

SPEAKING FROM THE CENTER

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1 SPRING, 2018

THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM

BY KIM CUNY



Last semester, our Faculty Fellow, Dr. Roy Schwartzman from CST traveled with a team of our undergraduates to the International Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education. Elauna Pettigrew, Caroline Bolin, Erika Forslund, Rebecca Ray, Abigail Thomas, & Schwartzman brought back with them the top panel award!

We also traveled to the National Communication Association's annual conference where Erin Harrison and I were presenters.

This semester, we celebrate new additions to the Center as well as continuing many time-honored features.

NEW

**We now offer Science Communication workshops to local science faculty and grad students.

*We continue to develop new workshops for in-classroom delivery. Topics include TedTalks, The Moth (storytelling), Mock Trails, Improv, & Poetry Slams.

IN ADDITION

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

*We continue to 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 their practices recorded can do so by using their own electronic

device or one of our own. 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 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 or-

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>

Gmail: UNCGSpeaking

Summer: Check Web for hours

Our Academic News

Becca Ray & Kev McBrid are our Pete & Joan Allan Undergraduate Research Fellows.

Erin Ellis is the National Communication Association's Communication Centers Section Vice-Chair.

Kim Cuny has been awarded Teaching Excellence by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lauren Beard has been appointed Excellence at the Center section editor for Communication Center Journal. **Lauren** has also had a manuscript accepted.

Kim Cuny is Managing Editor of Communication Center Journal.

Miranda Tonkins, & Becca Ray, & Corey Bussiere have each had a Speaking Center essay accepted for fall publication.

Kim Cuny has published a chapter in International Perspectives on Teaching with Disability.

BECOMING A CONSULTANT

Students interested in becoming a Consultant must first complete CST 390. To apply for CST 390 admission, you'll 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: <http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/staff/index.php>

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS BY ERIN HARRISON



In April, the National Association of Communication Centers held its annual conference at James Madison University in VA. UNCG had a strong showing at the conference with 5 faculty and nearly 15 undergraduate and graduate student presenters in attendance.

Three students presented their original

research on Communication Centers to a room full of Communication Center faculty, staff, and scholars. Other students presented on discussion panels that discussed working with international students, how to manage the front desk, encountering difficult consultations within in the Center, and how to work with two speakers in one appointment

I enjoyed working with the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office (URSCO) to secure financial support for every student that presented at the conference. URSCO covered the cost of registration and travel accommodations for one night.

Some of the Speaking Center staff wanted to spend an additional night in Harrisonburg because the conference ended late on a Saturday. Since funding from URSCO covered one night, students made homemade goods and did a bake sale to fundraise for money to stay an additional night. Within four days of selling baked goods, students reached their financial goal to and were able to stay the additional night.

Overall, the conference was a great experience for students and UNCG represented itself well on the national scene.

A VOICE FROM THE CENTER

BY COREY BUSSIERE

My graduate work in communication studies provides a solid foundation for the work I do in the Speaking Center as a Graduate Assistant. The fundamental lessons and concepts I am learning in my graduate work transition nicely into my Speaking Center work.

A piece of advice that I learned the first day of graduate school and still use every day in my graduate work and at the Speaking Center is to “work smarter, not harder.” Essentially, this means that you try to find the best way to accomplish a goal efficiently without taking unneces-

sary routes to complete that goal (basically, not making it harder on yourself than it has to be). I still want to work hard and challenge myself, but do so as efficiently as possible.

For example, I teach one section of CST 105 and also work at the Speaking Center where I am charged with leading our efforts at Peacehaven Community Farm. For my weekly Peacehaven lesson plans, I use similar (if not the same) concepts and activities that I bring into my CST 105 class for my weekly lesson. If we are focusing on giving feedback in the classroom for my

CST 105 audience, I will try to incorporate a similar feedback activity for my Peacehaven audience. This works well because, in both situations, the underlying goal is still focused on communication.

My favorite part about working with students is watching improvement and learning take place. Those “aha!” or “I understand this now!” moments are what I strive for when working.

As a consultant, I want students to feel better about their assignment after the consultation than they did before coming in for the



consultation. Whether this is simply answering a few questions the student has about his or her body movement, or helping them organize the speech from only a topic, my goal is to help them accomplish their goals and learn from our interaction.

OUR SUPERSTARTS CONTINUE TO SHINE

The Speaking Center’s Alumni may have left UNCG but they have not lost track of their Speaking Center training. Recently we contacted some of our alumni to find out what they are up to now. Some have gotten married, others graduated with a master’s degree, and they have even served our country. Though there comes a time when a consultant must leave the Speaking Center because they have completed their studies at UNCG, the skills and training that they received will never leave them. Our alumni’s experiences continue to express value for the experiential education they receive when they are here.

We recently reached out to our alumni via social media to get an update on what they are doing now. We asked them what positions they currently hold and what Speaking Center skills and training they use today. Here is some of what we learned:

I am Staff Pastor & Resource Director at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro, Inc. On a regular basis I use interpersonal communication skills, workshop planning, conflict resolution, and group communication. Not to mention I use absolutely everything I learned about managing public speaking anxiety
~Kiya Shears

I’m currently a Disney Photo Imaging Photographer at Walt Disney World and I use a lot of the interpersonal communication skills that I used at the SC! I have lots of one on one conversations with individual families and have to strike up lots of conversations”

~Alexa Bomersbach

Human Resources Specialist, currently stationed at Fort Bragg. I deal with all ranks in the Army when it comes to the administrative side. I’m constantly using the workplace and interpersonal communication skills I’ve learned. I also jump out of planes on the regular.

~Si Bates

I’m currently a second year grad student pursuing my Master of Arts in Communication at the University of Rhode Island, where I’m also a Graduate Teaching Instructor and the Graduate Associate Director of the URI Speaking Center. I hope to continue along this path to work in academia and Speaking Centers!

~Rachel Siczkowski

Special education teacher for 6th grade. I’m also a graduate student at Salem college studying school counseling. The Speaking Center has taught me so many transferable skills that I use daily in my profession—specifically conflict resolution as middle schoolers can be a wee bit dramatic

~Jasmine Russel

Currently Acting in Atlanta, GA on a variety of film and tv projects. I use interpersonal communication on a daily basis, as well as methods to cope with speaking anxiety. I also use a multitude of non-verbal communication methods
~Matthew Hundall

I am the Customer Solutions Trainer for the Southeast Region at Quest Diagnostics. I use my Speaking Center skills to engage virtual adult learners and create workshops to build upon soft and technical skills. I also create training content for a Learning Management System for independent learning in a virtual web-based format.

~Kayt Stewart Williamson

GIS analyst for the Town of Kernersville within the Community Development Program. I use my Speaking Center skills during meetings and other group functions to help aid brainstorming and functionality to the group when dealing with massive projects. Being a consultant and manager really helped me to enhance the interflow of communication between me and the department!
~Mitchell Byers

Being a part of the center made me comfortable speaking up in and out of the classroom in the MPA graduate program. It also helped me to be receptive to the feedback, from my peers and professors. I would not be in grad school today if it wasn’t for the speaking center.

~ Rebecca Ray

Some of Our May 2018 Graduates

