

INTERACTION

The Annual Newsletter of the CU Denver Department of Communication



Cristine Schmidt, Celsa Arabaiza, and Alex Monahan in Guatemala. Photo by Kathryn Moffet.

Lynx Abroad

FOUR classes ventured into international territory this past year, letting Lynx learn first hand about global and intercultural communication.

GUATEMALA set the scene for an innovative partnership between the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation and majors who completed maymester service-learning projects.

JAPAN saw a summer study abroad course devoted to World War II and the Pacific Century. From Hiroshima memorials to other potent remembrance sites, students learned how public memory operates at national and international levels.

ITALY housed the Managing Cultures class, which explored intercultural and business communication in Sorrento and beyond.

SPAIN served as the site of a winter-term course that studied how food conveys cultural identity. Where will you go with COMM this year?

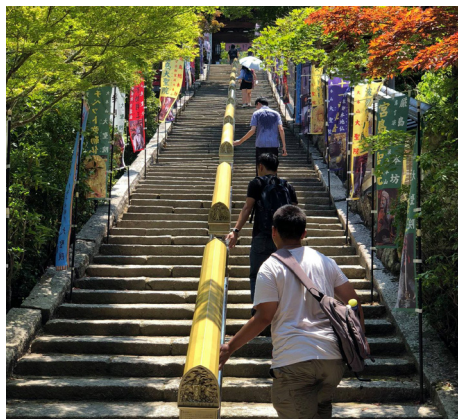


Photo of class in Hiroshima by Hamilton Bean.

SNEAK PEEK

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Photo by Brigid MacAuliffe.

Chair's Column

Communication celebrated another exciting year. We graduated a record-making 145 majors (up from just 30 in 1990), welcomed four new faculty members, and cheered on three promotions and numerous student and faculty awards.

From our beautiful home in Student Commons, we put our strategic communication certificate online and launched a new health-communication certificate.

We hosted world-renowned speakers like *The Washington Post*'s David Ignatius and the award-winning science writer Sonia Shah as part of our Daniels Fund Colloquia on Ethics in Communication Series. We also welcomed more than 25 other experts in our classrooms and public events.

Our students continue to make us proud with their achievements in and out of the classroom, from Denver to Beijing,

and everywhere in between. For instance, our Puksta Fellows merged classroom and community-engagement projects as you'll read about on page 5, while more than 500 students sharpened their communication skills by teaching K-12 classes for Junior Achievement. In China, students scored internships with leading media companies.

Relevance

The time is right to study communication. Our knowledge and skills can help build a more equitable and humane world while producing informed citizens who are capable of analyzing and addressing the world's complex challenges.

From teamwork to public speaking to social media production, communication consistently tops the lists of preferred skills in new hires. These areas are just a small part of the liberal arts and theory we teach in communication, and we invite you to learn more.

—Lisa Keränen

Quick Notes

› CLAS Media Learning Lab

Stop by Student Commons 3309 to check out digital camera and lighting equipment or receive individualized help editing media projects with Adobe Creative. We're open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 am -5 pm.

› Internships

Dr. Megan Hurson, our new internships director, is here to help you complete an internship related to your career goals.

› Lambda Pi Eta

This four-year honor society in communication is accepting applications. Check out our website for details.

› Graduation

If you are graduating this term, make sure you see Dr. Bueno Olson or Dr. Yoder for a graduation checkout.





New Health Communication Certificate Creates Opportunities

Health communication is a dynamic field of study that has grown significantly over the last 40 years. From improving provider-patient communication to tracking how citizens participate in health-policy decision making, health communication is important for private and public life.

According to the National Communication Association (2018), “health communication is becoming one of the most visible and grant-funded areas of scholarship within and outside the NCA,” and employment opportunities in this area continue to rise. Given our strategic alliance with the Anschutz

Medical Campus, the Department is pleased to offer a 15-credit BA certificate in health communication, effective fall 2019.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Health Communication (CHC) will serve as a gateway for internships and careers related to health, wellness, and medicine and will further the Communication Department’s mission to guide students toward developing the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to use communication to create a more equitable and humane world.

Developed by Drs. Tamara Powell and Lisa Keränen, and Communication/Public Health major Katherine

Phillips, with support from Dr. Yvette Bueno Olson, this theoretically rich and practically relevant program helps students understand how to create, analyze, and assess health messages across a wide range of contexts, spanning interpersonal communication to mass and digital media.

5 Health COMM Certificate Classes

3 Required Classes

- COMM 2500 Health Communication
- COMM 4500 Advanced Health Communication
- COMM 4575 Designing Health Messages

1 Elective Class

- Choose an interdisciplinary elective from a list of health-related classes

1 Capstone Class

- Choose 1 high-impact-practice health communication-related internship or health communication service-learning course from a list of communication classes

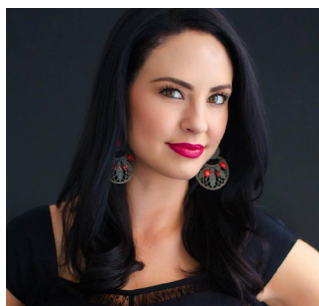




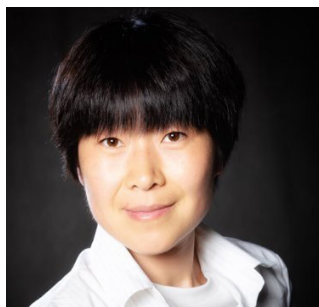
Our MA students (and some partners and friends). Photo by Lisa Keränen.

Communication at Work

These alums show the power of a COMM degree



Samantha Mesa Miles (BA '13)
Samantha brings breaking news and investigative reporting to viewers of WHAM 13 ABC in Rochester, NY. After graduating, Samantha earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and was a breaking-news reporter for KRIS 6 in Texas.



Ai Addyson-Zhang (BA '03)
Allison's transformation from college professor to digital education entrepreneur appeared in *Forbes* magazine in August. She is the founder of Classrooms without Walls and an associate professor at Stockton University.



Julian Long (BA '14)
Julian is a brand strategist based in Louisville, Kentucky, who "artfully and passionately advocates for change and shifts the conversation from 'what's wrong' to 'what's possible.'" He writes for *Bossy Magazine*, *Kinfolk Kollektive*, and *The Extraordinary Negroes*.

New Roles

Patrick Dodge

Vice President-Elect of the Association for Chinese Communication Studies (ACCS)

Larry Erbert

Associate Director of University Honors and Leadership (UHL)

Stephen Hartnett

Member of the Executive Committee of Delegates, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and Immediate Past President, National Communication Association

Amy Hasinoff

Interim Director of Graduate Studies for COMM

Lu Wu

Associate Program Chair for COMM, International College Beijing



Community Connections

Puksta Fellows Bridge Campus and Community

It all started with Harry and Eva Puksta, who built a successful South Denver construction business. They valued honesty and hard work from the time they were married, just after World War II, until they both died within days of each other in 1999. When planning their estate, Harry and Eva wanted to help others “be afforded the chance to go to college.” Although they had no heirs, the foundation they established with their financial planner has helped more than 200 students attend college. In

return, students work to transform their communities through a sequence of civic engagement projects.

The Departments of Communication and Ethnic Studies, supported by the Puksta Foundation’s John and NiChel Mulstay and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, sponsor 10 Puksta Fellowships each year, enabling students to use their knowledge and skills to make our communities a little bit better—one student and one project at a time.

2018 Puksta Fellows

- Anya Dickson
- Marika Fama
- Rob Hatcher
- Jorge Lomas
- S.J. O’Connor
- Reydesel Rodriguez
- Tara McMurtry
- Chelsea Situmeang
- Stephanie Tolbert
- Cone Vaughn



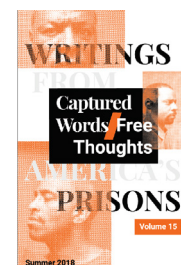
Photo of Puksta Fellows and their supporters by Gabe Shafi.

Democratic COMM Workshops

Now entering its second decade at CU Denver, the Department’s Democratic Communication Workshops send teams of undergraduates, graduate students, and local experts into Denver-area carceral facilities to teach public speaking, creative writing, and citizenship

skills. This year, volunteers ran 10 different workshops, dedicating over 1,000 hours of public service while collaborating with over 75 incarcerated men, women, and youth. Each year’s work culminates in the publication of *Captured Words/Free Thoughts*.

Want to join the team? Email: stephen.hartnett@ucdenver.edu.



Profile



Conversation with Miranda Johnson

A 2018 Puksta Fellow and recent graduate reflects back on her COMM experience. Johnson is now a judicial assistant to Judge Vallejos in Denver District Court.

How does communication play a role in your career?

Written, verbal, and nonverbal communication are vital to my career. It is my job to correspond with attorneys, process the judge's spoken orders while in court, and observe the body language and nonverbal cues of all the stakeholders in criminal court proceedings.

What is your most significant COMM learning experience?

Barcelona, Spain. The COMM Department offers wonderful study-abroad courses that allowed me to see how big the world truly is. I was able to dis-

cover who I was in another country as a global citizen and who I wanted to become once I got back home!

What surprised you about the COMM degree?

The social justice emphasis surprised me and excited me! Growing up, I always felt a passion to help people, but I did not know there was a degree that allowed me to do so until I enrolled in the 3271 Communication and Diversity course and began to learn about how I can use my privileges to advocate for marginalized populations in my community, which I got to do with my Puksta Fell-

owship. I developed a mentoring program to develop leadership and confidence.

What were your challenges along the way?

My identity was a challenge. As a self-identified biracial Latina, it was difficult to speak about my own oppression, considering the many privileges that correspond with that very same identity. Advocating for disadvantaged populations was and still is a huge challenge, especially when considering how marginalized voices are often silenced by a majority that can reflect my identity as well. Navigating the complexities of being a cultural broker will remain a challenge as I continue to develop in both my personal and professional life.

“I can use my privileges to advocate for marginalized populations in my community.”

What advice do you have for current COMM majors?

Remember that we are all human, no matter what we choose to study or how much money we make. It is critical to use your degree to change the world in small ways and not to separate yourself from others who may not have had the opportunity to earn a higher education. As COMM majors, we have a duty to put the *human* back in humanity!

Faculty Moving Forward

We may have only 9 tenure-stream faculty members who conduct research, but they sure are a hardworking bunch! Our faculty published 3 books and more than 20 journal articles since 2017, appearing in the leading journals in communication and allied fields. Their work was also featured across multiple news outlets, including *The Denver Post*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Westword*, *New York Times*, TedX, and more.

Promotions

Amy Hasinoff has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. Hasinoff's publications include an award-winning book, *Sexting Panic: Rethinking Criminalization, Privacy, and Consent*, and journal articles in leading venues, such as *Feminist Media Studies* and *International Journal of Communication*. Her work has appeared in more than 100 media outlets from CNN to the *Toronto Star*. She was a 2018 ThinqStudio Digital Pedagogy Fellow.



Kristy Frie was promoted to Senior Instructor. In her 12 years at CU Denver, Frie has taught more than 1,500 students across 75 classes; has significantly grown our internship program; and has completed more than 40 site visits for our CU Succeed program, for which she is the COMM liaison.



Yvette Bueno Olson was promoted to Senior Instructor. She has taught more than 2,000 students in 70 of our courses over the past decade, advised more than 1,000 majors, and played a leading role in curriculum development and first-year seminars.



Fellowships & Awards

Brenda J. Allen

Excellence in Leadership Award, CU System

Hamilton Bean

Research and Creative Excellence Award,
CU Denver College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Patrick Dodge

Inaugural Fellow of the National
Communication Association/Communication
University of China Scholar-in-Residence
Program

Service Excellence Commendation from the
National Communication Association

Mia Fischer

Dissertation of the Year Award from the
LGBTQ Interest Group of the NCA

Amy Hasinoff

ThinqStudio Critical Digital Pedagogy
Fellowship

Lisa Keränen

Excellence in Leadership Program Fellowship,
CU System

Michelle Médal

Finalist for the Colleen Barrett Administrative
Excellence Award

Student Awards



Shahid Ahmed

Sonja K. Foss Academic Excellence Award

Shahid's honor's thesis analyzed the famous legal case of *State of Arizona v. Jodi Ann Arias* (Arias was accused of killing her boyfriend, Travis Alexander) for the prosecutorial strategies used to keep Arias's testimony aligned with the state's preferred narrative. After transcribing the entire trial, Shi used grounded-theory to develop an explanatory schema consisting of six strategies used by the prosecutor such as narrowing, characterizing, directing, and othering. His advisor described the analysis as well written and "frankly, brilliant." We're not surprised Shi is now attending graduate school at Johns Hopkins University!



Sarah Slater

Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award

In 2008, Sarah co-founded Denver's Titwrench Festival, an annual multi-day event centering queer and feminist perspectives in experimental music and live performance. This past year, Sarah partnered with Mia Fischer and received a College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives Fund grant to bring transgender rights activists of color to campus. After working tirelessly to secure additional funding from more than 15 different programs, Sarah and Fischer presented a dialogue about trans of color identity, visibility politics, and the violence targeting trans communities. Sarah clearly works to make our campus welcoming for all.



Miranda Johnson

Lael Porter Award for Community Service

A first-generation student who grew up in a multigenerational and multiracial household, Miranda spent the past several years providing at-risk youth with opportunities, community, and a sense of importance through collaborative mentoring relationships with CU Denver student leaders. By building a network of mentoring partnerships and launching a program called *Reciprocity* as part of her Puksta Fellowship, she sought to empower the next generations of leaders to address the deep and personal roots of social inequalities and to build leadership skills and confidence in mentees.



Michael Gualtieri

Friend of the Department Award

As an IT professional for the College of Arts & Media and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Michael has been indispensable to the growth and development of our CLAS Media Learning Laboratory. He has assisted with network, software, and hardware issues with professionalism and care. As our “go-to guy,” Michael is always quick to respond to frantic emails about server malfunction, software problems, and other IT issues. He gets us up and running again with a positive and friendly attitude. The Media Lab would be lost without his support, which is why we presented him with this year’s Friend of the Department Award.



Justin Luke Riley

Barbara J. Walkosz Distinguished Alumni

Justin Luke Riley graduated *cum laude* in 2013 and returned to complete his Executive MBA. He is a former organizational development consultant and youth and community engagement pastor and past president of the board of Advocates for Recovery in Denver. Justin is also a White House Champion of Change award recipient and sits on the National Advisory Council for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration and the Executive Committee for the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose. He is currently the President & CEO of Young People in Recovery.



Patrycja Humienik

Outstanding CLAS Graduate Student

Patrycja served as a facilitator in our Department’s prison teaching program, the Democratic Communication Workshops, where she has taught over 120 incarcerated students. She founded Dances for Solidarity, a prison pen-pal project that shares dance movements through letter writing. As part of her master’s thesis, Patrycja organized “Solidarity Dance: Transcending Punishment,” a community event that featured creative works of prison pen-pals and brought together the community. Patrycja is now a Resource Coordinator for Diversity Engagement at the University of Washington.

Welcome New Hires



Megan Hurson

Instructor & Communication Internships Director

Dr. Megan Hurson earned her BA from Penn State, her MA in communication from Temple University, and her PhD in communication from CU Boulder in 2016. She has worked in New York City at a diverse set of advertising agencies and managed marketing and public relations efforts for local Colorado businesses.



Michelle Liu

Instructor, International College Beijing (ICB)

Dr. Michelle Liu earned her PhD in communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She teaches courses in strategic communication and advertising. Her areas of research include cultural studies of new media dynamics, online discourse, and digitally mediated health studies. Liu seeks every opportunity to connect students to the media and communication industries and guide them to become global citizens of increasingly networked societies.



Tamara Powell

Instructor, Health Comm Certificate Coordinator

Dr. Tamara Powell is a health and organizational communication scholar who received her PhD from the University of California San Diego. She helps healthcare teams promote learning in their communities and conducts research with the Rehabilitation Dept. at Children's Hospital Colorado. Her research and teaching focus on collaboration in healthcare teams, patient/family education, experiential and service learning, and qualitative research methods.



Lu Wu

Instructor & Associate Program Chair, ICB

Dr. Wu earned her PhD in mass communication from University of North Carolina-Chapel-Hill. A former Beijing journalist, Dr. Wu teaches courses in journalism, media writing, and new media production and management. Her areas of expertise include analyzing digital journalism and the journalist-audience relationship in the era of rapid technological change. Dr. Wu oversees our ICB Media Learning Lab.

ICB Updates

Jeff Wang, Alumni, & Development Bank Inspire ICB

Several experts contributed their knowledge to our International College Beijing (ICB) program, one of the first joint Sino-US educational programs approved in 1994 by China's Ministry of Education.

In April, Weber Shandwick's Creative Director Jeff Wang shared his insights with ICB students, while alumni Fan Zhang and Yumeng (Berry) Ma (class of 2011) offered their advice to ICB students at an alumni panel.

In September, students enrolled in Hamilton Bean's Communicating Foreign Direct Investment class visited the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). There, they met with AIIB officials to discuss the bank's mission, operations, internal and external communications, and its Young Professionals program.

The visit was only the third by a Beijing-based university. CU Denver's International College Beijing visit followed Peking and Tsinghua Universities in bringing students to learn more about the first multilateral development bank headquartered in the People's Republic of China. As one major summarized the experience, "It was an amazing opportunity."



Patrick Dodge, Berry Ma, and Fan Zhang.



Yangmin Zhang, Yuwei Zhao, and Shengpeng Shi.

Yangmin Zhang

Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award

Yangmin led by becoming a teaching assistant at the ICB offices, offering administrative support and help to teachers coming from Denver.

Yuwei Zhao

Lael Porter Community Service Award

Yuwei's social volunteering experience is legendary. She says volunteering is a particularly good way to gain social experience and to fulfill personal goals.

Shengpeng Shi

Sonja K. Foss Award for Academic Excellence

Benefiting from the programs offered at International College Beijing, Shengpeng became well versed in English and gained insights into Asian and Western cultures.

The Year in Review



9.12

Daniels Fund Colloquia on Ethics in Communication: Trust, Truth, and Terror

A Conversation about the Ethics of National Security News Coverage with David Ignatius, Elaine Appleton Grant and Jennifer Mercieca.



10.14-15

Communication Advising Open Houses

Majors, minors, and transfer students received personalized attention and mentoring during these informational sessions.



11.17

NCA Conference

Professor Stephen Hartnett delivered the presidential address at the 103rd annual meeting of the National Communication Association (NCA), "Communication, Globalization, and the Prospects for Solidarity."



11.02

Daniels Fund Colloquia on Ethics in Communication: Confronting Cyberbullying

A conversation on ethical communication with Keith Berry, Stacy Tye-Williams, Elaine Appleton Grant, and Amy Hasinoff.



3.28

The #BlackExcellence Tour: An Evening with CeCe McDonald and Joshua Allen

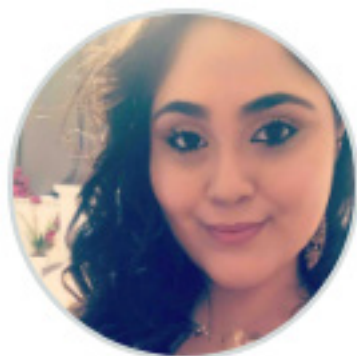
Organized by COMM major Sarah Slater and faculty member Mia Fischer and supported by several grants, this event addressed trans of color identity, visibility politics, racial justice, and LGBTQ+ rights.

01.12



Winter Study Abroad in Barcelona

COMM 4995 students learned how food communicates cultural identity in Spain.



Three Cheers for CHEARS!

Maribel Rodriguez Ramirez

This year's recipient of the Community Health Education and Retention Scholarship (CHEARS) is a first-generation student. She is currently majoring in communication and double minoring in health humanities and human development and family relations with an emphasis in the nursing pathw-

ay. When she was younger, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor—a life-changing event that has helped her be the person she is today. This scholarship was made possible by John Snow, Inc. and an alumni donor. Maribel will be mentored by Dr. Tamara Powell.

COMM INDEX

- **65,251:** number of student credit hours offered by COMM during past 3 years
- **8,884:** unique students enrolled in COMM classes during past 3 years
- **2,482:** student head count in COMM last year
- **513:** number of COMM students who participated in 2017 Junior Achievement service learning
- **145:** BA graduates in academic year 2017, plus 7 MA students
- **24:** median COMM class size
- **96%:** median COMM class fill rate

Faculty and Staff

Department Chair

Lisa Keränen

Program Assistant

Michelle A. Médal

Professors

Brenda J. Allen
Sarah K. Fields
Sonja K. Foss
Stephen John Hartnett

Associate Professors

Hamilton Bean
Larry A. Erbert
Amy A. Hasinoff

Associate Professor CT

Patrick Shaou-Whea Dodge

Assistant Professor

Mia L. Fischer

Senior Instructors

Yvette Bueno Olson
Kristy Frie
ej Yoder

Instructors

Megan Hurson
Kirsten N. Lindholm
Xiyuan Liu
A. Diann Logan
Tamara Powell
Lu Wu

Visiting Instructor

Moana Luri de Almeida

Lecturers and CU Succeed

Instructors

Rodney D. Bell | Constance Berry
Sarah Burke Odland | Steve Charboneau | Amanda Czyprinski
Christina L. Dickinson | Lisa Dickinson | Tara Henderson | Jennifer Jantz | Rachel Jacobs | Matthew Kaskavitch | Kyle Kontour | Lacey

Lowry | James McNeil | Kate Miller
David Proper | Michael Register
Shannon Sindorf | Ruth Sobol
Emily D. Stones

Graduate Student

Teaching or Research Assistants

Rachel Distler
Rob Hatcher
Leah Horn
Anne McCaffrey
Tara McMurtry
Ali Nassiri
Gina Portolese
Sean Rhodes
Stephanie Tolbert
Eli Woody

Media Learning Lab Student

Creative Consultants

Cydney Phan
Gabe Shafi
Mazin Zien



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COMMUNICATION

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Give Back to COMM

If you appreciate how your communication degree prepared you for your career and would like to help others have the same opportunities, please mail your contribution to:

Office of Advancement
University of Colorado Denver
1380 Lawrence Street, Suite 1325
Denver, CO 80204

Mention in the memo line that it is for
**CU Denver's Communication
Department** and
include the fund number **0321663**.
Thanks for your support!



University of Colorado **Denver**

CU IN THE CITY