



COMMUniqué

December, 2016

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A publication of the Department of Communication in CHABSS at CSUSM

IN THIS ISSUE:

Notes from the Chair

by Dr. Michelle A. Holling

As I write this, the last week of classes is nearly complete and all that remains are finals for students whereas lots of grading awaits faculty. My hope is that the semester has and ends well for students, faculty, and staff alike.

This issue of *COMMUniqué* has an assortment of stories to read. In our last issue, readers were introduced to all but one new faculty member in the department, Dr. De La Garza. Co-Editor Helena Gulbrandsen sat down to talk with him about his experience thus far in the department and at CSUSM. On the flip side, some students may be graduating this year (or, preparing to do so). Toward that end, one story presents the array of possibilities open to students to enhance their academic knowledge and experience in preparation for post-graduation.

Next, events that the department participates in are captured with photos and impressions. The Majors and Minors

Fair enabled students, both current CSUSM and even high school, to investigate potential majors they have interest in and talk with a faculty member and/or an academic advisor. As well, the Annual Whiteness Forum gathered members of the campus community to learn and interact with students about their final projects; to listen to amazing poets delight audience members with powerfully poignant poems that provoke reflection on the interesting times in which readers find themselves nationally; and to show support and solidarity with local organizations.

Other highlights record faculty accomplishments that underscore the talents and productivity of faculty in the Department. As a counterpart to faculty, there are the many alumni, who graduated as recent as May 2016 dating to 1999, who have entered "the real world" to do amazing things with their lives. The response received from alumni

might need to make "Where Are They Now?" a regular addition to the newsletter.

Last, I thank my co-editor, Helena, for her important contributions to bringing this second fall 2016 issue to fruition and wish her well as she moves onto other coursework. Next semester the department welcomes Danielle Biss as the new student intern for the department. Well wishes and happy holidays!

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Annual Whiteness Forum Brings Students and Communities Together

Last Tuesday was the 13th Annual Whiteness Forum hosted by Dr. Dreama Moon’s “Communicating Whiteness” class. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators from across the university were on hand to explore the causes and consequences of structural racism.

In response to exigent violence, students made the focus of their forum the many social, political, and cultural forms of oppression directed at all people because of white supremacy. Student teams presented original research projects on a diverse array of topics, all tied to a theme of unveiling whiteness.

Presentations ranged from the “justice gap” regarding disproportionately harsh sentences of Black people compared to white people who commit the same crime; the processes of redlining neighborhoods; gentrification as a form of colonization; and, educational and institutional segregation. At nearly all times there were crowds of people between three and seven at each poster presentation. The event was also attended by local organizations who hosted tables. These groups included Unheard

Voices and members of World Aids Day.

The event was capped off by a student and faculty lead poetry readings. Stunned silence shattered into applause after a poetry presentation from a student enrolled in Dr. Moon’s whiteness class. The words, laced with the bitter aftertaste of wave of post-election of hate crimes, challenged all of us to think about our own biases.

Though the topic of the poetry and the research presented by students was startling, even at times depressing, the event left me feeling hopeful about people’s willingness to work toward a more just world. The forum represents one of many ways that the students, faculty, and administrators of this campus continue to strive to challenge structural inequality, promote social responsibility, and create space for difference.



Attending: Dr. Rossmann
Photo: Cody Cook



Dr. Rivera embracing the message "I Stand With You"
Photo: Cody Cook



Attending: Dr. De La Garza



Display from forum
Photo: Cody Cook

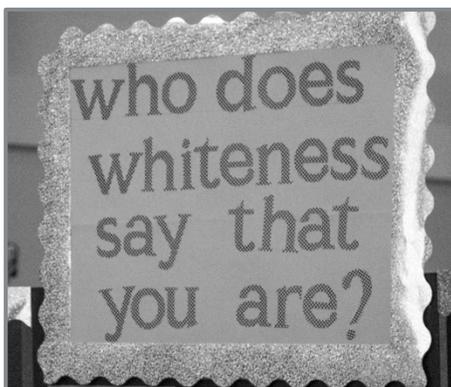


Display from Forum
Photo: Cody Cook

Postscript

By: Dr. Dreama Moon

A few days following the Whiteness Forum I awoke to a message from a stranger that suggested that I should “kiss [their] white a** you white c**t.” Needless to say, not the usual morning greeting that I am accustomed to receiving. As the morning and the week continued, I was barraged by emails from strangers making a range of suggestions (somewhat less offensive than the first) as well as numerous notifications from alt-right websites that had reposted a



From one of the displays

Photo: Cody Cook

rather innocuous article on the Whiteness Forum written by Jennifer Kabbany at The College Fix. The comments attached to these repostings are enlightening of the “new old” cultural and political moment that we have entered.

In this “new/old” moment, the pretense at colorblindness and “political correctness” is done and we may now be entering - and

teaching in - a time of ‘new’ fascism. Fascism can be identified by its lack of recognition of human rights, its rampant nationalism, the identification of “enemies” and scapegoats as unifying strategies, rampant militarism (i.e., to combat the many “enemies”), rampant obsession with national security (hence the need for “enemies” and scapegoats), and disdain for intellectuals to name but a few telling characteristics.



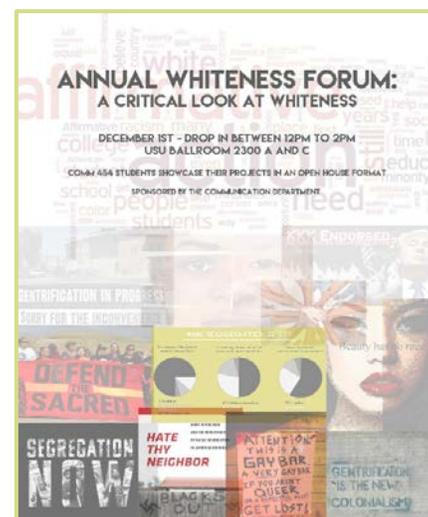
Photo: Cody Cook

Underlying all of this is a culture of fear and a political machine devoted to nurturing that fear. The question becomes: how will we respond? To paraphrase Jennifer Roth in *Divergent*, fear can shut us down but it can also wake us up.

Postscript #2

By: COMM 454 Student

I have always been someone who is very stubborn and strong willed in her opinions. It's not that I'm uninterested or unable to hear out opposing opinions; it's that opposing sides don't contain enough information to support their claims. I originally came into COMM 454:



Flier for the Whiteness Forum

Communicating Whiteness with a negative attitude and disbelief that anyone could prove me wrong, but I do admit that I have been proven wrong.

People don't want to hear something that might discredit their own values or beliefs, and they often become defensive when they hear something as controversial as whiteness. After observing people's reactions to whiteness, I've learned that they are mostly alarmed and frustrated with the language and rhetoric associated with whiteness. Unfortunately, they don't understand what is meant by whiteness – we aren't talking about being white or celebrating being white. Instead, we are trying to gain insight into how whiteness is communicated through institutions like state and federal prisons, housing markets, beauty industries, etc. Dr. Moon supports her claims about whiteness with concrete historical facts, and she's taught us [her students] to do the same. In my group's project, after almost a half semester of research, consultations, and writing, we developed our project, main claims, potential

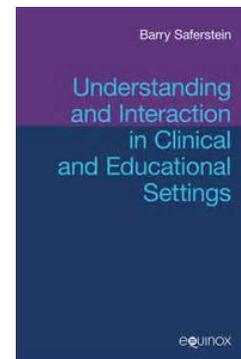
counterclaims, and evidence, etc.

I felt empowered to speak on this topic and I felt the Whiteness Forum went very smoothly. There was a sizable group of attendees that actually listened to what we had to say – whether they agreed or not, a lot of valuable input was obtained. It's events like the Whiteness Forum that actually make differences and influence change; I say this because, the people who go out of their way to attend an event like this, are the ones who actually value this information and are willing to expand their knowledge.

Awareness is the grass root for change, and change doesn't happen by preaching to a group that agrees with oneself – productive change occurs where there is deliberation and compromise. Dr. Moon educated us about whiteness and now it's our job to continue teaching others. We've opened new areas for dialogue and healthy conversations that are usually uncomfortable. Students and attendees will take what they want from COMM 454 and the Whiteness Forum, but I guarantee that some amount of awareness has been absorbed and will be passed onto other groups who are also willing to listen and converse.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Dr. Barry Saferstein on his very recent book publication!!



In his book, he examines the interplay of interaction, reasoning, setting, and culture that affects the creation of understandings. By analyzing and comparing routine activities and information resources in clinics and classrooms, Barry Saferstein identifies the components of interactions that enhance or limit understanding. He shows how explanations intended to produce knowledge may also mobilize aspects of professional culture that limit its scope and use. Standard formats of explanations often lead to difficulty understanding medical information or scientific concepts.

Understanding and Interaction in Clinical and Educational Settings explains how changes in the use of information resources can transform professional cultures in ways that improve understandings developed by patients and students. It will be of interest to medical practitioners, educators and scholars of social and cognitive sciences. Visit the publisher's website to order: <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/understanding-interaction-clinical-educational-settings-barry-saferstein/>

Dr. Michelle A. Holling earned the Top Paper Award for her work entitled "In Ciudad Juarez, A Missing Young Woman is Always a Lost Cause: Framing Femicides and Ciudad Juarez in U.S. Print News Discourse." She was recognized at the National Communication Association, November 12, 2016 in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. De La Garza: Assistant Professor & Scholar

By: Helena Gulbrandsen

After earning his Ph.D. in May from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Dr. Antonio De La Garza joined our faculty as one of the new assistant professors this fall. He currently teaches Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism (COMM 402) and Communication and Social Protest (COMM 415). Dr. De La Garza has been impressed by his students, and witnessed great discussions in his classroom. As an undergraduate, Dr. De La Garza studied political science, and was involved with forensics or debates offered by the Department of Communication at Northern Arizona University. He was interested in the enforcement of laws and the way that people use communication, because individuals' interpretation and how people craft words to create laws have huge impact in people's lives.

Dr. De La Garza's dissertation examined discourse on immigration from the perspective of immigrants. He looked at how immigrants were raising families and influencing communities, despite having very little privilege here in the United States. In his dissertation, De La Garza focused on how immigrants are able to get through these obstacles with resilience and resistance.

Another project that De La Garza just started working on is the "Bears Ears" national monument proposal in Utah. The Bears Ears area is a sacred place to indigenous people in the South West, a place where they practice their religion and traditions. Indigenous people in the South West

are proposing that the Federal Government conserve this land through the Antiquities Act of 1906. Dr. De La Garza is gathering information and literature on the development and how they approach this, as this will be his next research project. At the present Dr. De La Garza is working on a book chapter which he is co-authoring with Dr. Pindi, which they hope to contribute to a book about whiteness in the US, and how it affects culture.

As a scholar, Dr. De La Garza has great advice for student researchers who wish to do well. In our conversation, De La Garza suggested that students read everything and ask the questions that no one else is asking. In order to find out what questions have been asked, a researcher needs to read and do a lot of exploring. Dr. De La Garza explains that writing is always the biggest challenge for research, and since there is so much possibility in a blank page, it's easy to panic a little. However, all one has to do is to get through that first line and then the writing becomes easier. For De La Garza, it helps to change the location or to switch to handwriting.

In the future, Dr. De La Garza hopes to develop a course on rhetoric and performance, which looks at how the rhetoric of the body influence and persuade. He explains "A powerful speaker is like an actor, the performance is intentional and practiced, but still feels sincere. These speakers can influence people's emotional state, change their brain chemistry, and inspire them to act." In addition to this, he also wishes to develop a class on the rhetoric of the U.S. Mexico border.

When Dr. De La Garza is not busy researching or working, he enjoys practicing Brazilian Jiu- Jitsu, for which he earned a blue belt, and a

brown belt in Judo. He also loves to play chess, and he practiced and played for about two years as well as playing tournaments online. The upcoming semester, De La Garza will teach Argumentation and Dialogue (COMM 200), Rhetorical Theory (COMM 401), and Rhetorical Criticism (COMM 402). The Communication and Social protest class will return on to the schedule next fall semester.

As a final note, during our interview, Dr. De La Garza shared with me his favorite quote by Winston Churchill "If you're going through hell, keep going." He explains--when things get tough, the response should be to work harder, not give up. Students have to make all kinds of sacrifices, and they get stressed out. It is important that students find their way of coping with this to get through it.

Dr. Antonio De La Garza (with Dr. Kent Ono) earned the Outstanding Journal Article for their essay "Rethorizing Adaptation: Differential Adaptation and Critical Intercultural Communication" (2015, in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*). Both were recognized on November 12, 2016 at the National Communication Association in the International & Intercultural Communication Division meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. KENDRA RIVERA!



President Haynes selected her for the Teaching Innovation and Excellence Award for the 2015/2016 academic year.

Following a nomination, Dr. Rivera submitted a dossier that described her teaching philosophy and innovative pedagogy she employs in her courses, along with evidence supporting her teaching practices. Students and the Department of Communication benefit from having such a talented and outstanding faculty member!

Major & Minor Fair 2016

By: Helena Gulbrandsen



Photo: Sunniva Rustad

The Major & Minor Fair took place in the USU ballroom on November 3rd, and was hosted by the Career Center. Departments of Communication, Global studies, Criminal Justice, Women's Studies, Film Studies, and Anthropology, among many others, were represented. Students who attended the event seemed eager to acquire information, and the Communication Department's table kept busy throughout the entire fair.



Photo: Sunniva Rustad

Drs. Uy-Tioco, De La Garza, and Pindi, as well as Silverio Haro, academic advisor from Undergraduate Advising Services, provided interested students with information about the

majors—Communication and Mass Media-- as well as the minors-- Communication and Critical Intercultural minor.

Dr. Gloria Pindi expressed great interest in meeting different students who were intrigued by the majors offered in the Communication Department. She saw that even High School students seemed to know about the Communication field, which was impressive. What stood out most to her was that students try to understand the relationship between a major and future employment possibilities.



Photo: Sunniva Rustad

Since joining the Communication Department in 2014, Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco has attended the Major and Minor Fair every year. She believes it's a great way to tell CSUSM students about majors and minors, and also learn about their interests. Whereas, Dr. De La Garza, who attended the Fair for the first time as a new faculty member, describes the Communication Department's participation in the fair as a success. He noted, "The Major and Minor Fair was an excellent opportunity to meet new students and talk to them about the centrality of communication to the academic and professional success."

Preparing For Graduation

By: Helena Gulbrandsen

There are plenty of possibilities for students graduating from CSUSM with a Communication or a Mass Media major to explore a number of high impact practices (HIPS). HIPS are programs that implement the broad goals of student engagement and meaningful learning experiences. Some of these include working on research with faculty, opportunities for mentoring, service learning, and internships.

Students have access to information, opportunities and resources they may not find as convenient and accessible once away from campus routines. Before graduating, students have several ways to begin the process of planning next steps after graduation. One of the classes offered to Communication students is Communication Portfolio (COMM 445) with Dr. Brown. In this class, students will learn how to write professional documents, and how to better their skills in self-presentation and in the job search. It will also help students begin networking through informational interviews, explaining their skills and promoting one's self, so that they can be confident in talking about their degree and abilities. This course is designed to be taken by Communication major seniors.

If one is a Mass Media Major, there are other options. There is ID 401, Career Readiness and Professional Communication, developed to serve all CHABSS majors and offered for variable unit credit. The course helps develop similar same skills, and is available as 1 unit (5 weeks), 2 units

(10 weeks) and 3 units (full term) offering.

There is also a University-wide Faculty Mentoring Program (FMP) for first generation students and/or students who can demonstrate financial need. For these students, there are GRE workshops as well as grant support and other graduation activities. Students can apply online or at the Faculty center (Kellogg Library 2400). Visit the Faculty Mentoring Program page at <http://www.csusm.edu/fc/mentoring/fmp-students/index.html> or their office for more information.

In addition, an internship course is available to both Communication and Mass Media majors: COMM 495 or MASS 495 respectively. This class, along with the Office of Internship, provides students with lots of possibilities to look for an internship of interest; in addition to acquiring experience in a variety of professional settings, students may also get a better idea of what career they would like to pursue. For more information, <http://www.csusm.edu/communication/internships.html>

The university has an Office of Internships that is available to serve all students seeking credit-bearing internship courses. Internships are partnerships linking community/industry partner, students and academic courses at the university. Students who are interested can also participate in non-credit internships that will give them experience—these are posted with other part time and full time work opportunities on Cougar Jobs, a resource of the Career Center. Go to the Office of Internships, <https://www.csusm.edu/community/internships/>, or the Career Center, <http://www.csusm.edu/careers/> to learn more about the differences

between paid and for credit internships. Check out the database of organizations with whom the university has internships partnership agreements and learn how new ones are added, or contact director of internships Jill Litschewski.

Finally, watch for information sessions and applications coming soon in early spring 2017 for this year's application period for the CHABSS Career Mentoring Network. The career mentoring network is going into its fourth year, and connects students with local professionals, including alumni from CSUSM and other business/community leaders. If accepted, applicants are matched with mentors who have careers for which students have interest. This is a part of the CHABBS Career Readiness Initiative (CRI), which assists CHABBS students in preparing for the next steps after graduation, by improving the connection between students and the community and professionals. Learn more here: <https://www.csusm.edu/chabss/collgeinitiatives/careerreadiness/careermentoring.html>

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY!

February 8th, 2017 4 PM-6 PM

Attend the workshop/mixer with refreshments for current and prospective mentors and mentees through the CRI. Watch for publicity on this soon. The location will be posted on the CHABSS/CRI webpage.

Grants and Publications

The following faculty and staff received grants from the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences and/or from external sources during the fall of 2016. Grant awards assist them to present and/or pursue their scholarship at conferences.

- ❖ Dr. Antonio De La Garza (\$1,000) for “Retheorizing Adaptation: Differential Adaptation and Critical Intercultural Communication.”
- ❖ Dr. Michelle A. Holling (\$600) to present her scholarship and serve as respondent on panels regarding Mexican and Latino Communication Studies at the National Communication Studies Convention.
- ❖ Dr. Gloria Pindi (\$1,000) to present her scholarship at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender; and at the National Communication Association.
- ❖ Dr. Kendra Rivera (\$1,000) for “Transgressing Gender Norms through Exploration of Communication” at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender conference.
- ❖ Dr. Rivera (\$26,999) received a grant from the National Institute of Health and NIMH Diversity Supplement Grant for her work as a primary student adviser. The grant will fund a first generation U.S. American/first generation college student in qualitative research extending the work done in the R15 grant previously awarded to Dr. Kimberly D’Anna Hernandez (psychology). Dr. Rivera will serve as primary adviser for qualitative work with pregnant Mexican-American women on stress and cultural bound syndromes.
- ❖ Josephine ‘Josie’ Rosas (\$399) to attend the CSU Academic Resources Conference in May 2017.
- ❖ Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco (\$1,000) for work on her essay, “Prepaid Mobile Phones: Interactive Labor and Surveillance in the Philippines.”

Book Chapter Publications

- 🚩 Lee, J. L. (2016). Commodifying Magic: Cyber Shamans and Neoliberalised Culture in Korea. *Culture and Religion*.
- 🚩 Lee, J. L. (2016). Cyber Memorial Zones and Shamanic Inheritance in Korea in the edited collection entitled *The Media and Religious Authority*.
- 🚩 Tsikata, P.Y., **Pindi, N.G.**, & Anaele, A. (2016). The frozen rhetoric of AIDS denialism and the flourishing claims of a cure: Comparative analysis of Thabo Mbeki and Yahya Jammeh’s rhetoric. *South African Journal of Communication Theory and Research*, 42(3), 378-397.
- 🚩 Rivera, K. D. (2016). On the teeter-totter: A single mom’s story of work and life. In J. P. Fyke, J. Faris, & P. M. Buzzanell (Eds.), *Case Studies in Organizational and Managerial Communication: Stretching Boundaries*, pp. 20-25. New York: Routledge. Competitive chapter selection.

Conference Presentations

- ✓ Dr. Holling presented her manuscript "'In Ciudad Juarez, A Missing Young Woman is Always a Lost Cause': Framing Femicides and Ciudad Juarez in U.S. Print News Discourse" at the National Communication Association Convention in November 2016 in Philadelphia.
- ✓ Holling, M. A. (2016). Respondent to "Voces Mexicanas: Mexican Studies in Communication and the Remapping of Gender, Nation, Culture, Language, and Ethnicity" National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA.
- ✓ Holling, M. A. (2016). Discussant on panel "Civic Duty, Civic Calling: Engaging the Past, Present, and the Future of La Raza Caucus." National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia.
- ✓ Holling, M. A. (2016). Respondent to "La Raza Caucus Individual Paper Panel." National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia.

- ✓ Dr. Pindi presented "*Performing 'Transnational Civic Callings' at the Borderland of Congolese and US American Cultures*" (November, 2016) Presented as a part of the competitively selected panel "*Transnational Civic Callings of International and Intercultural Communication*" to the 2016 annual convention of the National Communication Association annual convention. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- ✓ Pindi, N. G. (October, 2016). "*Is feminism Relevant for African Women? An ethnographic Study of Sub-Saharan Diasporic African women in the U.S.*" Paper presented as part of the panel on "*Exploring Global African Women's Issues in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*" to the 2016 annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. Oak Park, Illinois.
- ✓ Pindi, N. G. (October, 2016). "*Being a Black woman in Academia in the United States*" Paper presented as part of the panel on "*Transgressors: Narratives of Inquiry, Resistance, and Risk*" to the 2016 annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. Oak Park, Illinois.
- ✓ Pindi, N. G. (Panel Participant) (October, 2016). "*The Kitchen Table Talk: Women of Color share experiences in the academy*" at the 2016 annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. Oak Park, Illinois.
- ✓ Pindi, N. G. (Panel Participant) (October, 2016). "*Transgressing 'Traditional' Research through Feminist Mentoring Teams*" at the 2016 annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. Oak Park, Illinois.

- ✓ Dr. Uy-Tioco will present "Prepaid Mobile Phones: Interactive Labor and Surveillance in the Philippines" at the Association for Cultural Studies (ACS) Crossroads 2016 conference to be held in Sydney, Australia, Dec 14-17, 2016.

CURRENT STUDENTS:

- ❖ If you're in need of an upper-division COMM or MASS course for spring 2017, seats remain in COMM 495 and MASS 495.
- ❖ In winter 2017, Dr. Lee will offer MASS 470-4, Media & Mixed Reality. The course is Mon thru Fri from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Summer 2017 offerings will be available mid-spring 2017 semester.

Communication & Mass Media Majors: Where Are They Now?

Faculty in the Department of Communication, circa 1994, have graduated many students over the years begging the question, “where are they now?” And, “what are they doing after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Communication or Mass Media. Below are our alumni and their successes!

Laurie Anderson, Mass Media – class of 2016, Pursuing a master’s degree in Strategic Communication at Washington State University’s Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

Cassandra Carriker, Communication - class of 2016, Successfully completed her first semester in the Sport Management program at the University of Indianapolis.

Kevin Hsieh, Communication - class of 2016, Successfully completed his first semester in the Communication Management master’s program at the University of Southern California.

Karen Mascariñas, double major Mass Media and Global Studies, class of 2016 – Is a graduate student in the Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs program at American University at Washington DC. Her research will regard the way mass media frames human rights narratives.

Nick Kennedy, Communication – class of 2016, Works in sales and marketing for Modern Postcard in

Carlsbad. He plans to apply for graduate school in three years or so.

Courtney Soren, Mass Media – class of 2016, Is a Corporate Account Manager at 24 Hour Fitness. She coordinates events for over 100 corporate partners as well as assists them with their advertising throughout San Diego County.

Kira Adamo, Communication - class of 2015, Moved to Prague, Czech Republic and became a certified English teacher. In her months living there, she’s traveled to Germany, Slovakia, Norway, Netherlands, and other parts of the Czech Republic.

April Emerson, Communication – class of 2015, Aspires to become a licensed clinical social worker, she is pursuing her master’s program in Social Work at the University of Southern California. In May 2016, she won the Miss American Achievement Ambassador Queen 2017 title.

Melissa Lieberman, class of 2015, Lives in Houston, TX and is a flight attendant who travels all over the world.

Gloria Magallanes, Mass Media – class of 2015, Prior to returning to California, she lived in the UK and graduated with distinction with an M.A. in Broadcast Journalism from the University of East Anglia.

Nicole Miles, Communication – class of 2015, She is graduate student in the MBA program at CSU Monterey Bay. In addition, she works at St. Edward’s University in Austin, TX. She recently hosted the NATO Conference in November and now plans the ATX Hack for Change, the largest civic hackathon in the USA June 2-4, 2017 on the National Civic Day of Hacking.

Jovanna Vellone, Communication - class of 2014, Responsible for management of all marketing activity and support of product releases for Telecommunications Technology Manufacturer.

Linda Costello, class of 2013, Works as a Senior Sales Manager at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott San Diego Carlsbad/Vista. She is approaching seven years with the company.

Anileni Ortega, Communication – class of 2012, Accounting Specialist at a local company for the past few years.

Robyn Sembera, class of 2012, Manager of Continuing Medical Education *Taking Control of Your Diabetes*

Mayra Aguilar, Communication - class of 2011, Works as a behavioral health clinician and as an advocate for human trafficking victims.

Ashley Chilton, Communication - class of 2011, Is now Ashley Chilton, Esq. She graduated from University of Notre Dame and recently passed the bar exam!

Anthony Cuomo, Communication – class of 2011, Earned a Master of Arts in Communication from CSU Long Beach. He is a lecturer in that department as well as at Golden West Community College and El Camino College.

Jennifer Gehrish, Communication - class of 2011, Earned her M. A. in Communication from SDSU (2015). She is currently a Customer Service Manager at Hyundai, Escondido.

Alexandra Jackson Nevis, Communication – class of 2011. Before returning in fall 2015 to be a lecturer in this department, she earned a Master of Arts in

Communication and a Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Mariko Jinrija Tae, Communication – class of 2011. Works as a Beijing correspondent, covering Chinese economy and business, for one of the largest financial newspaper companies, Nikkei.

George W. Goddard, Communication – class of 2009. Captain USMC, Camp Lejeune North Carolina.

Chad Hill, Communication – class of 2009. Pursuing his MBA, which he expects to complete in 2017. He's currently a Chief Operating Officer, Military Recruiting in Texas.

Ashleigh (Olesiak) Jensen, class of 2009. Works as a Benefits Counselor at Tricare Dental Program.

Laura (Hutchinson) Schwandt, class of 2009. Owns her business, Serendipity Events.

Michael Zepeda, Communication – class of 2009. Co-founded Bella Mar Spirits with his wife. As well, he co-founded Guys read while serving in Ameri-Corps and plans to return for his teaching credential.

Angela Alvarado, Communication – class of 2007. Works as a Human Resource Generalist for GEICO.

Dee Dee Faison, Communication – class of 2007. Earned her Master's degree in 2012 and married in 2013. She's currently a social worker for DPSS; and, in the fall of 2017, she plans to return to CSUSM or USC in pursuit of a Master's of Social Work.

Mike Millburn, Communication – class of 2007. Producer in the sports department at KUSI.

Valerie Capati, Communication – class of 2004. Principal Clinical Trials

Associate at a global CRO in San Diego and continues to save the world one person at a time.

Melani Buack Gordon, Communication – class of 2004. Currently a Project Contract Manager for Airbus DS Communications. She is happily married and raising two boys in Temecula, CA.

Tara Hardee, Communication – class of 2002. Earned her doctorate in educational leadership in 2013 and is currently serving as University Registrar at CSU Dominguez Hills while also teaching a research methods course.

Constance Chua Leyland, Communication – class of 2002. Earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration with an emphasis in International Business and is inspiring minds one student at a time. She also worked at Neil's Brock- California International Business University and at University New Hampshire University.

Amber Zinsky Rizkalla, Communication – class of 2001. Serves as the Director of Interfaith Community Services' Transitional Youth Academy. It is a dropout prevention and intervention program that provides academic mentoring, leadership development, and workforce development to at-risk and resilient youth.

Cynthia Hufferd, Communication – class of 2000. Technical editor and education contractor for Genentech Inc. Grandma of one and another on the way.

Anna (Holl) Marzahl, Communication – class of 2000. Lives in Phoenix, AZ and started her own event marketing business.

Catherine Armas Matsumoto, Communication – class of 2000. Lecturer at CSUSM & Palomar College. Grandma of three with one on the way.

Gail Coco Skennion, Communication – class of 2000. Works for Medline - a very large, \$9 billion in revenue, corporation as a dedicated service manager for prime vendor accounts. Grandma of one.

Cindy Tagliapietra, Communication – class of 2000. Lactation Educator at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns. Grandma of three.

Dr. Toniesha L. Taylor, Communication – class of 1999. Part of the first graduating class of majors from CSUSM! Since earning her Ph.D., she is now an Associate Professor of Communication at Prairie View A&M University.

Andrea Bullard -- Full time mom. Baby #2 due in March! Part time restaurant. Part time Competitor Liaison for an all-women's off-road rally. Running my own clothing company

Lindsay (Rhew) Dean -- Owner of Lindsay Dean Weddings, Events and Design

Alicia (Vicencio) Espinoza, Communication. Community Organizer for Coalition of Drug Free Escondido with Escondido Education COMPACT and mother of one.

Lauren (Booth) Holl -- Marketing Associate at Barney & Barney.

Leann (Knitter) Hollis -- Wife, new mom, and director of marketing and communications for a private middle and high school.

Shanae (Gilliland) Johnson, Communication. Owner of The Fit

Mill in Carlsbad. Lives in Oceanside with her husband and raising their three kids.

Lindsey King, Communication, Senior Event Coordinator for the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series.

Rebecca Hakebar Lemes -- MASP graduate and Director of Global Mobility.

Patrick Liston – Currently works as a Transportation Security Specialist with the Special Enforcement Program Office in Aviation Compliance Branch in Washington DC.

April (McNallen) Maniscalco -- High school counselor at Canyon Crest Academy and mom to twins.

Louis Mayo -- Filmmaker and owner of Viewbilty Productions. Los Angeles, CA

Kristina (Pruett) Rawlins -- Event Sales Manager at Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens - Liberty Station.

Brittany Wong, Communication, Palomar College Transfer Specialist and MSW graduate student.

IN MEMORIAM:

SOPHIA SHEIKH

The Department sends condolences to family and friends of Sophia Sheikh. A close friend of Sophia's contacted the department with news of her recent passing.

Sophia had fond memories of her time in the department and of particular faculty. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication in 2011. Then, in 2013, began graduate school and earned a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Global Business in 2015 from University of Phoenix. She was in the midst of completing her doctoral program. *You will be missed Sophia.*