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COMMUNITY BUZZ

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Department of Communication Studies

Welcome Back!

PASEO DE COLACHIS EDITION

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Welcome back from Dr. Pace

A New Front Lawn and a New School Year



After months of construction we have a new lawn in front of Camino just in time for the new semester. I personally love the new look of Camino and Founders which now have tremendous curb appeal. I like aesthetics and believe that this beautiful campus helps our academic efforts by providing a landscape that is not only attractive but also intellectually stimulating. However, I also realize that learning is more than curb appeal. It is fundamentally about inner change and not outward appearances. The Communication Studies faculty are committed to help you remodel your own personal architecture. We want you to carefully examine your existing knowledge and attitudes and create a different blue print for a new and better you. Sometimes that simply means a coat of paint. Other times, as they often say on HGTV, "It is a complete gut job." It means tearing down walls, rewiring the electrical systems, and even redoing the plumbing in order to grow and expand your education. All of the readings the faculty assign, the papers we require, and even the exams we administer are intended to help you change and develop. I hope you will embrace the new semester, your studies, and the opportunities to learn and grow. Enjoy the new lawn. Enjoy the new you.

—Dr. Roger Pace, Chair





Summer Updates!



Dr. Bond

Dr. Bond was featured as a social media expert on San Diego's local NBC affiliate to explain how social media saved lives during Hurricane Harvey and its impacts on the emergency response. [Read more on NBC San Diego.](#)



Dr. Mercado

Dr. Mercado gave a presentation entitled "Guelaguetza Festival: Indigenous Public Celebrations and the Cultural Public Sphere" at the International Association of Media and Communication Research IAMCR in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. One of the interesting things about Colombia is the funny street names.



Dr. Keeling

Dr. Keeling swam in bioluminescent water during her Jamaican Immersion experience. She taught Cultural Studies in London and took the Harry Potter Studio tour with her class. Dr. Keeling met up with her interdisciplinary collaborators in Pittsburgh to finalize a model that explains the various ways evolutionary scientists deploy the term "function" in their publications.

Dr. Pierson

Dr. Pierson was featured in a [USD Magazine](#) article about study abroad programs, talking about the Sundance Film Festival Class.



Dr. Chung

Dr. Chung was invited to speak at Berea College in Kentucky. She was fortunate to have dinner with bell hooks.

Faculty Profile

Dr. Susannah Stern

Welcome Back Dr. Stern! It's been one year since she went on sabbatical.

Dr. Stern received her PhD from UNC Chapel Hill, and first taught at Boston College. Now in her 13th year at USD, Stern continues investigating the interactions teenagers have with electronic and digital media.

On why she decided to leave Boston College

Whenever I attended national conferences, I would bump into Dr. Moran, who was a classmate at the University of Washington. She always talked about her positive experiences at USD. I was looking for that kind of nurturing and intellectually-stimulating environment, and was ready for more of a work-life balance and a collaborative department.

On becoming an academician

I always loved writing. I knew that one way to get to be a writer was to become an expert in something. That led to graduate school, along with encouragement from my dad. Though he is not in academia, he always said that professors have a good life. (He was right :))

On explaining her research interest

I have always been interested in media and popular culture. Before my graduate studies, I was theorizing about media consumption and effects. It was fun to realize that some of the things I was already thinking about could become the subject of my career.

On the meaning of her research

I have always wanted to give a voice to young people. By studying teens, I began to appreciate the complexity of their media experiences and wanted others do the same. My most recent work focuses on how teenagers' manage their visibility on social media.

On her views of social media

Many people see social media as a problem, when considering negative behaviors such as cyberbullying and self-objectification. I believe there are many other important behaviors that deserve attention. We need to move towards looking at teens' communication practices, and the motivations, contexts, and incentives for engaging in them.

On having tech rules in her house

Right now the plan is to have reasonable limits on screen time, with an eye towards what my kids are doing or watching, rather than with an eye only on the clock. I hope to postpone purchasing a cell phone for any of them for as long as possible. This is going to be a challenge!

On how she spent her year sabbatical

What a change to slow down and not feel rushed. I enjoyed my family time, researched, took classes and did some volunteering.

On what she is looking forward to

Being back in the classroom. I love my students, and I am so interested in who they are and what they offer to the class. I really learn from them and enjoy watching them develop over their years.

Random Facts: 1. Would have loved to be a film critic. 2. Ferdinand the Bull is one of her favorite children's books. 3. Describes her three children as hilarious, insightful, caring and exhausting. 4. Comfort food? Fries and pizza with everything on it. 5. Latest binge worthy television: *Game of Thrones* and *Transparent*.



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