THE DIRECTOR’S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY

The Director’s Podium

Last semester we loaded up a university van with our students and traveled to the national speaking center conference where we presented research in progress, completed manuscripts, a workshop, an original paper, and participated in multiple panel discussions. This semester, there are many things that are new and some that remain the same.

New
*Our directors each have an essay published in the new book, Communicating Advice.
*We are fully supporting all online sections of CST 105, including winter session.
*Critical thinking support by way of our new bring a friend to your video viewing sessions has expanded across the curriculum.

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 English speakers to practice conversation with native speakers.
*Speakers who need to be recorded when they come to practice can be recorded on their own electronic device or we can use our devices. If we record on one of our devices we will share by Google Drive before the consultation ends.
*Due to the process nature of our work and space limitations, we 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.
*During a consultation, speakers work one-on-one with a communication consultant trained to offer guidance and feedback. Each individual session lasts 30 minutes while a group session lasts 60. We can assist you at any stage of your presentation, from discovery to organization to delivery.
*Our services are open and available to the entire campus community and, through our community outreach, to not-for-profit off-campus communities as well.

CUSTOM MADE FOR YOU

BY ERIN ELLIS

Custom Made For You

Any faculty member at UNCG is qualified for the opportunity to have a custom made workshop created for their specific class. Our custom made services do not stop at workshops. This semester, we had the opportunity to work with the Interior Architecture department and help to create a custom consultation form for students taking IAR 201 (Environmental Design III). This meant that when IAR students came in for their one-on-one consultations, our staff knew the particulars of their assignment and how it was going to be assessed by faculty. Our consultants were then able to offer concrete, discipline-specific feedback for students in this course.

I’m interested. How did this come to fruition?

Faculty from IAR were seeking to collaborate with the Speaking Center in order to reinforce instruction within the classroom and help students grow in their oral speaking competencies. Faculty sent over the proposed class assignment, grading rubric, and gave background information about previous assignments. Through email collaboration, we were able to craft a consultation form for our staff to use when students from IAR 201 came in for appointments. Our staff read about the kinds of presentations done in this discipline, they learned what students were expected to do for their assignment, and used the custom made consultation form to provide targeted feedback during the session.

This type of collaboration can happen for workshops and one-on-one or group consultations. If you are looking to have the Center create a custom-made experience for your students, feel free to check out our website to learn more about the services we offer to determine how your students might benefit from our office. You are just one click or email away from custom made experience.

AWARDS

Karen has also been awarded a Globally Engaged Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award. Her global research project, "The Role of Communication Centers in Acculturation of Non-Native English Speakers," will be conducted with CST faculty mentor Dr. Roy Schwartzman.

BECOMING A CONSULTANT

Students interested in becoming a Consultant first complete CST 390. To apply for CST 390, you’ll need to provide proof of a 3.0 GPA or higher, a faculty recommendation letter, and a letter of personal interest that indicates you are interested in becoming a Consultant. To apply for CST 390, you’ll need to provide proof of a 3.0 GPA or higher, a faculty recommendation letter, and a letter of personal interest that indicates you are interested in becoming a Consultant. To apply for CST 390, you’ll need to provide proof of a 3.0 GPA or higher, a faculty recommendation letter, and a letter of personal interest that indicates you are interested in becoming a Consultant.
In the fall of 2015, I came to UNCG as a graduate student with a different background than most. I already had an MA in English from the University of Louisville, with two years of teaching freshman composition under my belt. Though I was moving to a new city (what seemed like) halfway across the country, I felt well-prepared for a new school and a new job at the Speaking Center–after all, I had done it before. In many ways, I was prepared for this transition: while I had never conducted a workshop, I had experience standing in front of classrooms and teaching, and though I had never worked in a speaking center before, I spent years working in writing centers and knew that training would apply in this new position. What I was not prepared for, however, were the relationships I ended up building and the encouragement I received from the center when I needed it most. During the semester, my fellow graduate assistant Taylor became a rock of support for those times when the stress felt overwhelming, and I came to count on the laughing, smiling faces of the Speaking Center consultants to lift me up on difficult days. Being from a different department entirely, it would have been very easy for me to assume the role of “outsider”, but my fellow graduate students and consultants would have none of that! I am truly thankful to have found such an inclusive place to both express myself and contribute to the support of our speakers on campus.

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As a 390 student, I loved having coworkers and a teacher who could laugh, have fun, and help with any problem. My experience in 390 was an inspiration for me to do my best and have fun doing it.

~ Morgan

I really loved the open atmosphere in 390 with my classmates. We were really open about our experiences throughout the semester. They have now become my speaking center family.

~ Tori

Working in the speaking center as a junior consultant has helped me grow as a person and a speaker. I am much more outgoing as a result of working here.

~ Hampton

Working at the speaking center has not only given me a voice but helped me give a voice to others.

~ Jordan