

# COMMUNIQUE



A newsletter celebrating success from the Department of Communications

Fall 2021/Spring 2022

## COMM student journalists win 70 awards

Student media in the Department of Communications won more than 70 national, state and regional awards in the 2021 calendar year.

The *Daily Titan*, *Al Día* and *Tusk* magazine took home an impressive list of awards despite the challenges caused by virtual instruction and campus closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationally, students won awards from organizations including the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), the College Media Association (CMA), the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) and College Media Business and Advertising Managers (CMBAM).



*Al Día's* special on the coronavirus won several student media awards in 2021, including being nominated for a student Emmy - the second year in a row for COMM student media.

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## COMM programs continue pandemic pivots in 2021-2022



Department of Communications Awards 2021

Cal State Fullerton



Department of Communications Awards 2021

Cal State Fullerton



After the coronavirus pandemic shut down the CSUF campus in March 2020, students and employees returned to campus for in-person work begin in August 2021. Above, the Department of Communications hosted its annual Awards and Scholarships Ceremony virtually in April 2021, and hosted its Fall Retreat in person in August 2021.



Top on the list of priorities for the Department of Communications in 2021 was dealing with the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Classes shifted online at the start of the pandemic in March 2020, and virtual instruction was the norm through Summer 2021. A return to in-person instruction began in Fall 2021, with campus vaccine and mask rules in place.

While redesigning courses for new modalities and the adjusting to the realities of pandemic life, the Department's faculty continued to make progress Department goals and priorities.

Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard** and Assistant Professor **Dr. Gayle Brisbane** hosted a virtual Department Awards and Scholarships Ceremony in April 2021 to honor outstanding students

in the 2020-2021 academic year.

At its fall retreat at the Coyote Hills Country Club in August 2021, faculty gathered today in-person for the first time in 16 months. Faculty shared tips and strategies for virtual instruction and discussed initiatives outlined in the Department's Strategic Plan.

Other priorities for the Department in Fall 2021 included completion of a self-study as part of its reaccreditation by the Accrediting Council in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC).

As the faculty looked forward to 2022, hopes for a "normal" semester were stymied by the Omicron variant, as the university shifted once again to mandatory virtual instruction for all classes for at least the first two weeks of the Spring 2022 semester. ■

# Veteran COMM faculty move into retirement

Three senior professors in the Department of Communications took different steps into retirement in 2021.



## Dr. Anthony Fellow

Dr. Tony Fellow retired in July 2021, after 35 years of service.

Dr. Fellow joined the Department of Communications in 1986. He taught 17 Department courses over his career, including courses in reporting, history, ethics and research methods.

Dr. Fellow authored and co-authored several books, including a media history textbook, *American Media History*.

Dr. Fellow served as chair of the Department of Communications for six years, from 2006 to 2012, and as chair of the Department of Radio-TV-Film from 2012-2013.

He also led a study abroad program in Florence, Italy, for many years.

Dr. Fellow served in many community roles over the years, including elected positions as city councilman and vice mayor, water board director, and a community college trustee.

Dr. Fellow earned a Ph.D. and M.A. from the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California. He earned a master's degree in communications from CSUF. His bachelor's degree is from Cal State Los Angeles.

Prior to academia, Dr. Fellow worked as a newspaper reporter, columnist and editor for ten years at the *San Gabriel Valley Daily Tribune*.



## Jeff Brody

Jeff Brody completed his final semester of the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) in Fall 2021.

He began teaching in the Department of Communications as a part-time lecturer in 1991. He moved from part-time lecturer to full-time lecturer in 1993, and was hired in a tenure-track position in 1996.

Brody taught advanced writing classes, courses on mass communication and society, and media and diversity.

Brody served as editorial adviser of the *Daily Titan* from 1992 to 2003.

Brody founded *Tusk* magazine and served as its adviser for many years.

He established international journalism programs that has taken students to Cambodia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Spain and Vietnam.

Brody's research interests include the Internet, ethnic press, newspaper industry and the Vietnamese American experience.

He has been president of the Orange County Press Club and served on the board of directors of the Southeast Asian Archive at the University of California, Irvine.

Brody has a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to academia, Brody worked as a reporter for more than 15 years at the *Orange County Register* and the *Central New Jersey Home News*.



## Dr. Andi Stein

Dr. Andi Stein began her first year in the early retirement program during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Dr. Stein has been highly engaged during her 21 years at CSUF.

She has taught 21 different courses and served in several leadership roles in the Department of Communications, including as Graduate Program Coordinator for the last 12 years.

Her work has garnered many awards, including the Rick D. Pullen Academic Excellence Award and the FDC Outstanding Recognition for Teaching, Research and Service – two times in each category.

Dr. Stein has been one of the most prolific researchers in the Department, with more than 70 publications and presentations to her credit, including four books.

She is an internationally recognized expert on Disney, and author of the book *Why We Love Disney*.

Among her notable service commitments are eight years of elected service on the CSUF Academic Senate and serving as adviser for the Department's Kappa Tau Alpha honors society since 2010.

Dr. Stein earned her Ph.D. in the School of Journalism and Communication at the University of Oregon. She has an M.A. in mass communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. in journalism from George Washington University. ■



## 3 faculty earn tenure, promotions

Three faculty members in the Department of Communications received tenure and promotion in June 2021 following final approval by the Provost.

### Dr. Emily Erickson

Dr. Emily Erickson earned promotion to full professor.

She began as an assistant professor in the department in 2009 and earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2015.

Dr. Erickson's research agenda focuses on First Amendment rights of speech and press and the legal restrictions placed on them. Recent publications include co-authored journal articles about defamation and the right to publicity.

Dr. Erickson primarily teaches sections of COMM 233: Mass Media in Modern Society and COMM 407: Communications Law.

Dr. Erickson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Linfield College, a master's degree in journalism from the University of Alabama, and her Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of Alabama.

Prior to joining CSUF, she worked as an assistant professor in mass communications at Louisiana State University.



### Dr. Christina Ceisel

Dr. Christina Ceisel earned tenure and promotion to associate professor.

She joined the Department of Communications as an assistant professor in Fall 2015.

Dr. Ceisel's research investigates the ways communities enact their histories and culture through narratives circulated at local, national, and global levels. Her scholarly book, *Globalized Nostalgia: Heritage Tourism*



and the Politics of Belonging, was published by Routledge in 2018.

Dr. Ceisel teaches sections of COMM 410: Principles of Communication Research, as well as courses in the entertainment and tourism communication, including COMM 446: Entertainment and Society and COMM 447: Tourism and Travel.

Dr. Ceisel earned a bachelor's degree in media studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in communications research from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### Dr. Chelsea Reynolds

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds earned early tenure and promotion to associate professor.

She joined the Department of Communications as an assistant professor in Fall 2017.

Dr. Reynolds's research agenda spans the sub-fields of media sociology, sexuality studies, and cultural studies. Using critical-qualitative methods, her research explores tensions between sexuality and gender identity, neoliberalism, and mediated marginalization.

She was awarded the Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in 2017.

Dr. Reynolds teaches many courses, including in magazine journalism, mass media and diversity, media ethics, and feature article writing.

She is also the adviser of Tusk magazine, which has won many awards under her leadership.

She earned a bachelor's degree in magazine journalism from Iowa State University, a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, and a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Minnesota. ■



## Hagihara recognized with two PR awards

**Ken Hagihara** was named a national finalist and awarded Honorable Mention for Outstanding Educator of the Year in PRNEWS' awards for corporate social responsibility and diversity.

The honor recognized his dedication to public relations students, as demonstrated by his teaching, his advising of the department's PRSSA chapter, and his mentoring of students to engage in local service opportunities that help the community while enhancing professional skills and networking.

Also, Hagihara received the 2021 PROTOS award for media relations from the Orange County chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The awards honor Orange County's top public relations professionals, programs and campaigns. The media relations campaign that Hagihara oversaw, which was created and executed for the launch of the Kensington StudioDock for iPad, has been recognized by Kensington as one of the most successful public relations campaigns in the company's 40-year history. ■



## Valencia co-chairs virtual conference

**Dr. Ricardo Valencia** served as co-chair of the Edelman Summit for Communications and Marketing, a virtual conference held in March 2021.

The Summit aimed to support the growth and development of current and future Hispanic and Latinx communications and marketing professionals.

As a result, the Edelman Family Foundation gave the Department of Communications a gift of \$5,000; the funds will support an intern for the Department's outreach efforts.

Edelman is one of the world's leading communications firms. ■



# PRAD agency celebrates 10 years

Practical Advantage Communications, the student-run public relations, advertising and event planning agency in the Department of Communications, celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Operated as a capstone course (COMM 474: Capstone – PR/ADV/ETC Student Agency), the agency prepares junior and senior undergraduate students for the professional world through hands-on communications work for businesses and nonprofits in the Orange County.

**Dr. Doug Swanson** has served as the coordinating faculty member since PRAD's founding.

Professors **Pete Evanow**, **Beth Georges**, **Ken Hagihara**, **Keith Kesler** and **Dr. Cylor Spaulding** have also taught sections of the course. **Dr. Elise Anguizola Assaf** served as a graduate teaching assistant during her M.A. studies.

Nearly 1,000 students have worked with the student agency since 2011, working on 209 campaigns and projects for external (off campus) clients.

The agency has raised more than \$36,000 in philanthropic support since its founding, much of which has been reinvested in the agency.

Of the 167 student-run agencies identified in higher education, PRAD is among the largest by number of students graduated. PRAD is one of only seven curriculum-based student-run agencies in the CSU System.

The agency had been housed at the Irvine Center campus since 2012. PRAD, and other programs housed at Irvine, were left homeless after CSUF's decision in 2021 to close and sell the buildings at 1 Banting and 3 Banting. A permanent home on the CSUF campus remains a work in progress. ■



## Student media win 70+ awards in 2021

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Students also won awards in the Hearst Journalism Awards and were nominated for a college Emmy award for a second year in a row by the Television Academy Foundation.

At the state level, students won awards from the California College Media Association, the California News Publishers Association (CNPA) and in the CSU Media Arts Festival.

Congratulations to the students and their advisers: **Walt Baranger** (*Daily Titan* editorial), **Michelle Kurland** (*Daily Titan* advertising), **Dr. Chelsea Reynolds** (*Tusk* magazine), and **Jesús Ayala** (*Tusk* TV and *Al Día*).

Awards include:

### Television Academy Foundation (Fall 2021)

- *Al Día*'s program "Coronavirus: Pandemia Mundial" was nominated for a College Television Award by the Television Academy Foundation. The awards will be announced in March 2022.

### Associated College Press Best of Show Awards (Fall 2021)

- Digital Newsletter, 4th Place: *Daily Titan*
- Website - More than 10,000 students, 8th Place: *Daily Titan*
- Advertising Rate Card, 4th Place: *Daily Titan*
- Advertising Special Newspaper Section, 4th Place: *Daily Titan*
- Advertising Design (print, online, video, audio), 1st Place: *Daily Titan*

### Associated College Press Individual Awards (Fall 2021)

- Multimedia Feature Story, 3rd Place: *Al Día*
- Broadcast: News or Features, 5th Place: *Al Día*

### College Media Association Pinnacle Awards (Fall 2021)

- Magazine - Four-Year Feature Magazine of the Year, 1st Place:

*Tusk* Magazine

- Best House Ad, 1st Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Diversity Coverage of the Year, 2nd Place: *Our America*
- Best Video Entertainment Program, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Comic Strip, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*

### CSU Festival of Media Arts (Fall 2021)

- Winner: *Lo Que Está Trending*, *Al Día*
- Finalist: *Coronavirus Pandemia Mundial*, *Al Día*

### SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards, National (2021)

- Best COVID-19 Video Coverage, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Broadcast News Videography, Finalist: *Al Día*

### SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards, Region 11 (2021)

- Best COVID-19 Video Coverage, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Broadcast News Videography, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Sports Videography, 1st Place: *Al Día*

### Broadcast Education Association (2021)

- TV Newscast, 2nd Place: *Al Día*
- TV Newsmagazine, 2nd Place: *Al Día*
- Disrupt the News competition, 2nd Place: *Al Día*

### Associated College Press Best in Show awards (Spring 2021)

- Best Newspaper / More than weekly, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Website / More than 10,000 students, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Feature magazine, 7th Place: *Tusk*
- Best Website / More than 10,000 students, 10th Place: *Tusk*
- Newspaper special advertising

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## Student media win 70+ awards in 2021

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- section, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*, 2020 Holiday Guide;
- Print design, 1st Place: *Tusk*
- Broadcast news story, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Election reporting, 1st Place, *Al Día*
- Election reporting, 4th Place, *Daily Titan*
- Broadcast news story, 2nd Place: *Tusk TV*
- COVID-19 reporting, 3rd Place: *Al Día*
- COVID-19 reporting, 4th Place: *Daily Titan*

### California College Media Association (Spring 2021)

- Best Newspaper - Large University, 1st Place: *Daily Titan*
- General Innovation. 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Covid-19 Coverage, 1st Place: *Al Día*
- Best Feature Story, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best News Video, 2nd Place: *Al Día*
- Best Print Advertisement, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Social Justice Coverage, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Newspaper Front Page Design, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Photo Illustration, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Editorial, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*

### College Media Business and Advertising Managers (Spring 2021)

- Best Display Ad – Animated, 1st Place, *Daily Titan*
- Best Sales Proposal, 1st Place, *Daily Titan*
- Best Self-Branded Promotional Giveaway, 1st Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Paid Design Product, Non-Self-Promotional, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Display Ad – Animated, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*

- Best Seasonal Sales Promotion, 2nd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Out-of-Home Promotion, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Self-Promotional Multimedia Ad Campaign, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Multimedia Ad Campaign, 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best College Media Sales & Marketing Program (Division Award), 3rd Place: *Daily Titan*
- Best Sales Promotional Materials, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*
- Best Social Media Promotion, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*
- Best Out-of-Home Promotion, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*
- Best Sales Proposal, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*
- Best Special Event, Honorable Mention: *Daily Titan*
- College Media Company of the Year, 4th Place: *Daily Titan*

### Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles

- Edwin Flores was runner-up for 2021 Student Videographer of the Year

### California Journalism Awards by the California News Publishers Association (presented in June 2021)

- Campus General Excellence: 2nd Place, *Daily Titan*
- Online General Excellence: 3rd Place, *Daily Titan*
- Sports Action Photo: 2nd Place, *Daily Titan*
- Illustration: 1st Place, *Daily Titan*
- Illustration: 2nd Place, *Daily Titan*
- Illustration: 3rd Place, *Daily Titan*
- Columns: 4th Place, *Daily Titan*
- Coverage of the COVID-19 Pandemic: 5th Place, *Daily Titan*. ■

## AAF team wins regional NSAC competition

The Department of Communications' advertising team for the American Advertising Federation (AAF)'s National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) took first-place honors in the Regional 15 competition in April, beating rival teams from USC and Chapman to take the top spot for the first time in many years.



The client this year was the hook-up site Tinder. The students created "The Waiting Game" campaign that ties into the emotion of waiting to see if someone will swipe right to match with you. After many focus groups and hundreds of surveys the students found the key insights that drove our award-winning campaign. One of the judges said to the team, "You guys crushed it!."

The CSUF team advanced to the semi-finals nationally.

Lecturer **Keith Kesler** serves as the AAF advisor. ■

## PR students take part Bateman competition

The Department of Communications participated in the PRSSA Bateman Case Study Competition this year for the first time in many years, and the team earned an honorable mention.

Of this year's 54 entries, three teams were selected as finalists and eight received honorable mentions, putting Titans in the top 20% nationally.

Lecturer **Ken Hagihara** served as the team's advisor. ■

# Comm Week convenes on Zoom in 2021

The 43rd annual Comm Week, organized by **Dr. Waleed Rashidi's** COMM 497T: Events Planning and Management class, was a great success.

Comm Week 2021 had approximately 1,500 attendees at our 48 sessions watching 72+ presenters speak on a diverse array of topics such as radio news reporting, addressing homelessness via the arts, public relations research, Latinx innovation in music, media law, women's history, Black representation in communications, the future of televised news (in Spanish and English), stuttering research, sports communications, speech and debate presentations, and so much more.

The following Department of Communications faculty hosted events:

- **Dr. Vivien Angelus** hosted Andrea Gils Monzon, co-chair of the Public Relations Society of America's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and Dr. Angelus hosted Amber Chitty-Wilson for an event titled "Internships & Networking: Planning Your Success."
- **Jesus Ayala** and the Latino Communications Institute hosted Olivia Liendo, senior manager for digital news at Univision Network, to discuss careers in Spanish-language journalism.
- **Walt Baranger** hosted Daniel Trotta, Reuters U.S. national affairs correspondent, to discuss "How to Get a Job in Journalism."
- **Emily Barnes** hosted Larry Krutchik, executive vice president of Hill+Knowlton Strategies, to discuss "How to Get Hired at a PR Agency."
- **Dr. Gayle Brisbane** hosted

three speakers: Lisa Fletcher, investigative reporter; Linda Williams, news anchor; and Rosa Linda Roman, webcast and podcast creator.

- **Dr. Christina Ceisel** hosted Matt Prince, senior manager of public relations and brand experience at Taco Bell. Prince spoke about the research to launch a public relations campaign.
- **Carolyn Coal** and Ad Club hosted "Adcon: Rethink Your Future," an event that showcased the ever-changing world of advertising.
- **Dr. Frank Russell** hosted a panel titled "Communications Skills a Sports Career," featuring Ashley Preston, head volleyball coach at CSUF; Jennifer McGhen, assistant athletics director of sales and marketing at CSUF; and Sean Collins, interim director of athletics communications at CSUF.
- **Ken Hagihara** hosted a panel of professionals from KWSM about working in a digital marketing agency, featuring Katie Wagner, president; Taylor Lizura, senior digital marketing strategist; and Kate MacCallum, digital marketing specialist.
- **Dr. Dean Kazoleas** gave a presentation about study abroad after the pandemic.
- **Dr. Cynthia King** hosted Deanne Thompson, public affairs manager for John Wayne Airport, who spoke about crisis communications in a government agency.
- **Michelle Kurland** hosted Nickie Hill, multimedia advertising ac-



*Dr. Waleed Rashidi's COMM 497T: Events Planning and Management students put on the 43rd annual Comm Week conference completely remotely.*

count manager for the Orange County Register and AdTaxi Digital Solutions, to discuss selling advertising in the age of COVID.

- **Michelle Kurland** hosted Kristina Wade, account supervisor at Envoy, to discuss her career in advertising since graduating from COMM in 2016.
- **Anne LaJeunesse** hosted journalist Mark Eades to discuss covering the theme park beat.
- **Dr. Penchan Phoborisut** hosted NBC7 San Diego reporter Joe Little, who spoke about his career and tips for better storytelling, on-camera performance and time management.
- **Dr. Waleed Rashidi** and the Latino Communications Institute hosted a panel of three CSUF

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**COMM - NOW - VIRTUAL WEEK**  
**JOIN THE CONVERSATION APRIL 26-30**



# Comm Week convenes on Zoom in 2021

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alumni now working in the music industry: Adrian Hernandez, founder of Ugly Primo & Pastel Studios; Doris Munoz, founder of Casa Mija & Solidarity for Sanctuary; and Dom Prieto, talent buyer and tour promoter for Golden-voice.

- **Dr. Waleed Rashidi** and the Entertainment and Tourism Club hosted their 16th annual industry mixer. Professionals included: Casey Barahona, Influencer Marketing, The Brand Amp; Jasmine Jafari, executive assistant at The Walt Disney Company; Adrienne Anes, agent trainee at United Talent Agency; Mel Fox, creative program director for Cross Channel, Amazon; Hiba Bary, associate producer for Entertainment Tonight; Alana Polce, creative coordinator for Allied Global Marketing; Taylor Saucedo, project manager of ticketing and event operations for The Recording Academy; Kyleigh Johnson, external communications director for Disneyland Resort; and Athena Miller, marketing director for Fino Custom Clothiers.
- **Dr. Frank Russell** and the CSUF chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists hosted Brandy Zadrozny, investigative and features reporter for NBC News, to discuss "Digging Deep: The Truth Behind Misinformation"
- **Dr. Jason Shepard** hosted Genelle Belmas to talk about principles and passions of media law and the First Amendment.
- **Brian Song** hosted Aaron Onsurez, associate creative director of Gallegos United, who spoke about the trials and tribulations of being a creative director in a virtual world.
- **Dr. Andi Stein** hosted Bonnie Eisenberg, retired publications director for the National Women's History Project, who talked about her involvement with the women's movement from



Dr. Waleed Rashidi hosted a panel of alumni now working in the music industry (above), while Dr. Ricardo Valencia (right) hosted a presentation and Q&A with U.S. Representative Norma Torres.

1980-present.

- **Dr. Andi Stein** hosted a panel of graduates from the Department's master's program to share their career paths and discuss how their experience in the master's program helped them get to where they are today: Mary Anne Shults, part-time lecturer in the Department; Jackie Moe, web editor of the Orange County Business Journal; and Christina Jimenez Najera, a doctoral student at Texas Tech University who will begin a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the School of Advertising and Public Relations at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.
- **Dr. Andi Stein** hosted writer and editor Cathi Douglas for a presentation titled "Adventures in News and PR: How I Harnessed My Skills to Start a Company."
- **Dr. Doug Swanson** hosted a panel titled "Mindfulness in the Communication Workplace," featuring April Van Ligten, restorative justice specialist; Elena Bosch, public relations and communications manager for Think Together; and Jodi Theissen, sound alchemist.



- **Dr. Ricardo Valencia** and the Latino Communications Institute hosted Francisco Caceres, television host and producer for Telemundo NBC, to discuss his career in journalism, in a session titled "From Latin America to the U.S. Star System."
- **Dr. Ricardo Valencia** and the Latino Communications Institute hosted Rep. Norma Torres to discuss a number of issues, including higher education, Central America, and the importance of California in the Biden-Harris administration.
- **Rob van Riel** hosted Pete Demeetriou, news reporter at KNX 1070 Radio, who spoke about radio news in the smartphone era. ■

# Faculty publish, present during pandemic

Faculty in the Department of Communications published and presented research during 2021. Highlights include:

**Dr. Elise Assaf** presented a paper titled "Hidden, Authoritative Power in Journalistic Representations of Mental Health Labels" at the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) virtual annual conference in April.



**Jesus Ayala** served on a panel titled "Raising Awareness: Teaching Cultural Competencies, Diversity, and Inclusion in the J-School Classroom," at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. Ayala also published "Going for the Gold" in the September 17, 2021 issue of *Inside Higher Ed*.



**Dr. Vivien Angelus** presented the paper "Boundary Spanning as Threat: A Theoretical Inquiry into Public Relations' Professional Identity" at the Association for Business Communication Southwestern Region 2021 Conference (virtual) in March.



**Dr. Gayle Jansen Brisbane** published an article titled "Side-by-side Sports Reporters: A between-subjects experiment of the effect of gender in reporting on the NFL," in the journal *Communication and Sport* in March. Dr. Brisbane gave a live virtual presentation at the 19th EdukCircle Online Conven-



tion on Media Communication in the Philippines in March titled "Preparing your students for the digital news world." More than 150 people watched the presentation. Dr. Brisbane presented a paper titled "They (Media) are Being Led by the Enemy': Politics and White Evangelical Christian Women's Perception of News Outlets" at the 71st annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in May. Dr. Brisbane presented a research paper titled "Strong Enough to Battle the Liberals": How Social Identity Solidified White Evangelical Christian Women's Support of Donald J. Trump and Sustained their Distrust of News Outlets" at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.

**Carolyn Coal** participated in online discussion titled "Stories & Concepts: The Lifestyle and Perspectives of Wharton Esherick," hosted by GoggleWorks Gallery in Reading, Penn., in May.



**Dr. Roselyn Du** was awarded a Senior Scholar Grant by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication for her research titled "Algorithmic Audience in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Tailored Communication, Information Cocoons, and News Literacy" in February. Dr. Du presented a paper titled "Algorithmic Audience in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Tailored Communication, Information Cocoons, and News Literacy" at the 71st annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in May. Dr. Du gave a research presentation titled "Algorithmic Audience in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Tailored Communication, Information Cocoons, and News Literacy" at the annual con-



ference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. Also at the AEJMC conference, Dr. Du also served on a panel titled "Book Roundup with the Scholarsourcing Authors, Editorial Committee, and Publisher."

**Dr. Robert Meeds** published a co-authored article titled "Ego Depletion and Charitable Support: The Moderating Role of Self-Benefit and Other-Benefit Charitable Appeals," in the *Journal of Advertising* in April.



**Dr. Jiwoo Park** presented a paper titled "Twitter as a Platform Between BTS and Its Global Fans During the Social Movement," at the 71st annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in May. Dr. Park gave a research presentation titled "Witnessing the Power of Digital Activism BTS' Involvement Brought into the Social Movement: A Case of the Black Lives Matter" at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August.



**Dr. Penchan Phoborisut** published an article, "Reimagining Dissent in Thailand's 2020 Uprising" in Johns Hopkins University's Press' *SAIS Review of International Affairs*. Dr. Phoborisut spoke on a February 26 panel for the launch of the *SAIS Review's* special issue, *The Revolution Will Be Televised*.



**Dr. Henry Puente** and **Dr. Ricardo Valencia** presented a paper titled "The Formation of Social Media Identities in U.S. Soccer" at the conference of the Union for Democratic Communication in June.



# Faculty research continued during pandemic

**Dr. Chelsea Reynolds** published a co-authored article with her master's degree student Zoe Lance titled "Going Virtual Helped Me Learn That I Can Handle Everything": Campus Magazine Production as a High Impact Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic," in *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator*. Dr. Reynolds offered several Trauma-Informed Pedagogy workshops as part of her public scholarship on student mental health, including to the Arthur W. Page Society, the University of Virginia School of Nursing, and at CSUF Social Justice Week. Dr. Reynolds served on a panel titled "Transforming Transgender Journalism Education" at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. Dr. Reynolds and *Daily Titan* editor-in-chief Taylor Arrey gave a presentation titled "Mental Health Matters: A Session for Educators," at the virtual conference of the Society of Professional Journalists in September.



**Dr. Frank Russell** gave a research presentation co-authored with students Miguel Hernandez and Korryn Sanchez titled "#BREAKING in L.A.: Twitter Use in a Regional News Market" at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. Also at the AEJMC conference, Dr. Russell served on a panel for graduate students titled "How to Get Through the Door."



**Dr. Jason Shepard** served as moderator for a virtual panel discussion titled "Covering Protests: New Challenges for a New Era," sponsored by First Amendment Watch at New York



University and the Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in March. Dr. Shepard presented a co-authored paper titled "Student Activism vs. Student Journalism: Racial Justice, Free Speech, and Journalism Ethics in College Newspapers" that won the Top Faculty Paper from the Scholastic Journalism Division, at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. Also at the AEJMC conference Dr. Shepard served on a panel titled "Librarians as Lawbreakers: Criminalization of Story Hours and Other Attempts to Restrict Library Materials and Services" and as chair of AEJMC's First Amendment Award moderated a discussion with this year's award recipient, CNN reporter Omar Jimenez. Dr. Shepard published "Biden DOJ Issues New Rules Protecting Journalists' Sources" in the Summer 2021 edition of *California Publisher*, and "Cheerleader's Profanity May Shape Student Speech Rights in Digital Age" in the Spring 2021 edition of *California Publisher*.

**Dr. Cylor Spaulding** presented a co-authored paper titled "The Historical Development of Corporate Social Responsibility and Legitimization of Corporate Social Advocacy: A Multi-national Approach" at the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in May. Dr. Spaulding served as a panelist for a discussion for the Institute for Public Relations called "Communicating About Political and Religious Issues" in June.



**Dr. Ricardo Valencia** published a co-authored op-ed in the *Washington Post* titled "The Elections in El Salvador Could Make or Break Biden's Central America Policy" in February. Dr. Valencia pub-



lished a co-authored article titled "Want to Counter Authoritarianism in Central America? Follow the Money," in *Foreign Policy Magazine* in June.

**Dr. Jess Vega-Centeno** participated in a panel discussion titled "The Challenge of Privilege: Unpacking Advantage" at the 2021 Winter American Marketing Association (AMA) conference in February.



**Dr. Miya Williams Fayne** published an article titled "Advocacy journalism in the 21st century: Rethinking entertainment in digital Black press outlets," in the journal *Journalism*. Dr. Williams Fayne's 2020 article "The Great Digital Migration: Exploring What Constitutes the Black Press Online," was a top 5 finalist for the 2020



Outstanding Research Article Award from *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, the flagship journal of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Dr. Williams Fayne gave a talk titled "Networking and Other Tactics to Achieve Success" as part of CSUF's African American Resource Center (AARC)'s Diaspora Dialogue Series in March. Dr. Williams Fayne gave a presentation titled "An Examination of Entertainment as Self-Care in the Digital Black Press," as part of a panel called "Narratives of Race: At the Interface of Black Stories and Whiteness Discourses," at the 71st annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) in May. Dr. Williams Fayne served on two panels, titled "For vs. About: Challenging Journalists' Perceptions of Audiences and Communities," and "Surviving and/or Thriving? The State of Black-Owned News Operations in the Age of Protest and Pandemic," at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in August. ■

# Faculty recognized for outstanding research

Cal State Fullerton recognized four Department of Communications faculty for outstanding scholarly and creative activities.

The faculty were recognized at an event in December sponsored by the Faculty Development Center.

## Dr. Roselyn Du

Dr. Roselyn Du is an associate professor in the Department of Communications. Dr. Du's research agenda focuses on new media journalism studies and global communication. Since January 2018, Dr. Roselyn Du has published five refereed articles as well as two book chapters, one in Palgrave Macmillan's "Data Journalism in the Global South" series, and the other in Pearson Education's "Studies on Teaching and Learning series." She is also the principal investigator of two competitive research grants, one internal and one external, both awarded in early 2021. Dr. Du carries out her clearly defined research agenda with uncompromised productivity to share at national and international conferences and the broader academic community.



## Dr. Miya Williams Fayne

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne is an assistant professor in the Department of Communications. Her research agenda investigates the black press in the new media age. In her first two years at CSUF, she has published three journal articles with a fourth under review and gave 10 research and panel presentations at national and international conferences. Her article "The Great Digital Migration: Exploring What Constitutes the Black Press Online" was selected as the runner-up for the Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly 2020 Outstanding Research Article Award. She received a \$10,000 grant as part of the Columbia University Tow Center for Digital Journalism Research Fellowship



University and college leaders recognized faculty who were recognized for outstanding research achievements at a reception in December. From left to right, Dean Dr. Bey-Ling Sha, Dr. Roselyn Du, Provost Dr. Carolyn Thomas, Human Communications Studies Professor Dr. Jessica Kamrath, Associate Dean Dr. Deanna Leone, Communication Sciences and Disorders Chair Dr. Rahul Chakraborty, Dr. Waleed Rashidi, Communications Chair Dr. Jason Shepard, and Dr. Chelsea Reynolds.

for a project titled, "How Black Digital News Outlets Combat COVID-Related Misinformation."

## Dr. Waleed Rashidi

Dr. Waleed Rashidi is an assistant professor in the Department of Communications. His research in entertainment and tourism aligns with his teaching interests. His book chapter titled "What Do We Do with These CDs? Transitional Experiences from Physical Music Media Purchases to Streaming Service Subscriptions" was published in *Spotification of Popular Culture in the Field of Popular Communication* (2020, Routledge). Rashidi recently published two journal articles, including "Young Adults' Compact Disc Usage Experiences in 2020" in the *Journal of the Music & Entertainment Industry Educators Association* and "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)" in *Popular Music and Society*. He has also presented at several national conferences hosted by the National Communication Association, Popular Culture Association, Music and Entertainment Industry Edu-



cators Association, and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

## Dr. Chelsea Reynolds

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds is an associate professor in the Department of Communications. She researches sexual communication, LGBTQ media, and mental health. Since 2018, she has published four peer-reviewed journal articles, two scholarly book chapters, two book reviews, and one independent open-access publication. She has presented on 20+ conference panels. Dr. Reynolds is also co-author of a forthcoming sexual communication textbook *Her July*. Her 2020 *Journal of Sex Research* study, "Sex Work and Sex Trafficking in U.S. Newspaper Coverage of Craigslist Sex Forums," has been viewed more than 3,000 times. Her 2019 article in *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, "Building Theory From Media Ideology: Coding for Power in Journalistic Discourse," received the annual Award for Best Article. Reynolds's scholarly activity also includes a student co-authored article about pandemic learning in student newsrooms and workshops and an article on trauma-informed pedagogy. ■





# Meeds, Van Riel named distinguished faculty of year

The Department of Communications honored two faculty members as distinguished faculty members of the year.

## **Dr. Robert Meeds**

*2021 Distinguished Full-Time Faculty Member*

Robert Meeds, Ph.D., is a professor of communications at Cal State Fullerton. He joined Cal State Fullerton in 2015.

During his tenure at Cal State Fullerton, Dr. Meeds has provided exceptional service to the Department of Communications, serving in pivotal support and leadership roles in curriculum and assessment, search, personnel, and faculty mentoring.

As chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Dr. Meeds has helped usher through dozens of curriculum changes during the last three years, including the creation of new academic certificate programs and a new required digital skills course for all Communications majors.

He has been instrumental in mentoring new full-time and adjunct faculty for the new course. He has provided important service at the college, university, and profession levels, and his service to the community includes serving as a reserve firefighter for the Orange County Fire Authority.

His experience and collegiality have been particularly appreciated by his colleagues in these many important service roles.

Dr. Meeds previously held faculty positions at the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Kansas State University (as associate professor, associate director and advertising sequence coordinator), Texas Tech University (as associate professor and advertising department chair), and Qatar University (as associate professor and mass communication department chair).

Dr. Meeds has a B.S. degree in



**Robert Meeds**

journalism and an M.A. in English, both from Ball State University, and a PhD in journalism from the University of Missouri.

His teaching areas are in advertising, integrated marketing communications and visual communication.

Dr. Meeds' research focuses primarily on conducting experiments to understand how changes in the ways advertising copy is written influence what consumers notice, learn, think and feel.

His research articles have been published in the *Journal of Advertising*, *International Journal of Advertising*, *Journal of Current Issues and Research in Advertising*, *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, *Psychology and Marketing*, *International Journal of Business Communication*, *Journal of Middle East Media*, *Newspaper Research Journal* and other academic journals.

Before joining academe, Dr. Meeds worked as a graphic designer and newspaper advertising director.

## **Rob van Riel**

*2021 Distinguished Part-Time Faculty Member*

Rob van Riel has served as a part-time faculty member in the Department of Communications and previously the Department of Radio-TV-Film since 2005.



**Rob Van Riel**

He serves as coordinator of the Department's Radio-Audio certificate and mentors students at Titan Radio.

Students enjoy Mr. van Riel's approaches to teaching and his knowledge of the industry.

Many students praise Mr. van Riel's enthusiasm, passion and energy. He has four decades of experience in announcing, radio, and television.

Mr. van Riel has taught broadcasting at both Chaffey and Mt. San Antonio College.

He enjoys helping students learn and develop essential skills in one of the world's most enjoyable jobs, radio.

Mr. van Riel is also the Director of Media Services at Scripps College in Claremont, California.

He holds a Bachelor's in Film and Television from Chapman University in Orange and a Master's in Communications from the University of La Verne.

Mr. van Riel is also the General Manager and founder of Inland Empire Internet Television based in Rancho Cucamonga. He regularly hosts local television programs and emcees television programs cablecast throughout Los Angeles and San Bernardino County. In addition,

Mr. van Riel is a freelance video producer and commercial voice-over artist for numerous television and radio projects. ■

# COMM hosts virtual awards ceremony

The global pandemic and a campus closed to in-person activity didn't stop the Department of Communications from honoring excellence in student success.

The Department hosted a virtual Awards and Scholarships Ceremony in April 2021, broadcast live from the Titan TV studio and featuring faculty via Zoom.

Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard** and Assistant Professor **Dr. Gayle Brisbane** hosted the event.

The program featured students, faculty, staff,

alumni and supporters.

The event wasn't possible without faculty leadership.

**Beth Georges** oversaw the production as chair of the Awards Committee. Other members included Dr. Brisbane and **Dr. Elise Assaf**.

The Scholarships Committee comprised of **Dr. Frank Russell** (chair), **Dr. Cylor Spaulding**, **Dr. Ricardo Valencia**, **Dr. Vivien Angelus**, and **Dr. Roselyn Du**.

See page 16 of this issue for a full list of winners. ■



The Department of Communications hosted a virtual Awards and Scholarships Ceremony with assistance of Titan Communications in April 2021.

# COMM inducts alumni into Wall of Fame

The Department of Communications inducted two alumni into Alumni Wall of Fame at its 2021 awards ceremony.

## Matt Prince '07

Matt Prince currently leads Taco Bell's Public Relations and Brand Experience. He manages creative ideation and strategy for their largest campaigns, partnerships and activations.

Recently, he founded Net Net Synergy, a free resource site for students and young professionals in communications. It provides virtual mentorships, job postings and resources to help support young professionals during the pandemic.

Previously, Prince managed social media for the Walt Disney Co. where he developed and managed the company's first Social Media Command Center. Prior to that, Prince was Sr. Manager of Executive Communications, and lead speechwriter for Disney executives.

Prince has been recognized in AD-



WEEK's 31 Young Influentials List, and two 40 Under 40 lists: PR Week and OC Metro Magazine.

Most recently, he was the recipient of Public Relations Society of America's Distinguished Service Award, their highest honor to an individual leading the local community in Public Relations.

He's served as President of the Public Relations Society of America, Orange County Chapter in 2014 and is the advisor to CSUF's PRSA student chapter since 2011. He's a PRSA Distinguished Service Award recipient, a PRSSA National Hall of Fame inductee and two-time 'National Advisor of the Year'. He is a 2007 graduate of the Department of Communications, with a concentration in public relations.

## Justine Houston-Brown, APR '12

Justine Houston-Brown, APR, is a lifelong learner and accredited public relations professional continually looking to stay ahead of communications trends. In doing so, she has cultivated a career that thrives off of developing high-impact PR programs for a variety of B2B, B2C, and nonprofit clients.

Whenever possible, she aims to further diversity, equity, and inclusion in communications and is an outspoken DE&I advocate and ally.

Houston-Brown is actively involved in

the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and has been a member since 2011. She now serves as the first Hispanic president of the Orange County chapter (OCPRSA), chair-elect of the PRSA Western District, and a professional advisor with Net Net Synergy where she mentors new professionals.

Houston-Brown has also been invited to speak at the PRSA Leadership Rally, UCLA, Biola University, Cal State Fullerton's COMM Week, and more.

Houston-Brown has worked with companies across the globe including Toshiba, PROMISE Technology, Dole Food Company, Boys & Girls Clubs, Cytek Biosciences, Nihon Kohden, Orange County Community Foundation, and more – and has secured many broadcast segments as well as top-tier placements in publications such as Forbes, The Wall Street Journal, CNET, Mashable, WIRED, Inc., Family Circle, Good Housekeeping, USA Today, and others.

She is a 2012 graduate of the Department of Communications, with a concentration in public relations. ■





# Scholarship winners thank favorite professors

Students in the Department of Communications faced many challenges during the last two years.

Despite the effects of the global

pandemic and the shift to mandatory virtual instruction, students still praised their experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Below, several scholarship recipients in the Department of Communications shared their thanks to their favorite professors in the last year. ■



## **Samantha Aguilar**

Communications/Journalism  
*Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship*  
*Barbara K. Rickard-Riegle Broadcast Journalism Fund*

"So far, my favorite COMM professor is **Jesus Ayala**. He continuously inspires me and pushes me beyond my limits. I'm so grateful for his passion and commitment to teaching his students, even during a pandemic. My favorite course has been Al Dia because it has given me real newsroom experience."



## **Alyssa Aguirre**

Communications/Public Relations  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
*Communication Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM professor is Professor **Waleed Rashidi**. Professor Rashidi is an overall awesome professor who cares about his students. He has so much knowledge in so many different fields whether its travel, tourism, music, film, radio, TV, event planning. It's amazing and so inspiring to learn from a versatile professor."



## **Novia Baulisch**

Communications/Public Relations  
*Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship*

"COMM 317: Digital Foundations with Professor **Davis Barber** was my favorite course because I was able to tap into my creativity to create work that balances both aesthetics and design principles to facilitate visual communication."



## **Alan Bautista Robles**

Communications/Photocomm  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
*Communication Scholarship*

"The course that I have most enjoyed has been COMM 444, which is centered on the topic of building a visual portfolio. Professor **Ron Romain** has helped me, and my classmates build and redefine our visual portfolios to be used in future professional environments."



## **Anthony Bautista**

Communications/Journalism  
*Jay Berman Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM course and professor was COMM 201: Digital Reporting and Writing with Dr. **Frank Russell**. He shared a lot of knowledge and resources that has helped me grow as a writer. He is a very welcoming and down-to-earth person who makes me feel comfortable asking for help. I recommend taking a class with Professor Russell to any COMM student."



## **Jessica Benda**

Communications/Journalism  
*Jay Berman Scholarship*

"I've been so lucky to have so many kind professors; I've taken two multimedia courses with Professor **Gayle Brisbane**, and they challenged me because I knew very little about camerawork or editing. Professor Brisbane has always been so helpful, as well as understanding and empathetic."



# Scholarship winners thank favorite professors



**Huu Tin Cao**  
Communications/Advertising  
*Myles Atlas Memorial Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM course is COMM 350: Principles of Advertising, because it focuses on the principles of advertising, which is important for my future career. Professor **Carolynn Coal** is great with her enthusiasm, knowledge, and experience."



**Andrea Dixon**  
Communications/Public Relations  
*Ingrid and Jordan Smart Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM professor was Dr. **Ricardo Valencia** because he embodies what I believe makes an impactful teacher. He made every student feel welcome to participate or ask questions. He motivated me to give the class only my best. I am grateful to teachers like him."



**Prafullit Medi**  
Communications/Advertising  
*David Little Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM professor is Professor **Michelle Kurland**. She is a mentor of many students just as she is for me. Besides academics, she has taught me certain lessons that are going to be helpful in my daily life and my career as well."



**Anthony Robledo**  
Communications/Journalism  
*John and Jessie Maxwell Communication Scholarship*

"My favorite class I took at CSUF was COMM 101: Writing For Mass Media taught by **Robert Quezada**. He and the course really challenged me and taught me the basics of media writing. Professor Quezada graded toughly which pushed me to grow as a writer."



**Erika Esquivas Estrada**  
Communications/  
Entertainment & Tourism  
*John and Jessie Maxwell Communication Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM course was COMM 233: Mass Media in Modern Society, with Professor **Elise Assaf**. She is such a fun professor and engages with the class so much you genuinely enjoy being there. She is also really understanding and teaches you with modern examples."



**Hannah Gutierrez**  
Communications/Journalism  
*John and Jessie Maxwell Communication Scholarship*

"Professor **Maryanne Shults** was my favorite professor at CSUF because she made the class content engaging, and was also very positive, which motivated me to do better than I ever thought I could. She taught my favorite COMM class, which was COMM 233: Mass Media in Modern Society."



**Danielle Jaquez**  
Communications/M.A.  
*VJ Lovero Photojournalism Scholarship*

"My favorite COMM professor is Dr. **Chelsea Reynolds** because she has been an incredibly supportive mentor throughout my time in the CSUF COMM graduate program."





# Scholarship winners thank favorite professors



**Kristina Kasfy**  
Communications/Advertising  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"My favorite COMM course is COMM 317: Digital Foundations with **Richard Favela**. He was reachable to students very quickly, and he was able to help me out with the assignments in a matter of seconds. He cares for his students, and that is why I considered him to be my favorite professor."



**Zulma Mazariegos Amaya**  
Communications/Public Relations  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"In COMM 469: Crisis Communication, Dr. **Cylor Spaulding** brought his class to life with real-life case studies, interactive class discussions, informative guest speakers. Dr. Spaulding opened the curiosity to continue working towards a graduate degree in Crisis Communication."



**Briana Beverly Munoz**  
Communications/Journalism  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"My favorite COMM course is COMM 101: Writing for Mass Media with Professor **Marie Loggia-Kee**. She is an amazing professor and is very passionate about teaching, which I truly admire. She has helped me tremendously in my writing as well!"



**Jordan Murphy**  
Communications/Advertising  
*Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore*  
Scholarship

"My favorite COMM course has been COMM 455: Internet Advertising and Promotional Communications, with Professor **Brian Song**. Professor Song is an outstanding professor with a deep passion for the advertising industry. He has shown me how to think outside of the box and tap into my most creative self."



**Jennifer Perez**  
Communications/Public Relations  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"My favorite course was COMM 407: Communications Law with Dr. **Emily Erickson**. I loved this course because Professor Erickson explained these concepts so clearly, detailed, and captivating. This course was so fun and so practical for all communication careers."



**Brianna Rodriguez**  
Communications/  
Entertainment & Tourism  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"My favorite Communications professor thus far is Dr. **Jasmine Meertins**. Her small class size has allowed me to get to know her better than most professors I have met virtually, and most of all I can tell she really cares for her students as she is constantly providing us with opportunities and resources to thrive."



**Ran Wei**  
Communications  
*John and Jessie Maxwell*  
Communication Scholarship

"COMM 435: Opinion Writing with Professor **Walter Baranger** is my favorite class. He is very kind, and I am international student, I had some difficulty to use professional terms in the major, he was willing to help me no matter how many times I asked."





The faculty of the Department of Communications wishes to congratulate all Department award and scholarship recipients.

## AWARDS

### Outstanding Students

Hello Taipe, Advertising  
Katherine Owens, Entertainment & Tourism  
Douglas de Wet, Journalism  
Sonali Shukla, Public Relations

### Professional Promise Students

Courtney Lambe, Advertising  
Megan Holland, Entertainment & Tourism  
Kimberly Cruz, Journalism  
Ethan Catanghal, Public Relations  
Christopher Martin Jimenez, Public Relations

### Commencement Student Speaker

Douglas de Wet

### J. William Maxwell Outstanding Communications Student

Douglas de Wet

### James Jordan Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement

Douglas de Wet

### Campus Partnership Award

Titan Communications  
Nathan Jeffers  
David Manock  
Eraj Shadaram  
Matthew Sylvester  
Jeffrey Whitten

### Department Chair Leadership Award

Jessica Benda  
Kelly Casterline  
Tyler Michalowski  
Cameron Winston

### Distinguished Faculty Member

Robert Meeds

### Distinguished Part-Time Faculty Member

Rob van Riel

### Gerhard Friedrich Award for Exceptional Professional Promise

Kimberly Cruz

### Outstanding Graduate Students

Lydia Shehab, Professional Communications  
Kaitlin Martinez, Research & Theory  
John Pantie, Tourism and Entertainment  
Ellinor Rundhovde, Teaching/Research Assistant

### Alumni Wall of Fame Inductees

Matt Prince  
Justine Houston-Brown, APR

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

FanFlex  
Erik Nelson  
Gian Perugini

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### The Society of Professional Journalist Scholarship

Angela Gonzalez

### John Stewart Memorial Scholarship

Nylene Garcia  
Joshua Jurado  
Heather Solis

### Tom Pasqua Memorial Scholarship

Angela Gonzalez

### Gary Granville Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Benda

### David Little Scholarship

Prafullit Medi

### Barbara K. Rickard-Riegle Broadcast Journalism Scholarship

Samantha Aguilar

### Myles Atlas Memorial Scholarship

Huu Tin Cao

### The V.J. Lovero Photojournalism Scholarship

Danielle Jaquez

### Miven Venture Partners Scholarship

Julia Mitchell

### Alfred and Louise Hewitt Journalism Scholarship

Kimberly Cruz

### Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore Scholarship

Alyssa Aguirre  
Jordan Murphy

### Terry Hynes Scholarship

Caleena Sugiharto

### Laura Min Brooks Comm Week

Madeline Hernandez  
Megan Holland

### Jay Berman Daily Titan Scholarship

Anthony Bautista  
Jessica Benda

### Ingrid and Jordan Smart Scholarship

Andrea Dixon

### Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship

Samantha Aguilar  
Novia Baulisch

### Vikki Vargas/NBC4 Broadcast Journalism Scholarship

Kristie Adler

### Bergstrom Family Scholarship

Emily Melgar

### Tien Family Scholarship

Elizabeth Sun

### John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

Samantha Aguilar  
Alyssa Aguirre  
Zulma Mazariegos Amaya  
Novia Baulisch  
Anthony Bautista  
Huu Tin Cao

Debbie Castillo  
Kimberly Cruz  
Shantelle Cueva  
Erika Esquivias Estrada  
Nylene Garcia

Sarah Gonzalez  
Hannah Gutierrez  
Michael Guzman-Duenas  
Danielle Jaquez  
Joshua Jurado

Kristina Kasfy  
Prafullit Medi  
Emily Melgar  
Julia Mitchell  
Briana Munoz

Jordan Murphy  
Jennifer Perez  
Elizabeth Richards  
Spencer Robbins  
Anthony Robledo

Brianna Rodriguez  
Caleena Sugiharto  
Elizabeth Sun  
Nathan Tang  
Ran Wei

## HONORS

### Cum Laude

Courtney Agustin  
Nicolette Babineau  
Karen Banuelos  
Imogen Berumen  
Anjelina Booth  
Cade Bucknam  
Justine Castillo  
Korin Chao  
Jorge Contreras  
Angelina Dequina  
Ivan Duran  
Shauna Eisenberg  
Jared Eprem  
Lauren Finney  
Edwin Flores  
Skyelar Garcia

Eden Goltia  
Isabelle Gomez  
Amber Greene  
Allison Imler  
Julia Islas  
Diana Jarrah  
Melia Johnston  
Tasia Kester  
Kristen Kraniger  
Monica Lampaya  
Sarah Marin  
Alyssa Nicole Maun  
Natalie Mendoza  
Rebecca Metts  
Daniel Morales  
Richard Mortimer  
AnnMarie Motley

Amy Nguyen  
Ashley Nguyen  
Jimmy Nguyen  
Sophia Nunez  
Aliyah Ortiz  
Jason Pedroza  
Reina Pelky  
Samuel Pena  
Jessica Phan  
Sheldon Pryor  
Jennifer Ramirez  
Brianna Roach  
Alysa Rodriguez  
Ho Jun Roh  
Bryanna Romero  
Alysa Saquillabon

Brandon Small  
Aryana Tapia  
Phuc Tran  
Berlyn Valdez  
Trisha Vasquez  
Jason Anthony Villarba  
Chloe Visca  
Jacob Wilson  
Hsuan Yang  
Sydney Yokley  
Cristina Zapata

### Magna Cum Laude

Raechele Andrews  
Alexandra Bouras  
Zoe Burgess

Ethan Catanghal  
Prasiddh Chakraborty  
Kimberly Cruz  
Sheilla Dare  
Mary DeFranco  
Kelly Diehl  
Amanda Dunnuck  
Ashley Hult  
David Johansen  
Courtney Lambe  
Vivian Lee  
Alexander Malan  
Georgette Mora  
Bailey Pena-Norris  
Isadora Quevedo-Capizzi  
Claire Richardson

Rhett Rivera  
Cheyanne Seay  
Savannah Terrazas  
Clara Uttenthal

### Summa Cum Laude

Angela Chan  
Douglas de Wet  
Megan Holland  
Jennifer La  
Tristan Maglunog  
Katherine Owens  
Heather Retama  
Sonali Shukla  
Christian Sutton  
Helio Taipe