Welcome

We are glad that you are taking a few minutes to explore the newsletter for the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies (SCMS), and it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies! The SCMS is a vibrant hub within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. Here in our newsletter, we aim to highlight the work and achievements of our SCMS students, faculty and alumni. Please join in congratulating members of our SCMS community on the achievements that you will read about here.
Jennifer St. Sume - University Scholar
This semester, SCMS senior Jennifer St. Sume was the recipient of the College of Arts and Letters’ University Scholar award. She was presented with the award on April 15 at the Honors Convocation hosted by FAU. St. Sume also attended the Southern States Communication Association Conference where she presented one of her papers.

Film Exhibition - Sydney Gabel
Sydney Gabel, a senior in Film, Video and New Media Studies, had her film CHILDHOOD HOME exhibited at the 2015 Juried Student Exhibition. She was awarded 1 of 4 scholarships for the film which was exhibited at the Ritter Gallery from March 20 - April 3.

Medill Scholarship - Emiliana Moliana
FAU Communication graduate, Emiliana Moliana was accepted into the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University where she was also awarded a $25,000 scholarship.

Alumni Accomplishments - Jephie Bernard
Jephie Bernard, who earned her B.A. this past December, has been accepted by two excellent graduate programs in Journalism: Columbia University and American University. Columbia is one of the two or three top Journalism schools in the nation. American also happens to be the home of National Public Radio affiliate WAMU-FM, where many NPR reporters, producers, and hosts have had their start. Jephie has long set her sights on a career in public radio news and she is off to a great start with these offers.
Project Censored

Multimedia Journalism majors Alyssa Tufaro, Cealia Brannan, Isabella Diaz, and Ryan Kemp were recognized for their research by media activist group Project Censored in the most recent volume, Censored 2015: The Top Censored Stories and Media Analysis of 2013-2014 (Seven Stories Press, 2014). Tufaro, Brannan, Diaz, and Kemp researched the stories in Professor James Tracy’s Public Opinion and Modernity class.

The story nominations are researched by students and initially vetted by faculty evaluators at their respective institutions. Upon submission the story proposals are assessed by an international body of journalists and scholars. The process culminates each year in a ranking of the 25 most important stories that are then featured and discussed in a volume edited by Project Censored Co-directors Mickey Huff and Andy Lee Roth. Tufaro researched on the story “Top Ten US Aid Recipients Practice Torture,” Brannan researched “Corporate News Media Understate Rape, Sexual Violence,” Diaz researched “Number of Prison Inmates Serving Life Sentences Hits New Record,” and Kemp researched “Epidemic of Wage Theft threatens American Workers.”

Project Censored was established in 1976 by faculty in the Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Sociology at Sonoma State University. Each year the non-profit organization enlists undergraduate journalism students and faculty from around the world to research published stories on important topics that receive little-to-no coverage in mainstream commercial news outlets.

In Spring 2015 Tracy’s students have researched over thirty story nominations for possible inclusion in the forthcoming volume, Censored 2016, to be published in October 2015.

Faculty Exhibition at Schmidt Center Gallery

Shane Eason recently exhibited his “Works of the Flesh Film Series” and “F—k You Johnny Smack-O” at the Factory Media Centre in Hamilton, Ontario and at CÉGEP Vanier and CÉGEP Dawson in Montréal, Quebec. Each screening is a part of “Tour Amalgamate,” a collection of short experimental films with an in-person art talk. Additionally, his latest short “KFLL | Squawk | 0.9HZ” is a part of the New Faculty Exhibition currently showing in the Schmidt Gallery on FAU’s Boca Raton’s Campus. The film will be on exhibit though summer 2015. And his feature documentary on Ernest Hemingway Look-Alikes, recently had a test screening at Cinema Paradiso in Fort Lauderdale. “PAPA” will be released spring/summer 2015.
FAU at Southern States Communication Association Conference

On April 8 through April 12, the Southern States Communication Association hosted its 85th annual convention in Tampa, FL, where many of FAU’s own School of Communication & Multimedia Studies faculty and students presented their research. An FAU reception was also held during the convention. The list of presenters can be found below.

- Marylou R. Naumoff, “Villain’s Revisionist History: Maleficent as a Discourse of Gender Disruption
- Christine Scodari, “Breaking Dusk: Fandom, Gender/Age Intersectionality, and the ‘Twilight Moms’”
- William Trapani, “Sex and the Sexual Assault Crisis on College Campuses: Taking Stock of the Rhetorical Function of the Masculinist Lament against Title IX and Affirmative Consent Policies”
- Laura L. Winn, “Slouching toward Doomsday: Exploring Negotiated Gender Roles in Modern Survivalist Themes within Reality TV’s Dual Survival
- Stephen Heidt, “Purposefully Ignoring Congress: Barack Obama, Bowe Bergdahl, and the Sources of Presidential Power”
- Volrick Higgs, “Obama’s Road: Killing Self and Enemy En Route to Transformation” ; “Constructing a Presidential Hero: The Road We’ve Traveled” in The Many Faces of “Hero”
- Temiela Blackman, “Heroic Images: The Visual Rhetoric of Disabled Veterans”
- Kerli Kirch, “The Heroic Other: Depiction of Seto Heroine Taarka in The Eponymous Film”
- Laura L. Winn, “Online Teaching for the ‘Selfie’ Generation: Embracing Change”
- Cynthia Carrico Rausch, “A Recipe for Cookbooks: Wash, Rinse, Repeat”
- Jennifer St. Sume, “‘L’ is for Licentious: A Literature Review on Identity, Rhetoric, and the LGBTQ Counterpublic”
- David Williams and Bill Trapani were panelists for Rhetoric and Public Argument in Marco Rubio’s Immigration Discourse: Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric Roundtable Parts 1 & 2
Faculty Acknowledgments

On April 4, 2015, the 24th Annual Broward Achievement Awards honored Professor Brad Lewter of the Communication department along with eight other member of the FAU community. Lewter was presented with the award for Faculty Member of the Year.

Noemi Marin, co-organized an international peace studies conference with Dr. Renat Shaykhutdinov, Director of Peace Studies. The conference, titled “Colonizing and De/Re-Colonizing Nations: A Research Inquiry into Communist Practices 25 Years Later,” was held on FAU’s campus in March. Dr. Marin has also been invited to a global peace summit as a part of the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday celebration!

Christine Scodari travelled to New Orleans, LA in April to present her paper, “(Color)-Blinded by Science: Identity, Family History Culture, and Genetic Ancestry” at the Popular Culture Association-American Culture Association Conference.

Shane Eason was recently awarded 1 of 2 Curriculum Grants from the South Florida Partnership for Japanese Studies and the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters in partnership with Florida International University and the Japan Foundation.

Film studies professor Gerald Sim travelled to Madison, Wisconsin in February on a research trip funded by an FAU College Advisory Board Research Grant. His work was facilitated by UW’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies, which invited him to present his talk “Postcolonial Cinema Aesthetics in the Era of Global Capital” at its weekly Lecture Series.

Additionally, film studies professors Stephen Charbonneau and Gerald Sim participated in a conference for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Montreal. Professor Charbonneau’s paper presentation reflects on current ideas about the essay film and their relevance to gaming. He also organized one of the conference’s most compelling events titled, “Breaking the Frame” -- a screening and discussion highlighting Marielle Nitoslawska’s eponymous film, the director’s work, and that of Montreal’s Cinema Politica, the largest grassroots documentary screening network in the world.

Special Announcements

The School of Communication & Multimedia Studies would like to announce that David Williams is the official Director of the school and William Trapani has been granted tenure in the school. Congratulations!
Owl’s Nest Society Kick-Off Happy Hour

Alexandra Schoenmakers, the newest member of the SCMS family, was chosen as team captain for the Owl’s Nest Faculty and Staff Giving Society in the College of Arts and Letters. Schoenmakers coordinated a happy hour kick-off campaign to encourage donations for the school. The kick-off was held in FAU’s Living Room Theatres where faculty, staff and students joined together for a good time and a good cause. Dean Heather Coltman said of those in attendance, “The people here are committed to giving back.” Find out how you can contribute to the College of Arts and Letters as well as the School of Communication & Media Studies below.

To join in on fundraising for the department, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our Foundation account. There are two ways in which to make a contribution. You may do this online: from the FAU homepage, click on “Alumni and Community” and then on “Give to FAU.” On the screen that then appears, write in the amount you wish to contribute, then click from the drop-down menu for Designation “Other.” In the “Other” box that will appear, write the SCMS Foundation account number, HUM 175. Your contribution should then go directly into the SCMS account. You may also mail a check to the Foundation, indicating that it is a gift to SCMS and should be deposited in HUM 175. Gifts made by check (payable to FAU Foundation, Inc.) should be mailed to: FAU Foundation, Inc., 777 Glades Road, ADM 295, Boca Raton, FL, 33431. Please indicate gift designation “HUM 175” on memo line. Any and all support is greatly appreciated.