

SPEAKING FROM THE CENTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

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THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY



Last semester we presented an academic paper and an original speaking center pedagogical innovation at a national conference and we authored an article on listening in "The International Journal of Listening". This semester, there are many things that are new and some that remain the same.

NEW

* We are now collecting usage data via your UNCG ID card. Please swipe when you enter!

*We scan and e-mail, to speakers who get support from our Online Speaking Center, the same report forms that speakers in our face-to-face sessions receive. Speakers and their faculty have expressed value in this consistency in feedback practices.

*We are piloting the use of Google+ as a way to offer consultation to speakers who are working on group projects. We hope this will lead to our adding online group consultations to our services.

* We are excited about the

recent opening of our digital literacy sister-center in the Jackson Library's Digital Media Commons.

* We now have iPads to use during our consultations.

NOT NEW

*We continue to offer public speaking, group, and interpersonal communication consultations.

* The number of speakers seeking support via the resources on our Web page continues to grow.

*We provide a safe place for non-native speakers of English to practice conversation with native speakers.

*We offer extended support via online chat! Send us your quick questions during our regular hours of operation.

GoogleTalk/AIM:

UNCGSpeaking

Or visit our Web page.

*We continue to offer speakers the option of being recorded digitally as they practice their speeches. We can provide a copy to speakers who bring in a USB stick or blank DVD-R.

*Due to the spoken nature of our work we still require appointments. It is never too early to call for an appointment. It can, however, be too late. Appointments need to take place two or more days before the final presentation date.

*We are taking requests for our interactive oral communication workshops. We can facilitate these workshops in your space or the Speaking Center Training Facility in McIver.

*During a consultation, speakers work one-on-one with a communication consultant trained to offer peer-to-peer guidance & feedback. Each individual session will last thirty minutes while a group session lasts one hour. We can assist you at any stage of your presentation, from invention to organization to delivery.

*Our services are open and available to the entire campus community, and through our community outreach, not-for-profit off-campus communities as well.

*Want to join our team of consultants? To learn how, check out: speakingcenter.uncg.edu/staff/

VITAL STATISTICS

Locations: 3211 MHRA

Phone: (336) 256 1346

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am to 7pm

Friday 9am to 12pm

Sunday 5pm to 7pm

Web: <http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu>

Gmail: UNCGSpeaking

ALLAN FELLOW



Communication Studies & Media Studies double major Taylor Williams has been named the Joan and Pete Allan Speaking Center Fellow for the fall semester.

The Allan Fellowship is designed to encourage undergraduate student-staff members of The University Speaking Center to complete speaking center research or outreach projects that culminate in original academic papers. Taylor will present her work on the nonverbal aspects of consulting at the National Association of Communication Centers conference in the spring.

BEAT THE BLANKS! BY GABRIELLE AUSTIN



That frustrating moment when you find yourself sitting there, just staring at a blank white document on your computer. Watching as the flashing text bar beckons you to type something. But what?? You've been given a speaking assignment

and you know what you want to talk about, but where do you go from there? How long is a speech supposed to be? What kind of research do you need to do for a speech? So many questions and just not enough answers. Guess what? There are answers, and the UNCG Speaking Center can help you find them. You don't have to sit there and helplessly stare at a blank document as you struggle with where to start. The Speaking Center can give you outlines to follow, tip sheets to refer to,

feedback on organization and presentations, and personal experience to relate to as well. You can meet with consultants one-on-one in person or online to organize your speech, practice your presentation, or simply go over ways to cope with speaking anxiety. Whatever you may be struggling with, the Speaking Center is here to help you. So instead of staring at that blank screen, go to speakingcenter.uncg.edu and con-

contact us to make an appointment at THE MULTILITERACY CENTERS @ UNCG

As the ways we communicate evolve, the need to communicate effectively remains the same. Starting July 1st our Speaking Center, Writing Center, and Digital Center are a part of The Multiliteracy Centers. Visit the MLC Web page for more information: <http://multiliteracycenters.uncg.edu/>



THE WORLD
MADE OF GLASS
BY JOHNNY TETER

While the weeks pass slowly and grudgingly by, morning is fresh, and day promises to be bright. Drawn shades struggle to conceal the eastern sun's brilliance from blinding the sleep out of my weary eyes.

A tattered to-do list conceals a sock beneath; the perfect lubricant for an unsuspecting first step of the day. I begin the first moment of the rest of my life, laying in a pile of crushed textbooks that are worth more than my dresser, which I'm sure has left a bruise on my head.

This is my life.
Can one think laughter?

JEFF PIEGARI: ASPIRING RADIO PERSONALITY BY LOGAN DUNN



Jeff Piegari is a truly rare individual. Like a time capsule from the early 1900s, Jeff has a refined palate for big band music, along with numerous classical pieces and orchestral conductors. Jeff has been the most loyal guest of both the [Writing](#) and [Speaking Centers](#) this summer, coming in once every week to brainstorm topics and then again to practice his speech techniques for his [podcasts](#). Jeff is a UNCG student enrolled in the [Beyond Academics](#) program. Jeff is entering

his senior year in Beyond Academics where he has completed many Media Studies courses while also working towards an Integrated Community Studies certificate. He has been developing his podcasts with functional digital and oral communication support from the Speaking Center since 2011 when his show on WUAG 103.1 was canceled. In the Speaking Center, Jeff has made massive improvements on pronunciation and speech anxiety. Working on both are necessary steps Jeff is taking to make his dream of being in the mainstream media a reality. "When I was growing up in New Jersey, I was listening to the radio," said Jeff, "and I would listen to the Charlie McCarthy show, the Edgar Bergen show, the Bob

Hope Show, the Bill Cosby Show, all those great shows, and I would say, hey, why are these guys doing it? I could do it." Jeff has many life goals in mind, ranging from hosting his own national radio show, to starting his own nonprofit, to reviving the golden oldies. Starting this fall, Jeff will get critical support for his [podcasts](#) at UNCG's new Digital Center located in the Jackson Library's [Digital Media Commons](#). Jeff will continue his [podcasts](#) after graduation, and hopes to soon broadcast over the airwaves again. In the meantime, UNCG's Multiliteracy Centers will continue working with Jeff in preparing him for the journey ahead. For more: <http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/jeff/index.php>

SPEAKING CENTER PARTNERS WITH IRC BY DUNN, WILLIAMSON & JONES



Your smile is worth a million dollars, or in this case, a job that provides financial security. No matter how dressed-up you are, no matter how well rehearsed your answers are, if you enter a job interview slouching with a scowl on your face, no one will want to hire you. All you have to do is monitor your posture, handshake, eye contact, smile, all while answering questions like, "Why should I hire you?" Easy fix, right? Wrong. Think back to when you learned how to ride a bicycle. You didn't just hop on and go. You had to concentrate on balancing, steering and pedaling all at once, and probably skinned your knees along the way. As the saying goes, practice makes perfect and eventually, you were able to ride without thinking about it. Interviews are the same. If you go into an interview without any practice, you're bound to mess up and come out with some skinned knees. With practice, you will not have to worry so

much about giving a firm handshake, having good posture and making eye contact because those details will all be second nature to you. This summer, students from The University Speaking Center at UNCG served as volunteer consultants at the Interactive Resource Center (IRC). They helped guests improve their interviewing skills by partnering with the day shelter's Job Skills course. People preparing for job interviews practiced their entire interview, starting with walking through the door and saying, "Hello." The consultants recorded the mock interviews with a small camera and took notes on what they observed. The interviewees then watched the recording to see how well they did. Next, they discussed the performance with the consultants and fellow job skills classmates. "Instead of focusing on the content, we focus more on nonverbal communication, which can show prospective employers the true characteristics of the interviewee," said Andria Williamson, a consultant from the Speaking Center. Natalie Jones, a consultant, has seen great progress in participants during this program. "One of our interviewees came

by to practice for a second time shortly before her actual interview, and I could tell that she was proud of herself and way more confident," Jones said. "Seeing her showed that we are really helping people." This encourages the consultants because the structure of this program has been a learning process for the team. "Often times, we try doing things we've never done, and if the result isn't what we consider perfect, we tend to only focus on the negative," Williamson said. "But once the IRC speakers saw their strengths and saw that others noticed too, they were inspired to work on the areas for continued improvement." These are life-changing moments, when people come in with expectations for themselves and leave with a new, positive mindset. The Speaking Center has committed volunteers to continue this partnership during the next academic year. "If we can help with their sense of confidence, everything that follows will fall right into place," Williamson said.

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<http://greensborovoices.org/uncg-speaking-center>

SENIOR SNAPSHOT



Jessica: BA Public Health



Gabrielle: BS in Marketing



Shaquana: BA in Arts



Bre: BS in Social Work



Madison: BS in
Psychology