

# SPEAKING FROM THE CENTER

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## THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY



Last semester, we traveled to the annual gathering of the National Communication Association. We presented 3 teaching ideas and 1 paper.

This semester, we celebrate new additions and some time-honored features.

### NEW

\*We are gearing up to celebrate our 15th year of supporting speakers at UNCG!

\*We are offering Science Communication workshops for local science faculty and students.

\*Faculty Fellow for Scientific Communication, Dr. Bruce Kirchoff, arranged for those who participated in our latest science workshop to speak

with Alan Alda about communicating science.

\*Our alumni are getting amazing graduate school offers in a variety of fields.

\*Faculty Fellow for Undergraduate Research, Dr. Roy Schwartzman, along with Karen Boger, have presented and published their most recent speaking center research.

### NOT NEW

\*We do not have a one-size-fits-all perspective. We are open to your new ideas in supporting oral communication at UNCG.

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

\*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 ours. If we record on one of our devices, we'll share by Google Drive before the consultation ends.

\*Due to the process nature of our work and space limitations, we require appointments. It's never too early to call for an appointment. It can, however, be too late. Appointments need to take place 2 or more days before the final presentation date.

\*We are always taking requests for our course specific 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.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Location: 3211 MHRA

Phone: (336) 256 1346

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

Friday 9am to 12pm

Sunday 5pm to 8pm

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

email: [UNCGSpeaking@gmail.com](mailto:UNCGSpeaking@gmail.com)

## Our Academic News

Graduate Assistant **Taylor Williams**, was named the 2017 Outstanding Graduate Tutor by the National Communication Association.

**Anna Poteat, Corey Bussiere, and Em Lampkin** are our Pete & Joan Allan Undergraduate Research Fellows.

Managing Consultants **Coery Bussiere, Sarah McGraw, and Anna Poteat** have all been inducted into UNCG's Golden Chain Honor Society.

**Erin Ellis** served a moderator role at UNCG's AADS Conference and the Harriett Elliott Lecture Series.

Speaking Center students **Katie Marshall, Corey Bussiere, Hampton Perry, and Anna Poteat** presented communication workshops at UNCG's Leadership Conference.

**Kim Cuny** co-authored 2 published manuscripts.

Speaking Center students **Anna Curtis & Corey Bussiere** earned Student Excellence Awards.

Managing Consultant **Reatter Neal** was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha.

See alumni news on page 2 for more

## BECOMING A CONSULTANT

Students interested in becoming a Consultant must first complete CST 390. To apply for CST 390 admission, they need to provide proof of a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher, a faculty recommendation letter, and a letter of personal interest that indicates (after you complete CST 390) a minimum of a one-year commitment to a part time paid position or a one-semester, 90-hour internship (CST 412). Learn more at: <https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/people/our-consultants/>

## UPTICK IN WORKSHOP DEMAND



My primary job at the Speaking Center is to create and facilitate interactive workshops for classes and organizations, on and off-campus.

Workshops are centered around instruction, discussion, application, and activities. We can facilitate workshops from 45 minutes to as much as two hours. Possible topics include: interpersonal

communication, public speaking competencies, group dynamics, communication anxiety, and many others in the field of Communication Studies.

This past year, we experienced an uptick in workshop demand. The 2016-2017 academic year was the busiest that I've experienced since my hire date in August 2011. Between the two semesters, we facilitated 83 workshops for over 1,770 participants!

The uptick in workshop demand was accommodated with the help of our graduate students, center coordinator, and even a few undergraduate students

## BY ERIN ELLIS

enrolled in the Speaking Center internship course.

Our goal is to never turn down a workshop request. We will do our best to accommodate the desired date, but as long as there is some flexibility on the requestors side, we can make it work.

Next year, we look forward to working with new and old classes and organizations. Our team is ready to coordinate logistics, collaborate on objectives, and create a workshop that is best suited for your intended audience.

Visit our website to request your workshop today!

## A VOICE FROM THE CENTER

BY KATIE MARSHALL

My Speaking Center role has evolved through three stages. I started as a consultant when I was an undergraduate student at UNCG some years ago. When I came back to start Graduate school, I became a manager and graduate consultant. I currently work as a graduate assistant. This evolution mirrors my transformation as a communicator. I gravitated toward the Speaking Center as an undergraduate because I loved the idea of helping people share their stories while learning how to better share my own. This love still lives at the root of all that I do as a graduate assistant. It has been an honor to grow with this organization over the years.

The value of the Speaking Center comes from the priority placed on care and communication. It is rare to find spaces where *how you are doing* is as im-

portant as *what you are doing*. The Directors and Graduate Assistants here uphold this priority. The understanding of care and connection flows through the Speaking Center into the consultants and community members we consult.

Public speaking can be scary. We put so much pressure on ourselves, on top of our general human aversion to vulnerability and the desire to get a good grade. There's a lot going on behind the scenes of presentations! We understand that here.

The Speaking Center staff works diligently to uphold the commitment of care through training and research. This dedication to hearing people and meeting them where they are has changed the way I help people. My expectations for coaches and trainers outside of the Speaking

Center increased dramatically after working here because of the positive impact this coaching environment made on me.

When I am older and looking back on my time spent with the Speaking Center, I will remember moments housed under two main thoughts: the lessons and the people. I will remember the times I failed and decided to get back up and try again; this is one of the greatest lessons of all, to make a mistake and keep moving. More importantly, I will remember the people who encouraged me over and over again to get back up. I am a collage of the help and love I have received from the people I know; just as Augusten Burroughs said, I am "made entirely of flaws, stitched together by good intentions." The older I get, the easier it is to acknowledge that my growth and development, as

well as my success, is entirely a team effort.

My time with the Speaking Center has impacted me thoroughly, incredibly, beautifully, kindly, and with the right amount of tough love. I would not be the speaker, communicator, or person I am without working at the Speaking Center and learning from Kim Cuny, Erin Ellis, Taylor Williams, and Jenny Southard.



## OUR GRADUATING COMMUNICATORS



*Anna P., Em, Si, Claudia, Hampton, Jasmine W., Karen, Jasmine G., Anna C., Tori, Corey, Taye, Miranda, Azia, Aysia, & Sam (top left to bottom right) Andre not in photo.*

## ALUMNI CONTINUE TO IMPACT COMMUNICATION CENTERS

**Alyssa Davis**, Director of Clemson's Communication Studies Lab and one of our former graduate assistants, won the top Ferguson Research Paper award from the National Association of Communication Centers. This co-authored research found that students who came in for support got higher grades on in-class speeches than those who did not.

**Karen Boger** will continue her speaking center studies at Southern Mississippi University where she has accepted an assistantship in the Speaking Center with tuition covered.

**Rachel Siczkowski** will continue her speaking center studies at the University of Rhode Island where she has landed a teaching assistantship which includes speaking center responsibilities and a tuition stipend.

**Evan Zakia O'Donnel** (McGill University) and **Will Bryant** (Augusta University), two of our former graduate assistants, have each co-authored a communication center publication with Kim Cuny.

**Tiera Gibson**, one of our former undergraduate consultants, was named the 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Tutor by the National Communication Association for her work at UNC Charlotte.

**Erin Ellis** was elected Vice Chair of the National Communication Association's Communication Centers Section.

**Jenny Southard** is a Communication Studies Lecturer with additional duties as our Center Coordinator.

## OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

*Words from our newest student-consultants upon completing the Speaking Center Theory and Practice course*

CST 390 was an interesting experience for me where I evolved my speech making and people skills. I was challenged to think differently than I had before.

~Becca

I have gained a lot of knowledge about the woman I am slowly becoming. I have stepped outside of my comfort zone and I am no longer afraid to try something new and different.

~Kev

New opportunities arise at any and every given moment. Being able to make the most of those new situations was the biggest takeaway from 390 for me. The training I received tremendously helped my adaptability both inside and outside of the Speaking Center.

~John E.

Through 390, I have climbed the hilltops and peered beyond, now understanding where my future may lead.

~Isabel

Being a 390 [student] has broadened my mindfulness, and allowed me to get to know people who are different from me.

~Tam