



# COMMUniqué

## November, 2016

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## Notes from the Chair

by Dr. Michelle A. Holling

Greetings COMMUniqué readers! I hope that the fall semester is going well for everyone. I'm pleased to serve as Chair of the Communication Department for the next three years. Our department is one of the largest in the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences and I'm lucky to be part of such a vibrant department filled with committed and talented faculty, staff, and students.

The first nine weeks of the semester have been busy, I'm sure, for all of us. Recently, the department hosted its annual Meet and Greet event, which is a story in this issue. In the days following it, external reviewers visited our department to review the communication major. Reviewers met with students in particular courses and over lunch. My appreciation to students for

providing their input about the major. As well, reviewers had the opportunity to talk with faculty and staff. Overall, their visit went well and they left with a positive impression of the major, students, and faculty! In the remaining weeks of the semester, faculty will be or have already presented their scholarship at conferences. As well, the department will participate in the Majors/Minors Fair and students in COMM 454 will sponsor the annual Whiteness Forum.

For now, I invite you to take a little bit of time and read this latest issue. A second issue will publish in December. If you're interested in pitching a story for the newsletter, contact either me or Helena Gulbrandsen, co-editor and student intern for the department.

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### Students mingling

The Department provided food for attendees



### Faculty attended

Dr. Pindi and Dr. Rossmann

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet & Greet

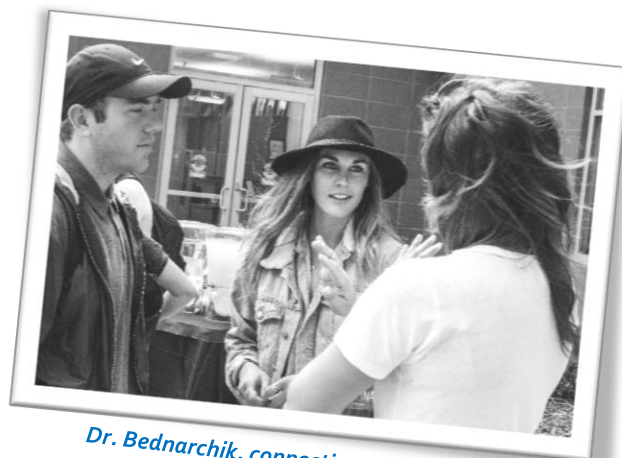
by Helena Gulbrandsen

The 6th Annual Meet and Greet of the Communication Department took place on October 4th, 2016 at the SBSB Courtyard. The Department co-hosted the event with Communication Society and Lambda Pi Eta (LPE), who also assisted with promotion and set up for the event. There, attendees enjoyed assorted desserts and refreshments.

After some mingling and snacking, Dr. Holling, Department Chair, welcomed our newly hired faculty: Dr's. Lori Bednarchik, James Anderson, Amy Corey, Antonio De La Garza, and Brian Dolber. In her comments, Dr. Holling referenced their educational background, courses they currently teach, and distinct elements about each faculty. Invited guests in attendance included faculty from the department, Associate Deans Staci Beavers and Martha Stoddard Holmes, and Director of Student Success in CHABSS, Leo Melena. It is always a nice welcome when representatives from the Dean's office take time from their busy schedules to attend department functions.

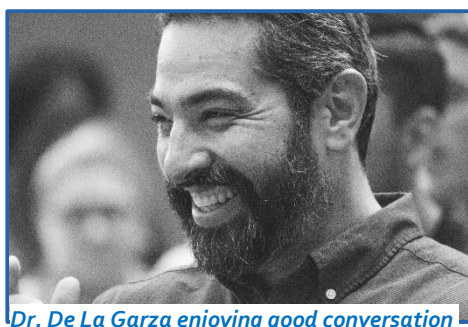
The Meet & Greet was a chance for students to engage in conversation with professors and other students. Students from the majors attended as well as some professors brought their classes to attend the event so students would not miss out.

Students expressed interest in talking to both new and existing faculty, as well as signing up for information about the Communication Society and the LPE, the communication honor society. President of the LPE, Noelle Conrad spoke to the crowd, informing students how joining the society can benefit them on their academic journey.

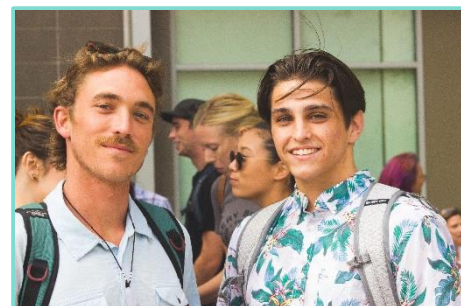


*Dr. Bednarchik, connecting with students*

It was a successful event with engaging conversations--a good way for students to get to know their professors outside of the classroom setting. For more information about the history of Meet & Greet, revisit [COMMUniqué](#) Volume 3, Issue 1. We hope you enjoy the wonderful photographs taken by Cody Cook, a communication major.



*Dr. De La Garza enjoying good conversation*



# Get to Know the New Faculty!

by Helena Gulbrandsen

**This semester, five new faculty members joined our Department. They are Dr. Antonio De La Garza, Dr. Amy Corey, Dr. Brian Dolber, Dr. Lori Bednarchik, and Dr. James Anderson. I had the opportunity to interview four of them so that readers can get to know more about them outside of class. Stay tuned for an in-depth interview with Dr. De La Garza in our next issue of COMMUniqué.**



*Dr. Amy Corey, photo by Cody Cook*

## Dr. Amy Corey

Dr. Corey teaches the classes Television & Culture (COMM 455) and Popular Culture (COMM 465) this semester at CSUSM. Dr. Corey thinks that CSUSM is a school that really “lives” the vision they have about diversity and commitment to social justice. She wants her students to learn how to develop critical and creative thinking skills as she sees these as necessities when approaching the problems that confront society today.

She would also like to see her students provide reasons for their opinions as that will be helpful in class, the workplace, the community, as well as in personal relationships. When asking Dr. Corey about her most important experience from college she explains, “learning that I don’t have to do it all, and that I certainly don’t have to do it all by myself, was an important lesson for me. So, learn how to ask for help!”

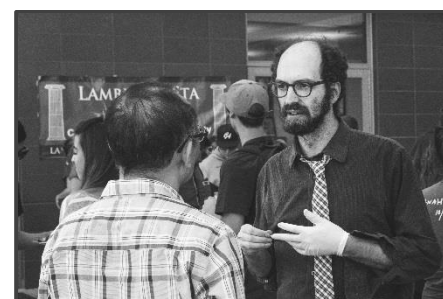
Growing up as a middle child, Dr. Corey became aware of how to use communication to mediate conflict in her family. She had always been interested in communication, and it has been her major through all of her degrees. She earned a B.A. in communication studies, a Master of Arts in human communication studies, and a Ph.D. in human communication studies. Throughout her education, a focus on community has grown stronger for her, and while pursuing her undergraduate degree she connected it to the root of communication. Dr. Corey reflects, “I think that every discipline in some way or another is looking for “what does it mean to be human, what is this human life we’ve got going on? Psychology, anthropology all answers this in different ways, but in communication we answer that through the way that we talk, relate and communicate with one another. That really resonates with me.”

When Dr. Corey is not teaching her classes, community is still a very big

part of her life. She enjoys dancing salsa, and explains that the salsa dancing community in San Diego has a great sense of community with cultural richness and respect. You can tell that dancing means a lot to Dr. Corey when she explains, “During the hours I am at the studio, nothing else exists. All the other problems just melt away when I am in the studio, it is such a gift!”.

## Dr. Brian Dolber

Dr. Dolber moved to California about a year ago from New York, and he now teaches COMM 470, Political Communication. In Dr. Dolber’s experience, his students are engaged and willing to have interesting conversations, which have been the high point for him since he started teaching at CSUSM this past August. Dr. Dolber hopes that his students see themselves as individuals who can act as agents involved in political processes. He wants them to think critically about the world around them and view themselves as capable of making change.



*Dr. Brian Dolber, photo by Cody Cook*

Dr. Dolber grew up in a home where there was much emphasis on education, with both his parents being teachers. Dr. Dolber majored in journalism when he went to college for his undergraduate degree. He has always been passionate about social justice issues. However, as a journalism major, he noticed that

there were many things that prohibited journalists from doing what he thought they were expected to do, especially with regard to investigative work. These restrictions made journalism a less appealing path to pursue for him.

Dr. Dolber's interest in politics and social justice was reflected by his involvement in several political movements, such as the "anti-sweatshop movement", which was a late 90s- criticism of how globalization was moving jobs for lower wages and poor working conditions. Working for issues like those, he realized that he was more interested in critiquing the media than he desired being part of it. This led him to see communication as an academic field rather than something to simply practice, and he went to earn his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

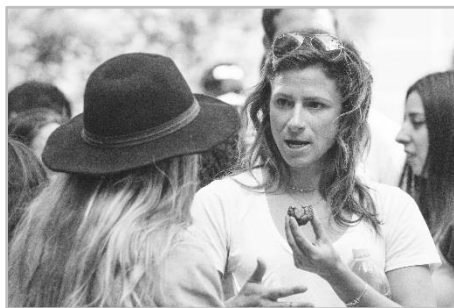
An activity that takes up Dr. Dolber's time is drumming. He is a musician, and used to play in a band when he was living in New York. Since moving to California, he still practices music and plays with musicians in Los Angeles. Dr. Dolber likes connecting with people on his spare time as well as when he is working. At work he sees the importance of being a good colleague and offering people assistance with for instance writing or development of classes. He believes that there is a lot to gain from approaching things cooperatively rather than competitively, and that reciprocating always comes back to you later on in life.

### Dr. Lori Bednarchik

Dr. Bednarchik teaches COMM 380, Health Communication; COMM 437, Interpersonal Communication; and COMM 456, Leadership and Social Change this fall. Dr. Bednarchik's favorite part about teaching at

CSUSM this semester is how the students seem so excited and enthusiastic to learn. Dr. Bednarchik wants for her students to have a non-traditional experience in the classroom where they get to say what they feel, and get empowered in the process.

Dr. Bednarchik has an interesting academic background before getting to where she is today. With a master's degree in public health, she worked as a health educator at SDSU for about five years. One of the programs she taught there was on sexual prevention. In this program she had a couple of communication professors attend and talk about the communication aspect of sexual prevention, especially sexual consent. The way that these professors focused on the communication part of sexual prevention appealed to her, and this experience was part of Dr. Bednarchik's choice to pursue a Ph.D. in communication.



Dr. Bednarchik, Photo by Cody Cook

Through her college experience, Dr. Bednarchik explains how the most influential courses she had were in women's studies. Those courses changed her whole way of looking at the world, and influenced her to get a LGBTQ certificate. She explains: "All that work with gender continues to be such a foundational piece of what I do, that I would not be where I am today without that one women studies class. It just blossomed from there. Learning about gender and sex

and the difference between feminine and masculine communication, and why we have trouble communicating with each other sometimes, that is just 'mind-blowing'".

When Dr. Bednarchik is not teaching, she enjoys working out on a daily basis. She likes surfing, going to the gym, running and practicing yoga. Bednarchik enjoys spending time with friends, although she describes herself as an introvert, and her alone time is important. Dr. Bednarchik's best advice for her students would be to always be themselves. Dr. Bednarchik likes to show her students a glimpse of her own personality and she always remembers the students who do the same.

### Dr. James Anderson

Dr. Anderson teaches the course COMM 322 "Media Power" this fall at CSUSM. This class is an interesting mix of practical "hands on" experience of media infused with theory. He hopes that his students will discover a sense of agency and see themselves as individuals who can make changes to systems to which they are a part. He also wants his students to see that they can change how media portrays issues.

Dr. Anderson has a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, and chose to pursue a master's degree in communication. Dr. Anderson was freelancing during the time he was getting his masters, and he also had an internship. After getting his masters, he decided to attend a Ph.D. program in Mass Communication and Media Arts at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. While working on his Ph.D., Dr. Anderson published in "Truthout", a news outlet that publishes investigative journalism. This was sparked by his

interest in critical and alternative media.

While in Carbondale, Dr. Anderson worked as a co-host on a community radio-show, and he was involved with what used to be called the Independent Media Center (IMC). At the IMC, he worked with a collective group to revamp the media center into an “Infoshop”, created to attempt to reduce and eliminate power imbalances. One of the things that he takes away from this experience, along with being in the graduate assistant labor union, is the ethos that “power is not self-justifying.” He encourages a critical reflection of one’s role in an institution, including the place where one is situated, the university itself.

Dr. Anderson says that it is healthy to evaluate if structures of power can be justified, and if those structures are at all legitimate. If they are not, people should work together to create more mutually empowering social relations and arrangements.

Dr. Anderson has personal experience with power hierarchies as his sister was incarcerated recently, and the way in which she handled the situation was very inspiring to him. Dr. Anderson believes that prison is a dehumanizing institution that cannot be justified. He rather believes in a transformative justice approach that is geared toward changing social conditions, so that the perceived need for prison becomes obsolete. Since moving to Southern California, Dr. Anderson has had multiple jobs outside of teaching at CSUSM (e.g., tutoring, working at a grocery store, and teaching at a community college). Outside of work, Dr. Anderson enjoys running. He has participated in the Chicago Marathon and the St. Louis marathon, among others. At the time of this interview he was training for the Temecula “half-marathon” in October.

## Innovation Drive for San Marcos Elementary School

Dear CSUSM students,

A small group of students from COMM 310 (Group Interaction and Problem Solving Methods) are partnering up with San Marcos Elementary, (SME) to help them with their “Innovation Drive.” We are asking for many items that are typically thrown away or recycled. Please make sure all recyclable items have been cleaned and dried before donating. Donations may be dropped off at the Student Centers such as: The Latino center, the LGBT center, etc. There will be boxes with a list of items that are needed for the drive. SME will start their drive, November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Items include: egg cartons, any cardboard boxes, tape, glue, etc. For a full list of items needed please check boxes at the centers, there will be a list taped to each box. Thank you in advance for any help we can get and let’s have a positive impact on some Elementary kids!

## Student Spotlight: Communication Major & CHABSS Rep to ASI, Louis Adamsel

Louis Adamsel is a communication major at CSUSM with a minor in philosophy. He plans to graduate in the spring of 2018. When Adamsel had his first communication course, oral communication, he realized that communication as a major was something that interested him beyond the course itself. Throughout his degree, he took several courses that made an impact on him, and two of them are “Communicating Whiteness” and “Rhetorical Theory”. Dr. Dreama Moon teaches “Communicating Whiteness”, which

is not a traditional class, according to Adamsel. It is a class where the students are challenged on their daily encounters with racism and discrimination in America, and are given tools to question and challenge people’s belief systems. “I think her main focus in the class is to influence people to change the outside world!” says Adamsel.

Adamsel states that Dr. Moon is a professor who is passionate about her work, and inspires him. In addition to Dr. Moon, Dr. Michelle Holling is a professor that had an

impact on him. In her course, COMM 401 (Rhetorical Theory), Adamsel learned about Afrocentrism, Mestiza rhetoric, and feminist rhetoric. From Adamsel’s experience, the course is challenging; however, it makes the students in the class better communicators. When it comes to Dr. Holling’s courses, he believes that the learning outcomes are so valuable that it does not matter to him what grade he earns in the end. Adamsel points out, “don’t take a class because it is easy! Sometimes, the struggle is what you need to get

the most out of the class. Don't be too scared!"

As a communication major, Adamsel learned to reach out to other organizations within the University. Associated Students Inc. (ASI) is a non-profit, student run organization on campus that works "To serve, engage, and empower students." Adamsel had many friends who worked for the ASI and now serves as one of their representatives. He explains, "ASI representatives work to make sure that everyone feels love for their college, and so that everyone should feel included."

Adamsel noticed that in order to make changes within the University and get support while doing it, a person has to be strong and take a stand. He insists that if we want to be a part of change, students must not stand on the sideline, but must get involved and talk about the issues in our world today. In addition to working at the ASI, Adamsel works in the Army National Guard. He attended reserved military training for one year before he started attending CSUSM and is attending with a veteran status. He goes to training in Army National Guard 2-3 days per month and 2.5 weeks in the summer.

Adamsel is also involved as a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, which is the first National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Fraternity on campus. These are historically African American fraternities and sororities in the United States. He found out about his fraternity his second year on campus and was inspired to join when he got to know the members. The fraternity does much work to impact the community. In addition to volunteering at various

events such as the "Iron Man" race and doing blood drives, the Omega Psi Phi also volunteer at San Marcos High School where they performed "hopping" recently. Adamsel describes, "This is a form of dance that is similar to stepping with much enthusiasm and work." There was so much interest for this activity among the students at the school, that they are now working on permanently establishing it as an after school activity.

Adamsel has great plans for the future. He wants to get involved with an organization that engages the community, perhaps Public Relations in a hospital. In addition, he is interested in opening a clothing store on the side. As if this isn't enough, he also expresses interest in pursuing a master's degree. It looks like Adamsel really has been influenced to make changes in the world!

## Lambda Pi Eta

by Noelle Conrad

Lambda Pi Eta is the National Communication Association's official Communication Studies Honor society and has chapters in universities worldwide. Lambda Pi Eta as an organization recognizes, fosters, and rewards communication students' academic achievements as well as influences students to reach career and higher education goals. Benefits of joining Lambda Pi Eta include the opportunity to create relationships with faculty and other students, career and graduate school workshops, philanthropic opportunities, and create lasting

memories while at CSUSM.



Past members have gone on to receive job offers due to skills and knowledge they have gained while participating in Lambda Pi Eta. One student received an employment offer over a Harvard graduate because the employer recognized the student's membership in Lambda Pi Eta.

Members will receive a certificate and pin for their gown at graduation, and also have the option to purchase a cord and sash to display academic accomplishments at the graduation ceremony. If interested in joining, please email us at [orgcomhonorsoc@gmail.com](mailto:orgcomhonorsoc@gmail.com)

*"I have received a lot of insider information on what class to take and how to make studying for certain classes more manageable."* -Katy Eldridge, Lambda Pi Eta Treasurer

*"Joining Lambda Pi Eta not only has allowed me to feel confident as a communication scholar, but it has given me the opportunity to explore career and higher education opportunities that I would have been given without the organization."* -Noelle Conrad, Lambda Pi Eta President

*"It's a great way to get involved on campus, boost your resume, and meet new people, all while gaining valuable skills that can be used outside of an academic setting."* -Sommer Burbank, Lambda Pi Eta



## Communication Society

by Jacob Daigneau

"Communication Society is an organization designed for all majors to help establish networking within the professional field and their community." -President Jacob Daigneau

The Communication Society hosts a guest speaker at member meetings each month that help better equip students with the knowledge and abilities to establish new networks with professionals. Along with that, we sponsor and host networking events for students to create an easier transition from the university to career fields. We welcome all majors as this organization strives to foster campus and community involvement for all students. Students who attend events sponsored by the Communication Society allow their networks to flourish amongst other students, professors, and professionals that help launch their potential future careers. For more information, visit <http://www.csusm.edu/communication/student/commsociety.html>.

Spring registration is around the corner. Talk with your faculty advisor.

All COMM & MASS majors have two advisors: a faculty member in the department and an academic advisor in Undergraduate Academic Services. Visit the department homepage to identify your advisor!

## Dr. Holling as Visiting Scholar

Michelle A. Holling, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, was selected to be the Marsico Visiting Scholar at the University of Denver (DU). The Marsico Visiting Scholars Program aims to invigorate undergraduate arts and sciences education by bringing intellectuals, artists, and scholars to campus. Marsico Visiting Scholars engage both students and faculty in a variety of settings that contribute to the intellectual life of the university.

As the Marsico Visiting Scholar, Dr. Holling visited DU's campus in October, 2016. She presented her research about the *femicides* (e.g., gendered violence) in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Her overarching theme was violence--its manifestation, agents, and consequences--as it surfaces in print news discourse and in a *feminicidio testimonio*.



In conjunction with her visit, she was a featured guest on a symposium to discuss an exhibit. It was entitled "The Wall: Immigration and Identity" that explored issues of immigration and identity through the eyes of young, contemporary Latino artists.



Save the Date: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

The Annual Whiteness Forum: A Critical Look at Whiteness will be held on December 1, 2016 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm in the USU Ballroom.

In visual and oral formats, COMM 454 students will share their research findings on white dominance across a wide array of U.S. American institutions. The Forum is a "come and go" affair so feel free to drop by the exhibits any time! Students will be on hand to discuss their projects with audience members. Light refreshments will be served.