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

**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.

**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/
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 congressional office, 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 he passed by his wheelchair. Suddenly, Papa looked up at my uncle and asked, “Who is that woman, Mike?” My childlike 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 steadfast 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.

390 taught me the importance of teamwork. Not only working together but learning 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