



COMMUNITY BUZZ

News for the Department of Communication
Studies

December 5, 2011 – Volume 1, Number 4

CHAIR'S CORNER - 'Tis the season...the season of letters of recommendation. One of the great things about being an undergraduate student at USD is the close



relationship you foster with faculty who can write thoughtful letters to recommend you for graduate study or for that perfect job. I am always thrilled to assist students in achieving their post-graduate goals, but there are some things that will make my letter writing easier and ultimately more beneficial

for you. Be sure to solicit letters from faculty who know you well and if it has been a few years since you graduated, remind the faculty member which classes you took and if you spent anytime with them at extracurricular events. A little flattery goes along way to put someone in a good letter-writing mood.

If you are requesting a reference for the job market, be sure to include an updated resume and specific information about the job you are seeking. Write a note to your professor that highlights how your degree has prepared you for the job – provide examples from the course(s) you took with that professor so he or she can include that personalized statement in the letter. The more specific information you can provide your letter writer, the better the reference. You may want to include additional information about items on your resume that you would like highlighted in the letter.

If you are requesting a reference for graduate school, be sure to include your personal statement that indicates your goals for graduate study. Provide a list of schools you are applying to with the deadline for each school. In addition, it is helpful to identify the faculty you hope to work with at each University so that the letter can be tailored to your specific interests. Remind the faculty member the specific information from the course(s) that inspired you to further your education so those details can be included into the letter. Again, the more information you provide, the better the letter.

In the case of law school applications, the centralized system makes it easier for the recommender. It is important to include information to remind faculty of the work you have done in his or her course(s) and how it might apply to future study. Explain why you have been inspired to study law and be sure to let your recommender know your goals for attending law school and the type of law you hope to practice.

Faculty are here to help you achieve your post graduate goals so the more you are proactive in providing them with information about you and your goals the better!

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE DEPARTMENT
AND CHEERS TO A GREAT 2012!!**



Communication Studies responds to student requests

After being contacted by the CAS Dean's office reporting student requests for more available courses, the department added two additional upper division core courses to the Spring 2012 schedule. "I wish we could offer more classes to reduce students' anxiety," said Moran, "but if students are patient and plan ahead, they will get the classes they need to graduate." Communication Studies is the most popular degree in the College because the major offers relevant course content taught by enthusiastic professors. To fulfill requirements, students may consider taking courses during intersession and summer or even participating in a study abroad experience.

Honors Thesis Presentation

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Lambda Pi Eta Initiations

Congratulations to the Fall 2011 Initiates to the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society! The initiation is Tuesday, December 6th at 7 pm in UC Forum C, with a full buffet-style dinner and a keynote address by Dr. Larry Williamson. All are welcome!

Elizabeth Allick * Christina M. Andrejich * Regina Bernal * Cameron Bohn * Robyn R. Buller * Brittany A. Conway * Megan E. Eilers * Adriana Flores * Natalie J. Garagiola * Alessandra M. Generoso * Deirdre E. Grecco * Jacquelyn Kimmel * Kylie Learakos * Jessica A. Litvack * Kittric E. Lovel * Annabel C. Naish * William E. Newman * Katharine M. Olsen * Sarah B. Parks * Katherine M. Treacy

Go Global!

Each year, Dr. Chung works with USD Alum Daniel Jaimes (2005) to exercise the creative juices of USD upperclassmen. Keeping USD's core values in mind, this unique approach not only embraces diversity and cultural awareness, but it brings it full-circle by enabling students to give back to the community. As their final team project, Chung's Global Teams class is tasked with the development of a 90-second PSA video and the launch of a social awareness/fundraising campaign at USD for an international non-profit called Water For People. The winning team will be selected and featured in a news release distributed to local San Diego publications. Additionally, the team will be featured in the Water For People and Public Relations Society of America newsletter, and be recognized by San Diego Councilmember Lorie Zapf. Good Luck!

Sarah Cutler ('12) will present her honors thesis, "The Food Movement: Aesthetic Activism & Modern Media" on December 6 from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Professor del Río serves as her thesis advisor. Abstract: Following the food-safety scandals of the 1980s and '90s, average American citizens rose to form the food movement: a social movement that seeks to reform both the way Americans eat (away from large quantities, cheap calories, and highly processed foods) and the way Americans farm (away from unsustainable, industrialized large-scale farms). The landscape of our national communication is dramatically changing, largely due to new technologies, and the leaders of the food movement have successfully navigated through this new media scene. By using aesthetic activism—graphic and visual methods of communication—the movement has garnered significant media and gripped the interest of the general public. This paper will examine two key issues: (1) how the nature of national deliberation and debate has changed, and (2) how the food movement has successfully infiltrated American media and culture.

USD's Annual Trip to the Sundance Film Festival



In the spring of 2004, Drs. Pierson and Pace began discussing building a class around the Sundance Film Festival. With the support of Dean Drinan and 27 adventurous students, the first Sundance trip was in January 2005. The trip was special as the group got up early and stayed up late with students seeing an average of 18 films during the festival. The highlight was the midnight screening of *Matando Cabos*, a film produced by a USD alum. Included is a photo of that very first group outside the festival in Park City, Utah.

Eight years later students are still attending the festival—still getting up early, staying up late and seeing many, many films. Student support and enthusiasm continues to make the trip one of the highlights of the year. In the past seven years over two hundred students have participated in the course. Drs. Pierson and Pace plan to continue the experience as long as there are students who want to attend. This year's trip is closed, but it is not too early to be thinking of Sundance 2013. The tentative dates for 2013 are January 13-25. If you are interested, see either Dr. Pace or Pierson.

Introducing Our Student Employees



Hi! I'm Samantha Betts and I am a sophomore here at USD. I am a Communication Studies major and a Marketing minor, so I love working in the Comm. Department and I am here to help answer any questions you have!

How Communication Studies at USD Prepared Me for Law School by Kasey Mitchell ('10):

There are many things I enjoyed about the communication studies major at the University of San Diego. The professors were amazing, and the classes were engaging. As I jumped into the post-graduation chapter of my life, there was a pleasant surprise that I did not anticipate: how much the Communication Studies department prepared me for law school.

The courses I took in the Communication Studies department left me more prepared than the majority of my peers. All of the students that just came from larger universities were not used to being called on or expected to question the material they read. They just did the reading, memorized it, and regurgitated it for the final. Memorization was key. But law school is different than that. Law school expects you to critically engage in the reading, question it, and come to class prepared to discuss it. Then, at the end of the course, you are expected to be able to apply the analytical skills you learned throughout the semester to new situations. Does this format sound familiar? For me, this is precisely what I did every day in courses like Professor Del Rio's "Media & Conflict" and Professor Moran's "Comm. Criticism." The small classes and accessible faculty helped ease my fear of talking in class and I was able to skip over all of the difficult study-tactic transitions that most people face when they get to law school, because I was already doing them at USD.

I am not really one that is comfortable talking about my success, but for the sake of proving my point, I will admit that I have succeeded. After my first year in law school, I had achieved grades near the top of my class, which helped me line up an amazing job for next summer (and hopefully, for after graduation). And I can honestly say that feel like I owe it all to the faculty in USD's Comm Studies department!

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year of the Dragon in Hong Kong!

This Winter Intersession, 32 USD students will be traveling with Dr. Chung and Dr. Gin (Business School) to Hong Kong! Fourteen lucky communication students will be taking Intercultural Communication and will have the opportunity to travel Mainland China, work directly with HKBU communication students, explore HK with alumni, and see how the Chinese prepare for the auspicious lunar new year!



Summer Courses Abroad

May 29 – June 25, 2011
COMM 494/ETHN 494: Multi-cultural Small Group
Communication
Dr. Leeva Chung
Jamaica

May 31 – June 29, 2011
Comm 480: French Media & Culture
Dr. Kristin Moran (3 units)
Paris, France

June 14 – July 6, 2011
COMM 480: British Media Systems
Dr. Eric Pierson (3 units)
London, UK

Application Deadlines – December 15, 2011