

# SPEAKING FROM THE CENTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2 FALL, 2017

## THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY



Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering thanks to a UNCG INNOVATE Grant.

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

\*We are seeking faculty who are interested in incorporating the speaking center into their courses AND publishing the results as our co-authors.

### 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. Individual sessions lasts 30 min, group session lasts 60. We can assist you at any stage of your presentation, from discovery to organization to delivery.

Last semester, we traveled to the annual gathering of the National Association of Communication Centers. We presented teaching ideas, a paper, and sat on discussion panels.

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

### NEW

\*We are celebrating 15 years

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

\*We now have a service dog working in the SC.

\*We are offering Science Communication workshops for Ph.D. students at the

### VITAL STATISTICS

Location: 3211 MHRA

Phone: (336) 256 1346

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

Friday 9am to 12pm

Sunday 4pm to 8pm

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

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

## Our Academic News

**Roy Schwartzman** and **Bruce Kirchoff** are our Speaking Center Faculty Fellows.

Consultants **John Andrade, Erika Forslund, Jordan Wright, Elauna Pettirgew, Morgan Overcash and Rebecca Ray**, have all been inducted into UNCG's Golden Chain Honor Society.

**Erin Harrison** has a single authored publication and a co-authored publication in the 3rd edition of the *Communication Center Journal*.

Speaking Center **Service and Outreach Committee** collected 40 lbs of food for Urban Ministries.

We worked with UNCG's winner of the Three Minute Thesis, JSNN student, **Taylor Mabe**.

Along with JSNN faculty, we received a **UNCG INNOVATE Grant** to add oral communication to their Ph.D. curriculum.

**Kim Cuny** has been nominated for two teaching awards.

## 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/>

## SPEAKING CENTER CONFERENCE BY ERIN HARRISON

The University Speaking Center will take 12 undergraduate student staff members to the 17th annual National Association of Communication Centers Conference (NACC) at James Madison University.

These 12 students, along with two graduate consultants and four faculty members will travel to Harrisonburg, Virginia on April 20th. Each person is presenting at the conference and will either participate on a discussion panel, present an academic/research paper, or moderate a session.

With the help of URSCO (Undergraduate Research,

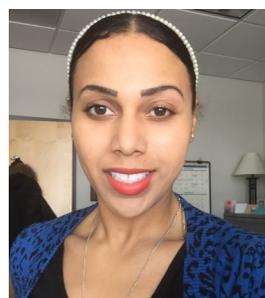
Scholarship and Creativity Office), students will be able to get financial support to attend the conference; a great relief for many students.

When NACC is within driving range of campus, we encourage all our staff members to attend the conference. Many students may not have the opportunity to ever present or attend an academic conference while in college so this is a great opportunity for them to experience a conference while also being an active contributor.

NACC is a relatively small conference but it is a tight knit group of people who

are dedicated to growing the discipline and sharing the work done in their Communication Center.

We look forward to taking students to the conference, sharing our ideas and research, and learning new information. What we learn at NACC will help us make an even greater impact on UNCG students, faculty, and the larger Greensboro community.



## COMMUNICATING MEMORY

BY LAUREN BEARD

My time at the Speaking Center this semester has made me reflect on a pivotal memory from childhood. I remember it clearly: late summer 2007. I was 13 years old and staying with my grandparents at their small bungalow in the woods. Grandma took care of Grandpa (Papa, for short).

He was getting on in years, and these last few had been particularly unkind. His body was ravaged with Parkinson's and his mind with Alzheimer's. I knew it broke her heart, but Grandma's faith sustained her extraordinary caretaking abilities. On this particular August afternoon, my uncle Mike was at the house talking politics with Papa to keep his mind sharp. Grandma's roast chicken was in the oven, and my eyes followed her every move as she shuffled in and out of the small

living room, setting up Papa's tray, putting a bendy straw in his chalky, vanilla-flavored Ensure bottle, and using her apron to wipe his mouth like clockwork every time she passed by his wheelchair.

Suddenly, Papa looked up at my uncle and asked, "Who is that woman, Mike?" My child-like brain was stunned. These diseases threatened the memory of a woman he had loved and lived with for more than 50 years, with whom he had 4 children, and whose name he used to sing when we drove down the street.

My uncle looked at him calmly and replied, "That's the girl you picked up at the soda shop, dad. Ya know, the one in the poodle skirt." Papa smiled that sideways, toothy grin and sighed, "Oh, yeah..." In that moment, I realized how

a single act of communication can enrich and restore individuals and communities. It is for this reason I became a part of the Speaking Center family.

As a Master's student in English, my first love will always be writing, but I never could have imagined the growth I would undergo in my first semester here. Every single person who works at the center brings a different strength to the table. From leadership skills to resilient optimism, innovative problem-solving to interpersonal aptitude, all of us together create a unique, powerful mosaic.

We coach, uplift, educate, and empower all who enter our space. I firmly believe that everyone who comes to the center seeking our services leaves with a transformed view of both themselves and the

impact their voice can have on the world. I have remained thoroughly impressed by our staff's stalwart devotion to the belief that everyone of all ages and abilities can influence this larger human phenomenon of communication. I am incredibly proud to call myself a Speaking Center Consultant.



### OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

*Words from our newest student-consultants upon completing the Speaking Center Theory and Practice course : CST 390*

390 taught me the importance of teamwork. Not only working together but leaning on each other for support.  
~Jennifer

The most important thing that I've learned is to be as empathetic to other people. Seeing situations from multiple perspectives gives you a better outlook of the situation and can help interaction become easier.  
~John A.

390 helped me to be more confident and comfortable while presenting. It also made me more aware of the way I relate to other people.  
~Joy W.

As a Biology major, CST 390 was a new experience for me. I enjoyed the nontraditional space of having discussions rather than assessments and the benefits of peer-to-peer guidance and support.  
~Astrid

My experience in CST 390 helped me understand the importance of peer to peer pedagogy and how it can be used outside and in the center.

~Erika

## OUTSTANDING IN HER FIELD

At last year's National Association of Communication Centers conference, Taylor Williams ("Coach Taylor"), a graduate consultant who has been with us for over six years and who recently graduated with her MA in Communication Studies, was awarded the prestigious **Outstanding Graduate Tutor Award**.

This award is given to one graduate student every year who demonstrates exceptional creativity, ingenuity, critical thinking, and problem-solving initiatives in her Communication Center con-

"It was the first time I've ever been recognized for my academic contributions," Taylor said, "Even though I struggled as a student, it was very rewarding to be acknowledged for helping other students achieve their goals. This acknowledgement has continued to fuel my passion to support all types of learners with their quests of improving their communication skills."

Coach Taylor has had a tremendous impact on the effectiveness of the center



BY LAUREN BEARD

to meet the needs of every student and community member who comes seeking our help.

Over the years she has implemented training and workshops that have improved and redefined what a successful Speaking Center is and does. She currently works with Scientists at the Joint School of NanoScience and NanoEngineering with communicating scientific research and she teaches Intro to Communications courses at UNCG.

Also, her work at Peacehaven Community Farm, which was the basis for her thesis, has especially enriched the way the our Speaking Center staff approaches consulting differently abled individuals.

We are tremendously proud of Taylor and her well-deserved recognition as a dedicated, engaged, critical, outstanding tutor.