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CMST Connect

Volume 7, No. 1 Fall 2014

This is a difficult time for higher education across the country. Enrollments are dropping as the number of eligible high school students has shrunk and competition with private institutions is increasing. These trends are true at SCSU as well. Enrollment is down slightly and most departments have seen a reduction in the number of their majors and minors.

But this is not true of Communication Studies. Last year we had an increase in majors and minors; that trend is continuing this year as well. Why is that? I think we can find the answer to that question in the articles in this issue of *CMST Connect*.

The goal of our department is to extend the knowledge, appreciation, and skills that contribute to the full understanding and practice of effective communication in careers, relationships, and communities. Our students are prepared for life and work. We can see evidence of that in the interview with Margaret Vos, who was the recipient of the SCSU Alumni Leadership Award for 2014.

Margaret worked at SCSU for 16 years. She started working in Atwood Center as a graduate student and later was hired to manage the University Program Board as well as manage the



building. She was so successful in this position that she was promoted to serve as Interim Associate Vice President for International Studies. After serving in that position she returned to direct Atwood where she continued to be respected and loved by the entire campus community until her recent retirement. She is the epitome of an effective, ethical, and respected leader. The department couldn't be more proud of a graduate as we are of her.

Mark London was one of our minors who recognized that Communication Studies can complement any major. He combined a major in Mass Communications with our minor to build a solid education in journalism. From this foundation he built a career of 30 years of writing about bowling.

Johan Gjenvick chose our interdepartmental major. In this major, students take a significant number of courses in Communication Studies but select complementary courses from at

least two other departments to create a package that best fits their career interests. I remember Johan as a student in my classes. He was determined; he knew what he wanted to do. He chose the path to get him there and he is now enjoying the spoils of his efforts.

Maureen Ohm, another of our more recent graduates, credits the CMST Bone Marrow Drive for her professional success and volunteer experiences at SCSU for her selection as one of the Ten Outstanding Young South Dakotans.

Not only are our alumni and students active, but our faculty are as well. In the pages that follow you will read about Professor Tami Spry's recent national award, Professor Bassey Eyo's work with UNESCO, and about publications by Professors Spry, Eddah Mutua, and Kikuko Omori, who is new to us this year.

The work of these outstanding alumni and current faculty no doubt represent some of the reasons why our enrollment continues to climb. Students recognize that a solid education in communication will prepare them for a well rounded civic, personal, and work life.

I'd like to thank student intern, Sean Rathburn, for his hard work as editor of this issue of *CMST Connect*.

— Jeff Ringer

CMST Connect

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Why Communication Studies?

By Sean Rathburn

The ultimate goal of a college education is to lead one into a successful career, and hopefully an enjoyable one at that. When a college student is undecided in selecting a major, considering the career opportunities that come from a particular discipline is crucial in finding the right fit.

Annually, nearly 200 students at St. Cloud State University select the Communication Studies discipline as that major or minor.

At St. Cloud State University, the Communication Studies department offers programs dedicated to providing its students with the theory and skills necessary to become effective communicators. Human communication is a broad and diverse area of education, and the CMST Department seeks to help students better understand the enormity of communication and its impact on one's career, relationships and civic engagement.

Why choose CMST as a major or minor?

Many students wonder how choosing Communication Studies as their major or minor is valuable to them when seeking employment. Communication Studies is growing rapidly as a discipline in schools in the United States and throughout the world, and the number of undergraduate communication degrees has been rising steadily throughout the 21st century, according to the National

Communication Association (NCA). In 2006, The Wall Street Journal reported that a survey of over 480 companies found employers ranked communication abilities first among the most desired personal qualities of future employees. Being a competent communicator not only will distinguish a graduate from other applicants, it will also enrich both the student's work and personal relationships.

The SCSU CMST department supports students in developing these useful communication skills through a variety of courses, ranging from the cultural differences in communication across the world to how communication operates in individual families and intimate relationships.

The communication tools a student is provided through this study can make them highly competitive with students who graduate with degrees in other areas.

What types of careers are available to a CMST major or minor?

Unlike some degrees, a CMST graduate is prepared to adapt to a variety of careers.

Recent statistics from SCSU Career Services demonstrate the diversity of applications of a CMST degree. When looking at statistics of CMST

graduates from 2010 to 2012, it is clear alumni have found jobs in many different industries. Some of the positions graduates secured included marketing coordinator, recruiting specialist, behavioral therapist, personal trainer, business manager, preschool teacher, sales coordinator, and leasing agent, just to name a few. Even by looking at a small SCSU sample one can see how a CMST degree can be utilized in a variety of ways.

NCA provides further proof of the flexibility of a CMST degree. In NCA's publication, *Pathways to Communication Careers in the 21st Century*, the association lists advertising, education, broadcast, journalism, marketing, public relations, theater/performing arts, government, health care, law, social services, and business as careers for which a CMST degree can create a strong foundation.

No matter what industry interests students most, it is safe to say graduates have a number of options available when graduating with a degree in Communication Studies. Not everyone will choose Communication Studies as part of their education, but it is important to remember the value of competent communication in the workplace and in life.

Featured Alumni

Q & A With Margaret Vos

I was fortunate to have an opportunity to meet with Margaret Vos this past November. Vos graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1972 and was the Director of Atwood Memorial Center for 16 years. Her warm, caring personality and passion for communication were grounds for an accomplished career. In what was a very enjoyable and inspiring conversation, I was able to learn more about her strength as a person and the career path she has followed upon graduating from SCSU.

- Sean Rathburn



Sean: What made you decide to study Speech Communication (Communication Studies) at St. Cloud State University?

Margaret: My father always said if you can find something you love and find a way to make that your career, you will never work a day in your life. It will be play; it will be fun. I loved communication and I loved to study it. I was impressed with the depth of the Speech Communication (now Communication Studies) department at the time. The faculty has extremely impressive research and background in speech communication, interpersonal communication, international communication, and I was just fascinated by that. I picked the major not because I knew exactly what I would do with it specifically, but it was more because I loved the courses and faculty. Communication Studies gave me a background where I felt like I could do anything. Something just clicked.

Sean: Tell me about your career upon first graduating from SCSU in 1972.

Margaret: About 8 months after graduating, I was fortunate to secure a teaching job in the Foley, MN school system. I ended up teaching for 10 years in grades 8-12 and rewrote the curriculum so that students would learn about different aspects of speech communication. I then became Department Chair and during that time I was granted a sabbatical from Foley so I could get my Master's degree in Curriculum Development at SCSU. While working toward my degree, I worked as a graduate student for the University Program Board (UPB) and my whole world changed. I then took a leave of absence from Foley as I became Interim Director for UPB for one year. After that one year as Interim Director, I went back to Foley to teach for three more years.

Sean: I see you were the Director of Atwood Center here on campus for 16 years. Can you tell me about this experience?

Margaret: During my last years teaching at Foley, I received a call about a job opening in Atwood and I couldn't get here with my application fast enough! For two years, I worked both for Atwood and as Director of UPB, which was a lot to handle. I ended up applying for and becoming Director of Atwood in 1996. With 12,000 people going through Atwood every day, the day to day operations kept me busy. With so many student employees, the job called for a lot of teaching, coaching, and development of those young workers. I am proud to say many of those employees gained experience applicable to jobs after school.

It was also about listening to the needs of SCSU students and giving them the ability to be heard. Atwood is the

only building at SCSU owned by students, and the Atwood Advisory Board is made up of only students, giving them the final say. What a wonderful way to run a business. We wanted to show them our vision for Atwood and to honor, as well as foster, their own viewpoints. In my mind, I had the best job in the whole wide world.

Sean: Why did you choose to work at SCSU?

Margaret: Back when I was about to graduate in 1972, if you would have interviewed my college roommates, the last place they would imagine me working was here. I never would have imagined that. No one ever talked about working at SCSU back then. But it felt so right, and I say this from the bottom of my heart. I couldn't have been more fortunate to have been employed here. Every day was a day of joy. I *never* came to work saying, "oh boy I have to go to work." My problem was going home from work! I was always challenged and never felt bored. I felt respected and never felt like I didn't matter.

Sean: I see you recently won the SCSU Alumni Leadership Award for 2014. Can you explain what being selected for this award means to you?

Margaret: Honestly, it makes me blush. I can think of a dozen other more deserving people in our community or in our country who are alums of SCSU who truly should receive that award. I don't even know what to say; it takes my breath away. I am more than humbled by receiving it. I was in the first generation to go to college, and I come from very humble means. By receiving the award, if I reflect back to the values of my parents, I think of how my dad always said you should never stop learning or never stop giving back. I remembered how he always wanted more for his children than he had. I couldn't help but think about that when I won the award.

Sean: You are a breast cancer survivor and recently spoke at the Central Minnesota Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at SCSU this October. How has your experience with cancer impacted you as a person?

Margaret: Surviving cancer reminds me that life is short, and that opportunities come our way for a reason. I think too many times we put our blinders on and we are not open to those opportunities. Would I have gone this route had you asked me to talk in front of a thousand people two years ago? No way! But I had to. I sit in front of you today with NEC, or no evidence of cancer, and it's because women who are much braver than I stood up before me and said we have to do more. So when I got asked to speak for these events, I figured I can bring hope to those also affected by breast cancer. People deal with it in different ways; but for me, how fortunate I am to have today. It's been an extraordinary path, and I want to raise funds to give hope to those women affected by cancer because others did it for me.

Sean: What classes or concepts did you feel were particularly valuable to your career and life in general?

Margaret: Definitely the listening, intercultural, and conflict resolution classes. There were also both a rhetoric and art of persuasion class I took. Those really come to the top of my head when I think about it. There was an interpersonal class as well that really talked about the power of a conversation and how people connect. I remember thinking, "I've been there." You have those conversations where it feels like you've talked for three minutes and it's been two hours, and then you have those other conversations that seem so painful. There's a whole way of looking at that and analyzing it.

Sean: Do you have any advice for current students after graduating? What do you wish you would have known or been told as an undergraduate?

Margaret: Students tend to not articulate what they know. Take some time and reflect on what it is you *do* know and how you can articulate that to apply to a work setting. Help that employer realize why you would be a good asset. Talk about when and where you have applied the things you've learned outside class. Being able to articulate those things is powerful stuff. I think our students are prepared but not coming off as polished.

Personally, I think it should be required that everyone have a Communication Studies minor. Maybe the world would be a better place!



Featured

Professor: Bruce Hyde

By Jordan Shoulders



"I get to mess with the minds of thoughtful young people." This is how Professor Bruce Hyde explains why he loves his profession of educating so much. Bruce teaches his students to think deeply and critically about the world that surrounds them. He uses thought provoking phrases such as "The world is what you make it," which expresses a constitutive view of language, and "Language does not merely represent the world, but creates it." He also uses the idiom "try it on" as a way to encourage students to take something learned from his class and apply it to life.

Richard Bruce Hyde was born in Dallas, Texas. After graduating from North Dallas High School (where his father Rufus Hyde was the head football coach), he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Northwestern University in 1963. After completing his undergraduate studies, Bruce chose to pursue his first passion: acting. "My claim to fame is having played Lt. Kevin Riley on Star Trek," Hyde said.

Bruce is also proud of having appeared twice on Broadway, and singing two songs on the original cast album of the musical "Canterbury Tales."

After spending the 1970's exploring the culture of San Francisco and working as Human Resources Manager of a large house painting company, Bruce's ambitions turned back toward school. His Master's degree was earned at the University of North Texas in 1984, and his PhD from the University of Southern California in 1990. Bruce applied for a number of university positions, but chose the job offered by Saint Cloud State University. "I liked the feeling of the department and the courses I would be teaching," Hyde commented, when asked why he chose SCSU.

This year Bruce is teaching Small Group Communication and Honors classes, but he has also extensively taught Effective Listening and Interviewing. When asked what his thoughts on teaching are, Bruce had

this to say: "I get to think for a living; what a treasure!" He also added, "I'm sure I work hard, but it feels like I play hard. I love being in the classroom."

In fall of 2010 however, Bruce was unable to be in the classroom because he was diagnosed with throat cancer and took a medical leave for the remainder of the school year. "It was sometimes scary, but on the whole it was a valuable experience because I take myself less seriously now." Bruce went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to undergo surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Showing a sense of humor, Bruce said while smiling, "An upside was that I got slim. I lost forty pounds!"

Bruce has always been very committed to the development of young people. He articulates why he has such a strong passion for young people by saying, "They are my handle on the future." His classes are an

expression of his vision: a world in which people communicate from the recognition that all of us are deeply related as human beings, and that this human relatedness is more fundamental than the ethnic, cultural, and political differences that divide us.

Because of his acting background, he was a natural fit for the St. Cloud State theatre program, where he served as the chair for three years, helping to coach students. Bruce was also the Artistic Director for Theatre L'Homme Dieu, SCSU's former summer theatre in Alexandria. He currently serves as the Communication Studies Club co-advisor, sharing his insight and expertise with student members. Bruce also was the recipient of the Honors Professor of the Year Award,

2008 and 2010. Outside of the classroom, Bruce has many hobbies including playing the piano, gardening, drawing, and cooking. The

“I’m sure I work hard, but it feels like I play hard. I love being in the classroom.”

activity that is currently taking up most of his time is the writing of his book, “Speaking Being,” with his colleague Drew Kopp from Rowan University. The book is based on Bruce’s doctoral dissertation, and will show “how the work of

the contemporary thinker Werner Erhard is consistent with the writing of the 20th century German philosopher Martin Heidegger.” Bruce’s perspective on life has been considerably enlightened by Erhard’s work.

Bruce has been married to Susan Saetre for twenty years, and he credits her as “the other most influential person in my life.” He has two stepsons, one of whom graduated from St. Cloud State with a degree in finance. Bruce loves his family and his life.

Professor Hyde was also recently featured in the Entertainment section of the St. Cloud Times on December 6, 2014.

Find and join the Communication Studies Department LinkedIn group, labeled **SCSU Speech Communication/Communication Studies**. It is a great way for current students and alumni to stay up to date and expand their professional networks!



New Faculty: Kikuko Omori

Kikuko Omori, a native of Tokyo, Japan, is on a temporary appointment to the SCSU Communication Studies department beginning in the fall of 2014. She is currently teaching Intercultural Communication and Introduction to Communication Studies. Dr. Omori earned her doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Communication. Her primary research areas include Intercultural Communication, Social Media, Computer Mediated Communication, Health Communication, and Instructional Communication.



Much of her research focuses on the effects the media have on human and mass media communication processes across cultures. For example, her dissertation examined cross-cultural differences in self-presentation on social networking sites (SNSs) between American and Japanese college students. A part of the dissertation was recently published in *The International Journal of Interactive Communication Systems and Technologies*. Her work has been published in journals such as *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research* and *Computers in Human Behavior*. She received the Melvin H. Miller Award at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for outstanding doctoral research.

Dr. Omori completed her B.A. at Senshu University in Japan in Business Administration with honors. She then spent one year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an exchange student. During that year she received an award from the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) for the highest score on the TOEFL English proficiency test. Before she earned her M.A. from the University of Kansas in Communication, she worked for several multinational companies such as Intel and General Motors. She also has 5 years of experience as a web designer at the Information Study Research Center at Meisei University in Tokyo, Japan.

Scholarship News

The Robert and LuBell Kendall Ethics in Speech Communication Award encourages the discussion of ethics in the field of speech communication by annually selecting and recognizing the author of the best speech communication ethics paper written for the Ethics in Speech Communication Course (currently Ethics in Human Communication). Currently, a gift of \$250 is given to the winning student for their outstanding ethics paper.

Bob Kendall taught at St. Cloud State University for 21 years (1971-1992) in the Communication Studies Department (Department of Speech Communication). Before SCSU, he served 13 years as pastor for churches in New York, Iowa, and Minnesota. LuBell Kendall was a fourth grade teacher for 8 years before earning her Master's Degree in Information Media from SCSU in 1976. She was then a Media Specialist in Monticello for 16 years.

For information on how to make a donation to the Ethics award or other scholarships in the Communication Studies Department, please contact the main office at 320-308-2216 or by email at cmst@stcloudstate.edu

Riverview



Built in 1911 and overlooking the Mississippi River, Riverview is home of the Communication Studies Department and is the only building on the SCSU campus that is part of the National Register of Historical Places.

Where Are They Now?

Maureen Ohm
Class of 2008

I graduated from St. Cloud State University (SCSU) in 2008 with majors in Marketing and Communication Studies.



I secured a job about a month after graduation as a legal secretary at Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, LLP in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This proved to be an interesting and educational experience, but I knew there was something more fitting out there for me. After a year on the job, I spent a year gradually job searching while still working at the law firm. I only applied to three places. I figured that I already had a good job, so I only wanted to leave it for the right job.

When I read the job description for Event Director at Downtown Sioux Falls, Inc. (DTSF), I realized what I wanted to do. Planning events is the line of work meant for me. I had planned events through extracurricular and volunteer activities, but it didn't occur to me until reading this job description that planning events is something I could be paid to do.

SCSU set me up to succeed in my "dream" line of work. Ironically, it wasn't specifically the classes I took that proved most valuable. It was the passionate professors of the Communication Studies department who recruited me to assist with a bone marrow registration drive outside of class three years in a row. I used my experience helping to plan this drive as my main talking points in my interview for the position of Event Director for DTSF, a position I have now held for four and a half years.

I have remained active with "Be The Match" (formerly National Marrow Donor Program) as a Volunteer Ambassador. I have also been a big sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters for eight years (two of those years were while I attended SCSU). These are some of the factors that led to being selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young South Dakotans in 2011.

Where Are They Now?

Johan Gjenvick
Class of 2008



Today, I am working with medium sized businesses regarding their Total Rewards and employee benefits plans. I started in the insurance business as a sophomore as an intern with a large national financial services firm. After acceptance into the business major at SCSU and not too long into my marketing program, I realized I was looking for more of the classical approaches to persuasion. I met with my advisor Dr. Wildeson and set a course for an interdepartmental major in the CMST department, maintaining some marketing courses and building an intentional focus in Rhetoric.

After spending six years in the insurance and investment planning business I was recruited to a large national insurance broker that focused on middle market businesses. Today, the work we do is largely governed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Our goal is to first listen to understand the needs and wants of how organizations we work with want to pay and reward their employees. From there, we work to maximize the investment these organizations make in their people and develop a strategy to communicate their employee benefit plans. The end result is a value proposition that employers use to recruit, retain, engage and retire their workforce.

In addition, I've had an opportunity to mentor interns and associates new to our business out of college. I am involved in the development and training of new business development strategies. Using many of the lessons I learned about persuasion, I am constantly reminded of Aristotle and his definition of Rhetoric: knowing the available means of persuasion in any given situation. This reminds me to pause and give consideration to how I can best share the message I hope to convey.

I think fondly back on my time at St. Cloud State University. I appreciate the passion, time and care that the wonderful professors in the CMST department invested in me. Today, my lovely wife Laura stays home raising our three beautiful children—Sydney, Stella and Cooper—and we make our home in Champlin.

Are you a Communication Studies alum who has news to share? Have you become involved in your community? Made a major career transition?

Update the Communication Studies Department about your life. Email the updates to us at: cmst@stcloudstate.edu - or follow the department on LinkedIn at SCSU Speech Communication/Communication Studies--St. Cloud State University

Where Are They Now?

Mark London
Class of 1984



With a Mass Communications major and Speech minor, many who knew me at SCSU in the early 1980's thought I had a second major. And I did! After doing the weather segment on the live Friday UTVS Noon News, I would climb into an Atwood Center van with my SCSU varsity bowling teammates to head to a match in such locales as Fargo, Mankato, Winona, La Crosse, Northfield, St. Peter and various spots around the Twin Cities.

Little did I know at the time, I was developing the skills for what I do now. My Mass Communications' advisor E. Scott Bryce said, with a voice like mine, declaring Speech as a minor would be a good fit. Some of the classes I took were public speaking with Dr. Grachek, intercultural communication with Dr. Vora, and listening with Dr. Ross. These classes, among others, included techniques and theories I still use to this day. With the small class size, immediate feedback was always possible and enough time provided to compare and contrast many angles of a given point. So when I was first asked to write a monthly and then weekly bowling column in a nationally-seen bowling newspaper, all that information was available to draw from, literally at my fingertips on a keypad.

I have mentioned my time at SCSU more than a few times over the years with pride, especially explaining to those in the U.S. Southwest that my alma mater competed in the NCAA Men's Frozen Four hockey tournament. This past spring, I celebrated 30 years of covering bowling. Ironically, those years began at the Atwood Center lanes with my story for UTVS.



Seeing Ann Finelli's interview in the last issue stirred a few memories. Above is a pic of us, moments before airtime during a 1983 UTVS newscast.

I have also been lucky enough to be featured on several internet bowling live stream broadcasts, either commenting or competing, during both the 2012 PBA Tournament of Champions and 2014 USBC Open Championships. Readers can go to YouTube and see what pin I left for a 299 game this past May. I am also lucky to be one of the 'The Gang of Six,' referring to the six SCSU grads or former students who have won Professional Bowlers Association titles. That's more than at most schools, including many of the bigger collegiate bowling schools.

My days in the CMST department at SCSU were some of the most enlightening of my career. If you are leaning in a liberal arts direction or have a knack for writing or speaking, Communication Studies (or Speech Communication as it was known then) provides a background with much more than information. It is a lot of Huskies' heart and soul!



Spotlight

CMST Student Organizations

Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta is the honorary society of the National Communication Association. The organization seeks to encourage and reward outstanding academic achievement and create interest in the study of communication. Last spring, ten new initiates were invited to join SCSU's Beta Psi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta. Inductees included Lenbriel Weah, Jacey Dunlap, Kaitlyn Swanson, Jayne Coffee, Brittany Gotzinger, Alex Holland, Rachel Harris, Kim Seaton, Diannah DuBose, and Christopher Benjamin. Inductee requirements include: 60 completed college credits, a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a minimum CMST GPA of 3.25, and 12 completed credits in CMST courses.

Players Performance Group

Players Performance Group is a student organization dedicated to exploring important social issues through theatrical performance and requires no previous performance experience. This semester's Performance Studies' season will be highlighted by an original performance by the group called "Citizen Artists" and will explore what it means to critically and creatively contribute to the development of their local and global communities.

Conflict Resolution Services for Students

Conflict Resolution Services for Students exists to provide FREE conflict coaching and mediation services to St. Cloud State University students. CRS is a resource for ALL students looking for assistance with conflict and/or communication skills and provides opportunities for members to enhance their conflict management skills. Meetings are held every other Monday at 12 PM in Riverview 113. Contact CRS on Facebook or e-mail crs@stcloudstate.edu.

Communication Studies Club

The Communication Studies Club is an organization made up of undergraduate students who desire to work together in areas of community service, professional networking, and social support. The club meets every Monday in Riverview G05 at 12:00 PM. This semester the club co-sponsored, with Conflict Resolution Services, guest speakers to address topics of interest to CMST students. Additionally, the club organized a workshop to assist students in planning for spring semester registration and to help promote the Communication Studies Department.

Forensics - Talking Huskies

SCSU is home to the award-winning, nationally recognized Forensics (Speech & Debate) program. The team is comprised of a diverse group of over 25 dedicated, creative, and motivated students. The Talking Huskies will travel to over twenty tournaments this season and a new invitational has been added in Topeka, KS. After a successful showing at nationals last year, the team hopes to do the same this season with national tournaments at Ohio University and Lewis & Clark College in late March and April. In addition to ongoing travel and competition, the program offers high school coaching, sponsors numerous star performances and public showcases, hosts a collegiate tournament, and judges at various high school meets. You can learn more about The Talking Huskies by visiting their Facebook page (SCSU Speech and Debate).

Featured Student Organization:

Communication Studies Club

By: Amisa Saari

College is a time to grow in many areas, including growing your resumé. Students have been told not to forget about extracurricular activities because of their vast importance to network building, meeting new students, and getting involved with the college community. An excellent example of an extracurricular which helps students excel in their field and build life-long friendships and networks is the Communication Studies Club.

The Communication Studies Club encourages camaraderie and communication between students and faculty, serves students in the pursuit of their educational and career goals, and provides a social outlet for Communication Studies majors and minors. The organization's mission is to assist all members to achieve their academic and professional potential through mentorship, professional networking, community service, and leadership development.

Since the Club began in 1981, it has continued to thrive and is recognized for many accomplishments. In more recent years, the club received a "New Program Award," April 2013, for their "Direct Connect" program. "Direct Connect" brings guest speakers to campus to talk about their careers. Students can make direct connections and ask questions to some of the most influential people who are alumni of the Communication Studies Department.

Club members this year had the opportunities to hear Margaret Voss, and Dr. Omori. Margaret talked about the importance of getting involved with your campus and how her communication degree helped her in her lifelong career at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Omori talked about the important cultural differences between Americans and Japanese. In addition to guest speakers, the club has invited faculty from within the department to speak to members.

Professor Matt Vorell, CMST Internship Director, addressed the value of securing an internship. He explained to members the importance of distinguishing yourself to employers and how internships provide experience that gives students advantages over other applicants when looking for a job.

Along with the "Direct Connect" program, the Communication Studies Club is also known for its role in hosting the department's Spring Banquet. The club organizes a large number of fundraisers to decrease the cost for students to attend. This year the members have been involved with selling concessions for sporting events on campus, cleaning up after SCSU hockey games, and selling t-shirts and coffee mugs with the phrase, "Talk like it's your major." According to Michael Agens, the Student President of the Communication Studies Club, they have already raised more this year

than all of last year combined. He also added the Club will be participating in the Relay for Life Event coming up in February.

The Club continues its legacy for graduated members as well as all alumni of the Communication Studies Department. With support from alumni, the organization will continue to expand and influence many students through the years.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to, "Dream, Communicate, and Achieve" (the Club motto) and with the support of the vast network behind the Communication Studies Club this is possible for any prospective student.

For those interested in joining or learning more about the club, visit the SCSU Communication Studies Department website under "Student Organizations" or the club's Facebook page, labeled SCSU Communication Studies Club. Meetings are held every

Career

Relationships

Citizenship

In Brief...

NCA Leslie Irene Coger Award

Congratulations to Tami Spry who was selected by the National Communication Association (NCA) as the 2014 recipient of the Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance. The award is given annually to persons who have contributed an outstanding body of live performances.

USFUCA - Basseyy Eyo

Congratulations to Basseyy Eyo on his election as president of the Minnesota Chapter of the United States Federation of Unesco Clubs, Centers, and Associations. Eyo was successful in applying for the Minnesota chapter to be recognized by the national association.

Recent Publication - Tami Spry

Tami Spry's article, "By The Roots: A Postscript to Goldilocks," was accepted for publication in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, Volume 34, Issue 4. The article explores the racial politics of hair.

Recent Publication - Eddah Mutua

Eddah Mutua's article, "Hair Is Not Just Hot Air: Narratives About Politics of Hair in Kenya" was accepted for publication in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, Volume 34, Issue 4, pages 392-394.

Mutua's article, "Community Driven Peacebuilding Approaches: The Case of Post-genocide in Rwanda," was accepted for publication in *Case Studies of Intercultural Dialogue*, Kendall Hunt Publishing, pages 25-38.

Recent Publication - Kikuko Omori

Kiko Omori's co-authored article, "Cultural Differences Between American and Japanese Self-Presentation on SNS," was accepted for publication in *The International Journal of Interactive Systems and Technologies*, Volume 4, Issue 1, pages 47-60.

Rest In Peace - E. Scott Bryce

E. Scott Bryce passed away in October 2014 at the age of 87. Bryce taught in the Communication Studies department in the early 1960's and co-founded the Mass Communications Department at SCSU. He also established and co-directed, with his wife Lynn, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at SCSU.



CMST Department Mission and Goals

Career - Relationships - Citizenship

We are a community of scholars who participate in the creation, discovery, and dissemination of knowledge about communication. We are committed to communication as central to self and community. We demonstrate that commitment in the following ways:

-We educate students in the theories and principles of human communication so that they become competent and responsible communicators and critical thinkers;

-We maintain a working environment within the department that respects the tensions between individual professional pursuits and departmental needs and goals;

-We shape and respond to the needs of the campus, community, and society through exchanges of expertise and promotion of the discipline.

-We address throughout our curriculum the need for understanding diverse ideas and cultural experiences.

Special Thank You To

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The purpose of the Advisory is to advise the department on matters of curriculum, programs, community service, student recruitment, intern and graduate placement.

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The Communication Studies Department provides several opportunities for you to financially support our students and programs. For information on how you can contribute to our scholarship and department accounts, contact the main office at (320) 308-2216 or by email at cmst@stcloudstate.edu.

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