



The Roar

Communication Studies at The College of New Jersey
A National Leader in Student-Faculty Engagement

Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

WTSR honored for 50 year milestone

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the Department of Communication Studies honored the 50th anniversary of WTSR with a panel discussing public radio. The panel, titled "The Future of Public Radio," included WXPB General Manager Roger LaMay, Executive VP & Chief Content Officer of WNYC Dean Cappello, Audio News Director of WHYY Eugene Sonn and WTSR Advisor Kevin Potucek. The panel was introduced by Janice Selinger, the acting executive director of NJN Public Television and Radio, and moderated by professor Gary Woodward.



Walsh and his teammates accept their awards.

Student films top five nationally Campus MovieFest grows at the College

By Amelia Ortman ('18)

Campus MovieFest, the world's largest student film festival, made its home at the College in April 2017. CMF challenges students to write, film and edit a five minute movie in the span of just one week.

Communication studies major Kevin Walsh Jr. ('19) led two of the winning teams with the films "Just the Tip" and "Recollection." "Just the Tip" is a comedy about pizza, while "Recollection" is a fictional thriller story about conversion therapy that tells a hypothetical scenario about two test subjects undergoing a new type of "treatment."

"Recollection" was also nominated for four Golden Tripod Awards — CMF's national competition. The film was one of the top five nominees for Best Picture, Best Drama, Best Production Design and Best Performance for lead actress Jackie Kuczinski ('16). Kuczinski took home the first-ever Best Performance Award. "Recollection" is also a CMF staff pick to air on Virgin America's in-flight entertainment system through August and September. The film is currently one of five being featured along with "Arke," created by communication studies major Gracemarie Loretta ('17) and interactive multimedia majors Ryan Laux and Chris Lundy ('17). Arke won the GTA for Best SFX/VFX. The story focuses on a girl who uses advanced technology to relive memories before her brother disappears.

Walsh and his teammates, fellow communication studies majors Nicole Adams ('17), Tyler Law ('19), Ellie Schuckman, Sarina Sokoloff and Peter Weiland ('18) attended Terminus — a four day film festival — in Atlanta, Ga. in June, representing their films and the College.

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Only undergrads to present papers at DCHC

By Ben Zander ('18)

The only undergraduates in the world invited to present papers, five students attended the biannual DC Health Communications Conference in the spring, representing the College internationally.

Presenting papers on an array of health communications topics, Joanne Kim ('17), Keelin Moran ('18), Melissa Morgan ('18), Amit Patel ('17), Brielle Richardella ('18) and professor Dr. John C. Pollock, were at the conference highlighting their work on topics ranging from



L-R: Dr. Pollock, Patel, Morgan, Moran, Kim, Richardella

national newspaper coverage on sexual assault on college campuses, gun safety and solitary confinement.

"From the perspective of one of only a few undergraduates at the... conference, a

wide array of professional opportunities in public health became apparent," Kim said. "Many participants were impressed by our distinct communication findings using

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CMF sees more student submissions continued from front

"While it is extremely exciting and humbling to have been nominated for awards at the national level, when I look back on the experience that's one of the last things I think about," Walsh said. "What comes to mind is all of the amazing people and filmmakers I had the chance to meet in Georgia, and the fact that it was filmmaking that brought all of those people together."

The day CMF begins is when life gets hectic for participants of the competition, said Law, president of the College's Student Film Union. SFU sponsors CMF through Student Finance Board funding.

"Things go wrong and things go right," Law said. "It's amazing what can be made in seven days."

A week following the collection of the films, the top 16 are screened at a red carpet event on campus. Of those 16, the top four Jury Award winners are announced and are then automatically entered into the national competition.

While a group of judges from the school select the top 16 and then the top four films, the CMF team awards Silver Tripods to films of their choosing. If a film wins a Silver Tripod Award, it is then eligible to be nominated for a Golden Tripod Award. Not every school the CMF team travels to receives Silver Tripod Awards.

This year, four awards were given out at the College including Best Sound for "Luna," which follows a girl fighting her way through would-be attackers, Best SFX/VFX for "Arke" and Best Production Design and Best Performance for "Recollection."

"We were all winners this year," Law said. "This was our fifth year with CMF and it was our best year with them. With over 40 submissions, we had the highest amount of submissions in our school's history and we plan on increasing that number next year."



L-R: Walsh, Law and Kuczinski shoot on the set of *Recollection*.

Emmy-winning screenwriter speaks at College



Canaan (L) presents to students as Molloy (R) moderates the discussion.

The Department of Communication Studies held a Master Class with screenwriter Chris Canaan on Monday, April 10. Discussing his approach to the craft and his own screenwriting process, students had the opportunity to gain firsthand insight. Canaan also detailed storytelling and deconstructed a film for those in attendance. Adjunct professor Jason Molloy moderated a Q&A with Canaan following his lecture.

Professor visits Japan, deems it 'cleanest' society



Pollock goes to the Zen gardens, made of rock and sand.

While attending the International Communication Association annual conference in Japan during the summer of 2016, Dr. John Pollock had the opportunity to visit several sites of the nation.

Spending several days in the imperial capital of Kyoto, Pollock visited elaborate and

elegant palaces and gardens. In particular, Pollock noted the Zen gardens which are raked sand and rock, calling them "an aesthetic and spiritual epiphany."

Pollock also detailed how well-kept Kyoto is overall.

"The gutters in Kyoto (are) so clean you (can) eat off them,"

he said. "The taxis (have) white lace on the seats (and) the taxi drivers wear white gloves, opening the door for passengers electronically so that no-one need touch the doors."

Pollock also attended baseball games and rode the "bullet trains" — both of which highlighted the value of elaborate rituals.

Women selling beer at baseball games bow to each row before receiving requests from individuals, who also receive a bow after each order, Pollock said.

On the trains, Pollock noted that they are "so well engineered that a cup of espresso coffee doesn't vibrate on the back seat tray," even though speeds approach 200 miles per hour.

When entering each car, women who sell coffee enter by bowing first, then pulling

coffee carts after them, according to Pollock. They bow again to each customer purchasing a cup, then push the cart forward, but turn and bow to everyone in the car just visited before continuing onward.

In addition, Pollock also noted that the train seating honor system was so effective, he never saw conductors ask anyone for tickets.

While walking on the streets, Pollock recalls waiting for a stop light to change and even when no vehicles were on the road in either direction, all the Japanese men waiting with him chose not to cross the street until the light officially turned green.

"Japan is clearly both the most ritualized and cleanest country I have ever visited," he said.

Recent grads headed to nations top grad schools

By Dr. John C. Pollock

Two recent College graduates have been accepted into the nation's top-ranked professional programs in public health and public affairs.

Marc Trotochaud and Taylor Hart-McGonigle will be attending Johns Hopkins and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in the fall, respectively. Hart-McGonigle will be specializing in both public administration and international relations.

Throughout their time at the College, both Trotochaud and Hart-McGonigle had success. Trotochaud presented two professional student co-authored papers at national conferences. At the National Communication Association, he detailed nationwide coverage of the pediatric vaccination controversy.

At the New Jersey Communication Association, he presented his paper on cross-national coverage of coastal water contamination, where he won best student paper in the state for 2016. Both papers used the widely recognized "community structure theory" developed in courses taught by Dr. John Pollock at the College.

In addition, Trotochaud revitalized the interdisciplinary Public Health Communication Club, helping launch the College's new public health major as of the Fall 2016 semester.

Trotochaud will be the seventh student from the Department of Communication Studies to enroll in the Johns Hopkins masters' program in public health.

Hart-McGonigle focused heavily on extracurricular public affairs/international relations activities on campus, and she



L-R: Trotochaud and Hart-McGonigle further their education.

crafted a self-designed major that integrated elements from political science, women's and gender studies, and communication studies. She was supervised by Dr. Pollock, who earned a master's in international public administration from the Maxwell School.

Among her many interests, Taylor was a collaborator on a book chapter with Dr. Matthew

Bender about water resource management in Tanzania. She was elected president of the Model United Nations team her sophomore year and is also nearly fluent in Arabic. Pursuing a special two-year combined program in public affairs/international relations at the Maxwell School, Hart-McGonigle is the 21st student from the Department of Communication Studies to attend the school.

Senior RTF students showcase shorts at screening *Event held to highlight undergrad work, give feedback*



Students gather in the Kendall Hall TV studio for an evening of films.

By Sarina Sokoloff ('18)

The Department of Communication Studies held its first ever Senior Showcase for Radio, TV, and Film majors on Thursday, May 4.

Although sponsored by the department, the event was organized and hosted by RTF student Sara Davis ('17). The event was a screening of work done by the senior RTF class and students could submit

anything they worked on from the past four years.

Held in the Kendall Hall television studio, a packed crowd was entertained by the work of their peers and popcorn was also served.

According to Professor Terry Byrne, the BFA Showcase used to include the entire college, and senior work done by the RTF students was shown there. However, over the years, the showcase became strictly for

the Interactive Multimedia Department. Davis felt the need to plan the showcase for RTF students to give them an outlet to show their work.

"(We should) be proud of things we make as students in the arts," she said. "If we don't believe in our own work, no one else will either."

According to Davis, it's highly important for RTF students to have feedback and valuable critique which helps inspire future work. She doesn't believe she would be where she is today had it not been from the feedback she received from professors and classmates.

The event ended with a video made by Davis, which featured herself and many of the seniors who participated in the evening honoring the RTF professors and staff.

"I wanted to do something special for them because they do so much for us and I couldn't think of a better way to bring everyone together than with a screening that celebrates the seniors," Davis said.

She hopes that the screening will become an annual event in the future.

Commencement 2017: Congratulations graduates

Ceremony held to honor achievements, bestow awards



Adams (L) and fellow graduate Juliet Muldoon (R) with their diplomas.

At the ceremony, several awards were also given out including: the Faculty Award to Trotochaud; Leadership & Advocacy to Natasha Pineiros; David A. Rogosky honoring a member of WTSR to Kyle Newins; Matthew Wasser honoring student internships to Olympia Lagonikos, Abigail Hosonitz and Sydney Swartz; Promise of Achievement honoring rising seniors to Keelin Moran, Kathleen Zarro and Sarina Sokoloff; and the Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) communication studies honor society award to the entire LPH executive board.

At the end of the ceremony, D'Angelo briefly addressed the crowd once again.

"Go out, be great and be yourselves," he said.

On Friday, May 19, the Department of Communication Studies held its annual Commencement Ceremony for the class of 2017.

Students, family, friends, professors, staff and faculty all packed into Kendall Hall Main Stage for the hour-long ceremony. Following speeches from faculty, each student walked across the stage and received their diploma.

Led by department chair Dr. Paul D'Angelo, the ceremony also had one graduating senior from each comm track give a speech. Marc Trotochaud spoke on behalf of Public & Mass, Nicole Adams represented the Radio, TV, & Film track and Jessica Fetterly spoke for the Interpersonal/Organizational students.

*"Go out, be great,
and be yourselves."*

*-Dr. Paul D'Angelo,
Department Chair*

Students display research on health, human rights

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methods appropriate for graduate level research."

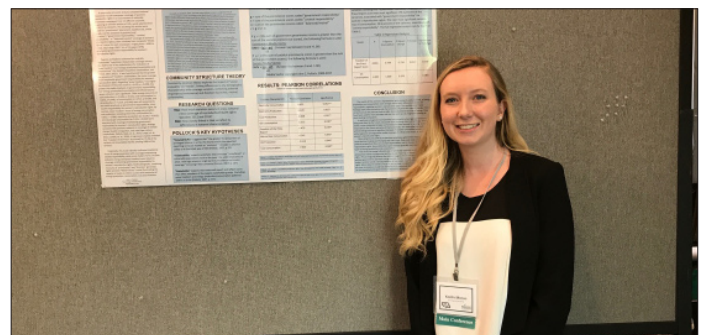
Each paper was written in classes on research methods or international communication taught by Pollock, all testing his community structure theory exploring the impact of community characteristics (city or national demographics) on critical health and human rights issues.

According to Morgan, most of the other attendees consist-

ed of physicians, professors, doctoral candidates, masters candidates, and an array of professionals in the health communications field.

"The (conference) was a week-end filled with learning and recognition," Morgan said. "It was an honor to be one of the only undergraduates whose paper was accepted for presentation."

Student papers like those presented at the DCHC conference helped the College's Department of Communica-



Moran presents her work at the DCHC conference.

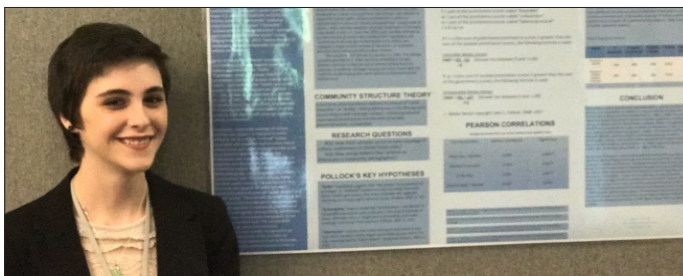
tion Studies win the 2013 "Rex Mix Program of Achievement Award" for best undergraduate communication studies department in the nation, presented by the National Communication Association, according to Pollock.

"The conference validated my course of study and my plans for working in public health in the future," Moran said.

Held from Thursday, April 27

to Saturday, April 29 in Fairfax, Virginia, the College's students have been the only undergraduates to present papers at all four DCHC conferences since the first one was held in 2011.

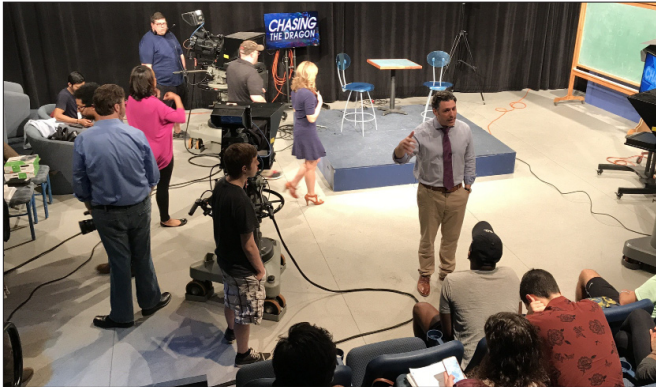
"Work towards a topic you are so passionate about, set the bar high, and go after what you want," Richardella said. "Get the research out there and educate those who are not informed about health issues occurring today."



Morgan stands next to her presentation.

TV studio class hosts professional broadcast

Students help crew shoot, have Q&A with anchors



This past semester, students had the opportunity to take part in the filming of Chasing News — a nightly news broadcast. On Tuesday, April 11, professor Steve Stone's COM 212 class hosted anchors and crew members of Chasing News, assisting them in the production. Students ran the cameras and participated in a conversation along with the show's host, Bill Spadea, and three of the show's "chasers," or reporters. Spadea detailed how the show runs while the College's staff and other students aided the Chasing News crew. The episode aired on Wednesday, April 12.

TV control room remodeled

Pictured below, members of Lions Television direct an in-studio shoot. Last summer, updates were made to the College's television studio control room, including six flat screen TVs. In addition, the control room also holds a switcher, lighting and sound boards, graphics and broadcast software and a teleprompter.



Journalism joins Arts & Comm

By Danielle Silvia ('19)

At the start of the 2016-2017 academic school year, the Journalism and Professional Writing Program officially moved from the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences to the School of Arts and Communication.

Originally a track within the English Department, JPW, both a major and minor at the College, has grown popular. As of the Fall 2016 semester, 39 students were enrolled in the program, which has close ties to on-campus publications. *The Signal*, *Her Campus* and *Ed@TCNJ* collectively showcase student work and expression on topics ranging from opinions, anecdotes and world news.

Prior to the 2016-17 school year, JPW stood as a freestanding major before coming to the School of Arts and Communication. Since making the move, JPW faculty are optimistic.

"From our perspective as a department, I think we see it as a success," said Donna Shaw, chair of the JPW department. "What we're really excited about at this point are the possibilities for the future, as we begin to collaborate even more with the other departments in our new school."

Students at the College also had positive thoughts about the program's move, specifically, how the change in the academic school of the program opened them up to new opportunities in the field.



Journalism leaves Bliss Hall and moves its offices to the Art & Interactive Multimedia Building.

"As a senior journalism major, I'm really proud to have watched the program transform over the last few years," said Mackenzie Cutruzzola ('17). "(Switching schools) opened up more opportunities to study media as a whole. I have been able to take classes in both print and broadcasting that have prepared me for various internships."

Other students shared Cutruzzola's views.

"It was really a move for the best," said journalism major Elizabeth Zakaim ('19). "The world of journalism is changing and students need to know about the digital components of publishing, which is exactly what being under communications, and in the IMM building, will help to achieve."

Alumni Mentor Program launches

Students able to connect with graduates

By Peter Weiland ('18)

During the Spring 2017 semester, the Department of Communication Studies hosted its first ever Alumni Mentor Program event. The program, which started the previous fall, aims to match third and fourth year students with participating alumni whose career and academic history are most similar to student interests and goals. Alumni are encouraged to share advice on internships, jobs, interview techniques and career initiation options, as well as to offer Skype sessions and resume reviews.

The event was designed for all students, even those not signed up for the program, to mingle with graduated communication studies majors. It was held on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 7:30pm-8:30pm in the Kendall Hall Television Studio. A panel of six professionals answered questions for the first half of the night, followed by some time to allow one-on-one discussion.

"It was an interesting experience, and one that I am very grateful to have had," Carly Diamond ('18) said.

She specifically noted the discussion with alumni based on their positive and negative life experiences as "eye opening". The department is currently preparing varied formats for future events.

The program was proposed last year by Stefanie Urso ('14). Dr. Paul D'Angelo, the department chair, guided both Urso and Program Assistant Livia Lazzaro, as they worked with alumni and students, respectively. Their work culminated last September, when students were asked via email



Mentors meet with students.

to complete a poll regarding a mentor program. After high interest was shown, the department paired students and mentors. Many hope that one day student mentees participating in the program will become alumni mentors.

Listed on the official webpage for the program are twenty seven students paired with thirty one alumni. Biographies reveal alumni who work in a wide variety of fields, including public relations, sales, project managing, marketing, on-air reporting, and many others.

Tim Limson ('17) was matched with Josh Fidler ('14), a desk assistant at Fox News. Limson has corresponded with Fidler over email, citing that he knew this opportunity would "grow (his) network as well as (his) knowledge of the industry."

The 2018 Fall semester welcomes a wave of rising juniors newly eligible for the program. Though no similar events are officially announced, the department continues to accept any interested students and alumni.

Students shoot music videos for local artist

Radio, TV & Film major Sarina Sokoloff ('18) spent this past semester filming acoustic sessions for seventeen-year old high school student Claire Ernst. Signed to a management company, Ernst's videos have amassed thousands of views online, including her own original songs. Ernst's mother contacted professor Terry Byrne at the end of the Fall 2016 semester, who then put her in touch with Sokoloff. Since then, Sokoloff, with the help of several friends, has recorded over 17 videos for Ernst.

"It's been an amazing opportunity for both me and the people that film with me," Sokoloff said. "Each time we shoot the videos, we learn more about what works, what doesn't and how to fix it next time."

One of Ernst's covers even caught the attention of rapper Russ, who retweeted her video to his more than 400,000 followers. Sokoloff hopes to continue working with Ernst moving forward.



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The Roar is the student newsletter of the Department of Communication Studies at The College of New Jersey.

Its goal is to foster a sense of connection among all those involved with the department and to celebrate our solid record of accomplishments at the local, state, regional, national and international levels.

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or <http://communicationstudies.pages.tcnj.edu/vibrant/roar/>