I am reminded of the above quote every day in my position as chair of the department. I meet with advisees to tell them about our department and the programs we offer—who we are. Then as they enroll in the major and take our classes they share their interests and introduce new ideas through their writing assignments and discussions, thus influencing the classroom, who I am as a professor and who we are as a department. We influence them. They influence us. We evolve together—and communication is at the crux of it all.

The articles in this edition of CMST Connect demonstrate that process clearly. Alum Brian Schoenborn made it clear in his interview with Editor Molly McAlister that he was significantly impacted by his experiences in our classes—“Communication Studies is who I am—it is woven into me,” he said. Alum Gretchen Jentz thanks her CMST faculty for encouraging her to follow her dreams which led to her finding her true passion. Alum Rob Fuglie describes how Communication Studies was influential in his career development. And Alum Loreen Olson said “I would not be where I am today if it were not for the Communication Studies department at SCSU.”

Marge Pryately, who officially retired at the end of Spring semester, did not miss out on the reflexivity of communication either. She influenced the department by helping to expand the courses that we offer on intercultural communication and also by researching and developing plans for a Communication Center in the department. And, she too was influenced by her students—particularly by the topics they chose for her assignments.

The shaping and being shaped process happens not only in the classroom but in our student groups as well. In her article on SCSU Forensics, Daniela Lorenz describes our Speech and Debate program and reviews their success over the year. The Spotlight section reviews the work of all five of our student groups for the year each of which was active in programs that impacted not only the department but the entire campus.

This is just a glimpse of what you will read over the coming pages. It was a good year for the department and I’m honored to be its chair again in this new academic year.

I’d like to thank Molly McAlister for the fine job she did editing this edition and especially for the new cover design. Do you recognize that cupola? It sits majestically on the roof of Riverview—the proud home of the Communication Studies Department.

— Jeff Ringer
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Career Services Center Helps CMST Students Follow Career Goals

By: Molly McAlister

One of the best kept secrets on campus is the SCSU Career Services Center. You may have walked past it on your way to class, and you may have even poked your head in. But have you ever really checked out all of the resources that are available to you?

An array of resources and tools await students and alumni at the Career Services Center. The Career Services Center, located in Centennial Hall, is the “go to” place for questions about résumé writing, interviewing, and job searching. The mission of the Career Services Center is “to provide career decision making, internships and employment resources to students and alumni, create partnerships to support students in their career transitions, and promote lifelong career engagement.” The center’s vision is to “redefine the Career Services Center to meet the evolving needs of students and the employment community.”

Many incoming students are unsure of what major or career they would like to pursue, but knowing that the Career Services Center is available to them can make a difference in their journey. The Department of Communication Studies and the Career Services Center work closely together to help CMST majors and minors explore career options. During CMST 100, a core course in the major and minor curriculum, CMST students are introduced to Career Services. Other upper-level CMST courses also utilize Career Services’ resources.

So what does a student or alum do when visiting the Career Services Center? For one thing, you can make an appointment with a Career Advisor, or a student Peer Career Advisor to help you job search, create or edit your resume, or conduct a mock interview. The advisors at the Career Services Center are there to help you find your passion, and help you with the steps needed to reach your career goals.

Did you know…?

Communication skills are the number one skill sought out by employers. It is no surprise then that the Career Services Center works closely with the CMST department. According to Michelle Schmitz, the Associate Director at the Center, the CMST Department and Career Services have been strongly linked for many years. “The CMST Department and Career Services have always had a strong partnership in the ten years I have been here. The CMST Department emphasizes the importance of the career development process in each of their student’s growth.”

Schmitz also said that having that strong connection has ultimately greatly benefited CMST majors and minors. “As partners, we have worked together through presentations and other discussions to help students understand the skills that they are attaining in their coursework, and how those skills will help them today and in future plans.” Many students are unaware of the endless career possibilities with a Communication degree. The Career Services Center is available to help students explore possibilities, and discover what past students with Communication Studies degrees are doing for careers today.

What are alumni from the CMST department doing since graduation? The Career Services Center maintains records of alumni from every major and minor, showing what type of jobs students are obtaining after graduation. Because a Communication Studies degree can be used in so many different fields, no

Career Services continued on page 7
Featured

Alumni Q&A with

I had the opportunity to meet with Brian Schoenborn, a successful St. Cloud attorney who completed a bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies and Political Science at SCSU. It was a beautiful and sunny March afternoon when I arrived at Brian’s office at Leonard Street and Deinard around 4 o’clock in the afternoon. The atmosphere was pleasant, and when Brian arrived in the conference room he was immediately friendly and eager for the interview. In the next hour, I discovered how being a Communication Studies major has impacted Brian’s career and personal life since graduation.

Molly McAlister
CMST Connect Student Editor

Brian Schoenborn

What influenced your decision to become an attorney?

Molly: What influenced your decision to become an attorney?

Brian: When I was in high school at St. Cloud Cathedral, I had a business professor who noticed I liked to argue, and he asked if I was interested in being an attorney. So in high school I visited a law firm. I was a history guy in high school, but political science is really just applied history. I took some political science classes at SCSU where some of my teachers recognized talent and recommended I look into joining student government. I became the student government president, and was involved in other related activities. I did pre-law at SCSU, and then went on to receive a scholarship which helped me pay tuition for a couple of years of law school.

How long have you been an attorney?

Molly: How long have you been an attorney?

Brian: I have been an attorney for almost 18 years. The time has gone very quickly! I graduated from SCSU in 1992, and graduated from law school in 1995. One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was toward the end of school when I was looking at opportunities in Washington D.C. and Chicago. One of my professors asked me, “Brian, where do you want to be in five years?” I answered, “I think I want to be in St. Cloud because all my family is here, and they have been here for fifty-four years. I want to make a difference in my home town.” He told me “Brian, the law is a relationship business – it’s really about the relationships you build. You will have friendships wherever you go, but it won’t really help your career move forward, so follow your heart.” So I did just that. When I was in college, I worked at Gray Plant Mooty downtown St. Cloud. In 2001, I started with this office. I love taking an idea and turning it into a reality, and it’s a lot more enjoyable to do that in a place where you care about the people.
**Molly:** What do you find most rewarding about being an attorney?

**Brian:** I like making a difference in the lives of people, and helping them to accomplish their goals. I help good people be better. Often, attorneys are involved in things that are really serious for these people. People don’t call lawyers every day, only when a situation is pretty serious, so to be involved in someone’s life at that point is really a privilege.

**Molly:** What is the most frustrating part about being an attorney?

**Brian:** There are many long hours to this job. You are committed to helping people 24/7—it’s sort of like a doctor on call. You can’t say “I’m not an attorney today;” you need to be there when your clients need you. Clients sometimes think of you as only THEIR attorney, and they don’t necessarily understand that you might have a lot of other clients. You only have 24 hours in a day, so how you balance things and manage time while keeping people happy is challenging.

**Molly:** What influenced your decision to choose Communication Studies to go along with your Political Science major?

**Brian:** I got to know Bassey Eyo, and I realized that your ability to connect with people and communicate in both written form and orally is something used all day every day, and it shows the difference between being good and being great. Communication Studies is who I am—it is woven into me. It has really helped me be successful in my law practice, my family life, and other endeavors in life. I often say to lawyers, you can be the smartest lawyer ever, but if you cannot connect with people you will fail. You can be a good lawyer, and a great connector or communicator and you can be wildly successful. In our business, it’s all about trust and how you make people feel. We want to help people trust us by communicating efficiently with them.

**Molly:** How do you think your CMST major impacted your career positively?

**Brian:** My career is communication. Law school helped sharpen, strengthen, and deepen my skills, but my ability to connect with people and build relationships came through my family and SCSU, not only what I learned in the classroom, but also student organizations because I could take what I learned from classes and apply it to organizations. You can’t just experiment in a career and say, “I’m going to be this way with people and see how it goes.” In college you have the chance to experiment. I have had advisors in college sit me down and say “Brian, you say ‘I’ too often. Switch to ‘we’ or ‘us’. Saying ‘I’ all the time just turns people off. If you talk about what ‘we’ should do, it will help people see it is inclusive talk and that we’re in this together. It’s not just about Brian, we are all included.” I use my communication all day every day in every way. Every time I am communicating with others, I am using the communication training I got from SCSU. A lot of people just take it for granted, but I learned not to. It’s who I am and how I operate.
### Molly: What advice can you give to students pursuing a CMST degree on how to be successful and utilize what they have learned about communication and themselves as communicators?

### Brian:

Get involved. Get the most out of your education. Don’t just go through St. Cloud State; St. Cloud State went through me.” If you are just sitting in a lecture, you’re going to forget it. If you experience something and get involved, you will understand it, and you will get it and know how things get done. That’s when the light bulb goes off. If students just go through the motion to get classes, what did they really get out of college? SCSU is small enough where you can make deep connections with your professors and the people you work with, but big enough where you have endless opportunities. It’s the perfect place to develop skills and receive a wonderful education.

### Molly: What organizations were you involved in at SCSU?

### Brian:

I was in Student Government, MSUSA, and a Student Director of SCSU Surveys. I did so much outside of the classroom. I went to Washington D.C., Florida, and Colorado for student government. I met amazing people and did great things. I received an amazing education, and that’s one reason why I love to give back to help the next generation at SCSU get the same experience that I did. I received a Harvard education at SCSU. I was very involved at SCSU and after graduation I was involved as an alumnus. I have been working the last five years to renovate the national hockey and event center. If I can help in some way, I’m going to do it. If you do good things for people, opportunities will show up. By just helping people and doing good things for people, it’s surprising how much people will want to help you. Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. People who live for themselves are usually unhappy and depressed. At the end of the day, all you have is your relationships and your reputation.

### Molly: In what aspects of the community are you currently involved?

### Brian:

I am very involved in the development of SCSU. I am also helping to build and develop a Catholic school system called All Saints Academy in the St. Cloud area. I am very involved with the greater St. Cloud development, which involves businesses working together to move St. Cloud forward with business development and recruitment. I am an attorney by trade, but I am a business person in many ways. I have owned five different hockey teams over the last ten years, and have also owned baseball teams. Building businesses, starting businesses, and running businesses is what I enjoy doing. I received a President’s award for my lifetime contribution to hockey. I didn’t even play hockey, but now I am deeply involved with the sport. It’s the communication skills that have helped me—it is what makes humans human. I use intercultural communication a great deal to develop connections and find common ground. Our work done on 5th Avenue is an example of using intercultural communication—we are trying to merge the old St. Cloud with the new faith communities and the SCSU community. Finding common ground has been a challenge, but it has helped our community grow in so many ways.
two alumni are doing the exact same job. Some alumni from the CMST department are working full time doing team lead positions for companies like Target, AT&T and Wells Fargo. Other alumni are working with marketing or advertising for companies such as the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, Fame Advertising in Minneapolis, and even a company in Japan called Aimed Networks. All records of alumni are available for review at the Career Services Center, and are a great resource when considering what type of job to look for with a Communication Studies degree.

Why is it so important to have this connection between the CMST department and the Career Services Center? It all comes back to the students. Schmitz shared that “the importance of the connection is for our students. Students assume that they will receive career development guidance from their instructors and

in their course work. When they do not, they feel lost and confused. Some of these lost students will eventually seek out our assistance, but not all do. Having the partnership we have with the CMST department assures students that the department AND Career Services Center both care and want to see them succeed.”

Another reason why the Career Services Center and the CMST department are so linked? INTERNSHIPS! Both the Career Services Center and the CMST department can’t stress enough the importance of having an internship at some point in a student’s undergraduate experience. The Career Services website offers information including how to obtain an internship, national and international opportunities, and the importance of having an internship in college. The Center has its own job/internship search website, www.scsucareers.com, which helps students find internships in any field at any location. Thousands of employers post internship descriptions on this website, so the possibilities are endless.

The Career Services Center is open to all SCSU students and alumni who need anything relating to job searching, resumes, interviews, and career possibilities. Schmitz added that “the Career Services Center is a busy center year-round providing not only programs and events for students, but also meeting with them one on one. In the 2012-2013 academic year alone, we met with over 2100 students individually, including almost 500 served through our new drop-in appointment service.”

So stop by the Career Services Center, set up an appointment, or visit www.stcloudstate.edu/careerservices to learn more.

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**Internship Program**

The Communication Studies Department boasts a nationally recognized internship program. We would be excited to place our interns with your organization. If you have an internship opportunity with your organization or are interested in creating one, please contact Matt Vorell, our internship coordinator. You can reach him at msvorell@stcloudstate.edu.
Do you enjoy fun-filled weekends with little sleep and high drama? How about an educational ride in a “luxurious” state-owned van? There is one student group that shares this experience week in and week out. St. Cloud State University is home to the award-winning, nationally recognized Forensics (Speech & Debate) program. SCSU Forensics travels to 20+ tournaments a year. The program is comprised of a diverse group of over 20 creative and motivated students from a variety of majors.

SCSU Forensics was first established in 1916. The comprehensive program provides classroom instruction, peer coaching, and individual training in eleven different individual speaking and interpretation/acting events, as well as three forms of debate.

The competitive season starts in late September and ends with a national tournament in late March or early April. The squad experienced early and sustained success this year. At least one team member advanced to final rounds at every tournament. This year, five students earned a spot to compete at the 100th Anniversary Pi Kappa Delta National Speech and Debate Tournament in St. Louis, MO. For the second year in a row, SCSU left the tournament with a national championship! Scott Athey was named Top Legislator in Legislative Debate. Athey, a senior from Milbank, South Dakota, was also elected to the coveted position of Presiding Officer in Legislative Debate. Other St. Cloud State competitors earning an opportunity to compete at this year’s national tournament included:

Noah Gahm, a junior from Milaca, MN, who received an excellent ranking in Poetry Interpretation and also competed in Duo Interpretation and Prose Interpretation.

Roya Parsakalleh, a junior from Becker, MN, advanced to quarterfinals in novice Parliamentary Debate. Parsakalleh also participated in Impromptu Speaking.

Daniela Lorenz, an Ellsworth, WI junior, competed in Parliamentary Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking.

Carolyn Ritter, a junior from Grand Rapids, MN, competed in Parliamentary Debate, Legislative Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking.

In addition to ongoing travel and competition, the program has offered high school coaching, sponsored numerous Star Performances and Public Showcases, hosted the SCSU collegiate tournament, and judged at various high school meets.

“I am very proud of this team,” said Scott Wells, Director of Forensics.

“Their ongoing efforts speak to their commitment to the program and their commitment to excellence. This is a great group of students because of their determination and drive-aptitudes that will serve them well in the future.”

The SCSU Speech and Debate Team held the High School Speech Camp from July 23-27, supporting high school students by coaching them, helping them select pieces for competition, and showing them what Speech & Debate is like at a college level. Also late this summer, the SCSU Speech & Debate Team had their Fall Retreat, where students could meet new members and start to prepare for the upcoming season.
Icebox Tournament
The SCSU’s Icebox Classic Speech & Debate Tournament continues to provide excellent collegiate competition. Next year’s invitational will be held on Friday-Saturday, February 7-8, 2014. Feel free to stop by and watch some of the best performers in the Midwest.

Forensics Awards
Five members of the team were recognized for their forensics achievements at the 2013 Communication Studies Awards Banquet in April:
Top Competitor Award—Noah Gahm (Milaca, MN)
Chrysalis Award—Roya Parsakalleh (Becker, MN)
Team Success Award—Carolyn Ritter (Grand Rapids, MN)
Team Success Award—Daniela Lorenz (Ellsworth, WI)
Team Success Award—Scott Athey (Milbank, SD)

Mary Ahles Adams Forensics Scholarships
Thanks to multiple donors, several speech members are awarded Mary Ahles Adams Forensics Scholarships each year. Mary Ahles Adams taught for 12 years at SCSU in the Communication Studies Department (1966-1978). During that period, she served as director of SCSU’s high school speech festival. Prior to her tenure with the university, she taught English and Speech as well as coached speech activities at the high school level.

Check Out SCSU Forensics Online
Visit the SCSU Forensics website at http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/forensics/forensics.html to keep abreast of the team’s travels, tournament results, individual awards, and upcoming events. You can also contact Scott Wells, Director of Forensics, at sdwells@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-3000 for more information.

Check out the Department of Communication Studies new LinkedIn group!
SCSU Speech Communication/Communication Studies—St. Cloud State
Featured Professor

Professor Marge Pryately obtained her B.A. and M.A. in Speech Communication from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1975 and 1976, and Ph.D. in Intercultural Communication and Japanese Studies from the University of Oklahoma in 1989. “My heritage is 100% Slovenian, and please do not confuse Slovenian and Slovakian; there are a few hundred miles between the two,” joked the retiring professor, who has taught courses in Intercultural Communication at the Department of Communication Studies for more than 24 years.

“I teach as I would like to be taught,” said Professor Pryately, in sharing her teaching philosophy. “I prefer lots of experiential learning and individual freedom to learn what I want.” In CMST 338, Communicating with Asia, her students write a paper on anything they choose and relate the topic to a country in Asia. “Some of my favorites from the assignments were ‘Ice Fishing in Korea,’ ‘Stand-up Comedy in China,’ ‘Gold Hoarding in India,’ and ‘Cat Cafes in Japan.’”

Professor Pryately attributes her teaching philosophy to the Montessori Method and current classroom creativity research: “Learning and the Brain.” Professor Pryately has done research in service learning, experiential education, ‘Minnesota Nice’ culture, cross-cultural classrooms, and how to develop and use a Communication Center.

“I would have done very well with graduate students,” said Professor Pryately, who has served on the M.A. committees of seven SCSU students even though the Department of Communication Studies does not have an M.A. program.

When asked to describe her best memories at SCSU, Professor Pryately said that she enjoyed working with her colleagues, teaching the Intercultural Communication classes in general and especially the Asia class, developing the Communication Center in Riverview Hall, and working on the East Asia Studies committee.

“I teach as I like to be taught.”

Professor Pryately also loves traveling. “Since I teach Intercultural Communication, travel is important to bringing back to the classroom the rich experiences of meeting the world’s people,” said the frequent traveler. “I think of myself as a traveler and not a tourist. I am not interested in the sights as much as I am interested in meeting the people of each country,” she said.

Professor Pryately spent five years in Japan with trips all over Asia. She taught in Wakayama and Osaka at private schools (1979-1981), and then at Akita University (1992-1995) while at SCSU.

“I have been to Slovenia five times, mostly to visit relatives,” said Professor Pryately. “I was an exchange student in college to Luxembourg for eight months. I went to Turkey...”
and several countries in eastern Africa for the first time in 2010. In 2011, I went to Scotland, Norway, and India all on the same trip.” Professor Pryately also shared her favorite way to travel, which is to plan a multi-country trip for about three months at a time. She said her job at SCSU gave her the luxury of time to do that.

Aside from teaching, Professor Pryately is also an active member contributing to the welfare of the community. She serves on the Board of the Lake George Neighborhood and was Chair of the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition for three years, which served seven neighborhoods and 16,000 people. Through KSKJ, a Slovene fraternal organization in the U.S., Professor Pryately promotes Slovenian culture in Central Minnesota. KSKJ also gives $2,000 to a local nonprofit every year, which she finds gratifying.

One interesting fact about Professor Pryately is that she walked to work every day over the past 24 years. She likes mountain climbing and climbed to 18,300 ft. in 2000 in Nepal, which is just above Everest Base Camp. She climbed Mount Snowden in Wales and Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa in 2010 and attempted Ben Nevis, the highest point in Great Britain, in 2011. A future goal is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Professor Pryately also likes cooking and baking. “I will visit a place and taste a dish I just love. Then, go home and work to make it taste just like at the restaurant,” she said. “My favorite toy as a child was my chemistry set. Cooking is a lot like applied chemistry.” In 2012 she visited Epcot Center, ate a Norwegian Pear Almond Tart and fell in love with it. She then looked up several recipes and now she has made it five to six times! The same thing was true of Luau Pork, Tom Yum Ka, and Laab Essan, the professor said.

Professor Pryately retired in May 2013. Although originally from Chardon, Ohio, her family now lives in Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. Professor Pryately is looking forward to visiting them during the Minnesota winters. Professor Pryately said she has already been involved in many of the things other people save for retirement. “I have kept busy in all my interest areas even while I was teaching. My father died suddenly when I was 13. I learned young that the party could be over at any moment so don’t wait for retirement to do anything you want to do. Do it NOW,” she advised.

She knows that she will work with BLEND, which encourages childhood nutrition and exercise, and continue to work with the neighborhoods. It is her vision to see the city of St. Cloud develop a comprehensive healthy lifestyle program.

She hopes to spend part of each year in New York City enjoying plays on Broadway and attending the Lincoln Center Film Festival. She also indicated that she has received an offer from Tanzania to teach at a university there, if she decides to do so. Otherwise, Professor Pryately may develop some requested training modules and work for a training company part time, which is similar to the work she did before moving into academia, she said.

“The great feeling is that retirement is like being reborn, but only better, since you have the benefit of years of life experience,” said Professor Pryately. “I am looking forward to the beginning of a new chapter of my life.”
Lambda Pi Eta

Nine new initiates were invited to join St. Cloud State’s Beta Psi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association’s honor society. Jessica Chapman, Jayne Coffee, Lukas Gohl, Joanna Crocker, Paige Osmundson, Kelsey Nagel, Brittany Gotzinger, Denise Swartz-Keller, and Vanessa VanLaanen were acknowledged as inductees at the 2013 CMST Spring Banquet. This year, the Communication Studies Department will call for new membership applications during the Spring 2014 semester. 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 classes.

Players Performance Group

The Players Performance Group created a production titled “American Dreaming” this April at the Performing Arts Center. This original production explored the geography of the American Dream from picket fences to melting pots. Along the way, you were invited to re-imagine the American Dream for a new era. Surrealism was used as a guiding artistic influence throughout the play, which was structured around channel surfing through different shows about the American Dream. American Dreaming was a devised production, meaning that the cast and crew worked in a collaborative way to create an original show with multiple viewpoints. It was the result of a year-long partnership between the Theatre Program and the Communication Studies Department’s Players Performance Group.

Conflict Resolution Services for Students

Conflict Resolution Services for Students (CRS) provided FREE mediation and conflict coaching sessions to SCSU students throughout the spring semester. Students from several sections of the basic course were offered extra credit for participating in conflict coaching sessions with volunteers from CRS. During these sessions they learned some basic information about conflict management and practiced some basic skills in working with conflict. The group also conducted workshops for several groups on campus on conflict management. A graduate student is assigned to CRS to advise the group each year. Between 2011 and 2013 that student was Sue Harding. Sue graduated with a Master’s Degree in Conflict Management and Mediation in May. CRS would like to thank Sue for all of her hard work over those two years.

Communication Studies Club

The Communication Studies Club had a successful and rewarding semester. The club received a Student Organization Award for Best New Program for the Direct Connect series. The Communication Studies Club hosted the annual Spring Banquet, which had a great turn out and was a ton of fun. The club also participated in a roundtable discussion with the online education taskforce. The Communication Studies Club doubled its number of members and is set up for another promising semester with 2013-2014 officer positions filled. Vanessa VanLaanen was elected president; Marissa Tourville, vice president; Paige Osmundson, secretary, and Kevin Gysberg, treasurer.

Forensics--Talking Huskies

The St. Cloud State University Talking Huskies (Speech & Debate program) finished this season with another national championship! Scott Athey was named Top Legislator in Legislative Debate at the 100th Anniversary Pi Kappa Delta National Speech and Debate Tournament, March 13-16, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. The SCSU Speech & Debate Team competed with nearly 90 colleges and universities at the national tournament. Participants filled more than 1,100 event slots. Athey, a senior from South Dakota, was also elected to the coveted position of Presiding Officer in Legislative Debate. The team continues to grow with over 20 students being directly served by the program. In addition to traveling to more than 15 tournaments this year, the program sponsored numerous Showcases and Star Performances, presented classroom talks, hosted a collegiate tournament, and judged at various high school meets.
I graduated from SCSU with a Performance Studies Communication Degree and Dance, Theater, and Child and Family Studies Minor in December 2007. I had no career in mind. I actually selected it based on the genuineness, kindness, and acceptance I received from the CMST professors I met at an informational meeting about the Communications Studies major. I just knew I was home.

Since graduation, I have held several occupations and traveled throughout the mid-west. I served as the Seventh Generation Academic Excellence Center Coordinator at Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, ND. There I developed performing arts workshops to inspire students in six area high schools to sign up for my reservation-wide high school speech and writing competition. Among other activities, I coached select SBC students in speech and accompanied them to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium National Competition in Phoenix, AZ, where proudly many of my students placed. Also, I organized a Martin Luther King Day event, “Honoring the Dream” at Sitting Bull College.

I received extensive training in the Ruhi Institute sequence of courses, which is designed to build community through grass roots activities and spiritual means. The curriculum consists of Writings from Baha’u’lla’h, the Prophet-founder of the Baha’i Faith, an independent world faith which promotes the oneness of God, religion, and humanity.

There are five core activities involved in the Ruhi Institute worldwide: children’s classes, devotional gatherings, study circles, junior youth groups, and home visits and a practice after the completion of each one. My true passion is Book 5: “The Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program” or “Junior Youth Animators.” Through this, 11-14 year old “junior youth” lead their own group in designing their own service projects, performances, and topics of discussion, 15-25 year old youth animate or “bring them to life”. I have implemented junior youth groups in Kansas City, MO, Omaha, NE, and here in St. Cloud, MN.

Currently, I am working in a few school districts as a substitute teacher, which is what you do until you find your dream job. I just found it: “Youth Peer Mentor” at Green Acre Baha’i School in Elliot, Maine. Youth who live there are performing a year of service to humanity. I will have the honor and privilege of empowering them to be engaged in the Ruhi Institute Process and assisting them in activities and planning. I thank so many CMST professors for always being there for me, believing in me, and encouraging me to follow my dreams! I have found my true passion and I thank each and every one of you!
Since graduating in 1998 I’ve worked in a variety of industries as a Business Development Professional. Much of the work has been in developing relationships for joint ventures, co-branded marketing, business expansion, business start-up, and corporate turn-around. For the last three years I have been developing businesses of my own.

Communication Studies has been influential in my career development, particularly for understanding small groups, interpersonal communication, and applying feedback loop analysis. Most business scenarios involve these elements. Communication may be used in Voice of Customer research for new products, negotiating with a bank on corporate debt, or simply trying to convince someone across the table to give you their “dollar” for your product. Additionally, I have served on non-profit boards and am sometimes found doing public speaking as a panel member, typically about entrepreneurship.

In addition to preparation for my career, Communication Studies continues to create value in my daily life. As a member of Players Performance Group, I was exposed to the National Marrow Donor Program and am using that experience as my father seeks a bone marrow donor. There has been a tremendous benefit to my family as we navigate the appropriate steps in my father’s care.

I wish the current classes the best of luck as the venues for communication are only increasing. Technology will be a challenge to understand, integrate, and consider when developing new models for communication and business. I am certain Communication Studies majors will be impactful in delivering those solutions.
New Communication Studies Scholarship awarded to students with academic excellence

A new scholarship is being awarded to two CMST students with high academic achievement beginning Spring 2013. The Ann (Umerski) Rassman and Mary (Umerski) Farhenkamp scholarship was awarded to two CMST students at $500 each. Ann Rassman and Mary Farhenkamp are sisters who both graduated with Communication Studies degrees from St. Cloud State University. Their parents, Myron and Connie Umerski, wanted to honor and recognize students who are studying Communication Studies as their daughters did, and reward their hard work and academic achievements. They wanted the scholarship to be awarded in the name of their daughters, Ann and Mary. The recipients of the scholarship must be a sophomore or a junior with a declared CMST major, and maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Mollie Young Scholarship awarded to hardworking CMST interns

The Mollie Young Internship Scholarship is awarded to an intern in Communication Studies who has shown excellence by applying skills learned in the classroom to the internship. The scholarship is given in the fall to a student or students who have completed the internship during the spring or summer before. Mollie Young graduated from SCSU in 1981 with a degree in Communication Studies, and within a few years after graduation, she co-founded an internationally recognized business called Nametag International Inc. She also was the president of the SCSU Foundation from 2001-2003. Mollie Young knew the importance of gaining business experience before graduating college, but she also knew that not all internships were paid. So she created the Mollie Young Internship Scholarship to help with the costs.

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 Xakk Asphodel from the Foundation office at (320) 308-6138.
Spring Banquet Hosted by The Communication Studies Club

Keynote Speaker - Army Sergeant First Class Louis Goldstein
Where am I now? That’s an excellent question for me to answer in this forum since I know for a fact that I would not be where I am today if it were not for the Communication Studies department at SCSU. Back in the day (early-mid 80’s), I found myself at SCSU as a double major in English and Communication Studies. I quickly learned that I fit in much better in the Communication Studies department where I had an opportunity to study amazing topics, such as gender, relational, family communication and aging and communication. My eyes were opened for the first time to the complexity of human life, and my passion for all things relating to communication was born. I remember fondly many of the professors who welcomed me into the department, leaving indelible marks on my intellect and my soul, such as Paula Tompkins, Judy Litterest, Art Grachek, Bob Kendall, Joanna Pucel, Erica Vora, and Chuck Vick. In addition, I have been lucky enough to form a close, life-long relationship with my mentor, Roseanna Ross. She and I have stayed in touch all these years, and I’m always looking forward to hearing about her latest adventures. She has taught me so much, including how to remain intellectually curious and young in spirit across the lifespan.

After leaving SCSU, I traveled to California where I received my Masters at the University of California, Davis in Rhetoric and Communication. After a rather circuitous route through corporate America, I found myself back on track to get my Ph.D. in Communication. In 2000, I graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln with a Ph.D. from the Department of Communication. My dissertation examined the communication patterns of individuals who had experienced intimate partner violence. This area has remained a common thread of my research and teaching. In addition, my research and teaching interests are on the dark side of close relationships and the management of identities on the margins. My co-authors and I recently published a book entitled *The Dark Side of Family Communication.*

Currently, I serve as the Editor of the Journal of Family Communication and am an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

In addition to struggling with full-time academic jobs, my partner, Mark Fine, and I are raising our 6 year old boy/girl twins and chasing our 3 dogs around the house. And, to think… all this began at SCSU! There really is no bigger fan of this department than me!!!
**In brief ...**

**Student Awards**

Communication Studies Club president, *Jason Tham*, won first place in the Student Research Colloquium presentation competition with his paper on social media and the recent election (one of three papers he had accepted for Colloquium presentation). Jason is a Communication Studies undergraduate minor and first year graduate student working toward his Master’s degrees in both English and Mass Communication.

The *St. Cloud State University Excellence in Leadership Program* is a University-wide program which identifies and honors students who have made a difference in the quality of University and community life. To be considered for this award, students submit an assessment that is reviewed by a dedicated committee of faculty and staff members. **Three CMST students were recipients of the award this year: Brittany Carole Gotzinger, Stacey Kern, and Irene Alejandra Ramirez.** These and twenty two other recipients were recognized at the Excellence in Leadership Banquet on April 21, 2013.

The Communication Studies Club received an award for its Direct Connect program, which brought several guest speakers to campus to talk about their careers. The events have been well-attended and resulted in generating internship placements for CMST students.

**Performances**

*American Dreaming* was a devised production, meaning that the cast and crew worked in a collaborative way to create an original show with multiple viewpoints. It was the result of a year-long partnership between the Theatre Program and the Communication Studies Department’s Players Performance Group. The show took place on Center Stage of the Performing Arts Center from April 23rd through 27th, closing with a matinee performance on the 28th.

**South African Professor Visits Communication Studies Department**

Brightness Mangolothi, lecturer in the Department of Public Relations and Communication Studies at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, conducted a talk February 15, in Atwood Center on Political Communication in Context. The discussion examined political communication in the context of a multi-racial society in South Africa. Apartheid remains a thorny issue for most South Africans.

In 2012 the Democratic Alliance Students Organisation (DASO) started a campaign on a multi-racial South Africa. The campaign used a poster, titled “In OUR future, you wouldn’t look twice,” depicting an embracing interracial couple that set both South African media and social media abuzz. In Mangolothi’s paper on the subject she provided an analysis of the posts on DASO’s Facebook in terms of communication and political discourse and included this analysis in the discussion.

**Years of Service**

The CMST Department celebrated its faculty members’ many years of service. These included Jen Tuder and Scott Wells, 10 years; Pam Secklin, 15 years; Tami Spry, 20 years; and Jeff Ringer, 25 years. Thank you for your commitment to SCSU, the CMST Department, and our students.

**Retirement**

Professor Margaret Pryately retired after teaching in the Communication Studies deapartment for 24 years. Thank you for you dedication to this department and to SCSU, and best wishes as you embark on the next leg of life’s journey.

**Communication in the Millennium Conference**

The Communication in the Millennium Conference was held May 20-24, 2013, here at SCSU. Professors from around the world, many from Turkey, came to this conference to present on several communication topics including communication theory & research, cultural & critical studies, and media ethics to name a few. The symposium included guest speakers, special events, and discussions between communication theorists. The conference was deemed a huge success, and will be taking place at Istanbul University in Turkey in 2014.
CMST Department Mission and Goals

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

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

Chad M. Roggeman - CMST Alumni
Attorney-at-Law: Roggeman Law Office
Kati Rothstein - CMST Alumni
Exec. Team Leader: Target
Greg Murray - Geography Alumni
Mahowald Insurance
Jeff Ringer - CMST Chair/Faculty
Roseanna Ross - CMST Faculty/Past Chair
Bassey Eyo - CMST Faculty/Career Advisor
Matthew Vorell - CMST Faculty/Internship Advisor
Paula Tompkins - CMST Faculty
Diana Rehling - CMST Faculty
Arthur Grachek - Emeriti Faculty
Eddah Mutua - CMST Faculty
Marissa Tourville – Student Representative
Molly McAlister – CMST PR Student Assistant

Scholarship Donors

CMST scholarship donors provide opportunities for recognition to the best of our student graduates. Your confidence in our students and your support is most appreciated!

Congratulations to this year’s recipients:

Robert and Alice Wick Scholarship
Joanna Crocker
Tiffanie Walentiny

Charles and Carol Vick Scholarship
Michelle Marie Wall

Arthur and Barb Grachek Scholarship
Molly McAlister

Ray Pederson Scholarship
Daniela Lorenz

Julie K. Peters Scholarship
Kevin Michael Gysberg

Ann (Umerski) Rassman and Mary (Umerski) Fahrenkamp Scholarship
Vanessa VanLaanen
Zeb Scanlan

Mollie Young Scholarship
Jenny Olson
Mariah Scholer
Bobbi Jo Mueller

Kendall Ethics Award
Jennifer Ask

Mary Ahles Adams Forensics Scholarship
Jasmine Jones