



COMMUniqué

October, 2017

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Department of
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csusm.dept.comm

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

IN THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Chair

By: Michelle A. Holling, Ph.D.

Welcome back readers! I hope that the start of a new semester and entry to another academic year brings excitement and hopefulness for what can be achieved. As some may know, the department entered the world of social media. Our Facebook and Instagram accounts have lots to see so if you haven't already, follow us.

In this issue, I invite readers to learn more about the amazing faculty who joined the department! Late last semester, the department concluded two searches for tenure-track faculty that resulted in Dr. Andrew Spieldenner and Dr. Brian Dolber, who also had experience as a lecturer in the department. Woo hooo! Then, there are the fab five – Dr. Bush, Dr. Chen, Ms. Gordon, Dr. McMurria, and Dr. Whitworth-Smith. These seven faculty embody diversity in a variety of ways as well as bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the department and campus at large. Hopefully readers had a chance to meet some of the faculty

at the Annual Meet & Greet event hosted by the department, Lambda Pi Eta, and Communication Society.

Save the date....the Annual Whiteness Forum is coming. It's a signature event sponsored by the department and organized and hosted by students in COMM 454, The Communication of Whiteness. In addition, students can get involved by joining either student organization in the department— Communication Society or Lambda Pi Eta.

Looking further ahead, if you're a student in need of a winter course, then look no further as two courses will be offered. Alternatively, if you're looking for other perspectives about art as a communicative experience, the rhetoric of borders and borderlands, or the history of media policy, the department has courses for you.

Finally, one honor I have is serving as President of the Western States Communication Association, a regional association for scholars,

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teachers, and students of communication. I encourage student-scholars to checkout the call for submissions on p. 8 of the newsletter and, more importantly, submit research for consideration. Undergraduate research is a unique opportunity for students to showcase their research on communication phenomenon of interest. I invite students to visit the department website www.csusm.edu/communication and click on the page "undergraduate scholars research" to learn more about resources and lengthy history the department has in producing student-scholars.

Welcome Dr. Brian Dolber

By: Danielle C. Biss

This semester, the department welcomed media law and policy scholar Dr. Brian Dolber! He received his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. His research interests include the political economy of media, media policy, and media activism. His current research pertains to the Gig economy. Briefly, the gig economy is a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work (e.g., Uber and Lyft) compared to permanent market jobs. His recent conference presentations include analyses of transportation such as Uber and Lyft. He is excited to acclimate to the campus community at CSUSM and know his colleagues better. This semester he is

teaching MASS 303, Mass Media and Technology; and MASS 452, Media Ethics.

He believes “CSUSM is a really great institution. It is great because there is commitment from faculty and the administration to insure that students are exposed to a variety of diverse ideas.” In addition, he values the diversity of students and their experiences. Amongst his teaching and his service commitments, Dr. Dolber enjoys drumming, playing music, and going to see bands. He also is passionate about theatre and likes to visit art galleries.

In semesters to come, Dr. Dolber aims to conceive and develop a few courses such as one on the history of media policy in the U.S. launching in spring 2018. Other classes he hopes to

develop will pertain to digital media and media activism. The future is bright for Dr. Dolber in his journey toward earning tenure. Welcome again to the department, Dr. Dolber!



Welcome Dr. Andrew Spieldenner

By: Danielle C. Biss

Dr. Andrew Spieldenner joined our department this semester as an Assistant Professor in Health Communication. He received his doctorate in Communication and Culture, with an emphasis on health, from Howard University in 2009. His research examines issues of culture and the body in three primary areas: HIV, the LGBTQ community, and public discourse. Dr. Spieldenner is a committed HIV advocate. He currently serves as Chair of the US People Living with HIV Caucus and as Research Director of the US implementation of the HIV Stigma Index for Global Network of People with AIDS/North America. He also has held senior positions at the Latino Commission on AIDS, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the Black AIDS Institute, at the Latino Commission on AIDS, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the Black AIDS Institute.

Dr. Spieldenner is teaching COMM 390, Research Methods and Design; and COMM 380, Health Communication this semester. As he teaches across campus, he too is “shocked by how many stairs there are.” In his first few weeks, he has appreciated getting to know his students and learn of their plans and interests. Most importantly, he loves how friendly and nice are the students here at CSUSM. Coming from a private institution, he enjoys the community connections at CSUSM and its social justice focus. While here, he hopes to bring awareness of national policy issues around HIV. Along with his teaching commitments, he agreed to serve as Co-Advisor of Communication Society. Looking ahead, he is very excited to take part in the Planning Committee of the Communication Graduation Recognition, held annually in May.

Along with his commitments to CSUSM, he is working on multiple research projects. At his prior institution, he was funded by the New York State Health Department to explore challenges for gay, bisexual, and trans women in getting access to HIV Pre-Exposure (PrEP). Another project includes editing a book on gay sex in HIV PrEP and Viral Suppression. In the coming months, he hopes to take on a few more research projects. In his journey toward earning tenure, Dr. Spieldenner hopes to implement courses on comic books, pornography, and queer studies. Welcome to the department, Dr. Spieldenner!



Welcome New Lecturers!

By: Danielle C. Biss

This semester, the department hired five new lecturers. We are happy to welcome our new faculty who add to the vibrancy of our department!

Dr. Barbara Ann Bush

"I can't think of a better way to spend my time working" was Dr. Barbara Bush's response to how she feels joining the department this fall. She teaches one section of GEO 102, Oral Communication. Thus far, she has been impressed with the support she has received from fellow faculty and administration. She has resource support with faculty, who are willing to share syllabi and who take interest in what she is doing in the classroom. With her students, she is appreciative of their willingness to engage in class and during office hours. She looks forward to seeing how students celebrate Halloween, such as the Día De Los Muertos event on campus. When she is not teaching, she enjoys spending her time doing river cleanups and volunteering. She is going on a diving clean up in the near future, where she scuba dives to clean up the bay. She surfs every Monday and likes to surf in La Jolla Shores or Torrey Pines. We are happy to have you, Dr. Bush. Welcome to the department!

Dr. Yashu Chen

After finishing her doctorate from Arizona State University last spring, the department welcomed Dr. Yashu Chen this fall! She teaches two sections of GEO 102, Oral Communication; COMM 330, Intercultural Communication; and COMM 390, Research Methods and Design. She feels very welcomed by the campus community at CSUSM, importantly the students and staff members of the department. She believes, "the faculty and staff members are very generous, supportive and caring. They often ask me how my teaching and life are going and what help they can provide me. They also introduce their teaching techniques and offer me opportunities for connecting with a broader academic community." Amongst her teaching commitments, she is in the process of preparing her dissertation for publication. She submitted one part of her dissertation to Human Communication Research. She may be submitting the second part this December and the final part next May to scholarly journals in the Communication discipline or Media Studies. She is also coauthoring a book chapter of a handbook about mobile media and communication with a professor at Arizona State University. As the semester continues, Dr. Chen is excited to meet more students and help them become closer to achieving their academic and professional goals.

Lucía Gordon

After graduating with her bachelor's and master's degrees from CSUSM, Lucía Gordon is back to teach! She feels like she has come full circle as she once was a student in the department to now being colleagues with the very faculty who mentored her such as Drs. Holling and Moon. She is teaching four sections of GEO 102, General Education Oral Communication. This semester she made a goal to neutralize her language with her students, meaning using pronouns such as "it" and "they" rather than he or she. In acknowledging gender pronouns, she hopes her students will become more mindful in conversations with others regarding gender. The first week she told her students of her personal goal to become more mindful in her language and using neutral pronouns. As the next few weeks of the semester progressed, she found herself struggling. She was encouraged when her students also made the change to acknowledge their use of gender pronouns. Outside of her teaching commitments, she has a family and volunteers at both of her children's schools. She works in their dual immersion program as a volunteer Spanish Room Parent. She enjoys volunteering, in particular how it relates to her thesis on bilingual education. Back at CSUSM, she is happy to see the growth of the Latino community.

Dr. John McMurria

Dr. John McMurria is another lecturer who joined the Department of Communication this fall. He is teaching COMM 390, Research Methods and Design. In his course, students are working on individual research projects investigating different aspects of social justice. For example, one student is writing about how secondary school teachers can better meet the needs and requirements of undocumented students. Another is writing about the social media tactics of the Black Lives Matter movement. In addition, another student is writing about the cultural politics of hybridity in Christian rap music. He believes that in this political climate, investigating social justice issues will serve his students well in their futures. Knowing the value of his students' research projects, he eagerly looks forward to reading their findings. Outside of his teaching commitments at CSUSM, he enjoys spending time with his partner and two kids. They enjoy traveling and camping at the beaches and the deserts. They hope to travel to more places in the near future. He is excited to be here and eager to get to know his students better.

Dr. Andrew Whitworth-Smith

After finishing a post-doctoral fellowship in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, Dr. Andrew Whitworth-Smith is another lecturer to join our department. He received his masters degree at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the American University. He also received his doctorate from the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego. This semester he is teaching MASS 460, Political Economy of Mass Media; and COMM 360, Mass Media and Society. Dr. Whitworth-Smith loves the engagement of the student body and the welcoming nature of the department. He is looking forward this semester to watching his students grow in their presentations and writing. While outside of the classroom, he enjoys spending time with his wife and newborn Lua, 2 months-old. As he commutes from Mexico City, he hopes his family can join him in the near future. In addition to spending time with his family, Dr. Whitworth-Smith enjoys camping and hiking. If he could go anywhere, he would go between Idyllwild and Anza Borrego. He loves listening to live music, especially samba. Welcome to the department, Dr. Whitworth-Smith!

Did you know?

The Annual Whiteness Forum is up fast approaching!

COMM 454, The Communication of Whiteness, students will showcase their semester projects in an open house format!

Come show your support and learn more about how to intervene in white supremacy.

Date: November 28, 2017

Where: USU Ballroom A & C

When: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Taste for Student Success!

The lively festival showcases tastes of gourmet cuisine, fine wines, craft brews and premium spirits. Tickets include unlimited food tastes, 15 tastes of wine, beer, or spirits, photos at the photo booth, parking, live music, and souvenir tasting glass. You can learn more about the event at this website:

www.tasteforstudentsuccess.com.

All proceeds contributed to the College will go directly toward the CHABSS Student Success Fund.

Date: October 21, 2017 from 3:00-6:00 PM on Kellogg Plaza & Lawn. Alumni Reception from 2:00-3:00PM on USU Rooftop Patio



Communication Society



Communication Society Officers:
Emmett Lichtenberg, Community Engagement Officer; Yazmin Horta, President; Gaby Flores, Public Relations Officer; Tim Smart, Vice President

Communication Society is a student organization dedicated to helping students gain and practice a variety of communication skills, to prepare them for a career after CSUSM, and to give back to our community. We offer a variety of events from member meetings with guest speakers, to workshops on social media and networking, to volunteering and learning about social justice. Whether a student is looking for ways to build their resume, socialize with other students, or find a leadership opportunity, Communication Society provides the necessary tools!

This semester we are hosting a representative from the Employment Resource Center in Oceanside, and she will be discussing interviewing tips and crafting your 30 second “elevator introduction.” We will also have a former COMM graduate and certified Life Coach come and talk about making life goals. Come and find out what else we are doing!

Our next member meeting is Thursday, November 16th at 12:00p.m. in SBSB 1107. If you are unable to come and would like to become a member, please contact our President, Yazmin Horta at horta002@cougars.csusm.edu or Co-Faculty Advisors, Dr. Andrew Spieldenner at aspieldenner@csusm.edu or Dr. Kendra Rivera at krivera@csusm.edu.

Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) is the National Communication Association’s official honor society at 4-year colleges and universities. At CSUSM, our mission is to reward and foster scholastic achievement in Communication. We strive to stimulate interest in Communication and cultivate a sense of community amongst Communication and Mass Media majors and faculty. We promote and encourage professional development for student majors. As the official honor society of the department, Lambda Pi Eta welcomes all Communication and Mass Media majors to apply!

In order to join, student majors must have a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher; 3.25 GPA within the major (Communication or Mass Media); have at least 60+ units; and, have at least 12 units in the field of Communication. For clarification, please reach out to Co-Presidents Danielle C. Biss & Vilde Nyseth at orgcomhonorsoc@gmail.com or Dr. Gloria Pindi, Faculty Advisor, at gpindi@csusm.edu

Applications are due **Tuesday, October 24, 2017!** Please attach application, unofficial transcript, and GPA Calculator.



Lambda Pi Eta’s first meeting of the semester.
Thanks everyone for coming!

Our meetings of the semester are *all* in SBSB 2109 on the following days:

- Tuesday, October 24, 2017
- Tuesday, November 14, 2017
- Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Looking forward to seeing new & current students there!



Student Organization Fair 2017: Dr. Gloria Pindi, Faculty Advisor; Danielle C. Biss, Co-President; President Karen Haynes; and Vilde Nyseth, Co-President

7th Annual Meet and Greet

By: Danielle C. Biss

The department held its 7th Annual Meet and Greet on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 in the SBSB Courtyard. The event was co-sponsored by Department of Communication and both student organizations, Lambda Pi Eta and Communication Society. Those in attendance were able to mingle with student majors, welcome new department faculty, and indulge in a variety of assorted desserts, crudités, cheese plates, and fruits. Attendees had a wonderful time!

Co-Presidents of Lambda Pi Eta Danielle Biss and Vilde Nyseth started the event welcoming all attendees. They conveyed the importance of the event as an opportunity for students to engage with one another and with faculty. They invited students and faculty to enjoy their time and expressed appreciation to them for their attendance.

Following them, Dr. Barry Saferstein welcomed new faculty: Drs. Brian Dolber, Andrew Spieldenner, Andrew Whitworth Smith, Barbara Ann Bush, Yashu Chen, and Ms.



Ashley Nelson, Stine Vedvik, and Alexander Bø Bénarroch

"I enjoyed getting to know the new professors at the Meet & Greet. They all have fascinating plans for the department and I hope to see them in my classes in the semesters to come! The meat and cheese plate was also very much appreciated."

-Jakob Woo-Ming

Lucía Gordon. In his comments, Dr. Saferstein referenced faculty members' educational background, courses they currently teach, and distinct characteristics about each new faculty member. In addition, invited guests in attendance included faculty from the department; Dean of the College, Julia Johnson; Associate Deans, Martha Stoddard Holmes and Kristin Bates; and Director of Student Success in CHABSS, Leo Melena. It was a pleasure to welcome representatives from the Deans' Office given their busy schedules. The

Meet and Greet presented a great opportunity for student majors to converse with one another. In addition, many took advantage and introduced themselves to faculty. The event also presented an opportunity for student majors to inquire about department student organizations. Faculty advisors Dr. Kendra Rivera for the Communication Society and Dr. Gloria Pindi for Lambda Pi Eta both were present and pleased with students' eagerness to learn more about the student organizations.

The event was a success with engaging conversations amongst students and faculty. Student and faculty highlights are featured below along with pictures taken by Victoria Sandaker. Enjoy!

"I was impressed how many students showed up and, if they didn't know me, introduced themselves."

-Dr. Andrew Whitworth Smith



Student majors and Dr. Pindi cheesing for the camera

"I loved both the food and the people! Nice way to meet professors and other comm students outside of class"

-Alexander Bø Bénarroch



Gaby Flores & Yazmin Horta



Sara Freitag, Marielle Allindogan, & Sabrina Belknap

“The meet and greet gave us students a great opportunity to interact and connect with professors outside the classroom about common interests within the communication field.”

-Nina Gjone



Josie K. Rosas, Administrative Support Coordinator and Danielle C. Biss, Dept. Student Intern & Co-President of LPE

Looking to take a winter intersession course? Two Communication electives will be taught:

- COMM 401, Rhetorical Theory; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- COMM 410, Asian Americans in the Media; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

In the spring semester, three new courses will be taught:

- COMM 420-01, Interpreting Art as a Communicative Experience
- COMM 420-02, Border Rhetorics
- MASS 470-06, Media Policy & the Struggle for U.S. Democracy

“What I enjoyed most about the Meet & Greet was seeing the students and faculty shooting the breeze on such a beautiful day—Mother Nature was smiling at us...oh, and we cannot forget the cheese and salami platters”

-Josie K. Rosas



Jonathon Wood, Vi Vasquez & Dr. Katherine Brown

“The Meet & Greet is one of my favorite events each fall semester. Good food, beautiful weather and even better company! As a crazy busy full time student, I really appreciated being able to spend time with my friends within the major before we all graduate”

-Danielle C. Biss



Cheese plates, crudités, and more!

"I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this meet and greet. I loved being able to meet new faculty and students on campus, I even got to see old classmates whom I had not seen for a while. As a transfer student, I find this event very valuable to my success on campus. Also, the meat and cheese plate was better than I could have expected!"

- Devin Highland



Vilde Nyseth, Yazmin Horta, Danielle C. Biss, Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco, Dr. Andrew Spieldenner & Dr. John McMurria

"My friends and I are all quite busy with internships, work, and classes, so we don't see each other nearly enough. I appreciated the Meet & Greet, because it gave us the excuse to devote time out of our hectic schedules in order to take a breather, share some laughs, and soak up rays of sunshine."

-Sara Freitag



Dr. Yashu Chen, Danielle C. Biss, and Dr. Dreama Moon

"I especially enjoyed meeting students and talking about their interests, courses they'd like to take, plans after graduation, and watching reality TV."

- Dr. John McMurria



Dr.'s Antonio T. De La Garza and Andrew Spieldenner

Attention Communication and Mass Media Majors

Interested in submitting a significant paper you have written in COMM 390, 402 or another communication course? The Annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (USRC) is a wonderful opportunity. The conference is held during the Western States Communication Association's annual meeting in Santa Clara, CA on Friday, February 16, 2018.

Submissions are being accepted now until December 1, 2017. Please email documents to Donna Gotch at dgotch@csusb.edu. Follow the submission guidelines on the USRC Section on the WSCA Website, the link is as follows: <http://www.westcomm.org/?page=USRC>



Dr. Barry Saferstein

"The Meet and Greet went really well, it was a good opportunity for students who just transferred to meet students and professors with similar goals."

-Yazmin Horta



Students enjoying the delicious food



Dr. Kendra Rivera and Dr. Gloria Pindi promoting department student organizations

"The Meet and Greet was an amazing way to meet other comm students outside of class and talk to each other about our dreams and aspirations"

-Sabrina Belknap



*Lambda Pi Eta Co Presidents:
Vilde E. S. Nyseth & Danielle C. Biss*



Yazmin Horta, Dr. Kendra Rivera & Emmett Lichtenberg

"The meet and greet was an intimate event that created new connections and revisited old friendships. My favorite part was that everyone was friendly, we all were excited for the school year, and wished each other great success now and after graduation."

-Bernie San Diego

Support *Lambda Pi Eta!*

On October 31, 2017, they will be fundraising with Panda Express on campus. What other better way to celebrate Halloween than with Panda Express? From 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Come by the Communication Department Office, SBSB 2015, to obtain a flyer! 20% of funds go toward LPE!

For questions, please contact orgcomhonorso@gmail.com



Until the next issue...
If you are interested in contributing stories to the newsletter, Contact Dr. Holling at mholling@csusm.edu