The Director’s Podium

Last year we completed 36% more consultations and supported 41% more speakers than past years. We also completed nearly 100 workshops for UNCG students, faculty, staff, and our community. This year, there are many things that are new and some that remain the same.

NEW
* CST major and Speaking Center Consultant, Casey Mann, presented her paper, “Improving Gender Imbalance: Male Recruitment at the Speaking Center,” at the 2010 Carolinas Communication Centers Conference.
* American History MA candidate and Speaking Center Graduate Assistant, Evan Zakia, presented his paper, “Communication Activism: A New Model of Outreach in the Communication Center,” at the 2010 Carolinas Communication Centers Conference.

NOT NEW
* We beta tested the Online Speaking Center.
* We were open during the summer for the first time.
* Our directors received the 2010 National Association of Communication Centers Ferguson Award for their paper, “Communication Activism: A New Model of Outreach in the Communication Center.”

Vital Statistics

Locations: 3211 MBFA (Consultations)

21 McIver Building
Underground (Workshops)

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am to 8pm
Friday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 5pm to 8pm

Web: http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu
AIM/Google Talk: UNCGSpeaking

Bottle Cap Collecting Continues

Our bottle cap collecting project began in the Spring of 2009, when a Speaking Center staff member set out to collect bottle caps in order to raise funds for the chemotherapy treatment of a child from her hometown. The hospital allowed the child’s family to trade bottle caps for a portion of the treatment. With the Speaking Center’s donations, two chemotherapy sessions were provided to the child free of charge!

This bottle cap collecting quest continues today, but our cause has changed. Bottle caps are not recyclable when thrown into your average recycling bin, and when thrown into the trash they can quickly become harmful litter. However, beauty products manufacturer Aveda has devised a way to recycle bottle caps so that rather than polluting our earth they continue to be useful as new caps for Aveda products. The Speaking Center’s Sustainability Committee admires this quest for a greener and healthier earth. We have begun to collect bottle caps at our front desk so that we can contribute to Aveda’s project. So, the next time you have a bottle cap in hand, think twice about throwing it in a trashcan. Instead, come visit us at the Speaking Center where we will be glad to recycle that cap for you. Together we can make our city and our campus a greener place!
A TYPICAL CONSULTATION

By Lara Amshay

Last year at the Speaking Center we conducted over 2,500 consultations. But if you have never visited the Speaking Center before, perhaps you are wondering just what goes on behind closed doors. The following consultation scenarios are typical of an actual consultation:

Scenario One:
You have an individual presentation. Let’s say, for example, you know what your presentation topic is for an upcoming speech, but you’re not sure how to grab your audience’s attention or how to leave your audience with a lasting impression at the end of your presentation. You can work one-on-one with a consultant to help organize your speech and to support your main points with evidence from your research. All consultations are client led, and since we are here to assist you, you can either schedule an appointment for 30 minutes or a full hour depending on your needs and the length of your presentation.

Scenario Two:
Perhaps you have a group presentation. We know it’s difficult to work with everyone’s busy schedules, but by scheduling an appointment at the Speaking Center, group collaboration happens! During a one-hour session, you and your group can work on organizing and/or practicing your presentation. If there is a lot of conflict in your group, we can help you create a group contract to outline members’ responsibilities and establish group roles and norms. Depending on the size of the group, two consultants can be available to work with you. During a practice session, you can even be recorded on video. After your consultation, you can even be recorded on video. After your

A Few of our Graduating Seniors

Meet Alyssa Davis Our New Grad Assistant

Alyssa Davis completed her BA in English Literature and Classical Civilizations at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She is currently working on her MA in Communication Studies at UNCG. As our new graduate assistant, Davis has spearheaded our new graduate assistantship Studies at UNCG. As

Online Speaking Center

By Tyler Anderson

The Speaking Center has conquered the AIM world! This semester we began offering Speaking Center consultations via Google Chat and its Google Documents platform! What does this mean exactly? Well, during this semester’s pilot-program, consultants were able to engage in live and interactive dialogue with speakers about all parts of the speech organizational process.

Thanks to the capabilities of Google chat, consultants are still able to offer signature services like reviewing many tip sheets and offering constructive feedback. We are also able to view and review outlines with clients so that both parties have a clear understanding about what is being discussed. We’ve been conducting research at the Speaking Center about what works best during online appointments. We have also been working closely with the Writing Center on this endeavor. The Writing Center has been conducting online interviews for some time now and is a pioneer in the use of Google Chat and Google Documents.

So what’s the take home message? First, beginning next semester, speakers will be able to get some organization assistance from the comfort of their own homes. As always, everyone will still be able to get information and help in person as well. The procedure for making the online appointments will be the same as our other appointments—we still have a two-day policy, which means your appointment has to take place at least two days before the final presentation date. Also, you’ll need to call and schedule an appointment, as well as provide us with your iSpartan email address. Additionally, in the coming semester we will be experimenting with voice options within Google Chat so we can carry on verbal conversations with speakers.

Each and every consultant at the Center is looking forward to working with you! The UNCG Speaking Center is proud to be one of the pioneers of this new form of consultation. Each of your appointments will help us to make a case for the value of this new program.

Melinda Alston: MA Communication Studies

Brad Fodge: BA History and Secondary Education

Erin Ellis: MA Communication Studies

Jaleesa Saunders: BS Business Administration