



The COMMunity Buzz

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News for the Department of Communication Studies

Chair's Corner

As the Fall semester draws to a close, many students are wondering about what will happen after graduation. Some are looking forward to graduate school and others are looking to start their career.



In either case, now is the time to start asking for letters of recommendation. Planning ahead will make sure that the faculty member has plenty of time to fit the request into their busy schedule. Faculty in the department are thrilled to provide letters of support, but there are a few things you can do to ensure great references.

If you are requesting a reference for the job market, be sure to supply 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 position – provide examples from the course(s) you took so that the letter writer can incorporate that information. The more you can provide your letter writer, the better the reference.

If you are requesting a reference for graduate school, share your personal statement to explain 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 that can include those details 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 Highlights

Lambda Pi Eta

Congratulations to the twelve new members of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication honor society!

Bonnie Campbell • Michelle Campbell
Makena Diaz • Molly Kamari • Elizabeth Nelson
Hannah Nicholson • Gabrielle Perez
Rachyl Pines • Madison Pope • Mary Richardson
Gwyneth Newbold Shoecraft • Ashley Titus

Lambda Pi Eta's newest members will be officially inducted into the honors society on Wednesday, December 4 at an initiation dinner in the University Center. For information about Lambda Pi Eta, contact the chapter advisor, Dr. Bradley Bond (bond@sandiego.edu)

**Advances in Communication Research
Keynote Address**



Dr. Salvador Leetoy, Visiting Professor from the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Guadalajara Campus (Mexico), will give the keynote address at the Advances in Communication Research event hosted by the Department of Communication Studies. Join us for Dr. Leetoy's presentation, "Restoring the Public Space: Good Life, Communicative Action, and Cultural Agency in Latin American Urban Spaces" on Thursday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre.

"Restoring the Public Space: Good Life, Communicative Action, and Cultural Agency in Latin American Urban Spaces"



Sponsored by the Department of Communication Studies and Lambda Pi Eta



MENTORING! OPPORTUNITY!

The department of Communication Studies is partnering with Price Charities to inspire and educate young journalists.

High school students will be selected to participate in the program and each student will be paired with a USD Communication student (mentor) who will guide them through journalistic writing.

Each pair will be responsible for writing 2 feature and/or news stories that are relevant to the community of City Heights for publication in the City Heights Life Community Newspaper.

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Mentors are responsible for helping the student identify a newsworthy story, conduct research, and editing their work. USD students are required to attend on campus sessions and be in contact (via email) with the student in between sessions.

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To be eligible to participate, mentors will need to have completed Comm. 220 or demonstrate journalism experience.

Students will meet with mentors seven times during the semester between 3:00-5:00pm every other Wednesday.

Course specifics coming soon!

Food will be provided for all participants.

Mentors will earn 0.5 lower division credit in Communication.

Interested students should contact Dr. del Rio before the February 5 deadline to add classes.

Dr. del Rio will facilitate the program.

Contact Dr. Moran for more information.

Do you have what it takes to be a
MENTOR?



COMM Student Interns at NBC7

Professor Michael Canepa reports:

USD junior Communications major Sarah Grubbs was “surprised and excited” when she was selected for a coveted internship position at NBC7 this semester. Since then, Sarah has been working with the Investigative Team and says the experience has been “extremely hands-on and educational.” She has written stories that have aired on the station’s 6 p.m. newscast, has learned about investigative research and reporting techniques and recently interviewed one of the mayoral candidates. Sarah was one of 36 students who applied for three internships. Another USD junior, Caroline Howe, was the recipient of one of the others. That makes two USD students out of the three selected.

Frequently Asked Questions about receiving credit for an internship:

1. **Do I have to be a Communication major or minor to receive credit for the internship?**
Yes. 2nd semester Junior standing and above. You must have completed Comm 300.
2. **I have no prior experience. Can I still do an internship?**
Yes, absolutely. Many Communication Majors do not have prior experience in the field.
3. **How many hours must I complete?**
3 Units = 120 total hours
2 Units = 80 total hours
4. **Can I find my own internship position?**
Yes, but it must be approved by the Internship Director beforehand. The internships listed on this website have already been approved.
5. **Do I have to attend all meetings? And when are they?**
Yes, all four meetings are mandatory during the semester. The meeting dates and times will be on your syllabus. Don’t miss them!
6. **Can I receive retro-active credit for an internship?**
No. Credit will only be given in conjunction with the semester in progress.
7. **I already received units for a communication internship. Can I have more?**

Maybe. You may only count three units of internship toward your Communication major. You may take three more units as upper division elective credit IF you have no other practicum (e.g. independent study) in the College of Arts & Sciences. Ask the Internship Director if you are unsure.

8. **How do I add the internship class?**
Professor Ghio will sign your add form. Take the add form to the registrars office.

**Communication 480
June 26 - July 19, 2014**



Would you pay \$400.00 a year to have commercial-free television programming? What are the dimensions of a regulation Quidditch pitch (field)? What is it like to enjoy an outdoor concert with people from around the world? What kind of county bans a magazine cover because the model was too photo shopped? Is there even such thing as too photo shopped?

Communication 480: British Media Systems will help you investigate these and other interesting questions during the summer of 2014. Engage and interact with industries and individuals that gave the world Harry Potter, The Beatles, Dr. Who, and Simon Cowell. We will explore British Media Systems from the inside as we connect with practitioners and products. The goal of the course is to garner a greater understanding and appreciation of how and why British media are so successful. The media content created within the UK ranks only behind the US in its scope and worldwide influence. The course will include trips to Leavesden Studios (the production home for the Harry Potter films) BBC television and radio division, The Advertising Council, The British Film Institute, The Guardian Newspaper, and Hard Rock Calling, one of the UK’s premier music festivals.

Student Highlight

Ben Compton ('14) on Presenting at the 2013 National Communication Association Conference

*There is no better excuse to travel to Washington, D.C. than to attend a national research conference to present a paper I co-authored with Dr. Bowman - "Self-Presentation, Individual Differences, and Gendered Evaluations of Nonverbal Greeting Behaviors Among Close Friends." Beginning early Thursday morning, I was in and out of various panels that hosted paper presentations. One of the most memorable was a paper that discussed the role of hormones in affection and aggression. It was an interesting way to combine interpersonal communication and psychology research. I also really enjoyed USD's own Dr. Chuck Goehring's paper on how fatherhood is understood culturally through the television show *The Walking Dead*.*



My favorite part of the conference was all of the receptions. I started at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's receptions, where Dr. Bradley Bond introduced me to all of his old colleagues. I then rushed off to visit friends at the University of Kansas' reception. I got to see the professors who wrote articles we read in class enjoy themselves, and it helped remind me that our professors are people too!



My own presentation was on Saturday. I had a large audience of about 60 and after presenting was asked a few questions from audience members. I had a unique experience with one audience member. Although I was unaware of who she was at the time, Dr. Judee Burgoon, one of the biggest names in non-verbal communication, asked me a few questions. Luckily, I was able to respond and carry on the dialogue. To celebrate, Dr. Jonathan Bowman took me out to dinner where we were able to finally relax after a long and tiring NCA conference.



It was a great experience and I am honored that I was able to present at such a large conference as an undergraduate. Hopefully I will be presenting for many more years to come since I plan to attend graduate school in the field.