



COMMUNIQUÉ



A newsletter celebrating success from the Department of Communications

January 2023

COMM earns reaccreditation, recertification

A dynamic and inclusive department chair. A motivated student body of extraordinary diversity who “show up to learn.” A student-focused diverse faculty who are supportive and respectful and each other. Strong independent student media and multiple other extracurricular activities that give students



experience and networking opportunities. Experts and job opportunities by being located in the second largest media market in the U.S. Retention and graduation rates higher than the university’s average.

Those were the top strengths of

the Department of Communications identified by the site team of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) as part of a six-year comprehensive review

by the national body that accredits more than 100 journalism and mass communications world-wide.

“I am so proud of the work of our faculty and deeply appreciative of the site team for recognizing our collective commitment to



Dr. Doug Swanson (left) and Dr. Jason Shepard (right) with CEPR recertification site team in April 2022; the ACEJMC accreditation visited in January 2022.

high-quality education and student success,” said Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard**.

The Accrediting Council found the Department in compliance on all standards and unanimously granted *(continued on page 2)*

COMM wins AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award

The Department of Communications received the 2022 Equity and Diversity Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

The AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award recognizes journalism and mass communication academic programs that are working toward, and have attained measurable success, in increasing equity and diversity within their units.

“This award is further evidence of our success with change efforts that are grassroots, ground-up and faculty-led,” said Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard**. “All of us, from full professors to part-time lecturers, staff and everyone in between – whether they were involved in the application or not – should take



pride in this award.”

The chair of the awards selection committee noted this year’s pool of applications was the largest ever, with many outstanding programs applying. She cited the following as particular strengths of COMM:

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Left, Dr. Chelsea Reynolds accepts the AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award on behalf of the Department of Communications from AEJMC President Susan Keith at its annual conference in August. Above, faculty give a presentation about the Department’s priorities and projects.

COMM earns reaccreditation, recertification

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reaccreditation at a meeting in Chicago in April 2022.

"The unit has a detailed and deliberately calibrated process for ensuring balance between concept, theory and practical courses in each major/concentration and across platforms," the site team noted.

The site team signaled out the Department's curriculum reform efforts, noting, "The unit added a required course in Digital Foundations, increasing the required number of credit hours in the major from 36 to 39, the faculty created 14 new courses, four 12-unit pre-professional certificate programs and updated more than 20 courses."

The department's efforts to improve curriculum through formal assessment practices was also commended. "At a macro level, many of the department's curriculum reforms since the last review have been the result of closing-the-loop discussions based on data from the assessment process."

The site team also had high praise for the Department's mandatory internship program.

The Department's commitment to diversity was also highlighted as a major strength of the program. The site team praised the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Plan, which

focuses on three pillars of a diverse faculty, a diverse student body, and a diverse curriculum.

"The department, individual faculty, and students know, celebrate, and strongly value all forms of diversity," the site team wrote. "Their Diversity and Inclusion Plan is more than words on paper. It is embedded deep into the learning culture. The plan led to course revisions and additions, experiential learning opportunities, and new student clubs."

The site team praised the quality of the faculty, which at the time comprised of 34 full-time faculty, 18 part-time faculty, and 3 faculty in the early retirement program.

"Highly engaged in their fields, faculty build on professional and academic backgrounds for the benefit of their students," the site team noted. "Before joining the academy, most of the faculty worked in media-related fields, including journalism, public relations, advertising, the entertainment industries or related professional fields. Often they draw rich experiences from working in America's second-largest media market."

The site team also highlighted more than 20 signature programs and high-impact practices in the Department that offer rich co-curricular and extra-curricular engagement.

Recertified by PRSA

The Department was also recertified by the Public Relations Society of America, through its Certification in Education for Public Relations program.

"The Public Relations program enjoys a strong reputation in the region and throughout the state. Internship providers give high grades to students for their attitudes and accomplishments. Alumni are enthusiastic supporters, too," the site team wrote.

They found strong support for COMM among students, alumni and practitioners in Orange County.

"Students and alumni praised the quality of their education in general, along with its ability to prepare them for their careers," the site team wrote.

The site team found strong leadership, faculty, curriculum and programs.

"Required and elective courses are well-grounded in the principles of public relations, ethics, writing/content creation, research, campaigns, and global perspective that will help students prepare for successful careers in public relations."

Dr. Doug Swanson took the lead on the CEPR self study and organizing the site visit, for which Dr. Shepard is eternally grateful. ■

COMM wins AEJMC Equity & Diversity award

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- "your extensive Diversity and Inclusion five-year plan"
- "your ambitious DEI goals and priorities"
- "your commitment to telling diverse student stories through CSU student media"
- "your workshops on 'Scrubbing the Syllabus' and 'Trauma-Informed Pedagogy'"
- "the many research projects happening in the Department around DEI issues both historical and contemporary"

- "mentorship programs like NABJ and the Latino Communications Institute"
- "the multi-year funded initiative in partnership with NBCUniversal"
- "many, many other programs and DEI-focused opportunities happening in the Department."

"We see that you are serving a diverse student population and that you are striving to create an inclusive, equity-focused curriculum with attention to intersectional issues that affect your students, faculty and staff and our society at large."

The award application emphasized the Department's cultural transformation that prioritizes inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds accepted the award on behalf of the Department at the AEJMC Annual Conference in Detroit in August. Faculty also gave a presentation about the Department. Participants included **Dr. Ricardo Valencia, Dr. Roselyn Du, Dr. Miya Williams Fayne, Amber Wilson, Dr. Jiwoo Park, Dr. Bey-Ling Sha** (dean), and Dr. Reynolds. Dr. Shepard participated via Zoom. ■

COMM hosts JACC conference

The Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) returned with its first in-person Southern California Regional Conference since 2019, which was once again hosted at Cal State Fullerton's Titan Student Union on October 15, 2022.

The JACC Regional Conference was co-organized by **Dr. Waleed Rashidi**, who continues to serve on the JACC Board as a University Representative.

The conference featured nearly 100 attendees from several SoCal-based community colleges' communications programs, who participated in a series of journalism-related workshops and contests.

Daily Titan Adviser **Walt Baranger** provided information about the CSUF Communications major to prospective transfer students as part of an event titled, "Speed networking: Meet the 4-year reps," which was moderated by Dr. Rashidi.



Lecturer Maryanne Shults was among the COMM faculty who led workshops at the JACC conference held at CSUF in October.

Dr. Gayle Brisbane hosted a presentation in the Theater titled, "Covering college sports for broadcast" with CSUF COMM student Daniela Alvarado.

And lecturer **Maryanne Shults** demonstrated new design technology in the workshop, "Introduction to the updated Canva Suite." ■

Students win journalism awards

Department of Communications students working in student media won a slew of awards in student media competitions in 2022.

Student journalists in COMM won nine awards at the Spring National College Media Convention held March 3-5 in Long Beach, sponsored by the Associated Collegiate Press, the California College Media Association, and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

At MediaFest22 in Washington, D.C., the *Daily Titan* won several CMA Pinnacle Awards, a highly competitive national competition.

And at the annual CMBAM (College Media Business and Advertising Managers) virtual conference held in March, the *Daily Titan* advertising team earned 17 awards. Accolades ranged from best social media promotion (1st place) to best media kit (2nd place) to best digital display ads (1st and 2nd place). In addition, the *Daily Titan* placed 3rd overall for the best college media products program.

Kudos to advisers **Walt Baranger**, **Michelle Kurland** and **Jesus Ayala**. ■



Above, *Daily Titan* editorial students win several prestigious Pinnacle Awards, a highly competitive national competition, at the MediaFest22 Conference in Washington, D.C. Below, *Daily Titan* advertising students and adviser Michelle Kurland attend the 2022 College Media Business and Advertising Managers conference in Minneapolis.

PRSSA honored as outstanding chapter

The Department of Communications chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) won the Outstanding Chapter Award for the 2022 year among 300 international chapters.

This is the second time COMM has won this award in three years, making CSUF home to the number one chapter internationally. In order to win this award, the chapter must demonstrate a strong and active membership as well as leadership on the national level, both present and past. This award seeks chapters who are pushing the limits with programming and opportunities.

Congratulations to advisor **Ken Hagihara**. ■



Latino Journalists at CSUF honored

Latino Journalists of CSUF, our student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, brought home two major honors in August from the National Association of Black Journalists/NAHJ convention in Las Vegas.

The club won the inaugural award for top chapter in the region for all its work in the 2021-2022 academic year.

In addition, Brenda Elizondo was elected the student representative on the NAHJ Board of Directors, where she'll speak and vote for all the organization's student members nationwide in the coming academic year.

Congratulations to advisor **Holly Ocasio Rizzo** for this recognition! ■



Conferences, journals highlight COMM scholars

Department of Communications faculty gave many presentations and published articles in 2022. Highlights include:

Dr. Elise Assaf gave a presentation with graduate student Zoe Lance, "Revisiting university email as a crisis communication tactic," at the midwinter conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in March. Dr. Assaf also published a book chapter, "Healthcare and aging adults: Building beneficial relationships through social media," in *The Emerald Handbook of Computer-Mediated Communication and Social Media* in June.

Dr. Gayle Brisbane published an article in *Journal Communication Inquiry* titled "Religious Identity, Politics, and the Media: What white evangelical Christian women's religious identity reveals about their endorsement of Donald J. Trump and distrust of news outlets." She also presented related research at the International Communications Association (ICA) annual conference in Paris, France, in May.

Dr. Jasmine Phillips published a co-article titled "Institutional relational maintenance barriers and perceptions of relationship quality among women with incarcerated partners" in the journal *Crime & Delinquency*. She gave a presentation titled "Unpacking the Term Intercultural Communication Competence: A Synthesis of its History in Western Research Literature," at the Western States Communication Association conference in Portland, Oregon, in February. She also gave two co-authored presentations at the ICA conference in May. The presentations were titled "A History of the Conceptualization of Intercultural Communica-

tion Competence in Western Scholarship" and "The Impact of Intercultural Competence and Social Influence on Study Abroad Intention among U.S. Undergraduates."

Dr. Penchan Phoborisut published two articles: "Public performances as assemblages: contesting the narrative of Thailand's 2010 crackdown" in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, and "The Chadchart Effect: Bangkok's new Governor and his Affective Popularity with an "Army" of Fans" in the *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*. She presented papers titled, "Asian American and Pacific Islander Experiences and Needs at College Campuses in the United States," and "Fake News as Another State Apparatus of Control in Thailand" at the National Communication Association in New Orleans, in November. In October, she presented the paper she co-wrote with **Dr. Jiwoo Park** at the Council for Thai Studies, organized by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, titled "K-Pop Fandom in Political Activism: The case of BTS Army in the U.S. and the K-Pop Fandoms in Thailand."

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds published a co-authored textbook, *Sexual Communication: Research in Action*, by Kendall-Hunt Publishing. During Summer 2022, Dr. Reynolds gave a guest lecture on sexual identity in the Psychology Department at UC Santa Cruz and presented on numerous panels at AEJMC.

Dr. Jason Shepard published four articles in *California Publisher*: "Web designer says free speech gives right to reject same-sex couples," (Winter 2022); "Facial recognition technology raises concerns over privacy," (Spring 2022); "State laws targeting social media break First Amendment precedents," (Summer 2022); and "Students learn of press



Dr. Miya Williams Fayne, Dr. Jasmine Phillips, Dr. Elise Assaf, and Dr. Gayle Brisbane attended the International Communication Association conference in Paris, France, in May 2022.

freedom from their courageous adviser," (Fall 2022).

Dr. Cylor Spaulding published "Good works well publicized? Understanding L. Ron Hubbard's interpretation of Effective Public Relations" in *Public Relations Review* in May. He co-wrote a book chapter in *Social Media and Crisis Communication*, titled "Advancing research on crisis communication and religion." He guest-edited a special issue on Faith, Spirituality and Public Relations for the *Journal of Public Relations Research*. He also gave a lecture to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute titled "Building a religious brand: Exploring the foundations of religion through Public Relations."

Dr. Doug Swanson presented a paper at the Western Social Science Association Conference in Denver, "Christian Scientists and Coronavirus: How Church Publications Framed Appropriate Metaphysical Practice and Communication Response During the Pandemic."

Dr. Ricardo Valencia and

Dr. Henry Puente published an article titled "Nothing more American than a Mexican: Negotiating social media identities in the first city rivalry in U.S. football," in *The Journal of American Culture*.

Amber Wilson gave a presentation on a panel titled "Preparing for the Future of Internships: Best Practices in Internship Course Design and Assessment," at the annual conference of the Broadcast Education Association in Las Vegas in April.

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne presented two co-authored papers at the ICA conference in May. She chaired the session titled "Black Representation and Resistance in the USA." At the AEJMC conference in August, she presented "By Us, For Us?: How the Digital Black Press Covered Black Lives Matter." She also served as a panelist for a research panel about Black journalism scholarship and as a panelist for a teaching panel titled "The Pros and Cons of Bias in Newsgathering and Media Content Creation." ■

4 faculty recognized for outstanding teaching

Four faculty in the Department of Communications were recognized by CSUF's Faculty Development Center with the "Outstanding Teaching Recognition" Award in 2022.

Dr. Elise Assaf



Dr. Elise Assaf is an assistant professor in the Department of Communications. She teaches courses in public relations, entertainment and tourism communications, and the Department's introductory mass media in society course. She began at CSUF as a part-time instructor, and after earning her doctorate in 2020, was hired on the tenure-track.

Dr. Assaf thrives in her courses. Students say she is "amazing," leads "thoughtful and insightful conversations with ease," and makes learning "something to look forward to." She is highly engaged with students inside and outside the classroom, also chairing the Department's Awards Committee and serving as the new advisor of the Department's Kappa Tau Alpha Honors Society.

Carolyn Coal



Carolyn Coal is a full professor in the Department of Communications. Her students find her hands-on advertising and entertainment and tourism communications courses to be vital for their career preparation. They note she is passionate about teaching and flexible in meeting her students' needs. Professor Coal's



Department Chair Dr. Jason Shepard celebrated Department faculty receiving the Outstanding Teaching Recognition, along with Provost Carolyn Thomas and Dean Bey-Ling Sha.

students regularly say her classes are among their favorite at CSUF. In addition her to expertise in the advertising industry, Professor Coal is also a noted documentary film maker. She has also served for many years as advisor of the Department's popular Ad Club.

Dr. Jasmine Phillips



Dr. Jasmine Phillips is an assistant professor in the Department of Communications. She teaches courses in digital media, public relations, and entertainment and tourism communications. She is teaching a high-impact practice course in event planning and management assisting the Fullerton Arboretum with their outreach efforts. Her students describe her as "compelling," "motivating," and "engaging," and say her classes are the "most organized and structured" as any class they've taken.

Dr. Phillips is also the lead faculty member of the Department's Black CommUnity project, aimed at supporting Black students interested in communications professions. The

project is funded by the Scott/Jewett Fund for Innovation and Student Success.

Ron Romain



Ron Romain is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Communications. Since 1985, Ron has taught graphic design and digital media, garnering stellar student evaluations while navigating a field of constant change. For most of his teaching career, he taught as a part-time lecturer while working as a career professional in the fields of graphic design and advertising/marketing. He joined the Department full-time in 2019, and today, he also serves as coordinator of the Digital Communications Media certificate.

In recent years, he helped lead the Department's digital curriculum reform with keen attention to the student experience. His students describe his classes as a "joy" and note his care, compassion and commitment to helping students succeed. As one student wrote, "The world needs more Rons!!" ■

Comm Week returns to campus post-pandemic

The 44th annual Comm Week returned to the Cal State Fullerton campus after two years of going virtual during the pandemic.

The 2022 Comm Week, under the leadership of Dr. Waleed Rashidi and his students in COMM 497T: Event Planning and Management, was a huge success.

Among the faculty who hosted speaker included:

Ken Hagihara hosted Suzi Brown, Vice President of Communications at the Disneyland Resort, to discuss how public affairs adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Penchan Phoborisut hosted Tyrah Majors, anchor/reporter at KOMO News (ABC Seattle affiliate), to provide career tips on starting in broadcast journalism.

Dr. Gayle Jansen Brisbane hosted Dave Pasch, Sports Commentator at ESPN and the Arizona Cardinals, to speak about his career and offer insights in sports broadcasting.

Dr. Waleed Rashidi hosted Kristin Oliveri, Trip Support Coordinator at Destination America, to discuss types and modes of tourism and navigating pandemic tourist restrictions.

Dr. Waleed Rashidi and the Entertainment and Tourism Club hosted their 17th annual Industry Mixer featuring over two dozen professionals and alumni from the entertainment and tourism industries.

Anne LaJeunesse hosted writer Mark Eades to discuss reporting on theme parks.

Bill Thompson hosted Mitchell Aragon, Lead Photographer/Retoucher at YMI Jeanswear and Alyssa Walker, Fashion Photographer at SHEIN, to discuss career paths in pursuing professional photography.

Dr. Christina Ceisel hosted Michael Young, Tourism Development Manager at Visit Anaheim, to discuss his experiences working in Orange County tourism during and after the COVID-19 lockdown.

Keith Kesler hosted Greg Whitley,



The 2022 Comm Week Task Force. Left to right, Back row: Antoine Dinh, Gulsen Ozdemir, Ketina Klass, Katarina De Almeida, Arielle Berman, Krystal Kirby, Samantha Horrocks, Lauren Sosa, Cameron Eacobellis. Middle row: Joy Lanham, Alessandria Deleon, Laura Klein, Caroline Coykendall, Andrea Moran, Lesleeane Chavez, Hailee Giang. Front row: Alexandra Grosse, Dina Saad, Iyana Haggins, Hanaka Fischman, Melia Garcia, Tiana Bonilla, Sandy Ip, Maricela Ortiz.

Director and Producer of One Potato Productions, to discuss documentary film production and the creative process.

Holly Ocasio-Rizzo hosted John Silva, Senior Director of Professional Learning at the News Literacy Project, to discuss misinformation issues and verification of news related to the war in Ukraine.

Rob Van Riel hosted Brent Kahlen, Director and CEO of KOCI Radio, to discuss the significance of community radio.

Holly Ocasio-Rizzo hosted Rachel Ng, a freelance writer and editor, to discuss travel writing opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maryanne Shults hosted Nathaniel Percy, Crime and Public Safety Reporter at the Southern California News Group and freelance sports announcer, to discuss live athletics audio broadcasting.

Michelle Kurland hosted Kristen Griffiths, an Account Executive at Feltman Agency, to discuss her experiences working with the advertising and marketing industry.

Dr. Penchan Phoborisut hosted

Taylor Martinez, a Multimedia Teacher at Apple Valley High School, to discuss digital content in journalism and careers in the media.

Dr. Jason Shepard hosted Orly Ravid, Founder and Co-Executive Director at the Film Collaborative, to discuss careers in entertainment and media law, including copyrights, agreements, and privacy.

Dr. Henry Puente hosted John Pantle, Agent at Sound Talent Group, to discuss the elements of concert promotion.

Ken Hagihara hosted "Working in Digital Media," a KWSM panel featuring Jeff Soto, VP of Strategy and Client Relations; Casey Dean, Website Project Manager; and Savana Harris, Digital Marketing Specialist.

Davis Barber hosted Jomana Siddiqui, Founder of Pences Design and ModernEID, to discuss the creation of a graphic design business.

Dr. Cylor Spaulding hosted Heather McLaughlin, Vice President of PR Talent, to discuss what employers are seeking for candidates entering the public relations profession.

Holly Ocasio-Rizzo and the Latino Journalists of CSUF hosted

Faculty host dozens of professionals for Comm Week

the session, "How to Build a Reel on Premiere Pro" featuring Nathan Jeffers, Production Specialist with Titan TV Media.

Ron Romain hosted Russel Hicks, Founder and CCO of Curiosity Ink Media and President of Top Draw Animation, to discuss character creation and branding in the animation industry.

Dr. Chelsea Reynolds co-hosted a session with HCOM professor Dr. Tara Suwinyattichaiorn titled "Let's Talk About Sex: A Sexual Communication Q&A with Dr. Chelsea and Dr. Tara."

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne and NABJ-CSUF hosted the session, "A Conversation with National Association of Black Journalists President" featuring Dorothy Tucker, Investigative Reporter at CBS and the President of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Ken Hagihara and PRSSA hosted the Enchanted Spring Gala featuring Dr. Bey-Ling Sha, Dean of the CSUF College of Communications, and Matt Prince, Head of Public Relations and Brand Experience at Taco Bell.

Carolyn Coal and the AD Club hosted AdCon, featuring Veronika Luqin, Global Marketing Lead at Adobe and Alex Rodriguez, Senior Product Designer at Surfline Wave-trak, Inc.

Dr. Cylor Spaulding hosted Jessica Lopez, Senior Director of Research and Consumer Insights at Viking Cruises, to discuss the fundamentals of how research can be used to inform real world business decisions.

Dr. Jiwoo Park hosted Grace Kim, CEO and Head Designer at GK Designs, to discuss how to create and leverage personal branding.

Michelle Kurland hosted Kristina Wade, Management Supervisor at Envoy, to discuss driving brand awareness while educating consumers.

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne hosted



At top, photographers and CSUF alumni Mitchell Aragon (left) and Alyssa Walker spoke at a panel titled, "Pursuing Professional Photography as a Gen Z Graduate" hosted by Professor Bill Thompson in TSU Heterbrink on April 25. At bottom, Dr. Miya Williams Fayne hosted Dorothy Tucker, NABJ national president and CBS investigative reporter, to be the guest speaker for NABJ-CSUF's Comm Week event.

Rebecca Wolfson, Director of Global Publicity at Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, to discuss the pros and cons of agency and in-house publicity positions.

Michelle Kurland hosted Nickie Hill, Advertising Sales Account Manager at the Orange County

Register, to discuss experiences of the advertising industry, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Miya Williams Fayne hosted Jerry Caraccioli, Former Executive Director at CBS Sports, to discuss careers in the sports industry. ■

Awards & Scholarships Dinner returns in-person

The Department of Communications Awards & Scholarships Dinner returned to an in-person event after being held virtually for two years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Top students were honored and \$40,000+ in scholarships were awarded at the Department of Communications' Awards and Scholarships Dinner on April 28, held at the Titan Student Union.



Department Chair **Dr. Jason Shepard** emceed the event, which was attended by nearly 300 guests.

In addition to the student awards and scholarships, several others were recognized.

Michelle Kurland was recognized as the 2022 full-time distinguished faculty member.

Kurland is an excellent teacher, colleague and Daily Titan advertising adviser. She is regularly described by students as their favorite professor, and is known for her caring and professional demeanor.

In her role as Daily Titan advertising adviser, Kurland excels at assembling her advertising and marketing teams of students in support of Daily Titan, giving them invaluable real-world experience while demonstrating team-building skills.

John Hart was recognized as the 2022 part-time distinguished faculty member.

Hart retired from the Department of Communications this year, after 21 years of teaching at Cal State Fullerton, and a total of 38 years of teaching, including at multiple area community colleges.

At CSUF, Hart has taught COMM 233: Mass Media in Modern Society,

for our department, and several classes in the Department of Cinema and Television Arts, formerly called the Department of Radio-TV-Film.

He spent decades working in both radio and television. Over the years, he invited countless students to visit him at CBS Studio Center to watch network sitcoms being recorded in front of a live audience.

Two distinguished alumni were inducted in the Alumni Wall of Fame.

Marie Montgomery Nordues has worked in public relations for the Automobile Club of Southern California's Public Affairs team since 1998, helping to position the organization as the primary subject matter expert for media outlets regarding travel, gas prices, and traffic and automotive safety. Her team has won recognition from the Public Relations Society of America, national AAA and other groups for its advocacy initiatives. She is responsible for corporate communications and media relations for the largest member group of the AAA federation.

When she was a student at CSUF, she worked as an editor at the *Daily Titan*. News events in 1984 included two murder trials, a national college baseball championship, and a remarkable undefeated football season. After graduating, Marie started her career as a reporter for *The Orange County Register* and *The South Bay Daily Breeze*.

The second Alumni Wall of Fame inductee, **Jordan Young**, is a 1973 graduate. Jordan is a journalist, film historian and playwright whose writings in many publications have been acclaimed for their excellence. His plays have been produced Off Broadway and in Hollywood. He has worked on documentary films and radio and TV shows. His books include "Spike Jones Off the Record" and "Roman Polanski: Behind the Scenes of His Classic Early Films."

Young has written special material for the Grammy Awards and served



as a consultant for BBC Radio. He is a longtime board member of the Orange County Playwrights Alliance and a former travel writer for the Automobile Club of Southern California. He has been honored by the Los Angeles Press Club and invited to speak by numerous organizations.

Norberto Santana Jr., publisher of the Voice of OC, was the recipient of the Distinguished Communicator of the Year. Santana, Jr. is an award-winning investigative reporter with nearly two decades of reporting experience, most recently engaging Orange County government institutions and decision makers as the founding publisher of the nonprofit digital newsroom, Voice of OC.

Voice of OC was also recognized as the James P. Alexander Outstanding Communications Internship Site Award. The Voice of OC was founded in 2009 in order to inform and empower residents with essential Orange County news. The publication has been a longtime site for interns from our department, specifically journalism students who have gained valuable experiences in covering public affairs and local government in Orange County.

The event was put together by the Department's Awards Committee, chaired by **Dr. Elise Assaf**, and included **Dr. Gayle Brisbane**, **Dr. Jasmine Phillips**, **Dr. Penchan Phoborisut**, and **Dr. Miya Williams Fayne**.

Jenny Amaro-Bussey, the department's administrative support coordinator, was the event's coordinating planner and ran the show behind the scenes. ■



Graduating senior Tyler Costa took home a pile of awards, including the Professional Promise Award for Advertising, the Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore Scholarship, the John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship, and Magna Cum Laude honors.



Professor Bob Meeds presented lecturer Michelle Kurland with the 2022 Distinguished Full-Time Faculty Member Award. Professor Kurland is regularly described by students as their favorite professor, and is known for her caring and professional demeanor.



Internship Coordinator presented Norbert Santana, Jr., with the 2022 James P. Alexander Internship Site Award for hosting internships at the Voice of OC. Santana was also recognized as the 2022 Distinguished Communicator of the Year.



NBC 4 Orange County Bureau Chief (and COMM alum) Vikki Vargas presented student Alexis Johnson-Fowlkes with the Vikki Vargas-NBC4 Broadcast Journalism Scholarship.



Dr. Andi Stein presented Jordan R. Young, a 1973 graduate of COMM, with a distinguished alumni award. Jordan is a journalist, film historian and playwright whose writings in many publications have been acclaimed for their excellence



Students were recognized for outstanding academic excellence, including those meeting levels for Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude.

Jenny Amaro-Bussey retires from COMM

Jenny Amaro-Bussey, the Department's Administrative Support Coordinator, retired in December 2022 after nearly 29 years of service to Cal State Fullerton.

Jenny's professionalism, dedication and support were unparalleled. She began at CSUF working for facilities and physical plant, and then moved to Academic Affairs, working first for the Faculty Development Center and then in the Department of Sociology before joining the Department of Communications in 2015.

Jenny played a pivotal role in supporting the Department's many signature programs and high impact practices, while also helping faculty and students navigate the university bureaucracy.

In bidding farewell, Department faculty said things such as: "Jenny does the work of three people. And she does it while being the nicest person in the world." Another said, "Every time I encounter Jenny is a superb moment - that's what's so magical about her. Whether it's the warm greeting or the magical answer to that nagging question I was afraid to ask out loud - yeah, she's remarkable." Yet another said, "It would be hard to overstate how important Jenny has been for me as a faculty member in the Communications Department." ■



Above and right, faculty and staff say goodbye at Jenny's retirement party in December 2022. Below from top left to bottom right: Jenny leads Commencement ceremonies; Jenny fans out with KTLA's Henry DiCarlo (a COMM alum); Jenny says farewell to staff member Lauren Ho; Jenny is recognized for 25 years of service with her husband Mike; Jenny shares a moment with mentor Jack Bedell; and Jenny poses with the Awards Committee as she runs the show from the behind the scenes.



Scholarship winners thank favorite COMM professors



Ferry Gene Baylon
Communications/Journalism
Terry Hynes Scholarship

"My favorite COMM course is COMM 325 (Multimedia Journalism) taught by **Dr. Penchan Phoborisut** because it taught me so much about creating visually appealing stories through photos, videos and sounds. The class also pushed me to hone my skills in editing softwares such as Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.



Arielle Berman
Communications/
Entertainment & Tourism
*Lin Min Brooks Comm Week
Scholarship*

"My favorite Communications course has to be Comm 497T, better known as Comm Week, taught by **Dr. Waleed Rashidi**. The class is truly one-of-a-kind in its unique approach to practical learning in an academic setting. I would highly recommend anyone looking to gain hands-on experience in a leadership role to take the class and apply for an executive position.



Lily Carrillo
Communications/
Entertainment & Tourism
*John and Jessie Maxwell
Communications Scholarship*

My favorite COMM course was COMM 101 (Writing for Mass Media) with Professor **MaryAnne Shults**. This writing course was a great introduction to media writing and the COMM major itself. It was challenging but with the encouragement and great feedback that Professor Shults offered on assignments, and quizzes, it helped me push through the course!



Jessica Choi
Communications/Journalism
*Jay Berman Daily Titan and Gary
Granville Memorial Scholarships*

"One of the most memorable courses I took was COMM 471: Capstone - Daily Titan News with Professor **Walt Baranger** ... I was challenged to produce constant journalistic work: bi-weekly stories, art and photos ... The course was a huge learning experience where I was able to cover a little bit of everything in order to prepare myself for the variety journalism in the real world has to offer."



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

"So far, my favorite COMM course has been COMM-233 (Mass Media in Modern Society) with Professor **Dr. Elise Assaf**. She made this class so much more interesting, and it was a class I genuinely enjoyed attending! The content taught was most likely one of the most interesting in any class I have taken at CSUF so far and I loved being able to learn a little bit about everything.



Andres Webster
Communications/
Journalism
*John and Jessie Maxwell
Communications Scholarship*

I truly enjoyed every COMM course and its professor, so it is hard to choose just one. However, I think Digital Foundations (COMM 317), taught by **Dr. Jasmine Phillips Meertins**, has been the class experience I've enjoyed the most; the assignments allowed lots of freedom but required creativity, which made them fun and challenging. I appreciated Dr. Meertins' work and encouragement throughout the course. She is a very passionate teacher and goes the extra mile for every student.





The faculty of the Department of Communications wishes to congratulate its 2022 award and scholarship recipients.

AWARDS

Outstanding Students

Bayla Gomberg, Advertising
Trinh Hoang, Advertising
Alyssa Scott, ETC
Elena Malek, Journalism
Caleena Sugiharto, Public Relations

Professional Promise Students

Tyler Costa, Advertising
Laura Klein, ETC
Jessica Benda, Journalism
Emma Rowell, Public Relations

James Jordan Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement

Alyssa Scott

J. William Maxwell Outstanding Communications Student

Bayla Gomberg

Gerhard Friedrich Award for Exceptional Professional Promise

Jessica Benda

Outstanding Graduate Students

Zoe Lance, Mass Media Research & Theory Student
Brianna Murphy, Professional Communications Student
Hanna Markham, Tourism & Entertainment Communications Student
Rozalyn Burchett, Graduate Student Teaching/Research Assistant

Department Chair Leadership Awards

Anthony Bautista
Isabel Cambiaso
Brisa Colon
Jorge Flores
Liliana Lopez
Dakota MacDonald
Jordan Murphy
Caitlin Williamson

NBCU Academy Fellows

Kristle Adler
Samantha Aguilar
Jessica Benda
Crystal Bender
Brisa Colon
Brenda Elizondo
Nylene Garcia
Emily Melgar
Paige Strickland

Distinguished Part-Time Faculty Member

John L. Hart

Distinguished Full-Time Faculty Member

Michelle Kurland

Campus Partnership Award

Faculty Development Center - 2020
Titan Communications - 2021

Alumni Wall of Fame Inductees

Marie Montgomery Nordhues
Jordan Young

James P. Alexander Outstanding Communications Internship Site Award

Voice of OC

Distinguished Communicator Award

Norberto Santana Jr.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Society of Professional Journalist Scholarship

Emily Melgar

John Stewart Memorial Scholarship

Anthony Bautista
Crystal Bender
Andres Webster Cabrera

Tom Pasqua Memorial Scholarship

Emily Melgar

Gary Granville Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Choi

Barbara K. Rickard-Riegle Broadcast Journalism Fund

Alexis Johnson-Fowlkes

Myles Atlas Memorial Scholarship

Kevin Montes

V.J. Lovero Photojournalism Scholarship

Geovanny Alcibia-Guzman

Comm Titan Shops/Titan Bookstore Scholarship

Tyler Costa

Terry Hynes Scholarship

Ferry Baylon

Laura Min Brooks Comm Week Scholarship

Arielle Berman
Dina Saad

Jay Berman Daily Titan Scholarship

Jessica Choi

Alfred and Louise Hewitt Journalism Fund Scholarship

Jon Buzdar

Ingrid and Jordan Smart Scholarship

Zulma Mazariegos Amaya

Edgar P. Trotter Scholarship

Precious A. Castellanos

Vikki Vargas/NBC4 Broadcast Journalism Scholarship

Alexis Johnson-Fowlkes

Bergstrom Family Scholarship

Debbie Castillo

Denise Harrison Integrity Award Scholarship

Diana Cansino

Viet Dzung Human Rights Scholarship

Geovanny Alcibia-Guzman

Echeveste Family Scholarship

Alexis De La Cruz

Chris Dufresne Sports Journalism Scholarship

Briana Munoz

John and Jessie Maxwell Communications Scholarship

Crystal Bender
Ivan Calderon
Liliana Carrillo
Tyler Costa
Cheyenne Covington
Erika Esquivias Estrada
Vianey Gonzalez
Hannah Gutierrez
Caitlin Hay
Lucy Ho
Baheer Khan
Zulma Mazariegos Amaya
Emily Melgar
Kevin Montes
Briana Munoz
Karrin Parks
Daniella Perez
Emma Suarez
Andres Webster Cabrera

HONORS

Cum Laude

Aline Alcazar
Odalis Alvarez
Adam Aranda
Amy Arredondo
Alyssa Beltran
Jessica Bernal
Zachary Blum
Monica Carranza
Florentino Chavez
Michelle Cho
Yena Cho
Caroline Coykendall
Amy Dang

Andrea Dixon
Jennifer Do
Maha El Masri
Emiliana Esparza
Jordan Gaitan
Patrick Gamboa
Kiana Gonzalez
Alexandra Grosse
Hailey Guerrero Pineda
Connor Hedges
Sandy Ip
Yasmeen Jarrar
James Joslyn
Natalie Kalkanian

Kristina Kasfy
Sebastiani Kim
Sydney Lacy
Edward Landeros
Jee Hwan Lee
Nicole Llamas
Liliana Lopez
Lauren Madigan
Paul Magdaleno
Maristelle Manela
Raderic Manzano
Daniela Martinez
Reina Masquat
Madelyn Meneses

Darya Moallempour
Alan Morales
Andrea Moran
Briana Munoz Morales
McKenzie Murray
Ho Mai Tram Nguyen
Maricela Ortiz
Yuridia Perez
Cayla Porter
Patrina Quach
Elizabeth Richards
Hannah Ridge
Lukas Riker
Spencer Robbins

Valeria Sandova
Kaylee Sic
Jake Simon
Shelby Stancliff
Jillian Stewart
Brittany Tran
Norma Vazquez

Magna Cum Laude

Samantha Aguilar
Matena Akram Jarjis
Ji Young An
Novia Baulisch
Neyda Campos

Cynthia Cisneros
Alexa Consadori
Tyler Costa
Matthew Davis
Alyssa Gentry
Bayla Gomberg
Ryan Graylee
Camryn Haynes
Charis Hill
Trinh Hoang
Joanne Kang
Kari Kessinger
Nicole Kiyabu
Kendall Kutz

Mark Lee
Elena Malek
Catherine Norby
Felix Ochoa
Maya Ozasa
Emily Pearce
Timothy Petersen
Callie Petrey-Juarez
Kim Pham
Tina Phuong
Evan Plotnik
Yamileth Rangel
Jerome Robles
Elyssa Ruiz

Kaileen Santos
Samantha Valle
Charlie Vejvoda
Madeline Velez
Alexis Vigil
Maricela Zavala

Summa Cum Laude

Claire Daniels
Laura Klein
Willia Marguerite Madrid
Alyssa Scott
Caleena Sugiharto
Caitlin Williamson
Jessica Zolinski