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COMMUNITY BUZZ

Issue

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Department of Communication Studies

What Do You Mean...

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Faculty Updates

Dr. Keeling co-presented her research with Dr. Jennifer Prairie in Environmental and Ocean Sciences at Conversations in the College on April 12. Their project is titled, "Trophic and Tropic Dynamics."



Pokey the Porcupine from the San Diego zoo was just one of the highlights from one of the three field trips this month from the Emerging Media & Impact of Social Networking class. One lucky student group got to meet Pokey up close and personal, during a live morning news cast at CBS8/KFMB-TV studios.



For a group presentation on the digital presence of media brands, Professor Nicola Bridges ([Comm Buzz #5](#)), took her class to CBS8/KFMB, the San Diego Union-Tribune, and Sharecare, Inc. Sharecare is the top online health engagement platform founded by Jeff Arnold, former founder of WebMD, and Dr. Oz, cardiologist and Emmy Award-winning TV host, where Bridges was previously Senior Vice President of Content, PR & Marketing.



"I wanted to give the class real-life, real-time insight into how the digital side of a media brand business works. Our gracious hosts gave the lay of their digital land, with their digital directors across content and marketing presenting on how they approach and

execute digital content creation and social reach, and how the teams work across platforms between digital, email, TV and print".

Student Ryann Powell said, "The field trip gave me great insight into what a real career would be like in TV/ media. Before taking this class you only hear what it would be like, it was amazing to see it in action."



Student Updates



Congratulations to the newly elected Lambda Pi Eta 2016-2017 executive board!
 President: Shelby Willis
 Vice President: Brooklyn Dipppo-Foderaro

You've been "away" from the department for almost 2 ½ years... What have you been doing?

I've been in Founders Hall J...

I am the Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and my job focuses mainly on the undergraduate student experience, such as the LLC and first year experience. I've also been able to work on the concurrent enrollment program, trying to get the best students to campus during their high school years to create lifelong learners.

Dr. Bowman

What are your research interests?

Even as an Associate Dean, I've been working on three books and all should be published in 2017! One is an introduction to communication textbook focusing on interpersonal communication. But my research interest is how people share unknown information about themselves. In particular, I'm interested in how masculinity and culture impact that information-sharing amongst male friends.



You mean like "bromance?"

Yes exactly!

What is the meaning of "bromance?"

"Bromance" highlights the atypical nature of close male friendships. "Bromance" is a great term because it so perfectly encapsulates a cultural problem that impacts about half of all the people in our country and in places around the world. So, any relationship amongst guys that has a degree of emotional intimacy can be quickly categorized as "abnormal" and even "weird," despite the prevalence of such closeness and widespread desire for close friendships.

Have you had any bromances?

Of course I have!

If you weren't a professor, what would you be doing?

If you asked me in college, I would have mentioned a struggle deciding between physician, professor, pastor, or politician. If you asked me right now, I would love to run a non-profit café and coffee shop that focused on job training and charitable donations of proceeds to benefit the local community.

What animal represents your conflict style?

The red panda. It is so adorable and cuddly, yet can pack quite a punch if it needs to protect or defend itself or its family unit.

What is a new area of research?

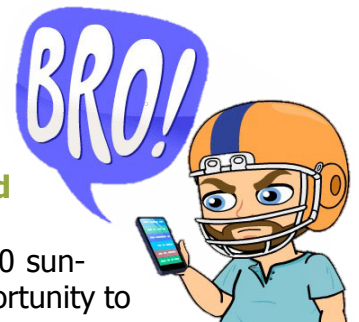
I am currently looking at strategies that higher education can explore to counteract the negative rates of attendance and retention of people that identify as male. Although men are a privileged group in our culture, the importance of receiving a college degree is less emphasized for young men than in previous generations.

What is your vision for USD?

I would love USD to be a place where you can engage and learn how to think outside your self.

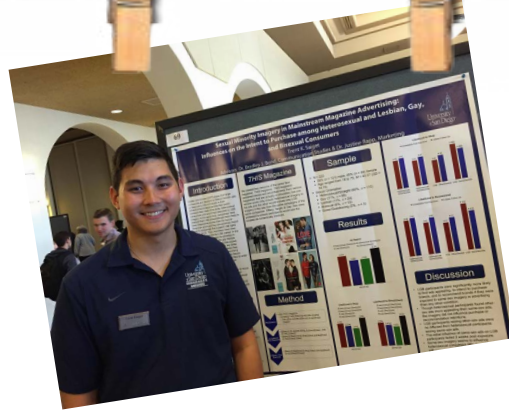
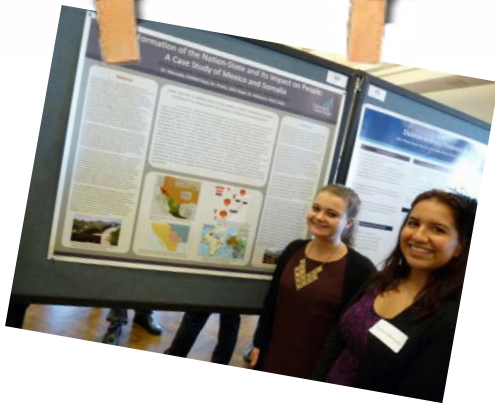
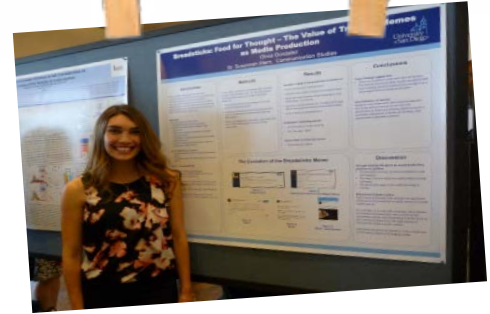
If you were stranded on a desert island, what are three things you would bring?

I would certainly bring a manual water filtration device, as well as a case of SPF 50 sun-block. I'd also bring a copy of Thoreau's "Walden" as it would help me enjoy the opportunity to reflect and disengage while still bettering myself.



Creative Collaborations

Celebrating Research Week



Congratulations to...

(Pictured from right to left) **Olivia Gonzalez; Olivia Corea; Caroline Eversman; Ivy Guild; Andrew Winkle, Taylor Hickerson, Carleigh Fernandez, D'Jenne Edwards; Trent Saiget; Carleigh Fernandez, D'Jenne Edwards**



Alumni Updates

Nicole Assisi ('04)



Dr. Nicole Tempel Assisi is an accomplished leader in 21st century education. Originally from Germany, Dr. Assisi is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and German and worked in television in both the United States and Europe before going into education. Dr. Assisi taught in the San Diego Unified School District and at High Tech High before becoming a founding team member for Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, the Da Vinci Schools, and Thrive Public Schools. Under her leadership, Da Vinci earned widespread recognition for their rigorous and innovative programs, including funding from Hewlett, Gates, Belkin, Northrop and others.

Thrive Public Schools, where Dr. Assisi serves as the CEO, is a new Charter Management Organization focused on high quality staff providing students from diverse backgrounds project-based, blended learning options. Like DaVinci before it, Thrive is flourishing under Dr. Assisi's leadership. Her approach has received recognition as a State Approved Charter School, one of the Top 100 Schools in the Nation worth visiting, a Model for Next Generation Learning and a leader in professional development for district in charter schools in San Diego. At the core of what Thrive does is a strong desire to end segregation in schools by bringing people from all over San Diego together in one school. Parents choose thrive because it offers children safe and joyful learning opportunities and lets children learn and grow at their own pace.

Dr. Assisi is a frequent speaker at statewide and regional conferences on charter schools and education reform and currently teaches and mentors new charter school leaders as a professor for the Charter School Policy, Finance, and Administration Certificate Program at UCLA and the Charter and Autonomous School Leadership Academy at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She earned her Master's Degrees in K-12 Literacy from the University of San Diego and in Educational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University, as well as her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education. She also holds several Administrative and Teaching credentials and certificates. Dr. Assisi was a board member for the Goethe International Charter School and also serves on the Advisory Board for the UCLA Extension Program.



As Dr. Assisi puts it, "Running a school requires the art of communication." Most of her day as a CEO is spent connecting with families, staff, elected officials and community members. It was her belief in the power of communication that allowed her to gracefully navigate the barrage of political challenges that arose in response to Thrive's initial charter petition. While it was no easy feat to bring disparate sides together in conversation, doing so is one of Assisi's favorite tasks. She attributes much of her success to great mentors at USD who prepared her for the work, and to the many young learners who need her to be their voice.

Michelle Margaux ('14)



Michelle Margaux, a 2014 USD Communication Studies graduate, recently spoke to Michael Canepa's Intro to Media Writing class. Margaux spent 18 months as a sports anchor/reporter for an NBC affiliate in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has since been hired by Fox Sports San Diego to host the network's weekly show, Padres POV. "Professor (Gina) Lew was instrumental during my time at USD," said Margaux. "Gina has award-winning experience while broadcasting and that stood out to me. She knew the business and had a complete understanding of what it takes to stand out in this competitive world."

At USD, Margaux worked for USD TV, where she had the opportunity to interview many Toreros' athletes, including present Chicago Cub Kris Bryant. She also interned at the Fox affiliate in Sacramento, KUSI-TV in San Diego and Fox Sports San Diego. "My internships were vital in helping me figure out that I wanted to do sports," said the 23-year-old Margaux. Besides her job as host of Padres POV, Margaux will serve as fill-in sideline reporter during Padres telecasts.

Summer Classes on Campus?

COMM 203: Public Speaking

Professor: Gregory Ghio

Dates: 6/27 - 8/05

Because everybody needs public speaking...

COMM 336W: Communication Criticism

Professor: David Sullivan

Dates: 6/27 - 8/05

Students who still need to fulfill their W requirement should check out this course!

COMM 445W: Gender Communication

Professor: Diane Keeling

Dates: 8/08 - 8/26

Learn how to talk about controversial topics surrounding gender, sex, and sexuality (also for those who need a W!)

COMM 455: Interviewing and Negotiating: Principles and Practices

Professor: Leeva Chung

Dates: 6/06 - 6/24

Students taking this course will have the opportunity to meet with a recruiter and participate in a group interview!

To submit any items for the May 2016

COMMunity Buzz, contact

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