

# COMMunity Buzz

The monthly newsletter of the  
Department of Communication Studies



Volume 10, No. 3

## ***A message from the Communication Studies Chair***

As I write to you, our first remote semester at the University of San Diego is coming to a close. I am proud to report that our communication studies faculty developed innovative ways to approach remote learning and our students managed to stay engaged and attentive with incredible resilience. However, the pressures of navigating a new educational environment also induced peak stress levels for many faculty and students alike. Moreover, our community had to adjust to our fall 2020 academic normal while our nation faces an enduring pandemic that is killing hundreds of thousands of Americans and a contentious presidential election that is deeply dividing our country.

I thought it appropriate to utilize this space to remind you, our communication studies community, that in this tumultuous environment, communication studies are more important than ever. It will be communication experts utilizing theories and concepts taught in our classes who will design and implement strategies and campaigns that will be crucial to overcoming these trying times. It will be communication experts who took courses in health communication, persuasion and propaganda, and strategic communication that will face the challenges of information dissemination as we continue to fight through a pandemic. And it will be communication experts who took courses in rhetorical theory, film and cultural politics, and political communication who will develop the tools needed to heal our political divide.

As you reflect on the fall semester, I hope that the connections you make between communication studies and current events motivate you to dive deeper into your coursework, think more critically about communication and messaging, and strive to be the changemaker that you are as a student, faculty, staff, or alumnus of the University of San Diego. May you each have a joyous holiday season, and rest up for an exciting spring 2021 semester.

-Dr. Bond

## Spring 2021 course offerings

**COMM 338**  
**MEDIA & CONFLICT**

*With Dr. Antonieta Mercado*

This course examines the role media play in the progression and public perceptions of conflict. Relevant topics will include media and military intervention, portrayals of protest movements, and news and entertainment coverage of crime, rumors, domestic politics, violence, and ethnicity. It is recommended that students complete COMM 150 before enrolling in this course.

**SP 2021**  
**TR 5:30 - 6:50 PM**  
**CRN 4670**

**\*FULFILLS FDD2 DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT**

**JUST ADDED!**

**COMM 365**  
**APPLYING RESEARCH IN CONTEXT**

**TR 9:15-10:35 A.M.**  
**SPRING 2021**  
**DR. CAROLE HUSTON**

Communication 365 is the "hands on," project-based version of COMM 265. You will develop your own research questions based on your interests and you will conduct your own research project in class.

Whether you focus on how we use social media to craft our self-images and personal relationships or on how for-profits and NPOs use it in advertising or marketing, with this project you will sharpen your entire repertoire of skills and learn software to apply in interviewing, focus groups, and surveying.

This course is a "must have" for graduate school, law school, or marketing research. We'll also touch on tips for building your resume and portfolios.

**CRN 3820**

**"SOCIAL MEDIA IS THE ULTIMATE EQUALIZER. IT GIVES A VOICE AND A PLATFORM TO ANYONE WILLING TO ENGAGE."**  
- AMY JO MARTIN, FOUNDER AND CEO OF DIGITAL ROYALTY

**COMM 494:**  
**contemporary issues in print journalism**

**SPRING 2021**  
**MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY | 4 - 5:20 P.M.**  
**CRN 1621**

This is a course dedicated to probing journalism in our society by investigating modern examples and engaging in journalistic writing.

The course is taught by Tom Herman, longtime journalist for The Wall Street Journal, who brings his expertise to each story discussed in class.

**MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY**  
**1:25 - 2:20 P.M.**

**WITH DR. AZIZ MUQADDAM**  
**CRN 1865**

**COMM 494**  
**strategic communication**  
**SPRING 2021**

Strategic Communication provides students with an opportunity to learn more about public relations, advertising, and marketing communication. The course is ideal for students interested in careers within these fields.

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## Faculty updates

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### USD at the National Communication Association conference

Dr. Keeling will be presenting research on creating culturally relevant chemistry courses to increase the retention of Black and Brown students in STEM fields, a collaboration with sociology professor Angela Nurse among others.

Dr. Bond will be presenting two studies investigating the affordances of YouTube for the LGBTQ community, collaborative projects with Dr. Brandon Miller at UMass Boston. Dr. Bond will also be receiving the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Mass Communication Division of NCA.



Dr. Candice Simmons had her first book signing for her children's book last weekend at the oldest continuously family-owned and operated bookstore in the United States, right in La Jolla.



Dr. Bowman's dog, Nala, received an award for perfect attendance of Dr. Bowman's COMM coursework despite being caught napping at times.

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## **Congrats to USD Student Media!**



**You can check out the award-winning work at [uofsdmedia.com](http://uofsdmedia.com).**

# Communication Studies alumnus awarded prestigious award

***Benjamin Compton graduated from USD in 2014 and is currently working toward his Ph.D. in Communication***

University of San Diego alumnus Benjamin Compton will be awarded the “Emerging Scholar Award” from the Nonverbal Communication Division at this year’s National Communication Association convention.

Compton graduated from USD in 2014 with an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies, then went on to receive an M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas in 2016. He’s currently working toward a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Washington.

“It was super exciting,” Compton said about receiving the Emerging Scholar Award. “It’s an honor.”

Since 2013, he has published five journal articles, three of which involve nonverbal

communication. He’s presented at 11 conferences, eight of which center on nonverbal communication. And Compton is currently involved in six projects that are in various stages for publication or data collection that involve or focus on

nonverbal behavior. This year, he’ll be presenting at the National Communication Association convention.

“I’ve always loved communication because it’s a lot more relatable than sociology or psychology,” Compton said. “I love to talk, so I always enjoyed the interpersonal elements in it. Dating, friendships, family.”

His research focuses primarily on sexual communication and attraction and the role of nonverbal signals in these processes. He studies the relationship between culture and nonverbal behavior and its impact on interpersonal relationships. Compton also investigates nonverbal communication in other contexts, with a particular interest in physical attractiveness, gaze, and touch.

Dr. Jonathan Bowman, USD Communication Studies professor, was Compton’s mentor during his time at USD, and remains so today. He still remembers his first interaction with his advisor back in 2012.

“Dr. Bowman sat me down in my first advisor meeting,” Compton said.

“We immediately hit it off and talked for an hour. He told me I was going to be a professor.”

“The next day, I emailed him and said ‘you’re 100% right.’”

Bowman has been the leading influence in Compton’s academic path,

he says. Even the letter he wrote for his Emerging Scholar Award detailed Bowman’s positive impact on his studies.

Compton remembers USD for its small, tight-knit community. Someday, he hopes to return to campus, this time as a professor.



Compton is pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Washington.  
Photo courtesy of Benjamin Compton

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## Upcoming events

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**VICE, BuzzFeed,  
& Beyond** Discussions with  
USD COMM Alumni

November 10, 12:30-1:30 via Zoom

**RYAN SIDHOO**  
documentary filmmaker \* director of Webby award-winning  
"True North" \* producer and director for VICE platforms

**ALBERT SAMAHA**  
investigative journalist at BuzzFeed News \* author, *Never Ran,  
Never Will: Boyhood and Football in a Changing American Inner City*  
\* winner of New York Society Library's 2019 Hornblower Award

[register for Zoom link here](#)

1 COMPASS  
flex point

Learn from USD Communication Studies alumni who work in the media industry about their journey and career. You can register [here](#).

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Check out our social media pages to stay up to date on the latest department updates.



**Visit our website [here](#).**

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**Our mailing address is:**  
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