

Volume 4 Number 2  
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# The COMMunity Buzz

News for the Department of Communication Studies



## CHAIR'S CORNER



Did you know that the Communication Studies is one of the biggest majors in the College of Arts & Sciences? Yes, you probably did because you notice classes close fast, you have to wait in line to meet with professors in office hours, and you probably even have to wait to see the Chair!

As a Comm student, the best thing to do is to be proactive and plan ahead. Now is the time to take control of your academic destiny! Learn how to read "DARS" and you will be able to answer the question "Am I on track to graduate?"

Check DARS on a regular basis. You can click on it right from your mysandiego portal. The general rule is that when all the boxes are green, you will graduate.

First thing to know...you must complete 124 semester units – of those 48 units must be upper division. This is a university policy. It does not change. No one earns a degree without these units.

Be careful not just to count the classes you have to take, because that doesn't tell you the whole story. As a communication major – if you complete core requirements and the requirements for the major, you have not taken enough units for a bachelor's degree. Even when you add a minor, most students still have 6 upper division units that must be fulfilled with courses that are not specific requirements – these are electives.

If you are a transfer student, it is likely that you will actually complete more than 124 total units, because you have to reach 48 upper division units in order to graduate.

Faculty are here to help you navigate your academic path, but you can take control by familiarizing yourself with the resources available and paying attention to DARS. Under the "Faculty" tab you will see all the information about faculty including their office hours.

<http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/commstudies/>



## LAMBA PI ETA



Students may now apply online to join the national honor society for communication majors, Lambda Pi Eta. To be eligible, students must have a junior class standing (at least 60 units completed) and must be either a communication studies major or minor with at least 12 communication studies units completed. Students' overall GPA must be at least 3.0, with a minimum 3.25 GPA for communication studies courses. Apply online by October 15, 2014:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/usdlph>

For more information about Lambda Pi Eta at USD, contact Dr. Bradley Bond ([bond@sandiego.edu](mailto:bond@sandiego.edu))

### 2013 -2014 Executive Board

President - Gabrielle Perez  
 Vice President - Hannah Nicholson  
 Secretary - Tatum Hohl  
 Treasurer - Ashley Titus  
 Philanthropy Chair - Elizabeth Nelson

### Upcoming Event

Tuesday, December 12: Fall Colloquium Lecture  
 IPJ Rooms EF - dead hours  
 Guest speaker: Diego Zavala Scherer, PhD

The subject of the Fall Colloquium Lecture will be new developments in Mexican documentary cinema.



## STUDENTS ATHLETES IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES



It's great to support Torero Athletic events and it's even more fun to cheer on your fellow Communication Studies majors!

On the football field you'll see Donnie Fields, Randyn "Yogi" Hale, Sione Keni, Dallas Kessman, Steven Spencer and Keith Williams.

Brandon Perry is on men's Basketball and our women's Basketball players include: Maya Hood, Brooke Jelniker, and Tara Warren.

Women's rowing had a very successful season last year and anticipate more success with Nneka Anyanwu, Anna Auerbach, Meritxell Fernandez Servitje, and Cristina Morcom.

Ryann Powell is on the Volleyball team, Alexandria Franz is on the Swimming & Diving team and Jonathan Garcia runs Men's Cross Country.

Men's tennis has had great success with Jordan Angus, Ciaran Fitzgerald and Uros Petronijevic.

When Spring is in full swing look for Austin Bailey, Gary Cornish, David Hill, Jacob Hill, and Drew Jacobs on the Baseball field. Softball players include Grace Hernandez, Morgan Kurtz, Kylie McNutt, and Tatum Schultz.



Go Toreros!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Dia de Los Muertos*

Dr. Mercado's section of Comm130 Intro to Media Studies class is putting together an altar/exhibit to commemorate the Day of the Dead this year. The tradition of the Day of the Dead has been slowly adopted in California by the general public. Students will participate in the creation of an altar with their own creative work to give an example of the value of culture in journalism, or to exemplify what Jim McGuigan has called the "cultural public sphere" as a space for the articulation of public and personal politics as a contested experience, and where minorities and other underrepresented communities can aim for access to fair representation in public discourse. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Inclusion and Diversity.



**When:** Friday October 31st from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (discussion and explanation of the altar and different meanings of the celebration, Day of the Dead Bread Available for attendants).

**Where:** Student Life Pavilion Exhibit Hall

The altar can be visited until 5 pm that day.



## *Sundance 2015 Informational Meeting*

If you are interested taking COMM 433, American Independent Cinema, during Intersession 2015 plan to attend this informational meeting where Drs. Pace and Pierson will discuss the nature of the course, the application and selection process, costs, dates, and accommodations.

**When:** Tuesday, October 14, 12:15PM - 1:15PM

**Where:** Camino Hall 101A

**Course Dates:** January 18th to the 27th, 2015

For more information, please contact Dr. Roger Pace (ext. 4059 or [pace@sandiego.edu](mailto:pace@sandiego.edu)) or Dr. Eric Pierson (ext. 7437 or [epierson@sandiego.edu](mailto:epierson@sandiego.edu)).

## RECOMMENDED CLUSTERS

Updated information has been posted on the department's website regarding the recommended clusters of courses for students with particular areas of interest in communication studies.

The communication major offers students flexibility and choice. Students may select courses that relate to their interest and post-graduate plans and communication faculty have made course recommendations based on themes. Choose from the following cluster of courses for specific interests: **Law & Advocacy, Global Communication, Strategic Communication, Journalism, Entertainment Industry, and Graduate School.** *The course recommendations are not requirements, they are suggested courses based on the content.*

The webpage heading for each of the recommended clusters is also a link to a downloadable PDF file with specific information regarding each cluster.

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



## THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM *By Cristina Ramos*

Having the opportunity to intern is crucial during our years in college. It helps us gain experience before graduating and joining the work force and it gives us a taste of what a specific job entails. Here at the University of San Diego, there are numerous of opportunities the students have to find an internship in their desired field. In the Department of Communication Studies specifically, there is a program run by Professor Greg Ghio that offers students the opportunity to gain experience in a communication oriented field and to put their coursework into practice while gaining credit towards graduation.



To join the internship program, you have to be a second semester junior with either a major or minor in Communication Studies, and have completed COMM 300. More specifically, you must have at least 75 units or more to join. The first step to join the program is to check the “Internships” tab on the Department of Communication Studies website for specific information and prerequisites of various companies. “On the website,” Professor Ghio explains, “there are different opportunities with companies that we’ve worked with in the past.” Each internship has to be preapproved by Professor Ghio, but the lists of companies on the website have already been

approved. However, don’t let that stop you from finding your own internship opportunity.

After finding a company that interests you and researching the prerequisites of the internship, see Ghio for help and he can guide you in the right direction to see who to specifically contact in the company for more information. If and when everything is set up with the internship, you can see Ghio to get enrolled into the program for credit! Once in the class, there are four mandatory meeting dates with Ghio to follow up on your progress in the job.

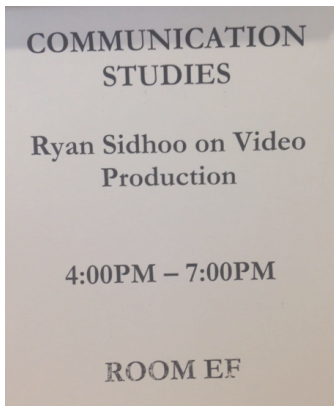
If you happen to fall short of the required 75 units to join the internship program for credit, don’t let that stop you from trying to find an internship! Experience is a great resource. However, as Ghio explains, “It’s quality over quantity. I don’t see where students get the idea that they need 7 or 8 internships under their belt. As long as you do 1 or 2 and you work hard at it, that’s sufficient.” Finding an internship and working for one is not easy, but it will pay off in the end. Even if you can’t gain the credit while you’re working, you’re gaining experience that will carry on into your future.



Don’t hesitate to use your resources and contact Professor Ghio if you have any questions. His email is [gghio@sandiego.edu](mailto:gghio@sandiego.edu) and he is more than willing to help you with anything. Although finding an internship may seem a little intimidating, it will help you after graduation.



## Alumni Update Ryan Sidhoo ('10)



Executive Producer & USD Communication Studies graduate Ryan Sidhoo '10 gave a no-holds-barred presentation about his personal experience maneuvering the bi-coastal television industries in New York and Los Angeles since his graduation from the University of San Diego. While studying on the East Coast, Sidhoo took advantage of every internship opportunity presented to him – no matter how menial – and encouraged attendees to do the same. By presenting his own clearly-developed impressions of the “short film ecosystem”, Sidhoo charted his journey from an unpaid intern to becoming an executive producer for a television series focusing on the stories of untold cultures in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Fairfax. Students attending the presentation noted that one of Sidhoo’s main themes was deep exploration of the world around us, making sure to experience and explore new cultures and different people groups. Sidhoo’s television program “Welcome to Fairfax” debuts on Pivot TV on Friday, October 17th.

Check your local listings for details.

<http://www.takepart.com/welcome-to-fairfax>



## Alumni Update Karissa Valencia ('13)

There really is not a day that goes by where I don't represent USD as a communications major, woohoo!

The year flew by and I can't believe I graduated already with my masters. I really wanted to tell of the two classes that helped me the most from USD that I



got to apply to my grad school classes. First, I was light years ahead of everyone thanks to the research class when we had to do our papers, I am so happy that was required. The research professor even asked me to be her Teaching assistant the following semester. And then, I was very prepared for my law and business classes because of Dr.

Moran's International Media class! (I was one of the few who had heard of UNESCO and international show adaptations/globalization were always discussed, especially in the business classes since all the major companies have international divisions).

More updates on my end since those classes: I've been a script reader for producer Barry Josephson (*Enchanted*, *Bones*, *Men in Black*) which just ended. And now I'm interning for Nickelodeon! I've been very grateful for all the luck that has come my way since USD. I was having lunch with another comm alum, Nicole Balmegino who works for Disney, and we were talking about how USD doesn't have too big of an entertainment footprint like some schools out here (yet!), but we are happy to be part of the alums that are going to get it started.

So thanks USD and Dr. Moran again for everything!



# PILAS PRESENTS

## Fall 2014 Brown Bag Lunch Series

Dr. Antonieta Mercado, Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Communication Studies at USD will discuss...

**“The Cultural Public Sphere: How Culture Can Be a First Step Toward Civic Organization”.**

**Tuesday, October 28**

**12:30-2:00**

**Rigsby Language & Culture Commons  
(Founders 123)**

**Free to USD students,  
faculty & staff!**

**Bring your lunch.**

**Coffee & dessert  
will be provided.**

Seating is limited; reserve yours by e-mailing [zetts@sandiego.edu](mailto:zetts@sandiego.edu) (please put “Brown Bag” in the subject line and include the number of guests).

# Transnational Social Justice Practices

**Discussion by Martha Ojeda, the Executive Director for the Coalition for Social Justice in the Maquiladoras**



Martha Ojeda received the "Petra Foundation Fellow Award" in Washington DC, and the "Emilio Krieger" medal by the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of Mexico City. Her work has been recognized by Mother Jones Magazine.



**November 6th  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Manchester  
Auditorium**

Sponsored by: Communication Studies  
Program in Latin American Studies (PILAS)  
Center for Community Service Learning



# Listening is the First Part of Communication

By Sharon Varshay

