Marketing Theory and Practice

CCI students attended the 31st Annual Association of Marketing Theory and Practice (AMTP) held March 15-18, 2023, at the Sonesta Resort in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

AMTP is an international academic marketing conference focusing on bringing together academic theory and real-world marketing practices. It encourages participation through both an annual conference and The Journal of Applied Marketing Theory (JAMT).

Dr. Cindy Chapa, Associate Professor in the FSU School of Communication and the Director of the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication (CHMC), presented a collaborative paper, co-authored with current Ph.D. candidate **Pei Wang** and former Ph.D. student **Sean Sawicki**. Ph.D. alumna **Faren Karimkhan**, Ph.D. student **Ashley N. Johns**, Ph.D. candidate **Meng Tian**, and IMC master's student **Islam Gouda** also presented papers.



CCI Helps Host 9th Annual South Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference

Hosted on February 2-4, 2023, by CCI along with the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, the Center for Global Engagement, the Department of Media Studies, and CHRIST (Deemed to be) University in Bangalore, India, the conference featured many researchers and panelists from Florida State University, the United States, and beyond.

The 2023 SAMCS focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which promotes sustainability by supporting social justice, improved infrastructure, and an end to conflicts in countries around the world. Under the theme of "#OneSouthAsia: From Crisis to Resilience", the conference hosted 16 speakers that discussed the challenges that the region grapples with, and explored how media landscape, communication culture, and digital technologies can help to recover regional resilience.

SCOM Alumna Rachel Boyle Finds Success as a Recruiter at Mother Advertising

After graduating from the School of Communication in 2019, alumna **Rachel Boyle** landed a job as a recruiter at Mother, an independent advertising agency in New York City. The global firm has earned an impressive client roster including companies such as Target, Dave and Buster's, Wrangler, and the New York Public Library. Rachel earned a degree in Advertising and Studio Art and participated in the Advertising Club, Dance Marathon, and FSU Panhellenic during her time at FSU.

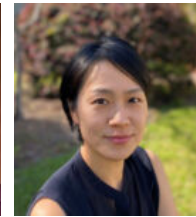
"The most valuable thing FSU gave me was an amazing support system -- it's important to have a few people in your corner to celebrate your wins and to lean on when things get hard."



FSU Faculty and Student Attends ICA Conference

From May 25 to May 29, School of Communication Associate Professor Dr. Rachel Bailey, Assistant Professor Dr. Arienne Ferchaud, Doctoral Student Sunah Lee, and CCI Interim Dean Dr. Stephen McDowell attended the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Lee participated in the Journalism Studies session where she presented her research on sourcing practices of South Korean broadcasters' news coverage of North Korean nuclear tests. "My research found that mainstream broadcasters gave voices mostly to elite sources, such as government officials, academics, pundits, and political compensations. I pointed out that such elite sources only highlighted military-oriented solutions and helped demonize North Korea rather than providing comprehensive accounts of the events and alternative, peace-oriented solutions."



Eduardo Perez Establishes The Perez Family Graduate Fellowship in Multicultural and Hispanic Marketing Communication

Eduardo Perez, a Florida State University alumnus leader in Hispanic and multicultural media marketing, established The Perez Family Graduate Fellowship in Multicultural and Hispanic Marketing Communication.

This fellowship will be awarded to outstanding graduate students seeking a master's or doctoral degree focusing on multicultural or Hispanic marketing communication. Applicants may be either incoming or continuing graduate students whose scholarly activities align with the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to support outstanding graduate students with this Fellowship," said Perez, who serves on The Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication Advisory and the CCI Leadership boards. "My years at FSU ('85-'89) set me on a path of lifelong success, and my desire is to give back to the great institution that has given me so much. I have been a strong supporter of The Center and therefore focused my support on this fantastic and trailblazing program."





Delta Zeta Hosts Speech and Hearing Clinic for Spring Philanthropy Event

The Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Zeta (DZ) hosted another successful philanthropy event that benefitted children and families from the L.L. Schendel Speech and Hearing Clinic. "Somebunny Loves You" brought together 20 children from the Clinic and over 50 adults for an evening of fun, games and food at the DZ house. The sisters of DZ volunteer their time during the event by engaging with the kids through various activities such as coloring, crafting, and Easter egg hunting, while parents and professionals from the clinic spend time speaking about their shared experiences with raising kids who are diagnosed with hearing difficulties.

"My favorite thing, by far, has to be seeing the children's faces light up when they return for another event," says **Hailey Sheppard**, SCSD student and the Vice President of Programming for DZ. "I am always excited to plan the Speech and Hearing Clinic events and welcome the kids and their families back to our home. Seeing them be excited and enjoying themselves with us is the best reward."

Dr. Selena Snowden Leads SCSD Students on the 7th Help Guatemala Hear Service Trip

From February 25 – March 4, **Dr. Selena Snowden** led an audiology team on the 7th Help Guatemala Hear Service Trip. The annual trip brought the team, which included 15 students from SCSD to Sololá, Guatemala, where they administered 240 hearing tests and fitted 170 hearing aids. "After learning and training with Dr. Snowden for the past couple months, I was able to enhance my audiological skills that we used in Panajachel, serving over 200 people across four days. It was so incredible meeting all the people and getting a glimpse into their culture," said graduate student **Korrin Sheahan**.

Snowden thanked many people for supporting the trip, including Dr. Monica Walker (a fellow audiologist who accompanied the team to Sololá), Porch de Salomon (an outreach organization which coordinates the trip each year with Sololá's local government), SCSD alumna **Kaki Pope** (who provides equipment for the team each year), the SCSD faculty and staff, who donate each year to support the initiative, and Florida State University, which allows the trip to continue year after year.



SCSD Professors and Student Get Paper Published in Topics in Language Disorders

SCSD Faculty **Dr. Elizabeth B. Madden**, **Dr. Christopher Constantino**, and Associate Professor **Dr. Michelle Therrien**, with now-alumni **Ana Vilfort-Garces**, along with co-authors Dr. Lucinda Graven (Associate Professor at FSU College of Nursing), Dr. Lauren Bislick (University of Central Florida), Dr. Sarah E. Wallace (University of Pittsburgh), and Dr. Rachel Goff-Albritton (Assistant Director of Research Advancement and Mentoring in the FSU Office of Research Development) recently had their paper published in the Topics in Language Disorders Journal.

The study, "Caregiving and Friendship: Perspectives from Care Partners of People with Aphasia", aimed to understand how caregiving for a loved one with stroke and aphasia, a communication disorder, impacts the caregiver's friendships and social well-being over time, comparing caregivers' perceptions of their friendship before caregiving, during the early days of caregiving, and the current time.



SCSD Helps With Special Olympics Florida Healthy Hearing Screenings

SCSD kicked the off the Spring semester off with aiding in a Special Olympics Florida screening that took place in Tallahassee.

Special Olympics Florida Healthy Hearing provides comprehensive hearing screenings and follow-up recommendations. The main goals of this program are to inform athletes, parents, coaches or caregivers about the detection of possible ear and hearing problems, recommend follow-up as needed, and to promote the necessity of regular ear and hearing screenings.

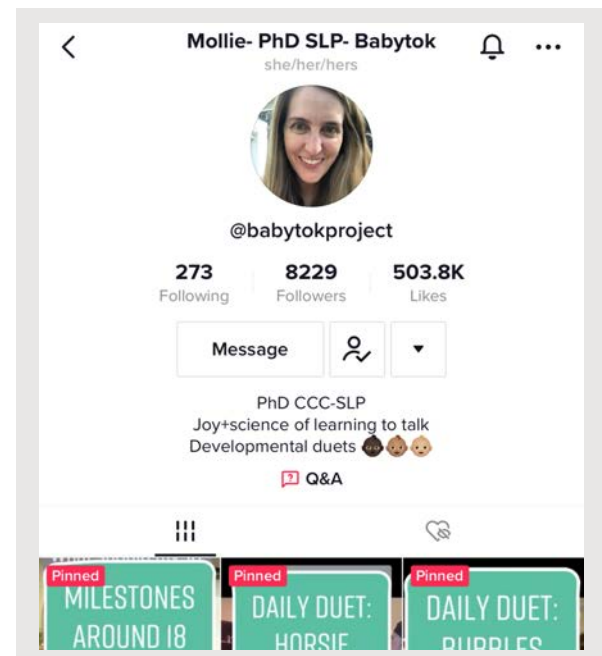
Dr. Selena Snowden and **Dr. Chelsea Alexander** led the screenings along with seven graduate and undergraduate students. The group conducted a total of 62 hearing screenings on Special Olympics athletes from across Northwest Florida, and made 26 referrals for athletes that needed follow up medical or audiological care. These screenings were conducted during the Special Olympics Northwest Regional Basketball Competition.

SCSD Faculty and Student Paper Gets Published in the Early Childhood Education Journal

SCSD Assistant Professor **Dr. Mollie Romano** along with students **Diana Abarca** and **Katherine Perez** recently had their research published in the Early Childhood Education Journal.

The publication, "The BabyTok Project: Examining the Feasibility and Acceptability of a Light-Touch Social Media Project for Infant-Toddler Teachers", describes the use of a social media project for infant-toddler teachers that used TikTok to share information about early language development and how teachers can support it with the babies in their rooms.

Student authors Perez and Abarca played an instrumental role in the research for this project. Perez led the initial data coding and conducted literature reviews on the use of TikTok for educational purposes. Abarca conducted the integration of findings across the quantitative post-test survey and the post-interviews. Other Master's students were part of the development team for the videos including graduates **Megan Cabana**, **Grayce Hoskins**, **Tyra Ivy** and **Anna Libbey**.



PhD Student Gets Published in the Journal of Communication Disorders

SCSD PhD student **Denisha Campbell** recently got a paper published in the Journal of Communication Disorders. Campbell's paper, "An Examination of 3rd and 5th Grade Students' Use of Dialect Specific Forms During a Written Editing Task", was based on her master's thesis and further examined the patterns of dialect in both 3rd and 5th grade students in their writing as well as during their oral production. "My study found that despite there not being any major difference in the amount of dialect 3rd and 5th graders use, 5th grade students are significantly better at identifying dialect in written works and then editing those works so that they're in the general American English dialect," said Campbell. "This is important as we consider assessment protocols for linguistically diverse kiddos as they should include a written component."



Doctoral Student and Associate Professor Receive Funding from the Institute of Politics

Doctoral Student **Anne Reed** and Associate Professor **Dr. Kelly Farquharson** will be furthering their research through the Institute of Politics Civic Engagement and Political Participation Research Grant Program. Reed's proposal was selected to receive \$13,200 in funding.

The funding from the Institute of Politics will help Reed share her findings with Australian speech-language pathologists (SLPs), expanding the global impact of her research. For this specific study, Reed was inspired by her years of experience working in public schools as an SLP.

"I experienced first-hand the variety of information sources SLPs use to make decisions on whether or not to provide therapy," Reed said. "One of these information sources is data collected through assessment and/or observation. This made me wonder if SLPs with higher self-efficacy (i.e., belief in one's ability to be successful at a specific task) use more data sources than SLPs with lower self-efficacy."



SCSD Faculty and Doctoral Students Plan ASHA Conference

Dr. Kelly Farquharson, SCSD Associate Professor, is the 2023 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention Co-Chair for Speech-Language Pathology. Farquharson, along with 13 members of SCSD, are actively involved in the planning and implementation of the ASHA 2023 Convention.



The ASHA Convention Planning Committee started planning 2 years in advance. Their first 2023 Convention Planning Committee meeting was in September 2022, which was 2 months before the 2022 convention even happened, and 14 months ahead of the 2023 convention. Farquharson and ASHA's Co-Chair for Audiology, Dr. Jennifer Simpson, have been heavily preparing for their roles, attending multiple orientations and trainings. The convention will take place from November 16 to 18, 2023, at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The faculty members who are involved with this year's convention include **Dr. Kaitlin Lansford, Dr. Elizabeth Madden, Dr. Erin Bush, Dr. Michelle Therrien, Dr. Yunjung Kim, Ellen Nimmons, Becky Greenhill, Dr. Chris Constantino, Dr. Tricia Montgomery**, and **Dr. Andrea Barton-Hulsey**. Three SCSD Doctoral students are committee members: **Anne Reed, Mary Allison Moody**, and **Sara Collins**.

Manuscript Co-Authored by SCSD Doctoral Students Accepted for Publication

A manuscript co-authored by SCSD doctoral students **Victor Lugo** and **Miguel Garcia-Salas** as well as professor **Dr. Carla Wood** and University of Florida Professor Dr. Wayne McCormack was accepted for publication in the journal Teaching and Learning in Communication Science and Disorders.

This project, "A Team Science Training Approach to Enhance Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration in Communication Science and Disorders Programs," began in the summer of 2022 and describes the components and results of a cross-disciplinary team science training that was provided to 17 doctoral scholars across the fields of communication science and disorders, education, psychology, and social work. This training aimed to prepare pre-service leaders to collaborate with other researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds. Co-author Miguel Garcia-Salas explained further saying, "We hope that other communication science and disorder programs can use the manuscript in the development and provision of their own team science trainings and that those trainings can help scholars engage in meaningful and impactful cross-disciplinary teams."





CCI Students Engage With Tech Companies in Tampa

Associate Dean Ebe Randeree led a group of eight students to Tampa to meet with CCI alumni and companies to build connections and gain more insight into what employers in their field are looking for. This trip was organized by FSU STARS. The companies that welcomed the students for a tour were JP Morgan, CITI, Tampa Bay Wave, and Reliaquest. The students who attended were **Jennifer Sterling, Ryan Surujballi, Jai Reed, Catalina Smith, Efner Pierre, Stacci Smith, Owen Van Lenten, and Aya Saludo** (seen in order in the picture above).



CCI Student Wins Panhellenic Member of the Year Award

Information Communication Technology (ICT) student Laini Little was recently awarded with the 2023 Panhellenic Member of the Year Award. This serves as a way of recognizing someone who has made a significant contribution, shown dedication and hard work to better their chapter, the fraternity and sorority life (FSL) community, and Florida State University.

Laini has been involved in many activities during her time at FSU, most of which have been within the Panhellenic Association. Since her freshman year, Laini has been a member of the Florida Beta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi where she has had the opportunity to grow as an individual and leader. She has served as a Rho Gamma for Panhellenic recruitment, completed multiple programs through the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and most recently, served as the Vice President of Membership on the Panhellenic Executive Board.

"CCI and Panhellenic have been two of the biggest influences on the direction of my college career. I took the leadership skills I learned from my IT/ICT classes and was able to combine them with those I learned in Panhellenic. Ultimately, both of these organizations have helped me become the leader I am today."



CCI Student Begins Start-Up “Nature Link”

CCI Information Technology (IT) student **Connor Haley** (left) with his business partner Christopher Sierralta (right) have begun a start-up that combines the joy of nature and animals with NFC technology.

Nature Link is a socially responsible company that creates bracelets that track animals in the wild while supporting conservation efforts. The unique and innovative bracelets have NFC chips embedded within them, which allows customers to track their animal's location and movement in real-time with just a tap on a phone through existing animal tracking companies. The bracelets are made from colored gemstones to match the ecosystems of each animal. Customers have the option to choose from a shark, polar bear, sea turtle, and elephant. Twenty percent of the proceeds from each bracelet purchase will be donated to Wildlife Conservation Network (WildNet). The donations will be allocated to the animal in which the customer purchases. “Our goal is to raise awareness and money for wildlife conservation while providing customers with an opportunity to connect with animals in the wild through real-time tracking,” says Haley. “Additionally, our commitment to donating a portion of the proceeds to a wildlife charity ensures that customers are directly contributing to conservation efforts, giving them a sense of empowerment and making a positive impact on the world. Overall, we hope that our concept will inspire people to take action towards wildlife conservation and create a brighter future for all animals.”



iSchool Faculty and Student Work Accepted by AMIA 2023 Informatics Summit



Dr. Zhe He, an Associate Professor in the iSchool, recently had his Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Work Group (KDDM WG) pre-symposium workshop accepted by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) for the 2023 Informatics Summit, as well as a student paper, and a podium presentation by several students from the iSchool and other departments.

Dr. Zhe He says, “This event will cover in-depth topics such as missing data, data traceability and documentation, data bias assessment and mitigation, AI assisted data collection and abstraction, and deployment of AI systems in real world settings. These topics synergize tightly with the broader informatics interests of the AMIA attendees and help to raise their awareness of the crosstalk and opportunities in AI and healthcare.”

iSchool Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Plato Smith

Dr. Plato Smith, a School of Information alumnus, received his doctorate in Information Science from Florida State University in 2014. In addition, he earned his master's degree from the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University and completed the 2014-2016 CLIR Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the University of Mexico. Dr. Smith has worked as Data Curation Librarian and Associate University Librarian at the University of Florida since 2016 and was recently appointed Program Director for Learning and Workforce Development and Public Access, in the Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering at the National Science Foundation. In this new, interdisciplinary role within Learning and Workforce Development and Public Access, Smith will help prepare and grow the national scientific workforce for creating, utilizing, and supporting advanced cyberinfrastructure. This cyberinfrastructure has the potential to transform science and engineering research, and contribute to the nation's economic competitiveness and security.



iSchool Doctoral Student Paper Accepted to SEPDA 2023

School of Information Doctoral Student **Yuanying Pang** recently had her paper, "Using Game Performance Data to Predict Adherence to Gamified Cognitive Training", accepted into the 7th International Workshop on Semantics-Powered Health Data Analytics (SEPDA 2023), which will be held in conjunction with the 21st International Conference of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIME 2023) in Portoroz, Slovenia in June of 2023. This paper is part of research in conjunction with the Adherence Promotion with Person-centered Technology (APPT) project. The aim of this project is to promote early detection and treatment of age-related cognitive impairment and dementia. Under the guidance of **Dr. Zhe He**, along with assistance from Dr. Walter Boot and Dr. Neil Charness from the FSU Department of Psychology, and Dr. Shayok Chakraborty and Ms. Ankita Singh from the FSU Department of Computer Science, Yuanying and the team examined the relationship between the participants' performance on different mobile games in the first three weeks of the study and their overall adherence (or attachment) to the mobile game.



iSchool Alumnus Donates Two Tickets to RenderATL for Students



iSchool Alumnus **Casey Jostine** recently donated two tickets to the RenderATL Conference from May 31 - June 2 at Americasmart in Atlanta, Georgia. RenderATL is the largest multicultural software engineering-focused tech conference in the United States. Featuring tracks around software and mobile engineering, product & project management, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Render is the premier tech event for learning, connecting, and socializing beyond the dryness of your typical tech conference (via RenderATL.com). The conference features many notable companies that are actively recruiting for their tech teams such as Amazon Web Services, Google, Dropbox, Zillow, Intuit, and many more. IT students **Efner Pierre** and **Owen Van Lenten** were awarded with the opportunity to attend RenderATL to network with industry professionals and learn more about exciting innovation that is happening in the tech world.

iSchool Doctoral Students Present at 2023 iConference

On March 17, 2023 iSchool Doctoral students **Lateef Ayinde**, **Hanim Astuti**, **Shezin Hussain**, and **Anisah Herdiyanti** presented their paper at the 2023 iConference in Barcelona, Spain. The conference provides a platform for researchers from different iSchools to collaborate and exchange ideas. Through the conference, researchers have the opportunity to learn from one another and collaborate on projects, as well as build relationships with colleagues from other schools and countries.

The paper, "Investigating Factors Influencing Open Government from a Country's Perspective", investigated the five socio-technical aspects of open government (OG): e-government development, freedom of press, innovation capabilities, digital skills, and legal adaptability. Open government refers to strategies and initiatives that are based on the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation. The authors then examined how these aspects contribute and are crucial for successful implementation of OG initiative.



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 within the College from a student's perspective, as well as hosting events around the College, promoting student involvement, and gaining professional experience!

To learn more and get involved contact:
Betsy Crawford
Betsy.Crawford@cci.fsu.edu



Want to find more ways to get involved with CCI?
Visit our Get Involved website to see all of the 22 student organizations in CCI!



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FSU College of
Communication & Information

Join the CCI LinkedIn group to connect with other students, alumni, and faculty!

Are you a recent graduate of the College of Communication & Information?

Make sure you are signed up for the end-of-semester alumni newsletter, *Connection*.

As well as fill out the Alumni Keep in Touch form by following the steps after scanning the QR code to the right.

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.

