

COMM pivots during pandemic

Internships go virtual for stay at home

As Cal State Fullerton moved to mandatory virtual instruction this spring, 276 students in the Department of Communications were required to shift course midway through their spring semester internships.



Steering the ship was the steady hand of lecturer **Amber Chitty Wilson**, the Department's internship coordinator.

"We received the order that we had to move off campus, and within two days we had a plan out to students," Wilson said. "They didn't lose any time."

The Department's mandatory internship program has been one of its signature programs for decades.

Last year, Wilson was named CSUF's "Extraordinary Faculty Internship Coordinator" for her outstanding leadership of the program.

In March, as the state stay-at-home order began, *continued on page 6*



Photo courtesy CSUF/Matt Gush

Student journalists report stories of a lifetime

Student journalists at the *Daily Titan*, *OC News*, *Tusk Magazine* and *Al Día* faced a professional crisis in March – how do you report on one of the biggest news stories of a lifetime while working at home?

The journalists in the Department of Communications quickly adapted to producing news while working from home under the support of their advisers: lecturer **Beth Georges** (*OC News*); **Dr. Chelsea Reynolds** (*Tusk*);



lecturer **Jesús Ayala** (*Al Día*); and lecturers **Walt Baranger** (*Daily Titan* editorial) and **Michelle Kurland** (*Daily Titan* advertising). *continued on page 18*



PR students help owners 'Tuff it Out'

Lecturer **Ken Hagihara** launched an army of public relations students this summer to help small businesses struggling because of the pandemic.



Hagihara got the idea after talking with the owners of a neighborhood donut shop struggling to survive as a result of dwindling customers during the stay-at-home order.

The "Tuff It Out" initiative aims to help small businesses conduct communications campaigns to attract customers to their businesses.

More than 50 upper-division public relations students in the Department of Communications volunteered to participate in the project. Many of them are members of CSUF's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), which Hagihara advises.

"Most of the students *continued on page 5*

COMM pride shines through tough times

I hope you brim with Titan Pride while reading about the successes of our faculty, staff, students and programs in the Department of Communications.

At 20 pages, this edition of the bi-annual Department newsletter is the biggest ever.

These pages are intended to highlight the Department's collective successes during these most unusual of times.

Of course, the theme running through these pages is how we've adapted to mandatory virtual instruction and the in-person closing of campus during the spring and summer.

Since California's stay-at-home orders in March as the result of COVID-19, most of us have adapted to teaching and learning from home.

While some are thriving, for others it has been difficult.

A survey of Department faculty in late spring revealed that our faculty and students are having a range of experiences with teaching and learning.

Students did well in adjusting to changing course expectations but had difficulty with time management and meeting deadlines. Some faculty worried that student engagement and morale had declined.

The survey, led by **Dr. Doug Swanson**, helped shape professional development opportunities as the Department's faculty prepare for a most unusual academic year.

The Department of Communications has come a long way since it was born 60 years ago, in 1960, when Bill Maxwell formed the Department of Journalism as part of the University's founding. Faculty pivoted in 1965 to become the Department of Communications, presciently embracing the broader academic discipline of journalism and mass communications.

Today, the Department of Communications offers a 39-unit major in Communications, with concentrations



The Department of Communications faculty at the Fall 2019 retreat at the Coyote Hills Country Club. The Department's Fall 2020 retreat will be conducted via Zoom as Cal State Fullerton begins the 2020-2021 academic year mostly virtual as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

in journalism, public relations and advertising, and entertainment and tourism communications.

The Department also offers four new certificates in Digital Communications Media, Photocommunications, Radio/Audio, and Spanish for Hispanic Media, adding opportunities for students in all concentrations to develop additional specialties.

The Department remains, by far, the largest mass communications program in the CSU and one of the largest mass communications programs in the United States.

We face tough times ahead. Guiding us will be our faculty's unanimously approved Strategic Plan and Diversity & Inclusion Plan for 2019-2024. They will help us stay focused on collective priorities, organized around four broad goals of the University's Strategic Plan.

Specifically, the faculty's priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan are to:

- Protect, enhance and promote our signature programs and high impact practices.
- Examine and enhance curriculum, including through faculty-led assessment of teaching and learning.
- Increase student enrollment to remain one of the largest mass communications departments in

the U.S.

- Improve communications to increase student engagement with signature programs and graduation pathways.
- Enhance faculty and staff recruitment and retention to increase diversity, including by gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and background.
- Provide support and recognition for excellence in faculty teaching, research and service and staff support.
- Engage more regularly and meaningfully with alumni and professional partners.
- Expand physical space and increase financial resources.

The Department's Diversity and Inclusion Plan affirms our commitment to a diverse faculty, diverse students, and a diverse curriculum, with several strategies and objectives for each.

These are our guiding priorities as we look to an uncertain future. Given our faculty's track record of successes, including those outlined in these pages, I'm hopeful we'll continue to rise to the challenges we face.

*Dr. Jason Shepard,
Professor and Chair*

Faculty tenured, promoted

Three faculty members in the Department of Communications received tenure and promotion in June following final approval by the Provost.



Carolyn Coal

Carolyn Coal earned promotion to full professor.

Coal is an award-winning writer and director with a portfolio in film and advertising who began her career in television and music video production.

As a copywriter, at GSD&M Advertising in Austin, she spearheaded an emerging media unit developing concepts for branded content and directed corporate videos. Returning to film and television, Coal produced multiple behind-the-scenes and First Look projects for major studios.

Before CSUF, Coal taught communications and film courses at Emerson College and

Chapman University.

At CSUF, Coal teaches advertising courses as well as writing for broadcast and film. She also is the popular advisor of Ad Club.



Micheal McAlexander

Micheal McAlexander earned tenure and promotion to full professor.

In addition to teaching visual communications and writing for broadcast and film, McAlexander is a film director and screenwriter. He has worked in various entertainment-related positions, including U.S. segment producer on several TV series for Japan's NTV Network, as an assistant to the producer on an independent feature film, writer/editor for several feature electronic press kits, and managed a heavy metal band.

McAlexander has an MFA in Film and Television production from University of Southern California and a B.A. in drama from UC-Irvine.



Dr. Frank Russell

Dr. Frank Russell earned early tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Dr. Russell's research focuses on how journalists and news organizations use digital technologies, including Silicon Valley social media platforms, to interact with citizens.

He teaches classes in news reporting, editing, design and production for digital and print media.

He has worked as a manager, editor, writer and designer for newspapers on the West Coast, including the *San Jose Mercury News*, *The Seattle Times*, the *Puget Sound Business Journal*; and the *Los Angeles Daily News*.

Dr. Russell earned a Ph.D. in journalism and a Center for the Digital Globe graduate certificate from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Russell earned a master's degree in mass communication and a bachelor's degree in journalism from San José State University. ■

Faculty take on leadership roles at AEJMC

Several faculty members in the Department of Communications were elected to leadership roles in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) at the association's annual convention in August.

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds was elected head of the LGBTQ Interest Group and the teaching chair for the Cultural & Critical Studies Division.

Dr. Waleed Rashidi will continue as newsletter editor for the Entertainment Studies Interest Group.

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne was elected co-mentorship chair of the Minorities and Communication Division.

Dr. Frank Russell will be continuing as a member of the AEJMC Presidential Committee on Careers.

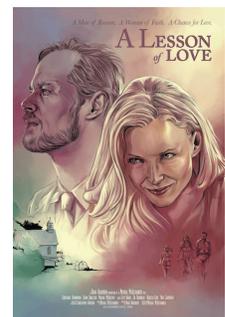
Dr. Jason Shepard began his three-year term on the Professional Freedom & Responsibility Committee, elected this year by the full membership.

Dr. Bey-Ling Sha will continue to represent the AEJMC on the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (term ends August 2021). ■

McAlexander's film debuts on Amazon

Micheal McAlexander's feature film debut, *A Lesson of Love*, is available on Amazon Prime.

McAlexander says it's been a long road to finish this labor of love project, but it's out in the world to watch on Amazon Prime. ■



Student Emmy tops student media awards

A student Emmy topped an impressive list of awards won by student media in the Department of Communications in Spring 2020.

Al Día's program "A Border Emergency," won a College Television Award in the Best TV News category from the Television Academy Foundation in May. The winning episode was created in Fall 2018 by students in COMM 438T: Reporting on Minorities.

Another Al Día program, Lo Que Esta Trending by Al Día, won first place in the "Disrupt the News Challenge" sponsored by the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) and TV NewsCheck.

At the Apple Awards competition in New York City in March held by the College Media Association (CMA), Al Día won first place for best TV newscast, and the *Daily Titan* won honorable mention in the "large university/best newspaper" category. Al Día adviser **Jesús Ayala**, *Daily Titan* adviser **Walt Baranger** and Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard** joined *Daily Titan* staff members Jessica Benda, Adam Maldonado, Jordan Mendoza and Kim Pham at the awards presentation in Manhattan.

The *Daily Titan*, *Tusk* and Al Día each won several awards from the California College Media Association (CCMA) this spring.

The *Daily Titan* won first place for best breaking news story, first place for best sports story, first place for best photo illustration, second place for best special issue/section, second place for best print advertisement, third place for best online advertisement, and third place for best non-breaking news story.

Tusk magazine took home first place honors for best print magazine. *Tusk* also won first place for best magazine story, second place for best magazine cover, first place for best magazine inside page/spread design, and third place for best digital magazine.

Al Día won first place for best news video and third place for best breaking news story.

At the annual awards ceremony from the College Media Business and Advertising Managers (CMBAM), the *Daily Titan* won second place for best audience engagement strategy, second place for best multimedia ad campaign,



Above, students and faculty attend the College Media Association Apple Awards Gala at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square in March. Below, *Daily Titan* adviser Walt Baranger gives students a tour of the Pulitzer Prizes won by the *New York Times*. Baranger retired from the *Times* as senior news editor before joining CSUF.



honorable mention for best group promotion, honorable mention for best self-branded promotion giveaway, and honorable mention for best self-promotion multimedia ad campaign.

Lastly, the *Daily Titan* won five awards in the California Journalism Awards competition, held by the California News Publishers Association. The awards included first place and fourth

place best sports action photo, fourth place best profile story, fifth place best news photo and fifth place general excellence.

Congratulations to the student journalists and their advisers, **Jesús Ayala** (Al Día), **Dr. Chelsea Reynolds** (*Tusk*), **Walt Baranger** (*Daily Titan* editorial) and **Michelle Kurland** (*Daily Titan* advertising). ■

Grad program earns high marks in review

The Department of Communications' graduate program successfully underwent a program performance review during the 2019-2020 academic year under the leadership of graduate program coordinator **Dr. Andi Stein**.

The process included a written self study and a site team visit of three people to evaluate the program.

The site visit report noted the program "is doing an exceptional job

in fulfilling its mission to provide quality instruction in theory, research, and practice in the field."

The site team also said, "The faculty and staff in the department are committed to the program and to the success of their students, as evidenced by the culture of service that charac-



terizes COMM. The department greatly benefits from strong leadership and advocacy from the graduate program coordinator as well as from the department chair."

In a written report, the Provost's office commended the department for the following:

- Leadership's longevity and strong institutional knowledge is a tremendous asset to the program;
- Faculty and staff report feeling valued as team members;
- Students participating in research with faculty reported great benefit to their studies;
- Students and alumni report engagement and favorable attitudes in flexibility to pursue specific areas of interest through research and 400-level elective courses;
- International student enrollment has remained steady;
- Graduate Coordinator's efforts in

recruiting students via graduate school fairs and presentations to prospective students is commendable;

- High quality faculty represent a broad range of practical and academic backgrounds;
- High quality advising reported by students;
- Increased diversification of students and faculty;
- Strong reputation as among the best Communications MA programs offered in the region and throughout the CSU system;
- Students working full time in the field of Communications are an asset to the program; and
- Student input on course scheduling is valued and collected via annual survey.

Recommendations for future efforts include resources for increasing recruitment, enrollment, partnerships. ■

Hagihara leads PR students in "Tuff It Out" campaign during pandemic

continued from page 1

signed to participate in the initiative back in April because they realized that this would be a great opportunity to obtain some real-world experience doing strategic PR work for an actual client," Hagihara said. "However, what kept them engaged and motivated as they worked with their clients throughout the entire summer was their desire to apply their communications knowledge and skills to help their clients keep their doors open."

Students were divided into account teams assigned to a business. Working closely with the business owners, they developed strategic communications plans tailored to the clients' unique situations and needs.

"I wanted to take on one last project to gain even more experience before I start looking for full-time careers in the public relations field," said graduating senior Quincy Gonzales. He said his team members were highly motivated.

"We have a good group dynamic and we share ideas and offer help. It's a great collaborative effort. The owner

of our restaurant also appreciates our work and dedication so that gives us a sense of pride in our work," Gonzales said.

Students also found support from celebrity chef Robert Irvine, of Food Network's "Restaurant Impossible." Irvine spent an hour with the students on a Zoom call coaching them on strategies and tactics to use with each of the individual restaurant clients.

"Each team was led by a recently-graduated student that completed the public relations capstone course this spring, so they were charged with the responsibility of understanding the clients and their challenges and developing and executing a strategic campaign to address the problem," Hagihara said. "The team leaders worked very closely with industry professionals throughout the project to ensure that this experience was as close as possible to working for an agency."

Student Vивиanna Cornejo signed up to "be part of something bigger."

"This was my first experience being in a leadership position, and as an

Account Executive I felt both intimidated and empowered. I appreciated this opportunity though, as it taught me how to manage a real-life team and client," Cornejo said. "Though there was a tremendous amount of responsibility on my shoulders, these past two months have taught me how to better produce creative, deadline-driven, and excellent content while managing my team, negotiating with my client and handling media relations. Learning to juggle many tasks at once was the greatest takeaway.

The businesses participating include Bollywood Zaika, an Indian restaurant in Redondo Beach; Creations by Design, a screen printing business in Mission Viejo; La Ranchera, a Mexican restaurant in La Habra; Let It Brie, a cheese store in Fullerton; Phantom Ales, a brewery/bar/restaurant in Anaheim; Revolucion 1910 Mexican Grill & Cantina, a bar/restaurant in Fullerton, Roadkill Ranch, a clothing store in Fullerton; Tails a Wag Inn, a pet boarding house, Fullerton; and Wood Café, a Thai restaurant, Fullerton. ■

Stein spots her book at Disney reading room



Dr. Andi Stein attended the opening of a new exhibit at the Bowers Museum, "Inside the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic," in the days before the pandemic shut down.

One of the rooms in the exhibit is set up to be a replica of the reading room at the Walt Disney Archives in Burbank. There are photos on the wall in this exhibit room that depict the actual bookshelves inside the reading room at the Archives.

It turns out that Dr. Stein's book *Why We Love Disney* is on one of these shelves at the Walt Disney Archives and can be seen in the photos at the Bowers Museum exhibit. ■

MA students defend final projects



Fourteen graduate students in the Department of Communications successfully defended their master's projects on Zoom in May.

Dr. Doug Swanson, instructor of the projects class, led them to the finish line.

This is the largest projects class the Department has seen in six years. ■

Internships go virtual in pandemic

continued from page 1

many employers paused their internships temporarily before adjusting logistics to accommodate remote work.

The vast majority of students in spring internships were able to complete their hours – with a success rate of 95%.

"Our students are resilient, and many of them dealt with this dynamic change to their competitive advantage," Wilson said.

"Despite COVID-19 interrupting some of our plans and tasks, we were still able to exceed our \$50,000 goal for Help Them Home, a 24-hour giving day that raised over \$1.2 million for Orange County's homeless population," said student Caroline Bilger, a communications/public relations major, about her internship with City Net.

About 23% of students couldn't complete their full 120 required hours with remote work, so they were allowed to complete their hours by taking online professional development modules through LinkedIn Learning.

The three most popular Learning Paths for Communications students were "Becoming a Digital Marketing Specialist," "Becoming a Social Media Advertising Specialist," and "Becoming a Social Media Marketer."

"I am very pleased with how the Communications Internship Program dealt with the COVID-19 situation. The LinkedIn Learning classes are actually very helpful and they've taught me a lot of skills that I can use in the future" said student Erin Dimayuga, a communications/entertainment and tourism major.

During the summer, 66 students enrolled in Department internships, all of which were conducted remotely.

The University's Center for Internships & Community Engagement has been a crucial partner, helping employers effectively manage virtual internships and providing a bridge between employers, Departments and students. Guidelines ask employers to identify 3-5 areas of professional growth for the intern, provide structured timely feedback and consistent communication and offer synchronous trainings and mentorship, among other things.

For fall, enrollment is on track for about 175 students. Wilson has tran-



Erin Dimayuga, a communications major with a concentration in entertainment and tourism major, completed her internship this spring at Legion Entertainment.

sitioned the mandatory internship orientation to a virtual format, and she's already helping students prepare for fall.

"Ideally, I recommend that students start applying to internships two to three months in advance of their anticipated start date, which for fall should be the first week of the semester," Wilson said.

For students who struggle, Wilson provides individual help and support.

"Professor Chitty, was exceptional in understanding each of the students and their situations after being affected by COVID-19. Professor Chitty has been proactive in reaching out to the students and making sure they have all the resources they need to successfully complete the internship course requirements," said communications/public relations major Brianne Hosford.

"I cannot tell you how appreciative I have been of Professor Wilson's ability to adapt to the current situations at hand. When my internship was cut abruptly, it took awhile for me to regain my mental self and come back to the changing reality. Professor Wilson has been a beacon of hope, keeping students on the right path even when it feels the floor is falling out right underneath them," said student Mackenzie Quinn, a communications/journalism major. ■

Comm Week convenes online for 42nd year

A global pandemic and campus shutdown were not enough to stop the 42nd annual Comm Week conference.

Due to COVID-19, Comm Week 2020 moved to a fully online conference platform for the first time in its 42-year history.

This was not an easy feat for Comm Week advisor **Dr. Waleed Rashidi**, and his students in COMM 497T: Event Planning and Management.

But, the show must go on -- and it did.



Comm Week
#JoinTheCommversation

Students had less than a month to scrap their original plans and find a suitable online alternative for one of the marquee events for the Department of Communications and the College of Communications.



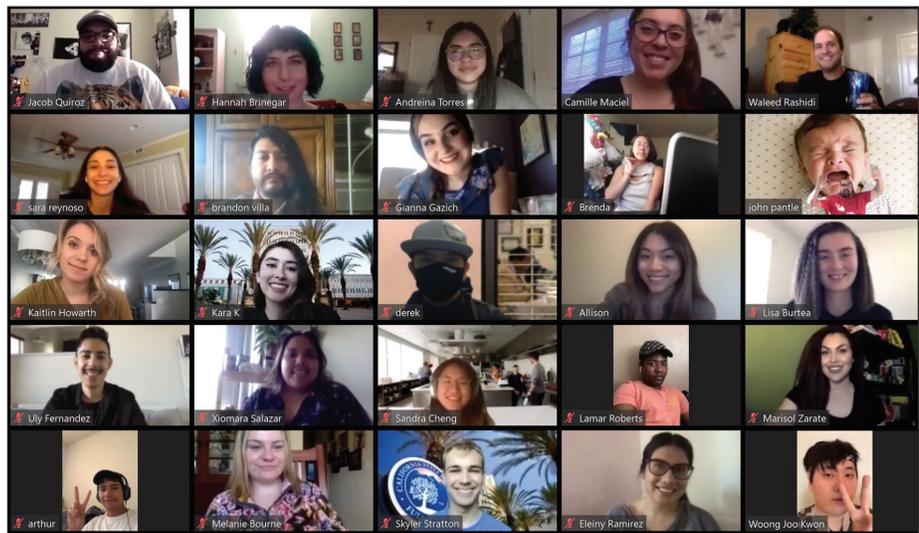
Students quickly adapted to learning digital tools to engage the broader campus community.

This year's conference from April 20 to 24 featured 22 diverse speakers in 16 separate events. The sessions were pre-recorded and posted on Comm Week's YouTube Channel, making this the first Comm Week fully accessible from anywhere in the world.

Three live Zoom presentations were also part of the Comm Week 2020 schedule.

Over 3,600 video views in total were logged by the online video presentations, generating over 18,000 impressions. All four College of Communications' departments were represented, with 15 faculty hosting presenters.

The most popular presentations included "An Inside Look at the Event Planning Industry" video panel with over 1,000 views, "Your Complete Resume Guide" featuring CSUF Communications Career Specialist Cassandra Thompson, "Careers in Media," "Titans in ESPN: Presented by Titan Sports," "CSUF



Before and after the campus shut-down, Dr. Waleed Rashidi's COMM 497T: Events Planning and Management students prepare for the 42nd annual Comm Week conference.

Forensics Showcase," and "Inside a Digital Marketing Agency."

Comm Week 2020 was planned and produced by the students in Waleed Rashidi's COMM 497T Event Planning and Management course.

Comm Week is serving approximately 3,000 students annually. It is a great opportunity for students to get involved and immerse themselves in a setting where they can seek information regarding their future career paths.

In the past, Comm Week has brought filmmakers, TV show hosts, radio pro-

ducers, PR practitioners, motivational speakers, news reporters, photographers, advertising execs, sports officials, visual artists, theme park execs, media publishers, and many more folks, all related to the various Communications fields.

Dr. Rashidi is also faculty advisor to the Entertainment & Tourism Club. He received his doctorate in education from the University of LaVerne, an M.A. in communications from CSUF and a B.S. in communication-journalism from Cal Poly Pomona. ■

Faculty publish, present latest research

Dr. Elise Assaf presented a paper titled "Mental Health as a Burden: Journalistic Representations of Mental Illness on Family, Society and the Individual," to the Cultural and Critical Studies Division, at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



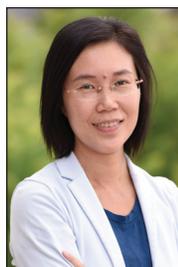
Jesus Ayala moderated a webinar titled "Journalism & Mental Health" sponsored by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) and the Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma in July.



Dr. Gayle Jansen Brisbane had a paper accepted titled "It's All Yellow Journalism Now: How White Evangelical Christian Women's Contempt of Mainstream Media Contributes to Their Support of Politician Donald J. Trump," to the Political Communication Division at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



Dr. Roselyn Du was awarded an assigned time grant from the Faculty Enhancement and Instructional Development (FEID) program for her project titled "From Number-Phobic to Research-Savvy:



Redesigning the Research Methods Course to Enhance Learning and Teaching Effectiveness in Training Future Communications Specialists in Research Skills."

Pete Evanow has published the book *Nissan Z: 50 Years of Exhilarating Performance*. The book is the Nissan-official chronicle of Z history, from Datsun's planning for the new model in the late 1960s through today's 50th anniversary. The book was published by Motor-books International and is now available.



Dr. Penchan Phoborisut gave a presentation titled "Reimagining the Practice of Citizenship: The Visual of the Unruly Youth in Thailand" at University of California Berkeley's Center for Southeast Asian Studies in Berkeley, CA in March.



Dr. Waleed Rashidi published an article titled "In the Shadow of Los Angeles: A Review of Local and Regional Press Coverage of the Inland Empire's Contemporary Music Scenes, B.C. (before Coachella)" for a special issue on rural and regional music scenes in the journal *Popular Music and Society*. Dr. Rashidi published a book chapter titled "What Do We Do with These CDs? Transitional Experiences from Physical Music Media Purchases to Streaming Service Subscriptions" in the just-published book *Spotifyfication of Popular Culture in the Field of*



Popular Communication published by Routledge. Dr. Rashidi received a grant of \$1,989 in May 2020, for an ORSP Innovative Research and Creative Activities Grant for his study of independent touring musicians, sponsored by CSUF's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds published "Craigslist is Nothing More than an Internet Brothel," in the *Journal of Sex Research*. Dr. Reynolds served as a discussant for a session titled "LGBTQ Top Student Papers Panel" for the LGBTQ Interest Group; moderated a session titled "Historic Media Coverage of LGBTQ Issues: San Francisco and Other Key 'Places,'" for the History Division and the LGBTQ Interest Group; served as a panelist for a session titled "Creating and Empowering: Women's Magazines as a Teaching Tool," for the Magazine Media and Scholastic Journalism Divisions; and served as a panelist for a session titled "Queering Methods: Exploring the Emerging Topics and Research Methodologies in the Queer Digital Space," for the LGBTQ Interest Group and the Cultural and Critical Studies Division, at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



Dr. Frank Russell co-organized and co-facilitated a development workshop for recipients of the AEJMC Presidential Diversity & Inclusion Career Development Fellowship for Graduate Students, as a member of the AEJMC Presidential Committee on Careers, at the annual



Faculty publish, present latest research

convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.

Dr. Cylor Spaulding moderated a panel for the Public Relations Division titled "Discerning a New Paradigm between Identification and Activism--Public Relations as Co-creation of Meaning." He also served as a panelist for the Public Relations Division and Religion and Media Interest Group on a panel titled "Public Relations and Religion: Nonprofit Religious Advocacy and Media Relations," at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



Dr. Doug Swanson served as a panelist for a preconference workshop session titled "Student-run Integrated Media Agencies: Perspectives and Best Practices," for the Public Relations Division; presented a paper titled "The Untapped Potential for Mindful Awareness in the Public Relations Workplace," to the Public Relations Division; and presented a paper that won Second Place Top Paper honors titled "Mindfully Preparing Generation Z Under-graduates for Communication Workplace Realities," to the Small Programs Interest Group, at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



Dr. Jason Shepard presented "Media Law Update 2020" at the midwinter faculty conference of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) in Cambria, CA,

in February. Dr. Shepard published "Deepfakes Ban a Puzzler" and "California Cops Threaten Local Reporting Watchdogs," in the Winter and Spring editions of *California Publisher*. Dr. Shepard presented a paper titled "The First Amendment and the Roots of LGBT Rights Law: Censorship in the Early Homophile Era, 1958-1962" at a symposium titled "First Amendment Marketplace Morass – Free Speech Jurisprudence and its Interactions with Social Justice," at The Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, in February, and published the research as a journal article this summer in the *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender and Social Justice*. Dr. Shepard served as a panelist on a panel titled "Inclusivity and Teaching Sensitive Topics," for the Law and Policy Preconference Workshop of Law and Policy Division; served as a panelist on a panel titled "Political Speech on Campus/ Online and Marginalized Students – Preparing for the 2020 Election," for the LGBTQ Interest Group and Law and Policy Division; and served as a discussant for a session titled "Free Speech, Hate Speech, and Obscenity: The State of Communication Law Today," for the Law and Policy Division, at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



Dr. Ricardo Valencia published a co-authored article, with Dr. Derek Moscato of Western Washington University, titled "Navigating #ObamainCuba:



How Twitter Mediates Frames and History in Public Diplomacy" in the *Journal of Place Branding and Public Diplomacy*. Also, Dr. Valencia was awarded the ORSP Innovative Research and Creative Activities Grant to conduct a research project titled "Public Relations and Propaganda: The transformation of the Chicana identity in Southern California (1990-2019)."

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne published

"The Great Digital Migration: Exploring What Constitutes the Black Press Online," in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. Also, Dr. Williams Fayne presented two papers titled "The Blackish Press: Examining the White Gaze on Entertainment in Digital Black Press Outlets" and "Expanding the Necessary Means: An Examination of Advocacy Conceptions in the 21st Century Black Press" at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference in May. Dr. Williams Fayne served as a panelist on a panel titled "A Lasting Impact: The End of Ebony and Jet Magazines and Implications for the Media Industry and Media Scholarship" sponsored by the Magazine Media and Minorities and Communication Divisions and gave a presentation titled "Making Lemonade: How Black Women Journalists are Leading Change and Creating Their Own Space" on a panel titled "We Too are Women: Deconstructing the Marginalization of Women of Color in Research and Practice," sponsored by the Minorities and Communication Division and the Commission on the Status of Women, at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. ■



4 students win top undergrad awards

Each year, the Department of Communications selects students to win three top, overall Department awards: the valedictorian's James Jordan Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement, the J. William Maxwell Outstanding Communications Student Award, and the Gerhard Friedrich Award for Exceptional Professional Promise.

The winners for the 2019-2020 academic year are Chau Le, Justina Sharp, Ebehimalen Aboiralor and Alexis Flores.

Chau Le

The James Jordan Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Award

The James Jordan Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement recognizes the student with the highest cumulative GPA. The graduating student who has earned this remarkable achievement is Chau Le.

Not only has she done well to achieve multiple academic goals, scholarships, and awards, Le has also dedicated her time to organizations such as CSUF's Tusk Magazine, AdClub, the Daily Titan, and has also completed a recent internship at Los Angeles Magazine.

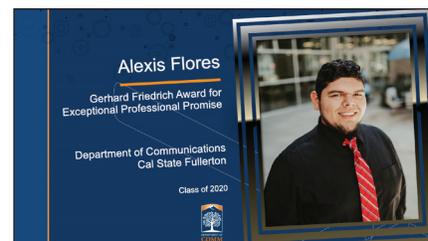
Le has been on the Dean's List throughout her years at CSUF and will be graduating with a degree in Advertising Communications, and a minor in Marketing.

Justina Sharp

The J. William Maxwell Outstanding Communications Student Award

The J. William Maxwell Outstanding Communications Student Award honors the founding chair and leading visionary of the Communications department and is an award that exemplifies what an ideal communications student with high levels of scholarship, leadership, career focus, and service to the department. Justina Sharp is this year's honoree.

Sharp has consistently maintained her place on the Dean's List at CSUF while also building up ten years of experience, not only in digital and influencer marketing but also in Gen Z and millennial branding. She has



written for renowned web and print outlets, has been a part of organizations such as the National Association of Black Journalists, and NPR's Next Generation Radio Project, and currently works as a creative consultant for tech startups specializing in young people and lifestyle.

Sharp will be graduating with a Public Relations degree in Communications and a minor in African American Studies.

Ebehimalen Aboiralor and Alexis Flores

The Gerhard Friedrich Award for Exceptional Professional Promise Award

The Gerhard Friedrich Award for Exceptional Professional Promise is an honor is given to a graduating senior who demonstrates great potential in a communications-related field. Award

recipients demonstrate career promise in a variety of ways, including classroom performance, leadership, participation in relevant student and professional organizations, and overall interest in the field. This year's awardees are Ebehimalen Aboiralor and Alexis Flores.

At CSUF, Aboiralor has dedicated her time to being a well-rounded Communications student. She has been active in her participation in organizations such as the Association of Intercultural Awareness and the Black Student Union and worked with Tuffy's Basic Needs Services Center in a social media relations position. In her professional pursuits, Aboiralor has worked for OC News, written for Tusk Magazine in highlighting student life with regard to cultural diversity and inclusion, and is ending her last semester both as a news producer for Titan Weekly, under Titan Communications, and as a research assistant within the Department of Communications, researching defamation cases involved in the #MeToo movement. Aboiralor will receive her degree in the Journalism concentration of Communications, with a minor in political science, and has decided to follow her interests in communications law after graduation.

Flores has maintained a balanced college career not only in the public relations community but in the communications community as a whole. He has done well in his academic pursuits and has also gotten involved on campus by serving on various organizations, including the Public Relations Student Society of America, Titan Public Relations, Latino Communication Institution, Lambda Pi Eta, Titan Communications, and more. Flores' unique approach to storytelling contributes to his extensive portfolio of different PR campaigns. The skills that he has obtained through his academic career has allowed him to work on many initiatives and events on campus. His willingness to learn from new opportunities has allowed him to develop his professional skill set and expand his network.

Flores will receive his degree in Communications, with a concentration in Public Relations. ■

Outstanding graduate students recognized

The Department of Communications selected four graduate students to receive outstanding student awards this academic year.

"All of these students are excellent scholars who have demonstrated intellectual curiosity and a passion for learning during their time in the M.A. program. I am very proud of them and feel confident they will continue to be successful in their professional careers," said Dr. Andi Stein, graduate program coordinator for the Department of Communications.

The students recognized are:

Andrea Rangno

Outstanding Professional Communications Award

Andrea Rangno is a public information specialist at Orange Coast College. She holds dual bachelor's degrees in international studies and literary journalism from the University of California, Irvine. She has previously worked as an editor in magazine and newspaper publishing. Her research interests include new media technology, crisis communications and public relations, and the relationship between mass media and politics. Andrea plans to continue her career in higher education and possibly pursue a PhD. She lives in Mission Viejo with her husband and two kids. When she's not hanging out with them or working, she's arguing with people on the internet over really important things, like the ending for Game of Thrones.

Sabrina Sanchez

Outstanding Mass Media Research and Theory Award

Sabrina Sanchez is graduating with an M.A. concentration in Mass Media Research & Theory. She chose this program based on her interest in a career teaching college-level courses, and a knowledge of CSUF's Communications and Cinema & Television Arts programs. She previously earned her B.A. in Communications (with a concentration in entertainment and tourism communications) with a minor in Radio TV Film from CSUF in 2011 before entering the workforce. After writing for an online magazine, then working as the marketing manager for a motorcycle company,



she decided she wanted to learn more and earn her master's degree. Sabrina was thrilled with the amount of creative freedom given in class and channeled her interests in television, popular culture, and true crime into her academics. Her final thesis consisted of researching and analyzing the representation of childfree women on television. During her time in the program, she also worked as the Communications Specialist for the College of Communications. She is grateful to have had such supportive professors and to have found mentors throughout the process. Sabrina is looking forward to putting her degree to use and exploring the possibility of Ph.D. programs.

Veronica Aichroth

Outstanding Tourism and Entertainment Communications Award

Veronica "Ronnie" Aichroth graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno

with her B.S. in Integrated Elementary Teaching with an emphasis in early childhood education. During her undergraduate work, Ronnie participated in the Disney College Program. During this program, she got to experience working in the Magic Kingdom, and it sparked her interest in the tourism and entertainment industry. After graduation, Ronnie moved to Southern California to continue her career with the Walt Disney Company and pursue her interest in tourism and entertainment. She loves studying entertainment and tourism because it offers a unique blend of history, technology, and emotion. She has always had a deep love for all things pop culture. Ronnie says that some of her first words were movie titles, so being able to study the media industry has been a dream come true. She has enjoyed her time at California State University, Fullerton, and she appreciates everything her professors have done to help her succeed along the way. She is incredibly grateful to have a strong support system of family and friends. In the future, she plans to travel, so she can experience more museums and theme parks while continuing to work for the Walt Disney Company.

Faith Squier

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching/Research Award

Faith Squier was born in Northridge, California, and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She earned her bachelor's degree in Integrated Communication with a minor in Business Management from the University of Houston. She is graduating from Cal State Fullerton with an M.A. concentration in Professional Communications. She has always been drawn to the field of communications because she believes that effective communication is critical to the success of any organization or relationship. She is currently the Communications Manager for Pacific Energy Service. Her career aspiration is to find a position that merges her two passions, sports and communications. She represented both of her universities on the volleyball court as an outside hitter. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach, watching movies, and traveling. So far, she has visited 38 states and five countries. ■

COMM awards \$62,500 in scholarships

One of the highlights of the academic year is the Department of Communications Awards & Scholarships Dinner, honoring excellence in student success of graduating seniors and celebrating Department-awarded scholarships to returning students.

As a result of the stay-at-home order and mandatory virtual instruction, the event, like so many other end-of-the-year celebrations, was cancelled.

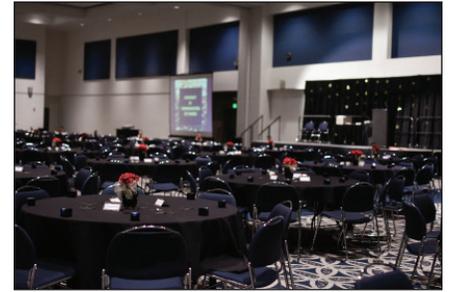
Normally, the event in April would bring some 300 people to the Titan Student Union for a dinner and pro-

gram featuring students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters.

Nonetheless, the faculty still recognized outstanding graduating seniors and awarded \$62,500 in scholarships.

Leading the effort on the awards side was the Awards Committee. Members included **Micheal McAlexander**, **Dr. Miya Williams Fayne**, **Dr. Elise Assaf**, and **Dr. Gayle Brisbane**. **Beth Georges** served as committee chair.

The Scholarships Committee comprised of **Dr. Penchan Phoborisut**, **Dr. Cylor Spaulding**, and **Dr. Ricardo**



The TSU usually hosts the Department's Awards Dinner each April.

Valencia. **Dr. Frank Russell** served as chair. Winners are listed below.



Briana Munoz

Communications/Journalism
James Alexander Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Plans to pursue dream of becoming news reporter covering entertainment or sports.
- Proudest accomplishments include enrolling at CSUF as freshman and starting career at Titan TV.



Chau Le

Communications/Journalism
Myles Atlas Memorial Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications

- **Ron Romain's** COMM 317: Digital Foundations inspired her interests in graphic design and led to design internship at Los Angeles Magazine.
- Proud to work as design editor of *Daily Titan*.
- Career goal to become advertising art director.



Michael Quintero

Communications/Journalism
VJ Lovero Photojournalism Scholarship

- Hopes to break into magazine industry as a designer, photographer or writer.
- Proud to have served as creative director of *Tusk* magazine.



Zulma Mazariegos Amaya

Communications/Journalism
Tien Family Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Favorite class: **Davis Barber's** COMM 317: Digital Foundations.
- Proud to earn first place in Titans Toastmasters Club contest.



Alexandra Chadwick

Communications/Advertising
Bergstrom Family Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Grateful for the support of her friends, family and professors when both parents got diagnosed with cancer during first year.
- Plans to go into marketing.



David Johansen

Journalism Minor
Bergstrom Family Scholarship

- Plans to get his master's degree and become a professor.

COMM awards \$62,500 in scholarships



Derek Opina

M.A. Professional Communications
Denise Harrison Integrity Award and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Hopes to teach broadcast journalism at a university.
- Proud to have served as graduate student advisor at Titan Sports and win three national awards in two years, having started the program nearly 10 years ago as an undergraduate.



Kadi Ali

Communications/Public Relations
Laura Min Brooks Comm Week Scholarship

- Hopes to work in entertainment publicity.
- Will be “forever grateful” for what she learned in Professor **Ken Hagihara**’s COMM 464: Public Relations Management.
- Proud to have helped raise over \$30,000 for homeless shelter as part of capstone project.



Tawni Nguyen

Public Relations Minor
Laura Min Brooks Comm Week Scholarship

- Working for Comm Week 2019 was “most exhilarating and unforgettable college experience!” and calls **Dr. Waleed Rashidi** “amazing advisor.”
- Plans to pursue career in event planning and crisis communications.



Nylene Garcia

Communications/Journalism
The Society of Professional Journalists and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarships

- Wants to work in entertainment news.
- Favorite class: **Dr. Penchan Phoborisut**’s COMM 202: Digital Reporting and Production.
- Started podcast “Fullerton’s Finest” interviewing notable students.



Blake Mara

Communications/Journalism
Tom Pasqua Memorial and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarships

- Worked as writer and editor for *Daily Titan* and *Tusk* magazine.
- Favorite class: **Dr. Chelsea Reynolds**’ magazine production course.



Anthony Robledo

Communications/Journalism
Terry Hynes Scholarship

- Served as news editor and lifestyle editor of *Daily Titan*.
- Favorite class was COMM 101: Writing for Mass Media, and appreciated instructor **Bob Quezada**’s expertise in challenging him to become a better writer.



Giselle Martinez

Communications/Journalism
Alfred & Louise Hewitt Journalism Fund and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Aspires to be a news producer behind the camera.
- Favorite class was COMM 304: Spanish Language TV News with instructor **Jesús Ayala**.
- Landed a fellowship with Univision in Miami



Karen Banuelos

Communications/Public Relations
Ingrid and Jordan Smart Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Wants to pursue career in music public relations.
- Says **Ron Romain**’s COMM 317: Digital Foundations class inspired her to keep developing graphic and video production skills.
- Proudest moment at CSUF was co-founding the Music Industry Club and volunteering at Billboard’s Latin Music Week 2019.

COMM awards \$62,500 in scholarships



Kim Pham
Communications/Journalism
Jay Berman Daily Titan and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Says her proudest accomplishments are her stories for the *Daily Titan*: "I am proud to be a part of a progressive organization that is so dedicated to practicing quality and ethical journalism."



Alora Walker
Communications/Advertising
Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Favorite professors have been **Jackie Moe** (COMM 317: Digital Foundations) and **Michelle Kurland** (COMM 351: Writing for Advertising).
• Proudest moment was becoming external VP of Black Student Union.



Jordan Murphy
Communications/Advertising
Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• "I have found a passion within the advertising industry and hope to one day work within this creative industry after my graduation."
• Favorite course has been COMM 317: Digital Foundations with **Davis Barber**.



Prafullit Medi
Communications/Advertising
Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Favorite course was COMM 351: Writing for Advertising with **Michelle Kurland**. "It was my favorite course because it required me to practice all those skills that I wanted to hone for becoming a master advertiser. I not only got a good grade in the class but also learned and gained a lot of experience."



Rhett Rivera
Communications/Public Relations
Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Favorite course was COMM 233: Mass Media in Modern Society with **Dr. Emily Erickson**.
• Proud of being elected VP of Outreach for CSUF's PRSSA chapter: "PRSSA has meant a lot to me in terms of creating personal and professional bonds, so I am stoked to have the opportunity to become more involved."



Angelynn Vivar
Communications/Advertising
Miven Ventures Partners and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Aspires to work on brand design and advertising strategy for start-up companies.
• Biggest accomplishment has been balancing two jobs with 15 units each semester.



Samantha Aguilar
Communications/Journalism
Vikki Vargas/NBC4 and Barbara K. Rickard-Riegle Journalism Scholarships

• Says *Al Día* provided her professional newsroom experience that forced her to adapt to fast-paced environment. Proudest moment was producing *Al Día*'s COVID-19 newscast special, produced from home.



Kimberly Cruz
Communications/Journalism
John Stewart Memorial and John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarships

• Proud to make the dean's list each semester. "My academics have always been my priority, and the fact that I have been able to maintain a 3.8 or higher makes me feel accomplished and shows that hard work does pay off."

COMM awards \$62,500 in scholarships



Stephanie Mejia

Communications/Journalism
John Stewart Memorial and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarships

- Favorite course has been COMM 304: Spanish Language TV News. "I love that that class is focused on producing Spanish newscasts and gives us, the students, the opportunity to get real-world experience in the classroom."



Baylee Maust

Communications/Journalism
John Stewart Memorial and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarships

- Proud to have worked at *Daily Titan*, participated in the Florence, Italy study abroad program, and working in student housing.



Ji Young An

Communications/Public Relations
Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Aspires to work in the entertainment industry as a public relations specialist.
- Favorite class was COMM 346: Principles of Entertainment and Tourism Communications with **Dr. Waleed Rashidi**.
- Proud to earn a spot on the dean's list in the last three semesters.



Novia Baulisch

Communications/Public Relations
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- "One of my proudest accomplishments at CSUF is having a successful Spring 2020 semester despite the obstacles the current global pandemic has placed in front of me and many other students. I'm proud of myself for being able to adapt to these circumstances and come out of it as a stronger individual."



Alan Bautista Robles

Communications/Public Relations
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Intends to pursue a career in public relations in the fashion industry.
- Says his parents are his "number one" supporters and give him motivation to earn his bachelor's degree.



Melanie Ferrari

Communications/Journalism
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Aspires to work in television as a news reporter. "Ever since I was a young girl I have loved reading, telling stories, and sharing information."
- Proudest accomplishment was accepted into CSUF, "where I have already learned so much in my first semester."



Sean Hamada

Communications/Advertising
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- After earning his advertising degree, he aims to obtain his private pilot's license and pursue a career with a major airline.



Alex Muir

Communications/Advertising
John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

- Favorite course was COMM 450: Ad & Comm Management with **Keith Kesler**, full of important practical applications and real world examples from an experienced professional.
- Proudest accomplishment was getting involved with in the *Daily Titan's* advertising division, as a marketing coordinator.

COMM awards \$62,500 in scholarships



Maricela Ortiz
Communications/Public Relations
John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarship

- Earned a 4.0 during Spring 2020, her first semester as a Communications major.
- Favorite class was COMM 361: Principles of Public Relations with **Ken Hagihara**.
- Wants to work in healthcare communications.



Michael Palmer
Communications/Public Relations
John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarship

- "My favorite course I've taken at CSUF was Writing for Broadcast & Film with Professor **Waleed Rashidi**, because I learned the process of screenwriting, which further advanced my creative writing ability."
- Proudest accomplishment at CSUF is maintaining a 4.0 GPA. "It is a lot of hard work and dedication, but it is well worth the effort."



Caitlin Williamson
Communications/Entertainment & Tourism
John and Jessie Maxwell Scholarship

- Favorite course has been COMM 317: Digital Foundations with **Richard Favela**.
- Hopes to work in entertainment PR or social media and eventually pursue an M.A. in Communications.

Other Scholarship Winners

Kaylyn Alcaraz, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Anatasia Auguston, Communications, David Little Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Natalia Becerra, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Abby Buotte, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Nikolaus Diehr, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Uy Do, Cinema and Television Arts, Guadalupe Austin Scholarship and John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Samuel Fife, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Jose Flores, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Brian Garcia, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell

Communications Scholarship.

Ruta Ghibat, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Gianna Gonzalez, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Amber Greene, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Maria Angelica Hernandez, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Edward Hornick, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Taylor Jackson, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Christina Kim, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Crystal Landis, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Alexandra LoCascio, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communi-

cations Scholarship.

Elisabeth Lundgren, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Sarah Marin, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Alexis Martinez, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Camilla Mcfall, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Jordan Mendoza, Communications, Jay Berman Daily Titan Scholarship and Gary Granville Memorial Scholarship.

Julia Mitchell, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Duong Nguyen, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Kevin Nguyen, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Cazmir Nishi, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Somer Piper, Communica-

tions, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Mackenzie Quinn, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Angel Ramirez, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Heather Solis, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Jeffrey Sweeney, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Alyssa Tornel, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Jessica Torres, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Jasmine Trefz, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Stephanie Turcios, Cinema and Television Arts, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Zen Zielke, Communications, John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship.

Kazoleas, Moe named distinguished faculty of year

The Department of Communications recognized two faculty members with distinguished faculty awards this year.

Dr. Dean Kazoleas



Dr. Dean Kazoleas was selected as the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Member (full-time) for the Department of Communications.

Dr. Kazoleas is a full professor in the Department of Communications. He joined the Department in 2006. He holds undergraduate and master's degrees in communications from Arizona State University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

During his 14 years in the Department, Dr. Kazoleas has demonstrated passion and commitment to his students, the Department of Communications, the College of Communications and to California State University, Fullerton.

Passion for teaching has always driven Dr. Kazoleas to work to develop student's abilities both inside and outside of the classroom. In the classroom he has developed new ways to help students understand communications and public relations, to build more effective public relations campaigns, to connect with

stakeholders globally, and to develop effective and usable crisis management plans for organizations. For example, while teaching the PR capstone, Dr. Kazoleas has always strived to bring in high profile clients such as Nissan, G & L Guitars, and Mitsubishi Motors, to help motivate and provide networking opportunities for students.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Kazoleas served for 21 years as a PRSSA advisor, nine of those years at California State University, Fullerton. During that time, he led three teams to the Bateman National Campaign Competition finals, with CSUF finishing second in the U.S. in 2007, and served as the faculty advisor to a joint CSUF/SDSU team that hosted the PRSSA national conference in San Diego in 2010. He has served as the advisor for the CSUF College Republicans since 2017.

While he is committed to teaching, many on campus know Dr. Kazoleas for his efforts to globalize our department, college, and campus. Kazoleas is the founding Director of the Maxwell Center for International Communications, and in that role, he has helped the Department and College of Communications become recognized campus leaders in international education. He has also served as chair of the Academic Senate's International Education Committee. As a scholar, Dr. Kazoleas has authored over 20 articles and book chapters in the areas of public relations and communications. He has won a number of top paper awards from international and national communications associations.

Professionally, he has been an active member of PRSA (The Public Relations

Society of America), where he holds APR accreditation status. He has served PRSA as a Chapter President, Mid-West District Chair, as Chair of the Educator's Academy, and as a member of the Educational Affairs and International Relations committees. Additionally, Dr. Kazoleas has experience as a communications and public relations consultant and has worked with over 30 companies and organizations globally on a wide variety of projects including communication and public relations management, organizational image, and crisis management.

Jackie Moe



Jackie Moe was selected as the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Member (part-time) for the Department of Communications.

Professor Moe has proven herself to be an outstanding member of the Department of Communications' faculty in her three years as a part-time instructor. She was initially brought in to teach COMM 410: Principles of Communications Research, to fill a last-minute need. She flourished in that class and received both high SOQ scores and rave reviews from her students, who praised her for her ability to make

research "fun." The following year, Professor Moe willingly took on new classes to fill temporary vacancies, and she worked hard to make all of these courses relevant to her students by drawing on her own experience and bringing in guest speakers who could share their knowledge of the industry. As a result, she was a hit with students who appreciated her caring approach and her commitment to the course.

Last fall when the Department was in need of instructors to teach COMM 317: Digital Foundations, Professor Moe stepped up once again. She worked closely with Ron Romain throughout the semester to master the skills needed to teach the class, so she could effectively ensure her students completed the course with a firm grip on digital skills.

Professor Moe has also contributed to the department in the way of service. She has participated in Welcome to Cal State Fullerton Day, helping to recruit students to our program.

Professor Moe has accomplished all of this while holding down a full-time job outside of CSUF. She is hard-working and committed to her students, and she has shown herself to be a tremendous asset to the Department of Communications.

Professor Moe has worked as a reporter for newspaper publications *Orange County Register*, *Press-Enterprise*, and *Los Angeles Times*, and editor of *Parenting OC* and *Inland Empire Magazine*. She also founded the OC entertainment website *Backstage SoCal*, named Best Blog at OC Press Club's Excellence in Journalism Awards. She has featured CSUF students looking to earn experience in entertainment journalism. ■

OC News, Al Dia produced shows remotely

continued from page 1

OC News

As a result of the campus closure in March, production for the twice-a-week OC News broadcast program moved from its in-person studio in Pollak Library basement to Zoom.

On production days, Professor Beth Georges led her students through four hours of pre-production and production to record 30-minute newscasts.

Students reported, anchored and produced from their homes.

"This was as real world as it gets," Georges said.

Two OC News programs focused exclusively on stories with local angles related COVID.

Stories focused on the impact of virtual classes on CSUF students as well as elementary school kids, and the impact of the statewide stay-at-home order on local restaurants. One story profiled a college student whose family got COVID and their journey of recovery.

Two students who worked on the spring production, Jae Elder and Chase Napear, were just hired as producers for the ABC affiliate in Redding/Chico, CA.

Al Día

As Latinos become disproportionately affected by the pandemic, now making up 34-percent of all COVID-19 cases nationwide, the need to keep Spanish-language audiences informed and educated has become more important than ever.

Al Día, our very own student produced Spanish-language newscast, also decided to heed the call.

Even though students in COMM 304: Spanish TV News were sent home in early March and told to quarantine and focus on individual stories, it soon became apparent that the pandemic presented a special learning opportunity for the eager students.

"Suddenly we had a dozen students who were back home and scattered across the entire state," says Faculty



Students at OC News worked from home to produce broadcast news programs during the pandemic, with the support of their adviser, lecturer Beth Georges, and Titan Communications staffer Jeffrey Whitten.

Adviser Jesús Ayala.

It was an opportunity too good to miss, so Ayala and the students created Coronavirus: Pandemia Mundial, a special Spanish-language newscast aimed at helping Latinos in California grapple with the impact of the pandemic by offering details on how to access critical health care and economic-related resources.

Students were able to report live using Zoom and Facetime from six counties including Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, San Francisco, San Diego, and Riverside.

The entire show was produced using mobile devices and the students even created the graphics for the broadcast using the skills they learned in their COMM 317: Digital Foundations class.

This was surely a crash course on breaking news and mobile reporting that students will never forget! You can watch the news special Coronavirus: Pandemia Mundial on Al Día's YouTube page.

Tusk Magazine

Tusk editors and their adviser were quick to modify their spring production plans as a result of the stay-at-home order.

"Our team was able to produce a stellar issue by finding ways through

the barriers and restrictions caused by the pandemic," said co-managing editor, Janica Torres. "Our class was able to move online with little time to prepare because we had a pretty strong structure of communication in place."

Torres and co-editor Michelle Ibañez split managerial duties and communicated regularly with their staff through Zoom, Slack, and Google docs.

Despite moving off campus, Web writers pitched and covered breaking COVID-19 stories from a lifestyle and culture angle.

Tusk published content about staying sober, quitting smoking, coping with loneliness and boredom, working out, and parenting during the pandemic, as well as a critical editorial about CSUF administrators' handling of an on-campus crises.

Creative director Michael Quintero said the move to online production taught Tusk staffers how to creatively solve real-world problems during a crisis situation.

"You can't teach that (in a classroom) and I have so much love for everyone on staff that stepped up during the transition to online," Quintero said.

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Tusk, Daily Titan move from print to web

continued from previous page

Tusk's Spring 2020 edition will be distributed on campus as soon as CSUF re-opens.

Until then, check out the print issue online, and visit Tusk's website at tuskmagazine.org.

Daily Titan

At the Daily Titan, student staff and faculty advisers discussed in late March how the newspaper could suspend daily publishing for the first time since going daily – four times per week – in 1970.

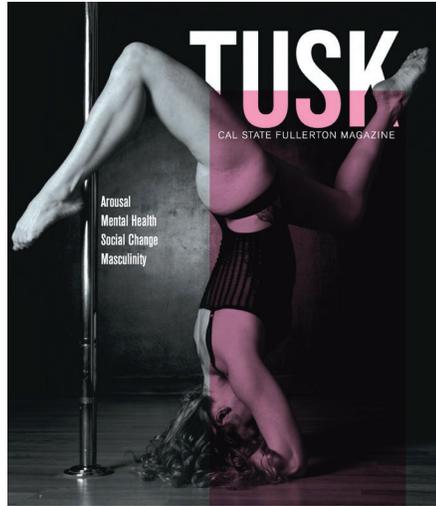
Would readers switch to the dailytitan.com web site, which launched in 1997, or just catch the pandemic news on TV and social media?

As the campus emptied in mid semester, the Daily Titan covered the serious side effects, such as the difficulty of getting parking pass refunds, the impact on students who lack home internet service, and of course the cancellation of commencement. Lacking a critical mass of students and faculty, on March 18 a front page editorial announced that Daily Titan was suspending print publication.

The spring editor-in-chief, Jordan Mendoza, commanding a staff of more than 60 undergraduates, quickly reorganized the College Park newsroom into a decentralized off-campus organization that kept up a steady flow of important news articles.

The spring and summer staffs chased such critical stories as confusion over quarantining students, the effect of the campus closure on foreign and DACA Dreamers, and of course the complete shutdown of NCAA athletics. Off campus, Daily Titan covered the effect of the closure on the city of Fullerton, then later they covered antiracism protests, and the eventual decision to rename Fullerton College's Plummer Auditorium, which bore the name of a 1920s Ku Klux Klan organizer.

The summer and fall editor-in-chief, Jessica Benda, and her staff of six got a practical lesson in journalism: Cov-



Tusk Magazine published regularly on its website while also preparing its annual print issue during the pandemic while working from home. The print edition's cover is above. Dr. Chelsea Reynolds serves as Tusk's adviser. The Daily Titan published its last print edition for the semester on March 18, with a banner headline announcing the print suspension. Lecturers Walt Baranger and Michelle Kurland serve as editorial and advertising advisers, respectively.

ering local news year round attracts readers – a lot of readers. And a major emergency like the pandemic gives Daily Titan's staff the kind of invaluable broad experience that requires the deft news judgment and skills that employers covet but so rarely find in graduating seniors.

When Daily Titan suspended printing, the monthly audience for the website skyrocketed because quarantine readers were eager for campus and local news—nearly tripling readership to more than 1.5 million pages and 100,000 unique visitors. Readership stayed high into summer, with 1.1 million pages delivered in June, about quadruple the normal midsummer readership. Clearly, Daily Titan was drawing readers from throughout northern Orange County, not just decamped students.

Jessica Benda, incoming editor-in-chief, reflected on the transition:

"The most difficult part about the online transition was what felt at the time like the loss of a support system. Our staff went from constant contact with others in the newsroom to isolation. While people can still use Zoom and FaceTime, a day of production is not the same. In the newsroom, it's easy to check up on others and see that someone is having a hard time and support them, but at home, there's no one to see if you're stressed or upset. In the newsroom, people are there to remind each other to take a break or eat a meal, but at home, it's easy to neglect self-care for the sake of work."

"Many of us went from seeing each other 40 hours a week to a world of texting and the occasional zoom calls—something that took a huge emotional toll on many staff members. It's exceptionally difficult because it's the same amount of work that we have always done, but often now we have to do it alone. The staff has always been the heart of the Daily Titan. As college students, collaboration and camaraderie are so valuable, especially in a job that can be so grueling and time consuming." ■

The Daily Titan temporarily suspends print

COVID-19 spurs closures

CSUF postpones 2020 commencement

University does not address students' connectivity issues

Faculty instructed to update grade books

WHAT'S INSIDE?

For more updates on COVID-19 and CSUF, follow @thedailytitan on social media or visit dailytitan.com

Scholarship established for distinguished alum

Friends and family of alum Chris DuFresne have established a sports journalism scholarship in his name.

DuFresne, 62, died on May 25 at his home days after he underwent tests for a late-stage melanoma recurrence, according to news reports.

DuFresne was a sportswriter for the *Los Angeles Times* for 35 years, retiring in 2015 after taking a buyout. He started at the *Times* loading newspapers onto trucks on the loading dock in 1976.

DuFresne was de-

scribed as one of the country's most respected college football writers, and in 2011 was named California Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

He graduated with his Communications-journalism degree in 1981, and he was inducted into the Department of Communication's Alumni Wall of Fame in 2017 as part of the Department's 55th anniversary celebration.

The sports scholarship will be awarded for the first time this spring. ■



Chris DuFresne (second from left) is inducted into the Department of Communications' Wall of Fame in 2017. With him are Wall of Fame inductees Mark Boster, Keith Thursby, Elliot Almond and Scott Harris.

Shepard, Gonzalez lead workplace trainings



Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard** and then-Latino Communications Institute Director **Dr. Inez Gonzalez** led two workshops in the spring on workplace integrity and sexual harassment prevention for the *Daily Titan* staff and members of the Latino Journalists at CSUF club.

Dr. Shepard and Dr. Gonzalez participated in a "train the trainers" program in 2019 from the Power Shift Project, a grant-funded initiative of the Freedom Forum Institute.

The project's goals are to develop and enhance workplaces free of discrimination, harassment and incivility, particularly in communications industries.

This summer, Gonzalez left CSUF to become executive director of the non-profit MANA de San Diego. ■

Faculty Development Center named Campus Partner of Year

The Faculty Development Center at Cal State Fullerton has provided significant, impactful and ongoing support for faculty of the Department of Communications for many years.

This year, the FDC was selected by the Department of Communications as the 2020 recipient of its Campus Partnership Award.

The award recognizes the outstanding work of **Dr. Erica Bowers**, director of the FDC, and her full-time staff **Tracey Magyar** and **Kelly Donovan**, in addition to **Dr. Kristin Stang**, assistant vice president of faculty support services.

With the increase in tenure-track hiring in recent years, the support provided by the FDC has been even more important, as the FDC



has been a critical partner for new faculty orientation, mentoring and trainings.

In particular, new faculty noted the new faculty orientation held in August 2019 was helpful to get new faculty started with their new jobs. Dr. Bowers is very enthusiastic and encouraging in every interaction faculty have had with her. Faculty have noted the relevance and timeliness of topics at monthly support meetings. And Dr. Bowers has been very flexible with new faculty schedules, offering times to meet with them outside of our scheduled meetings. ■