School of Communication and Multimedia Studies
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SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MULTIMEDIA STUDIES
Spring 2017 Newsletter
Southeast Asia: Dr. Gerald Sim back from Singapore

During his year on leave as Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford University Distinguished Fellow on Contemporary Southeast Asia, Associate Professor Gerald Sim spent the fall as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University’s Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. He held a similar position at the National University of Singapore in the spring.

During the residencies at Stanford and NUS, he gave talks related to his current book on postcolonial poetics in Southeast Asian cinema.

In addition, he presented a paper titled, “A Cinema of Precarity” at the Asia Research Institute’s conference on Living in an Age of Precarity: Living and Lives in 21st Century Asia. He was also invited to speak at the Institute of Southeast Asia Studies-Yusof Ishak Institute’s Arts in Southeast Asia Seminar Series, and the University of Washington’s Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.

SCMS FACULTY UPDATES

David Cratis Williams, Professor and Director of the SCMS, will attend the 10th Triennial Conference of the Kenneth Burke Society June 8th-11th, 2017, at East Stroudsburg State University in Pennsylvania. Williams is currently President of the Burke Society, and he will preside over the conference awards banquet. In addition, he will present a paper, "Form and Feeling: Burke as a Young Aesthete," and will participate in an interview of Burke family members. From July 20th-23rd, 2017, Williams will attend the 20th Biennial Summer Argumentation Conference in Alta, Utah, sponsored by the National Communication Association and the American Forensic Association. He will present a paper, "Rising to the defense of ad hominem arguments," co-authored with Dale Hample.

Associate Professor Christopher Robé recently presented on “Communist Structures of Feeling within the Romanian New Wave,” during his attendance at Society for Cinema and Media Studies, on March 23rd, 2017. Robé was also invited to lecture on “Video Activism, Collective Organizing, and Labor in a Neoliberal Age” at the Florida AFL-CIO, in Tallahassee, FL on March 30th, 2017, as well as “Breaking the Spout: The Rise of Video Activism in a Neoliberal Age” MORE at ROBE, pg 10.

Professor Noemi Marin, at the Modern Language Association in January, presented a research paper on public arguments of power in post-communist contexts. Marin also presented a paper on the Rhetoric of the Streets in Romania at the Center for Mind, Body, and Culture at the Annual International Conference at FAU. This March, as the editor of the Journal of Literacy and Technology, she has posted the new issue, 18/1; continuing her activity as Editor of this academic publication for over 12 years (www.literacyandtechnology.org). As President of the Romanian Studies Association of America she launched a new journal (along with members of the organizing committee), RSAA Journal, a peer-review international publication (www.thersenaa.org). On March 6th, 2017, Dr. Marin was interviewed on the Romanian National Radio. On April 25th, 2017, Marin presented a research lecture, “Why 1989 Still Matters?”. MORE at MARIN, pg 10

Associate Professor Joey Bargsten participated in the panel “Teaching Musical Instrument Design in the Digital Era” at the conference “Generation Next,” hosted by NAMM/CMS (National Association of Music Merchants/College Music Society) at Anaheim, California in January 2017. Fellow panelists were from UCSD, USC, Brown, and Stanford University.

Panel at Asia Research Institute Conference

Participants at Asia Research Institute Conference

Seminar at ISERAS Yusof Ishak Institute

(with chair Helene Njoto)

MORE at ROBE, pg 10
Megan Tomei-Jameson ‘10
Professor Megan Tomei-Jameson graduated in Spring of 2010. As an undergraduate she was involved with Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) the Communication Undergraduate Honor Society, for two years and held the position of Vice-President. She was quite active, planning the Undergraduate conference, and attending events including the Florida Communication Association Conference. After graduating Tomei-Jameson got an adjunct position as well as a second Masters in Women Studies. Currently, she is a Professor of Speech Communication at Palm Beach State College, and has been there since 2012. Her goal is to continue teaching and to further help students become more effective, ethical, and confident communicators. Tomei-Jameson states “I love what I do and feel blessed to be right where I want to be so early in my career”.

Kathryn Edmunds’ 16
Former Student Body President (May 2015-2016), Kathryn Edmunds, graduated with her B.A. in Communication Studies in Fall of 2016. After graduation, Edmunds moved to Texas and got a job at the Gaylord Texan, where she works in the conventions and catering department. Before starting her position at the Gaylord Texan, Edmunds applied for over 30 positions between October and January, determined to find a job that would best fit her needs at the time. Edmunds is currently planning on getting her Master’s at Texas A & M University. She hopes to study the use of cross-cultural motivation, and one day write a book on it and use it as a way to do international consulting with different corporations, nonprofits, and education.

Derrick and Daniel Hart ‘15
The Hart twins, as they are commonly known are Daniel and Derrick Hart, they graduated in Fall of 2015. While at FAU the twins were constantly interested in radio, so much so that they were always on the look out for any type of radio internship they could find. After graduation, through networking, the two were able to meet with an established cohost radio personality through a mutual friend, who was looking to do his own morning radio show. After talking with each other, the twins were given the opportunity to work on the radio with the cohost because of their “unique voices and over the top personalities”. At the moment, they are currently working in Online radio, and hope to work their way up to the top. In the future the Hart twins hope that they will be able to have their own national radio show and be on a station where everyone in South Florida can and will be able to hear them.

Michael Cepeda ‘15
Former Student Body President (May 2014-2015), Michael Cepeda, graduated with his B.A. in Communication Studies in Spring of 2015. After graduating, he traveled the west coast and upon returning to Florida, found a job with JetBlue Airways. Cepeda currently works with the JetBlue marketing team, and helps oversee about 13 cities and their marketing initiatives.

This past February, Graduate students Kasima Ali, Kailin Regutti, and Heather Tomany attended the 25th Joint National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates, which took place in Dallas, Texas. Graduate student, Kasima Ali, presented her work “The Identity of an Indian-American Woman” as part of the International Association of Asian Studies.

SCMS ALUMNI UPDATES

Several SCMS faculty, graduate students, and alumni attended the 87th Annual Southern States Communication Association Conference that took place in Greenville, South Carolina, this April. Within the conference theme, “Communication and Innovation” our SCMS representatives presented the following research:

FACULTY: Dr. Stephen Heidt, presented research explaining President Obama’s strategically ambiguous policy on targeted killing. Arguing that the ambiguity of the policy enabled Obama to distance himself from the decision making process and consequences of drone strikes in North Africa and the Middle East. Dr. Heidt warned of the potential for President Trump to expand upon Obama’s policy to violent ends. Professor Heidt was also selected as the Vice Chair Elect of the Public Address Division. This puts Professor Heidt as the Vice Chair Elect of the Division in 2018 and the Chair and Division planner in 2019.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Kailin Regutti presented on the panel “Murder, Lies and Deception: The tales we tell in the courtroom and then dissect in innovative communication forms” on her work “Dramatism and Murder.”

Multimedia Journalism Instructor, Ilene Prusher, will be serving this summer on the faculty of FASPE, the Fellowships for the Study of Professional Ethics. FASPE is a set of innovative programs for graduate students in professional schools and early stage professionals designed to address contemporary ethical issues through a unique historical context. Fellowships provide business, journalism, law, medical and seminary students with a 12-day trip to Germany and Poland where the actions of professionals during the Holocaust and in Nazi Germany serve as a backdrop for an intensive course of study on the current ethical challenges in their fields. Journalism fellows document their journey under the direction of Prusher and another Journalism professor, study the actions of journalists during WWII, and then must complete a final project about a contemporary ethical issue impacting the media.

After the program in Germany and Poland, Prusher will head to Israel for six weeks to run the ieiMedia Jerusalem Project, a 3 credit program for journalism undergraduate and graduate students interested in working as foreign correspondents.

Dr. William Trapani, Associate Professor, has been appointed the 2017-2018 Lifelong Learning Society Professor in Current Affairs. The Lifelong Learning Society at FAU is the leading university based institution for adult learners in the nation with over 25,000 registrations for special events and lecture series each year. The Arts and Humanities Professor appointment entails representing the College of Arts and Letters by offering a 4 session lecture series for interested registrants in the Fall 2017 term. Dr. Trapani’s lecture series is entitled “Society Must Be Saved: Restoring Civility and Community Values to Our Broken Culture”. The appointment and lecture series dovetail with Dr. Trapani’s interest in communication and civic engagement which he works on through his scholarly work and as the Director of FAU’s Agora Project – the university’s initiative on civility and university values.

Dr. Trapani was also recently elected to the position of Chair of the College of Arts and Letters Faculty Assembly. The Assembly is the faculty governance body of the College and addresses issues such as promotion and tenure, hiring procedure, promotion of College interests and coordination of the College’s academic programs. The Chair serves on the College Executive Committee as well as the University Faculty Senate.

Christina Childs DeWalt will join the SCMS journalism and public communication programs in fall as a newly minted Ph.D. in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma. Her research is in the area of mediated social influence and multimedia journalism. with a particular focus on health and environmental communication. She was the recipient of the prestigious Carol Burnett Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Media Ethics for two consecutive years (2015 & 2016). And, in addition to her academic background, DeWalt is also an award-winning journalist who has more than 10 years of professional industry experience.

Adam Smith is a Stanford and Cambridge educated filmmaker from Yorkshire, UK. He holds a keen interest in urbanization and how individuals and communities adapt to rapid change. To date, he has produced, directed and edited four short documentaries in America - The Diner, Love & Allegiance (co-director Tijana Petrovic), Shangri-La, Role Play and one feature documentary in China, The Land of Many Palaces (co-director Song Ting). He is currently in production on Americaville, a feature documentary about the replica Wyoming town of Jackson Hole on the outskirts of Beijing, China. The film is sponsored by the Asian Cinema Fund, the Whicker’s World Foundation and the Bruckmann Trust. In addition to making his own films and screening them at festivals around the world, he has worked for Rabbit Bandini Productions, Stanford University’s Office of Public Affairs, the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, the Visual Anthropology Lab at the University of Cambridge, and the Chinese National Academy of Painting.

Adam is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication Arts at the New York Institute of Technology in Nanjing, where he primarily teaches documentary film production. He is very much looking forward to joining the FAU community in the fall semester, where he will work in the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies and at Student Media. He plans to begin scouting for a new documentary film project in Florida soon after arriving, hopefully with an environmental emphasis.

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FLAMINGO FILM FESTIVAL 4

The 2017 Flamingo Film Festival—an international student film festival founded by Assistant Professor Shane Eason—was a tremendous success!

Three different screenings were held on April 29 featuring 41 student films hailing from Iran, Spain, Brazil, Canada, the UK, and the US. Graduate students in the Media, Technology, and Entertainment MFA helped run the event, which was held at ArtServe in Fort Lauderdale. Special thanks to FAU’s Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative and the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies.

Awards were given in nine categories, including Best Overall (The Landing by Katya Yakubov of NYU Tisch), Best Documentary (The Extra Mile by Courtney Ross of FSU) and Best Experimental (Home Sewn by Morgan Jones of University of Regina, Canada). Of the 15 FAU students who presented their films, two took home awards: FAU Alum Liam Milano (Best Music Video), and Steve Belanger (Best Sound Design).

You can find out more about FFF 4, including a complete list of the winners online at https://flamingofilmfest.wordpress.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/FlamingoFilmFest.

In March, Faculty instructor Ilene Prusher went to New York City to attend the College Media Association (CMA) biannual convention, during which she presented two sessions on international reporting and journalism study abroad. As part of attending the CMA, Prusher led a group of 12 students from different FAU Student Media outlets to participate in the CMA. Prusher also brought some of these FAU students to visit the headquarter of Time Inc., allowing them to get a first-hand look at the way editors at one of the world’s most respected magazines make decisions about what issues to cover and how to navigate priorities in the print and digital versions of its flagship magazine.
Shout Outs!

Special thanks to Dr. Nannetta Durnell-Uwechue for her work as chair of our special events committee! Dr. Uwechue met with many incoming and current students during various events such as FAU’s Open House, Campus Days (photo, below), and the Out of Darkness walks.

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Please send us your stories for our alumni updates section!

**New Grads & Spotlight**

Congratulations to the latest graduates in the MA in Communication and the MFA in Media, Technology, and Entertainment, including **Demetrius Dukes** (MFA-MTE), who successfully defended his thesis *ERASED: An Interactive Experience and Examination of Surrealist Aesthetics and Sensibilities In Games.*

Congratulations to MTE-MFA candidate **Robin Taber** for winning a Gold Award from the Service Industry Advertising Awards for her Institute for Healthy Aging and Lifespan Studies (I-HeAL) video! (screenshot, above)

**ROBÉ . . .** at Florida State University, on March 31st, 2017 and at Humanities Institute, University of South Florida, on April 13th, 2017. He has been invited to lecture on this subject at the Anarchist Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, on May 11th, 2017.

In the upcoming month, Robé will be a Roundtable Organizer for “Radical Media Making, Community Organizing, and Institution Building,” at the Radical Film Network Conference, in New York City, on May 4th, 2017. He will present a lecture and screening of *Finally Got News* at Interference Archive in Brooklyn, New York, May 6th, 2017.

**MARIN . . .** at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York. In May, Marin will present her research at the 22nd World Convention organized by the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University (Nationalities.org). In June, Dr. Noemi Marin will participate in the 2nd European Conference on the Study of Argumentation, at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

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**Director:** Dr. David Cratis Williams  
**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Joey Bargsten, Rosa Park  
**Editor:** Kasima Ali  
**Layout Design:** Mike Halak

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