Daily Titan wins 53 journalism awards

The Daily Titan won 53 awards during the 2017-2018 academic year, perhaps a record in the impressive, 59-year legacy of independent student journalism at Cal State Fullerton.

The Daily Titan has thrived under the guidance of faculty advisers Bonnie Stewart (editorial) and Michelle Kurland (advertising), both full-time lecturers in the Department of Communications.

The student-run print and online news organization was named first-place best-in-show from the Associated Collegiate Press. It was named “Most Outstanding College Newspaper” by the American Scholastic Press Association. And it was a finalist for best daily student newspaper by the Los Angeles Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists.

As a testament to its online strategies, the Daily Titan also won awards for best news website, social media platform, multimedia package, and multimedia presentation. Students also won dozens of awards.

COMM expands digital skills curriculum

Communication majors starting this fall will be required to take a newly designed digital skills course, one of many curriculum changes approved by the faculty to keep classes and programs at the cutting edge of professional change.

The course, called Digital Foundations, introduces students to concepts and tools they will use to write, design, lay out and produce content in their upper-level courses. Students produce digital work through five modules focusing on typography, photo editing, multi-page layout, video, and a .pdf portfolio. The course includes a web-based lecture and in-person lab. Students will learn how to use a new e-portfolio system, called Portfolium, that they will use in classes and as part of their capstone exit requirement.

Johnson leaves lasting legacy

Dr. Carolyn "CJ" Johnson, who spent 38 years on the faculty of the Department of Communications, died Nov. 7, 2017, at the age of 76.

Dr. Johnson was a beloved professor and colleague, known for her optimism and friendliness. She was one of the Department’s first female professors, hired in 1972.

Over the years, she served in many important Department roles, including as acting department chair, internship coordinator and Daily Titan adviser.

She was the national president of Women in Communications in 1981-1982 and a member since 1968.

She stayed connected to CSUF after retirement. In 2016, she established the Journalism Endowment Fund, which generates $1,000 annually. The college’s internship office was renamed the Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson Internship Office.

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Daily Titan wins 53 awards in 2017-2018

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of awards for writing, reporting, photography, design, and illustration.

Student Bryant Freese also won numerous awards for his investigative story on turmoil inside the women's basketball team that led to the departure of the team's coach. Freese's story won first place in the national Hearst Awards Competition, with a $3,000 prize and matching grant to the Department, as well as top reporting awards from the American Scholastic Press Association and the California College Media Association.

On the advertising side, students won awards for audience engagement strategy, guerrilla marketing, promotional materials, special sections, display ads, and fun page.

A full listing of awards follows:

Los Angeles Press Club 60th SoCal Journalism Awards 2018
1. Best College Newspaper: Third Place, Daily Titan.
2. Best News Website: Third Place, Daily Titan.
4. Best News Photo: Finalist, Fernando Salazar, “Police in Riot Gear handle crowds for Milo Yiannopoulos Event”
5. Best Feature Photo: First Place, Katie Albertson, “Queens slay CSUF annual Drag Show”
7. Best Feature Photo: Finalist, Katie Albertson, “Celebrating Black History Month at CSUF”
8. Best News Writing, Breaking News: First Place, Brandon Pho, Amy Wells and Breanna Belken, “Protests Break Out at Milo Yiannopoulos’ Halloween event at CSUF”
9. Best News Writing: Second Place, Brandon Pho, “Families lose loved ones to Orange County’s opioid crisis”
12. Best Feature Writing: Third Place, Paolena Comouche and Sarah Wolstoncroft, “Santa Ana Homeless Find Comfort and Protection in their Pets; Fear Losing Them”
14. Best Personality Profile: Finalist, Kathryn Padilla, “CSUF’s Morgan Bertsch goes from backup to MVP”

Heast Sports Writing Competition 2018
15. First Place, Bryant Freese, “Daron Park exits Cal State Fullerton women’s basketball amid allegations of misconduct”

American Scholastic Press Association, Newspaper Awards 2018
16. Most Outstanding College Newspaper: Daily Titan
17. Scholastic Newspaper Award, Universities enrollment 2,501+: First Place, Daily Titan
18. Outstanding Investigative Reporting: Bryant Freese, “Daron Park exits Cal State Fullerton women’s basketball amid allegations of misconduct”

Society of Professional Journalists Region 11 Mark of Excellence Awards 2018
21. Sporting Writing: Finalist, Harrison Faigen
22. General Column Writing: Finalist, Kaleb Stewart
23. Sports Column Writing: Finalist, Harrison Faigen
24. Photo Illustration: Finalist, Katie Albertson and Cathryn Edwards
25. Online Sports Reporting: Finalist, Harrison Faigen and Gabe Gandara

Above, The Daily Titan was nominated for 14 awards by the Los Angeles Press Club at its 60th Annual SoCal Journalism Awards gala at the Biltmore Hotel Downtown Los Angeles in June. Students and faculty attend the Associated Collegiate Press annual convention in Long Beach. Right, advertising students win awards at the College Media Business and Advertising Managers conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Pictured left to right: Niko Elvambuena, Marissa Li, Sandra Bayoud, Thomas Dunne and Anthony Ramirez.

College Media Association National Convention 2018
26. Best game story: Harrison Faigen, “Clutch plays from Kyron Cartwright power Providence to Big East title game” (New York Sports Writing Competition Covering Big East Tournament)

Associated Collegiate Press National Convention 2018
27. Best of Show Newspapers 4-year More than Weekly: First Place, Daily Titan
28. Best of Show Newspaper Special Edition: Fourth Place, Daily Titan
29. Best of Show Multimedia Package: Third Place, Daily Titan

California College Media Association Awards 2018
30. Best Sports Story: First Place, Bryant Freese “Head Coach Out After Turbulent Tenure”
31. Best Social Media Platform: Third Place, Twitter, Daily Titan Staff
32. Best News Series: Third Place, Sarah Wol...
Bonnie Stewart won the Rick D. Pullen Academic Excellence Award and was named by the faculty as the 2018 Distinguished Full-Time Faculty Member. Stewart joined the faculty in 2013 following a 30-year career in journalism and journalism education, including at the Indianapolis Star, the Indianapolis News, and Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Stewart is the author of No. 9: The 1968 Farmington Coal Mine Disaster and successfully fought a subpoena in 2015 for her notes and interview transcripts as part of a lawsuit filed against a coal company in part as a result of her reporting.

At CSUF, Stewart manages crises on call 24 hours/7 days a week as adviser of the Daily Titan. She leads dozens of students on more than 10 trips to student media conferences across the country; advocates passionately and thoughtfully for student First Amendment rights; was the inaugural instructor of a new required multimedia reporting class; coordinated acquisition and roll-out of student multimedia equipment and backpack journalism kits; brought back to life specialized electives in public affairs and investigative reporting; built relationships with professional experts across the country to provide professional mentorship to students; revamped a defunct student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ); and led curriculum and assessment efforts.

In 2016, Stewart was recognized with a CSUF university-wide “outstanding teaching” award. “In her role as advisor of the Daily Titan for the last five years, Bonnie demonstrates calm, confident leadership,” one faculty member wrote in nominating Stewart. “Bonnie is an informed, articulate advocate for student First Amendment rights on our campus. She doesn’t stand in front of her students by sheltering them or telling them what to do. Instead, she gets out of the way and stands behind her students, supporting and encouraging their work and advocacy.”

The Pullen award, created by Dean Emeritus Rick Pullen, is presented to one professor in the College of Communications who has made a significant contribution to teaching and enhancement of the learning environment. Past recipients include: Kenneth Tom, COMD (2017); Andi Stein, COMM (2016); Jeanine Congalton, HCOM (2015); Jule Selbo, CTVA (2014); Carolyn Coal, COMM (2013); Edith Li, COMD (2012), and Philippe Perebinossoff, CTVA (2011).

Daily Titan wins 53 journalism awards in 2017-2018

33. Best Multimedia Presentation: Honorable Mention, Brandon Pho, Megan Masey, Tracey Hoang, Gabe Gandara, Bailey Carpenter, Hannah Miller “CSUF in Disarray as protests erupt, Milo Halloween event”
34. Best Breaking News Story: Honorable Mention, Sarah Wolstoncroft and Brandon Pho “Protest Ends in Altercation (Eric Canin)”
35. Best Sports Photo: Third Place, Katie Albertson, “Homeless in OC”
37. Best Classified/Fun Page or Section: Honorable Mention, Leisure Page
38. Best Commentary/Critique: Second Place: Katie Albertson, “Timely Reasons ‘Grass Gothic’ is Scary for Very Human”
39. Best Half Page or Larger Display Ad – Color: 3rd Place, “Vida Health Center”
40. Best Art Direction: Second Place, Daily Titan Ads, Media Kit
41. Best Advertising Special Section: Second Place, Daily Titan Ads, “Vida Health Center”
42. Sports Writing: Second Place, Harrison Faigen CSUF Fullerton-Daily Titan, “The friendship that’s fueled Cal State Fullerton baseball”
43. Sports Game Story: Finalist, Harrison Faigen, CSU Fullerton-Daily Titan, “CSUF Women’s Soccer Fails in Big West Tournament”
44. Sports Game Story: Finalist, Yarelys Sanchez-Aguilera. “CSUF Men’s Soccer Dominates Sac State in 3-1 home win”
45. News Photo; Finalist, Fernando Salazar, “Riot Police and People Gather Outside Milo Yiannopoulos Event at CSUF”
46. Sports Action Photo, Finalist: Katie Albertson, Sports Action Photo, “Titan basketball player targets the basket”
47. Photo Illustration: Second Place, Staff, “CSUF in shock after Las Vegas Terrorist Attack”
48. Illustration: Finalist, Hannah Miller, “Homeless are stereotyped”
49. Best Commentary/Critique: Second Place: Kaleb Stewart, “CSUF’s Production of ‘Tallgrass Gothic’ is Scary for Very Human and Timely Reasons”
50. Best Arts or Entertainment Photo: Second Place, Katie Albertson, “Queens Slay”
51. Best Arts or Entertainment Photo: Third Place, Katie Albertson, “Lupe Fiasco”
52. Best Feature Photo: Third Place, Katie Albertson, “Hispanic Heritage Celebrated”
53. Best Arts or Entertainment Feature: Finalist: Elizabeth Hummer, “Mother and Daughter Bring Syrian Culture to Campus”
Ken Hagihara was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in June in Pearl Harbor aboard Battleship Missouri.

Ken Hagihara, a full-time lecturer in the Department of Communications, was promoted this summer to the rank of lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy.

As a Navy public affairs officer (PAO) assigned to Navy Reserve Commander, U.S. Third Fleet Headquarters, one of Ken’s highest-profile responsibilities is to serve as the outreach officer for the annual Los Angeles Fleet Week event.

He also serves as a Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) action officer and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) officer responsible for providing rapid response as a Navy liaison to civil authorities when catastrophic disasters occur.

As part of his HA/DR responsibilities, he spent three weeks in Hawaii this summer working side-by-side with the staff of the Japanese National Defense Forces training to respond to a catastrophic disaster in the Pacific arena.

Ken has served in the active and reserve components of the United States military for nearly 24 years. He served four years active duty as an enlisted member in the Air Force where he trained to become an electronic technician. After leaving the active duty, he served another 10 years in the California Air National Guard where he was the non-commissioned officer in charge of a tactical satellite communications workcenter in a combat communications squadron.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in communications from Cal State Fullerton and starting his own PR agency, he decided he wanted to become a Navy PAO. He applied to become a Navy PAO and was one of only 15 people selected out of over 1,000 applicants. He received his commission in 2008 and is completing his first decade of service as a naval officer.

At CSUF, Hagihara teaches courses in public relations, serves as the adviser to the student chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), and is one of the instructors of PRactical Advantage Communications, the student PR and advertising agency.
Coal releases documentary film

Associate Professor Carolyn Coal’s newest documentary film was released to critical acclaim. “I am Known as an Artist, Wharton Esherick,” first premiered in the fall at the Barnes Foundation, a museum in Philadelphia. The film tells the story of the work of Esherick, a mid-century wood sculptor who influenced the American Studio Craft movement.

“This beautifully shot and masterfully edited documentary is a great watch and an important landmark for anyone interested in the history of American decorative arts, Studio crafts in general, and the world of one of the greatest furniture designers in modern times,” according to a review on the web site Popular Woodworking.

Coal spent three years working on the film. According to the video’s web site, whartonesherick documentary.com: “The Wharton Esherick Documentary came about after filmmaker Carolyn Coal visited Esherick’s magical studio outside Philadelphia in the winter of 2013. Inspired by Esherick’s creativity, Coal sought permission from the Esherick Museum and began shooting in the spring of 2014. Flying back and forth from Los Angeles to Philadelphia over the next two summers, Coal scanned hundreds of photographs, dubbed hours of pre-recorded oral histories, and interviewed a variety of wood experts, historians, contemporary wood artists, members of the Esherick Museum staff, former Esherick patrons, family members, and the grandson of Esherick’s most significant patron. With the museum’s support, Coal launched a successful Kickstarter campaign in the summer of 2016, which provided finishing funds and the project was completed in June 2017.”

Coal also discussed her creative process in a TEDx talk last year.

Avni’s students win in advertising bootcamp

Assaf Avni accompanied about 40 COMM students at the OneClub/72 & Sunny LA Creative Bootcamp this month. Students were mentored by ad agency experts to produce a creative campaign for Starbucks over four days. Three teams of COMM students, comprising nine students in all, won awards in the competition.

Kesler leads COMM in AAF competition

Keith Kesler’s students participated in the AAF/NSAC competition this year and won 4th place. The 21-student CSUF team won the “Special Judges Award.” The client was the OceanSpray brand, and the goal was to create interest with millennials. Chapman University hosted.

Coal’s students check out 3% Movement

Carolyn Coal attended the 3% Movement Mini-Con with eight advertising students in Los Angeles in April. The 3% Movement came about when senior advertising creative, Kat Gordon, discovered that only 3% of the creative directors working in the ad business were women, so she made it her mission to create gender parity and greater diversity within the industry. Gordon and Adobe Systems invited 25 regional “Students Scholars” for a day of speakers and a mentor lunch.
Faculty in the Department of Communications gave research presentations, published research and attended conferences during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Dr. Christina Ceisel presented a paper titled "Land and Labor: Emergent Populism in Post-Crash Galicia, Spain" at the Union for Democratic Communications Conference at Loyola University in Chicago in May 2018; and presented "Cities as Sites: To make the tea, to read what the tea leaves", at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in May 2018.

Carolyn Coal gave a presentation at the TEDx Wilmington Conference in Delaware in December 2017; attended a workshop, "Rising Strong for Professional Women," in San Francisco in June 2018; and participated in a visiting professor program at Fordham University in New York in June 2018.

Dr. Emily Erickson presented a paper titled "You Can’t Be Serious: Problems of Facticity and Plausible Nonfactual Assertions’ In Defamation Law," at the annual convention of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) in Las Vegas in April 2018.

Dr. Anthony Fellow gave a presentation titled "Tweeting to Freedom: The Use of Social Media in Fomenting Revolutions Around the World" at the Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Conference at Hawaii University in Honolulu, Hi, in January 2018; and gave a presentation with the same title at the CSUF’s Library Faculty Noontime Lecture Series in February 2018.

Dr. Dean Kazoleas presented a paper titled "Public Relations 2050: Preparing PR Students for a Domestic and International Multicultural Communications Future," at the Educators Academy of the Public Relations Association of America in Boston, MA, in October 2017.

Marie Loggia-Kee published an essay in the anthology #MeToo: Essays About How and Why This Happened under her author writing name Louisa Bacio.


Dr. Penchan Phoborisut presented a paper titled "Thailand 4.0: Reading the Military Junta’s Road Map" at the Association for Asian Studies 2018 conference in Washington, DC in March 2018; co-organized the Thailand Update 2018: Towards Thailand 4.0 at Columbia University’s Weatherhead’s East Asian Institute on March 27, 2018.

Dr. Waleed Rashidi won a top faculty paper award for his research presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Washington, D.C. in August 2018.

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds presented two research studies to the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality in Atlanta, GA in November 2017; presented a paper at the International Communications Association conference in Prague, Czech Republic in May 2018; published a journal article titled "Building Theory From Media Ideology: Coding for Power in Journalistic Discourse," an essay about critical-qualitative research methods in journalism studies, in the Journal of Communication Inquiry, released in May 2018; and presented on four panels, including on online trolls, objectivity in the Trump era, the #metoo movement, and offensive speech, at the annual convention AEJMC in Washington, D.C., in August 2018.

Dr. Frank Russell presented research at the annual conference of the International Association of Media and Communication Research in Eugene, OR, in June 2018. During 2017-18, journals published two articles based on Russell’s dissertation: “The New Gatekeepers: An Institutional-level View of Silicon Valley and the Disruption of Journalism” in Journalism Studies and “Twitter continued on next page..."
and News Gatekeeping: Interactivity, Reciprocity, and Promotion in News Organizations’ Tweets” in Digital Journalism.

Dr. Jason Shepard presented a paper at the Faculty Conference on Academic Freedom of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education in Dallas, TX, in October 2017; presented a paper at the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Conference at Hawaii University, Honolulu, HI, in January 2018; presented the “Media Law Update 2018” at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Faculty Midwinter Conference in Cambria, CA, in February 2018; gave a presentation on digital privacy at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State Fullerton in March 2018; gave a presentation about public records laws at the San Bernardino City County Conference in Lake Arrowhead, CA, in June 2018; published a law journal article titled, “Culture Wars on Campus: Academic Freedom, the First Amendment and Partisan Outrage in Polarized Times” in the San Diego Law Review in July 2018; and moderated and served on panels about torts, offensive speech, and student PR/advertising agency operations at the annual convention of AEJMC in Washington, D.C. in August 2018.

Dr. Andi Stein gave a presentation at the CSUF library’s Library Faculty Noontime Lecture Series titled “Why We Love Disney” in March 2018.

Dr. Doug Swanson moderated a panel titled “The University Student-Run Public Relations Agency: Opportunities and Challenges for Programs Large and Small,” sponsored by the Public Relations Division and the Small Programs Interest Group, at the annual convention of AEJMC in Washington, D.C. in August 2018.

Dr. Christina Ceisel’s first book, Globalized Nostalgia: Tourism, Heritage, and the Politics of Place, has been published by Routledge.

The book examines many themes in tourism communications. From Routledge: “In Globalized Nostalgia, Christina Ceisel shows how national identity is being remade for the global marketplace. Through media, cultural events, foodways, and personal narratives, we see how notions of the past are mobilized towards varied political, economic, and cultural ends.

“In Galicia, Spain, Ceisel points towards tourism as one mode of cosmopolitan engagement, revisiting food festivals, wine tours, fishing excursions and reality television shows. She identifies globalized nostalgia as a feeling deeply connected to national identity — that these ‘performances’ of tourist activity rely on claims to an authentic past based on "heritage" for value to the consumer. While such strategies work to brand the nation, Ceisel demonstrates how they may also be employed towards emancipation and an inclusive participatory democracy.

“Placing her own lived experience within the context of our historical present, relying on interpretive methods, including performance autoethnography, Ceisel highlights the tensions embedded in contemporary transnational cultural politics. Through the development of innovative methodological tools, Ceisel points towards new ways of thinking about the politics of belonging. Ultimately, Ceisel argues that we need to reorient our understandings of authenticity and heritage to accommodate the realities of hybridity and diaspora.”

Dr. Ceisel joined the Department of Communications in 2015 after working as a visiting professor at Hamilton College. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

At CSUF, Dr. Ceisel teaches several courses, including COMM 410: Principles of Communications Research; COMM 446: Entertainment and Society; and COMM 449: Capstone - Entertainment and Tourism Communications.
Students inducted into KTA honors society

The Department of Communications inducted more than a dozen students into the Terry Hynes Chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha and its annual induction ceremony on May 15, 2018.

Dr. Andi Stein, the chapter’s advisor, hosted a lunch reception for the students, their family, and the faculty.

CSUF hosts JACC conference

COMM faculty played leadership roles in hosting the 2017 Southern California regional conference of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges in October. Dr. Waleed Rashidi helped coordinate the event as the 4-year university representative on the JACC board. Faculty presented on a variety of topics, including Reporting on Sexuality, Gender and LGBTQ (Dr. Chelsea Reynolds), Visual Storytelling on Social Platforms (Dr. Penchan Phoborisut), Watchdog Journalism: Finding and Telling Truth (Bonnie Stewart) and Writing for Social Media: Here’s the Formula (Dr. Frank Russell). Walt Baranger gave the keynote address.

Students inducted into KTA honors society

Gene Park, a COMM alum and former Daily Titan staffer, invited Department Chair Dr. Jason Shepard and Interim Associate Dean Doug Swanson on a tour of the Washington Post newsroom in August 2018.

MA students present projects

Six graduate students presented their graduate projects to Department of Communications faculty in May. The projects require students to work with a client and develop a communications plan. Dr. Cynthia King teaches the graduate projects class.

Agency Board reviews projects

PRactical ADvantage Communications convened the first meeting of its Agency Advisory Board on February 22. The five-member board will help support the agency and its three class sections. The board members are: Jasminne Carrillo, Integrated Media Planner/Buyer at Walton Isaacson and a 2012 PR AD COMM graduate; Marie Montgomery, Public Relations/Corporate Communications / Media Relations for the Automobile Club of Southern California and CSUF communications alumna; Ingrid Otero Smart, President/CEO of Casanova/McCann; Aaron Teats, Vice President/Chief Marketing Officer of the Anaheim Ducks and CSUF communications grad; and Barry Westrum, Chief Marketing Officer of Del Taco Restaurants and a CSUF communications grad.
The Department’s efforts on Latino Communications initiatives continue to expand thanks to its partnership with the newly named Latino Communications Institute. LCI Director Dr. Inez Gonzalez and LCI won the 2018 “Stewards in Place” Award from the CSUF Center for Internships & Community Engagement for outstanding high impact practices in campus community partnerships.

Gonzalez and LCI have been instrumental in securing high quality internships for many students. Also this year, this year the PRSA Foundation Latino PRIME Scholars Summer Internship program selected four of our LCI students to be involved with their program. This is the second year that the LCI partners with PRSA Foundation to identify top student talent and match them with top employers. LCI’s founding sponsor Southwest Airlines provided round-trip tickets for the interns in New York and San Francisco.

Students win BEA awards

COMM students won two awards in student competitions from the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts competition. Abbey Fernandez won for a TV feature produced for Al Dia and aired on Univision. Lecturer Jesus Ayala is the Al Dia advisor. Cassidy Jo Fortin and Nathan Jeffers also won for a promotional video for Titan Communications.

PRSSA hosts conference

The CSUF chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), led by advisor Ken Hagihara, held a successful “Next Generation PR” conference at Cal State Fullerton the weekend of April 7.

The PRSSA hosted 300 students from universities throughout much of the West as well as local high school and community college students. A nine-student team spent a year preparing, planning and promoting the regional conference.

COMM hosts faculty lunches

Department Chair Dr. Jason Shepard led two professional development lunches for department full-time lecturers and new tenure-track faculty, thanks to small monthly philanthropic gifts earmarked to the Department by donors.

Tusk wins awards, publishes new issue

The 2017 edition of Tusk Magazine won several awards, including the Apple Award for Best Magazine Spread (third place) at the 2018 College Media Association Convention in New York City and Best Feature Magazine (sixth place) at the 2018 Associated Collegiate Press Midwinter convention in Long Beach. Congrats to last year’s adviser, Dr. Frank Russell!

In May, Tusk released its 2018 issue under new advisor Dr. Chelsea Reynolds.

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University President Fram Virjee and his wife Julie attend the Tusk Magazine launch party and visit Dr. Chelsea Reynolds, the new Tusk advisor, and student editor Lauren Hofer.

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COMM Week celebrates 40 years

Nearly 60 speakers visited Cal State Fullerton during the week of April 23 for the 40th anniversary of the COMM Week conference. Special events included Career Connections, the ETC Annual Industry & Alumni Mixer, Ad Con Day and the PRSSA Gala.

The Department also hosted a 40th anniversary reception for COMM Week prior to the Department’s Awards Dinner. Dr. Ed Trotter sponsored the open bar. Dr. Waleed Rashidi and his COMM 497T class led the planning and coordination of the week-long conference.

Speakers included: Court of Appeals Justice Tricia Bigelow, a COMM alum, hosted by Dr. Jason Shepard; Deanne Thompson, PR manager for the John Wayne Airport, hosted by Dr. Gail Love; Samanaz Kapadia, senior manager of programming logistics for Fox Sports, hosted by Elise Anguizola-Assaf; Linda Luna-Franks, executive director of Kid Healthy, hosted by Michelle Kurland; and Seth Liss, content director of Tribune Interactive, and Sonya Quick, digital editor of Voice of OC, hosted by Dr. Frank Russell.

Above, Dr. Henry Puente and Dr. Waleed Rashidi pose for a photo at the COMM Week 40th Anniversary Reception. Right, Dr. Ed Trotter toasts the reception crowd. Below, SPI President Megan Maxey welcomes Daily Titan alumni for a panel discussion, including Spencer Custodio of Voice of OC, Rudy Chinchilla of NBC4 Los Angeles, Alex Groves of Valley News and Jennifer Karmarkar of the Orange County Register.

779 students graduated COMM in May 2018
COMM packs TSU for annual awards gala

The Department of Communications recognized top students and awarded $40,000+ in scholarships at its annual Awards and Scholarships Dinner on April 26.

The event reached maximum capacity at the Titan Student Union, with more than 300 guests attending.

Department Chair Dr. Jason Shepard welcomed the students and their guests, along with emcee Henry DiCarlo of the KTLA 5 Morning News, a COMM alum.

In addition to the student awards, Bonnie Stewart was recognized as the Distinguished Faculty Member (Full-Time) and Assaf Avni as the Distinguished Faculty Member (Part-Time).

Mark Eades, Stephanie Miranda, Aaron Teats, and Barry Westrum were inducted into the Department’s Alumni Wall of Fame.

Dr. Carolyn “CJ” Johnson was named posthumously as the Department’s Communicator of the Year, and Dr. Andi Stein and Dean Emeritus Dr. Rick Pullen spoke on her behalf.

The event was put together by the Department’s Awards Committee, chaired by Beth Georges, and included Michael McAlexander, Dr. Henry Puente and Keith Kesler.

A team from PRactical ADvantage Communications helped coordinate.

Jenny Amaro-Bussey, the department’s administrative support coordinator, and Cristina Prado, administrative support assistant, helped with every detail.

Dr. Ed Trotter, professor emeritus, contributed financially with the event.

From left to right, top to bottom: Students pose for photos during and after the dinner. Michelle Kurland and Dr. Robert Meeds present advertising student awards. Ken Hagihara and Dr. Dean Kazoleas present public relations student awards. Dr. Christina Casel and Micheal McAlexander present entertainment tourism student awards. Bonnie Stewart and Beth Georges present journalism student awards. Dr. Penchan Phoaborisut and Dr. Frank Russell present scholarships. Julio Bermejo and Dr. Chelsea Reynolds present scholarships. Four new alumni are inducted into the Alumni Wall of Fame with Micheal McAlexander.
The Department of Communications would like to congratulate our 2018 awards and scholarships winners!

**AWARDS**

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Society of Professional Journalists Scholarship</th>
<th>Miven Venture Partners Scholarship</th>
<th>Guadalupe Austin Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kaila Cruz</td>
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<td>Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore Scholarship</td>
<td>Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship</td>
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<td>James Alexander Scholarship</td>
<td>Vikki Vargas/NBC4 Broadcast</td>
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<td>Laura Min Brooks Comm Week</td>
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<td>Jay Berman Daily Titan Scholarship</td>
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<td>Bergstrom Family Scholarship</td>
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| Guadalupe Austin Scholarship | Justin Marsden | 
| Jennifer Montgomery | Nicole Mesaros | 
| Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship | Chelsea Anne Montefalcon | 
| Bibi Hernandez | Brahma Mae Muldez | 
| Vikki Vargas/NBC4 Broadcast Journalism Scholarship | Duong Nguyen | 
| Christian Aguilar | Tram Ngoc Phuong | 
| John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship | Nguyen | 
| Kayla Baker | Amanda Hodgen | 
| Francisco Barajas | Alex Hsu | 
| Jillian Becker | Alex Hsu | 
| Alexandra Bouras | Diana Ramirez | 
| William Dang | Zackary Johnston | 
| Madison Foster | Samantha Rodriguez | 
| Alessandra Heck | Grace Kim | 
| Amanda Lam | Rosa Soto | 
| Chau Le | Tania Thorne | 
| Jesse Lima | Tonjanie Watson | 
| Christine Ysidoro | 

**Wall of Fame Inductees**

- Mark Eades
- Stephanie Miranda
- Aaron Teats
- Barry Westrum

**Distinguished Communicator Award**

- Carolyn Johnson

**James P. Alexander Outstanding Communications Internship Site Award**

- Grange Cost Magazine

**Distinguished Part-Time Faculty**

- Asaf Avni

**Distinguished Faculty Member**

- Bonnie E. Stewart