



# The COMMUNITY Buzz

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News for the Department of Communication Studies

## Chair's Corner

As the semester swiftly takes us into Spring Break, I want to encourage students to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are available to you as students at USD. First, take a minute to consider that



almost every evening, you can attend an intellectually enriching experience hosted by some area of the campus community. Please look at the "events" page on the USD website to learn about campus-wide events and "like" our facebook page to learn about communication related activities and events. Just a cursory glance showcases film screenings, concerts, a student Mariachi showcase, a lecture by John Thavis, the author of *The Vatican Diaries*...and so many more! Take advantage of USD has to offer – most of events are student-centered and free.

As many of you navigate the major, you'll be happy to learn that the Fall schedule will have more upper division offerings from which to choose. We have organized the major requirements in a way that helps students select courses that fit their interests, but many still have questions about what to take. In response, faculty have created "Recommended Clusters" that highlight which course would be most relevant for particular interests. There are five broad categories: Global Communication, Journalism and/

or Entertainment Industry, Law, Advocacy, and Justice, Strategic Communication and Graduate School in Communication. Please take some time to learn about the courses in each area! The cluster recommendations can be found at:

[http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/commstudies/program/recommended\\_courses.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/commstudies/program/recommended_courses.php)

## USD at the Western States Communication Association Conference

Professor Diane Keeling presented research on the tradition of rhetoric at the *Western States Communication Association* Conference in Anaheim. She was also elected "Web-Spinner" by the Organization for Research on Women and Communication.

Western States Communication Association



Communication Studies undergraduate Connor Sullivan and Drs. Jonathan Bowman and Roger Pace co-presented the paper "*Effects of Partner Distraction and Amount of Individual Information on Task and Relational Achievement*."

Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Bowman, faculty in the Department of Communication Studies, for winning the Distinguished Teaching Award at the 2014 *Western States Communication Association* Annual Convention. The prestigious award recognizes “teaching that rises above and beyond the craft of teaching to a sustained performance of excellence in pedagogy. This kind of teaching incites intellectual curiosity in students, can inspire departmental colleagues, and makes students aware of significant relationships between the academy and the world at large.” Bowman’s remarks during the acceptance of the award at the convention luncheon highlighted the broader community of scholars in Communication Studies who contribute to his understanding of teaching innovation and success.



Dr. Bradley J. Bond has published, “A Model and Measure of U.S. Parents’ Perceptions of Young Children’s Parasocial Relationships” in the *Journal of Children and Media*, appearing in Volume 17 on March 3. The research has previously received a top paper award from the Children and Media Division of the *International Communication Association*.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17482798.2014.890948>

## **Lambda Pi Eta**

Lambda Pi Eta, the official communication studies honor society of the National Communication Association, is accepting applications for spring induction. The organization hosts both academic and social activities to help stimulate interest in communication studies and encourage professional development. Pick up/drop off applications in Camino 126 by March 10. Email Dr. Bradley Bond with questions or concerns: [bond@sandiego.edu](mailto:bond@sandiego.edu)



### ***Eyes Wide Open: This is Media*** ***hosted by Outside the Lens***

March 5, 2014, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Theatre

*Eyes Wide Open: This is Media* is a fresh look at our role in today’s media landscape as consumers and makers. Through compelling interviews with digital pioneers, this documentary reveals the balancing act between being connected, responsible and maintaining privacy. A panel discussion will follow including Dr. Esteban del Río.

### ***18th BINACOM Encuentro*** ***Communication, Innovation, and Sustainability***

March 6 - 8, 2014

Universidad Iberoamericana, Tijuana

USD students Jocelin de la Torre and Jennifer Godfrey will present and discuss their media and communication related research with students and faculty from other universities in Mexico and the U.S. The conference is open to Communication Studies and Visual Arts students, and any student may attend whether presenting or not. Dr. Moran and Dr. Mercado will be accompanying the USD contingent.



## USDtv - KGTv 10News Reception

Communication Studies professor and former news anchor Gina Lew learned that KGTv Channel 10 was upgrading their studio and planned to donate the old set to SDSU. However, Lew's persistence and power of persuasion secured the donation for USD instead!

As a result of Lew's efforts, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Student Affairs joined efforts to request new studio equipment to outfit the space. The result of the changes will be more professional productions of USDtv and a bettered learning experience for the students.



For the full USD Vista article, click below:  
<http://theusdvista.com/2014/02/12/usdtv-gets-overhaul-from-local-station/>

Photographs by Christy Howland

## Project Censored: The Movie

A review by Cristina Ramos



*Project Censored: The Movie, Ending the Reign of Junk Food News* was an interesting and captivating documentary that informed about the loss of civil liberties in the United States today and the rise of censored media in social outlets. This documentary opened my eyes to the corporate media to which people are constantly being exposed. It inspired me to seek various media outlets that speak the whole, unbiased truth. The speakers in the film addressed "junk-food news" and why corporate media fails to report the whole story. The various interviews are eye-opening, especially to the uninformed media consumer.

One specific interview that intrigued me was with Khalil Bendib, a political cartoonist. He described the structure of news media and corporations and how corporate owners hide the truth or withhold the whole story. Information like this is shocking and people need to be aware about the process in which specific news is delivered to the public.

It was interesting to see how corrupt and heavily influenced news is by government and businesses interests. My personal hope is that this film is watched by others and shared among peers. This documentary easily sheds light in otherwise dark corners of truth and inspires people to take a more active role in their news consumption.



## Alumni Updates

### Ryan Sidhoo ('10)

Congratulations to Communication Studies graduate Ryan Sidhoo, whose television program "Welcome to Fairfax", a reality series that follows the lives of young visionaries living in the Fairfax neighborhood of Los Angeles was picked up by national cable network, Pivot. Pivot is owned by Participant Media, which aims to provide socially relevant programming.

Look for the debut in the Fall...Ryan is currently busy shooting the series!

### Katie Treacy ('12)

*I graduated from USD in May 2012 with a degree in Communication Studies, and a minor in Gender & Women's Studies. Unfortunately, while I was at USD I often felt like I was not taken seriously because of my major. Given my track record and work experience since graduating, I strongly advise all Communication Studies majors to ignore the nonsense!*



*I know more successful people who were Communication Studies majors than any other major from USD. I would not be where I am today without the skills I learned in each of the Communication classes I completed at USD. The COMM professors instilled the importance of a strong work ethic and challenged me to push myself, helping me to build an understanding of the true value of communication. Yes, those 20+ page COMM papers really do pay off folks! In fact, I can't imagine a better and more applicable major.*

*Upon entering the workforce after graduation, I learned three things fairly quickly: life is a lot about who you know (the caveat being that no one else will network for you), a strong work ethic sets you apart, and communicating effectively is the key to achieving success.*

*After graduation I landed a job as an Account & Marketing Coordinator at one of the largest event venues in the San Francisco Bay Area. This was an entry-level position where I truly got my foot in the door. The truth is that this is all you need to start-off a career. I was the first person in the office each morning and the last one to leave each night. Within 3-months, I was promoted to a managerial position, which meant a seat at the table.*

*When I say I learned things fairly quickly in the real world, it is because young professionals don't really have a choice. Sink or swim is real. Within the first 24-hours of becoming the Event Sales & Business Development Manager, I was responsible for leading a management meeting, which included our General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. I might add that public speaking had always been terrifying for me, but because of all the practice in our COMM classes I was used to being pushed out of my comfort zone, and of course, learned how to conceal my nervousness. This has proven invaluable as I grow in my career.*

*I feel fortunate that I am able to communicate successfully because so many people struggle. Communicating effectively and confidently has enabled me to stand out amongst my peers and continues to propel my career forward. I am now 23-years-old, and have recently started a new job as the Communications Manager for a renowned philanthropic organization, as well as serve on another non-profit's Board of Directors. I could not be more excited about strengthening my communication skills with all of the opportunities ahead!*

*While USD taught me more than I will ever be able to convey, I owe a lot to the professors in the Communication Department. Particularly, Dr. Leeva Chung and Dr. Larry Williamson. Not because these talented mentors made me realize that being curious is a virtue, but because they instilled the meaning of application and the importance of failure. If I could give advice to current COMM students, it would be to understand how to continually apply the lessons you learn, and that it is better to have tried and failed than to not have tried at all.*