

SPEAKING FROM THE CENTER

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

SPRING, 2012

THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY



Last semester we presented 3 academic papers at regional conferences, 1 original speaking center pedagogical innovation at a national conference, and we authored/co-authored 3 chapters in "Communication Centers and Oral Communication Programs in Higher Education: Advantages, Challenges, and New Directions." This semester, there are many things that are new and some that remain the same.

NEW

* We have launched our new Web page.

*We now offer 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.

*After collecting spare change for two years, we recently planted two Japanese maple trees outside of the MHRA

building.

* We are excited about the opening of our digital communication sister-center in the Jackson Library.

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. 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/

VITAL STATISTICS

Location: 3211 MHRA Building

Phone: (336) 256 1346

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am to 8pm

Friday 9am to Noon

Sunday 5pm to 8pm

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

Gmail: UNCGSpeaking

Facebook & Twitter: UNCGSpeaking



Onset of Addiction

By Johnny Teeter

Like a twilight firefly in an early August backyard.

It's finding what you're looking for, just because you gave up and forgot about it.

Like the last Tiger of its dying breed, living in thoughtless satisfaction behind the bars of safety.

It will break your heart to save your life, but never tell you why.

Like looking back on painful times with a smile and pride for the wisdom earned.

Do not fight this old friend, just as you wouldn't punish the waves for erasing your footprints from the shore.

Give up an afternoon in exchange for an unexpected reunion with deteriorated photos of a better time.

You cannot prepare, but you just might be ready.

Now burn this warning sign and go chase your own.

But remember, Life will always have the head start.



VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

BY ERIN ELLIS



On February 7, 2012, consultants from the University Speaking Center attended the Greensboro City Council meeting held in the Melvin Municipal Office Building in downtown Greensboro with the goal of helping citizens

who wanted to address the Council. Speakers are allowed 3-5 minutes during the public comment period of the meeting to voice their opinion on agenda or non-agenda items that relate to the local community.

Consultants and directors attended this event dressed in their bright blue and gold Speaking Center t-shirts and were armed with clipboards, persuasive speech outlines and stopwatches. From 5:30-7, they walked around the wait-

ing area offering help to those who would be addressing Council. Staff offered feedback on organizational structure, persuasive tools, and even delivery when people just wanted to practice. Numerous speakers sought our help and left feeling more confident about their speech. The impact that this outreach had on the staff was so large that the Speaking Center plans to make this engagement an ongoing part of their community activism.

NATIONAL AWARD

The National Communication Association presented UNCG Speaking Center Graduate Assistant Alyssa Davis with their Outstanding Communication Consultant Award for 2012 at the National Association of Communication Centers' April conference at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. This competitive award is given to one recipient each year.



Speaking Center Scholarship

Caroline Myrick, Casey Mann, and Erin Ellis' paper *The Evolution of the Conversation Consultation: Working With Non-Native Speakers* was honored as a top student paper when presented at the 2012 National Association of Communication Centers' conference at the Noel Studio in Richmond, KY.



So you have that speech coming up, and you're feeling all the things you usually feel—afraid you're going to forget the words, talk too fast, or that you're going to be shaky, full of speaking anxiety. But you may have heard of that one resource that's available to you on campus...the University Speaking Center.

Many people have different thoughts about coming to the Speaking Center and working with our consultants, but once

they do come in, their original thoughts are usually changed. You may think that our consultants are perfect speakers who will harshly critique you, and that you must be completely finished with your speech in order for us to help you. This, however, could not be further from the truth.

We are students, just like you, most likely taking similar courses that you are right now. We represent different majors and are trained through a three-credit course in speaking center theory and practice where we learn how to engage in meaningful collaborative conversations, give feedback and offer instruction. We focus on strengths AND areas for improvement within your speech or outline's content, and/or

delivery skills. We can help you wherever you are in your speech making process, so don't hesitate to come in if you're worried you don't have enough to work on yet.

We are also highly aware of speaking anxiety, and know that everyone experiences it—it's a matter of managing it, and not letting your speaking anxiety manage you. We know that practice is a part of the speech making process, so our consultants practice in the center for their speeches too. We are here to make others more confident and competent communicators.

So next time you face a speech, make an appointment and give The University Speaking Center a try—you'll be glad you came!

BY NICK TURNER

LET'S TAKE A TRIP...

BY BRI ESCOBEDO

Many times people think of public speaking as a long, drawn out, and complicated event. However, the UNCG Speaking Center follows The Five Canons of Rhetoric adapted from The Speaking Center at Davidson College to help speakers navigate the process of speech making.

To better illustrate this process, let's focus on the first two steps of speech construction and compare them to getting ready for a trip.

Winter break is coming up, and we know that we want to go somewhere fun. Unfortunately, for those of us who aren't risk takers, we can't just take a globe and spin it around. What if it lands on Antarctica? I don't know about you, but I refuse to spend my winter in Antarctica; I'm trying to go somewhere warm! Let's think of something tropical or desert-like, with coconuts and palm trees. Somewhere that is cost-friendly. Hmm... it seems that there is quite a bit of information we need to research before we take the plunge.

The same goes for the first step of the speech making process, also called the *invention* stage. Once we have a clear understanding of our speaking assignment, we then need to focus on a couple of important areas. One area pertains to developing our credibility as a speaker. It is crucial to gather as much information on our topic as is possible. This information will help us convey a sense of expertise and knowledge to our audience. Analyzing the audience is another

key component of this step—who is our primary audience? Being proactive in targeting the needs, desires, and interests of your audience members while structuring your presentation will help fulfill this part of the process.

Okay, so now that we have completed research on where we want to go for the Winter Break, we've come to a conclusion that Aruba is the place to be. For those of you who don't know where Aruba is, it's a small island in the Caribbean off the northern coast of Venezuela. Aruba has snow-white sands that are actually crushed coral, so our feet won't burn up as we take a cool dip in the crystal-clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Let's now establish what we are going to do in Aruba and organize our itinerary. For those who like extreme sports, I will take you to the right spots to go kayaking and windsurfing on the southern shores of the island. For those of you who want relax in polka-dot bikinis or muscle-tees and board shorts, we can unwind from a hectic semester on world-renowned Eagle Beach.

Like organizing for our trip, the second step of the speech making process, called the *disposition/arrangement* stage, deals with effectively arranging the three parts of the presentation. In the *introduction* we provide the audience with an appetizer to our main meal (i.e. the body) by looking to hook our audience with an attention-getting device (asking a rhetorical question, stating a fact or statistic, etc.), developing a thesis (what it is

that you are proving/disproving), and providing the audience with a preview of our main points. The *body* is the meatloaf and mashed-potato portion of the presentation, with the bulk of our information being presented here. Keep in mind that your main points should be effectively developing your thesis, transitions are used to connect main points (verbal or non-verbal indicators that we are moving to a new point/section), and supporting materials are verbally cited (again, building your credibility). The *conclusion* is the tiramisu and ice cream portion of our presentation. Once a transition has been used to signal that the presentation is coming to an end, it's key to leave the audience with a lasting impression. This can be done by incorporating a memorable statement after you've summarized your main points. If you asked a question for your attention getter, perhaps you'll answer it here; if you stated a fact or statistic, think about expanding on why that was so important or central to your message.

Now that we have touched on the organizational components for constructing a speech, stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will elaborate on the delivery element of speech making. An of course, come on in to the Speaking Center for any additional assistance or information!

A Few of our Graduating Seniors



Alyssa Davis: MA Communication Studies



Stormi Burns: BA Communication Studies



Evan Zakia: MA American and African History



Truc Trinh: BS Intl. Business and Marketing



Crystal Sutton: BA Communication Studies