

# CONNECTION

Alumni Newsletter • Fall 2014 • Volume VI, Issue I

## Faculty Continues Tradition of Excellence



Dean Larry Dennis

Great academic programs require great faculty. The continued outstanding performance of our students requires

outstanding faculty who engage, inspire and challenge our students on a daily basis. The faculty not only manages the scope and content of our academic programs, but they also choose the research and service projects that challenge students to tackle critical, difficult problems. Last year the College graduated more students than ever before.

Another indicator of the quality of our faculty is the recognition they receive nationally and internationally. In the past six months, three of our faculty members have won prestigious national awards. Hugh Catts received the Honors of the Association award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the highest honors given by the Association. Jonathan Adams was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to work in Thailand. Marcia Mardis received a Presidential Internet II Fellowship to advise the US government on strategies for the use of digital media in schools.

Faculty members have been awarded funding for research projects. The awards totaled approximately \$10.5M in the past two years. This funding helps create critical education & research infrastructure and funds faculty, staff and students so that they can work on these cutting edge projects.

Our faculty's excellence translates to an enriching, modern education for our students who continue to become leaders. In this newsletter, we have highlighted a few of the many outstanding accomplishments of our faculty.

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ebe.randeree@cci.fsu.edu



CCI 2014  
Scholarship Recipients

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## Alumni News

## Gina Sprehe

(B.S. COMM '97)

After working as a Producer at “The Oprah Show” for ten years, Sprehe is now a Human Interest Producer for “The Jimmy Kimmel Show.”

## Collin Gaston

(B.S. COMM '93)

Former student section cheerleader returned to FSU to create a partnership between Raycom Media and Florida State graduates. Gaston is Vice President of WSEA 12 News, owned by Raycom, one of the largest broadcasters in the nation.

## Dan Jenkins, Ph.D.

(B.A. COMM '02)

The Association of Leadership Educators awarded Jenkins the ‘ALE Rising Star Award’ at the annual conference. Jenkins is an Assistant Professor of Leadership & Organizational Studies at University of Southern Maine.

## Caroline Underwood

(B.A. COMM '06)

Underwood was recently promoted to Vice President of Kreps DeMaria Public Relations in Miami. The promotion comes after six years as an Account Director for the company.

## Kelly Robertson (B.A. COMM '05)

## &amp; Tom Deryzpolski (B.A. COMM '04)

Principals at Tallahassee-based Bowstern are the newest recipients of the 2014 Dick Pope Golden Image award from the Florida Public Relations Association. The winning campaign was for Tallahassee’s StarMetro Electric Bus campaign.

## Merle’s research featured in AZ Central



Patrick Merle, Ph.D., was cited in an article printed in AZ Central about the congressional race in Phoenix (AZ) establishing a comparison with Florida and most specifically the Trayvon Martin case. Merle helped launch the Florida Policy Agendas project at the Comparative Agenda Project annual conference held in June 2013 in Konztanz, Germany. The Florida Policy Agendas, an interdisciplinary initiative with several Political Science scholars, examines relationships between media coverage and public policies. Merle joined FSU in 2013.

## Donna Nudd co-directs disability themed plays

Donna Nudd, Ph.D., is spending the Fall 2014 semester overseas in the United Kingdom, co-directing two disability themed plays. “*The Ugly Girl*” features a deaf writer and performer after receiving a cochlear implant. “*You Are My Sunshine*” has four performers with disabilities and will tour across four cities in England. The plays are written by Terry Galloway, cochlear implant recipient.



“It’s the most ambitious thing I’ve ever done... and the scariest.”

## Houck pens column for 50th Freedom Summer

Davis Houck, Ph.D., wrote a column “Stanford Nine recorded sounds of the movement,” which appeared in the (Jackson) Clarion Ledger Freedom Summer special issue on June 21, 2014. The article detailed nine Stanford University undergraduates who traveled south to do oral histories with volunteers of the civil rights movement. Houck was invited by the Dean of American civil rights journalists, Jerry Mitchell to tell this story. The Stanford

Nine eventually gathered more than 330 hours of sound of the civil rights movement over the course of 10 weeks, “visiting isolated outposts across the Deep South,” to gather the stories of movement leaders and volunteers. Houck is a nationally recognized expert on the American civil rights movement and is the author and editor of 10 books surrounding civil rights.

## SCSD faculty nationally recognized

Director **Hugh Catts**, Ph.D., has been selected to receive the highest honor from the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The Honors of the Association award is given to distinguished contributors to the discipline by the ASHA Committee on Honors.



**Juliann Woods**, Ph.D., and **Lisa Scott**, Ph.D., were named Fellows by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, for their outstanding contribution to the discipline. Scott is the Director of Clinical Education and a clinical faculty member in SCSD and Woods is a Professor in SCSD.



**Shannon Hall-Mills**, Ph.D., wrote an article “Evidence-Based Speech-Language Pathology Practices in Schools: Findings from a National Survey” that has been selected to receive an Editors’ Award by Language, Speech, Hearing Services in Schools, a publication of ASHA.



**Megan MacPherson**, Ph.D., wrote an article “Influences of Sentence Length and Syntactic Complexity on the Speech Motor Control of Children Who Stutter” that was selected for an Editors’ Award by the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research, an extension of ASHA. MacPherson is also the recipient of the New Investigator’s Research Award for her project “Role of the Autonomic Nervous System in the Speech Production of Individuals with Parkinson Disease.”



**Kaitlin Lansford**, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2014 New Century Scholars Research Grant. The \$10,000 grant was awarded for her proposal, “Use of Crowd Sourcing to Assess the Ecological Validity of Perceptual Learning Paradigms in Dysarthria.”



## Grad student wins AAUW grant



**Stephanie Brown**, first year graduate student, received a Development Grant for \$11,000 from the American Association of

University Women (AAUW) for the 2014-2015 year. The competitive national award encompasses all majors and is designed to offer “encouragement” funding to members seeking to resume academic work for career advancement.

## Doc grad makes impact at University of Northern Colorado

**Derek Headley**, Ph.D., graduated with his doctorate from SCSD last year, and he’s now making an impact as a member of the University of Northern Colorado’s faculty. He joined the faculty last fall and was honored with Faculty Member of the Year honors, awarded during the university’s Academic Excellence Week. He currently teaches courses in swallowing disorders, acquired language disorders and adult diagnostic procedures in medical speech-language pathology.

## New doctoral leadership grant

SCSD is proud to announce it is accepting applications for Project BOLLDD, a doctoral leadership training grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. BOLLDD is designed to build the capacity of young investigators at FSU with specialized knowledge of dual language learners. It is intended to foster research and innovations for improving instructional supports for children from culturally & linguistically diverse backgrounds.

## Kazmer named ASIS&T Outstanding Teacher

**Michelle Kazmer**, Ph.D., was named the Thomas Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher by ASIS&T. “From the time I entered the information profession in 1994 and attended my first ASIS&T conference, I aspired to win the award.” She thanks a group of doctoral students who nominated her and credits her inspiring teaching environment to the “most awesome, amazing” colleagues. She was recognized at the annual ASIS&T meeting on November 4th.



“The list of prior winners include many people I’ve had the joy of learning from... I’m honored to join their ranks.”

## Skyler Vander Molen joins Facebook team



B.S. in Information Technology - 2008

**Skyler Vander Molen** is now a member of the Communication Design team at Facebook. After being self-employed for more than a year, Vander Molen joined Postmates, a San Francisco startup. During that time, Facebook reviewed his portfolio. At Facebook, Vander Molen collaborates on product and brand marketing projects and is currently working on finding ways to more tightly integrate film with web experiences.

## Marty teaches at Foundation’s Presidents Club

**Paul Marty**, Ph.D., was among select chosen faculty members who conducted exclusive classroom sessions at Presidents Club College hosted by the FSU Foundation in April. Marty’s class, “Hackathon 101: Innovating with Information Technology,” was part of the day-long back-to-school event, which provided Presidents Club honorees the opportunity to return to campus and sample a curriculum based on several of the university’s big ideas. Participants used content from

FSU’s Heritage Protocol collection to create online, interactive exhibits that explore the history of Florida State University.



## Team receives \$50k Grant

**Marcia Mardis**, Ph.D., and doctoral student **Jennifer Wood** are part of a three-person group that received an I-Corps Teams grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The team will be investigating the viability of the commercialization of **Web2MARC**, an automatic cataloging and classification tool for educational materials, developed by a Mardis-led group. The concept won \$15,000 to build a prototype last year at FSU’s Grant Assistance Program.

## Doc student interns with RDA



Doctoral student **Dong Joon Lee** recently interned with the Research Data Alliance.

Lee was one of eight selected for the position, where he helped identify the need to formalize an understanding of the metadata managed by the ORCID registry.

## FSU now offers combined Bachelor’s & Master’s in Information Technology

The School of Information now offers a combined Bachelor’s of Science and Master’s of Science in Information Technology. The program will allow students to count up-to twelve graduate credits to both BSIT & MSIT degrees, complete both degrees in a shorter time span, and apply undergraduate tuition assistance towards graduate courses.

# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Gratitude in Action



by Mafe Brooks  
Development Director

I recently stumbled upon a quote from Henri Frederic Amiel, 19th century philosopher who said, “Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts.”

I had the opportunity of meeting Laura Browning when she was getting her Master’s degree in Library & Information Studies. Her enthusiasm and passion for the library field were reflected not only through her academic work but also while she was serving as President of the American Library Association Student Chapter. Laura is now a full-fledged information professional as a Youth-Related (aka Children’s) Librarian at Maclay School.

Sarah Jean Ferraris chose to come to Florida State because of its rich history in tradition. Her interest in creative endeavors started in high school, she found her passion for design, sales and copy when she was editor of her high school yearbook. It was her internship with BBDO in Chicago that provided the launching pad for her dream introductory job as a Digital Junior Project Manager with Team Detroit in Ann Arbor, Michigan working within the Shopper Marketing team on the Ford account.

As a practicing Speech-Language pathologist working with neurologically impaired adults, Derek Headley developed many research questions and dreamed of pursuing a doctoral degree at the School of Communication

Science & Disorders. His dream became a reality when he graduated with his doctoral degree in 2013. He just completed his first year on the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado’s Department of Audiology and Speech Language Sciences.

Laura, Sarah Jean, and Derek’s path to success was not a coincidence. The generosity of our donors helped shape their careers. Laura was the recipient of the Mary Alice Hunt Endowed Scholarship Fund. Sarah Jean received support for internship with a creative advertising agency through the Dan St. John Scholarship Fund. Derek completed his Ph.D. with funding from the Dempsey Barron Scholarship Fund.

It is through their accomplishments that their gratitude shines through. The legacy of our donors continue to stay alive in each of them daily. Their passion and commitment to excellence mirrors the philanthropy of our donors.

Gratitude in action comes full circle.



To learn more, contact Mafe Brooks at [mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:mafe.brooks@cci.fsu.edu).

## FSU Forensics Team continues Tradition of Success in 2014



The Forensics Program at FSU attended three competitions this Fall and earned a total of 51 awards and distinctions. Participants consistently earned high honors in competition against America’s finest undergraduate scholars from around the state. Zach Bess-Lima was Tournament Champion in Dramatic Interpretation at the TCC Capital Classic, where Joseph Quintana was Champion in Informative Speaking. At the Georgia Southern University competition, Alexandria Currie and Marquise Rosier were Finalists. At the Samford University Debate Tournament, Alexandria Currie was Top Speaker and the team of Currie & Pelham were Runner-Ups. Kendall Gray and Eliza Jones won Tournament Champions in Duo Interpretation at Florida Southern College, Child of the Sun Tournament. Eliza Jones was also Tournament Champion in Oral Interpretation. Joseph Quintana was Tournament Champion in Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking and Informative Speaking. Manish Khanal was Tournament Champion in Rhetorical Criticism. Ian Skewes was Top Novice in Impromptu Speaking.

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We invite you to continue the tradition of excellence: [forensics.cci.fsu.edu](http://forensics.cci.fsu.edu)



August 2014

Dr. Sam Oh presented a Sara K. and Ted Srygley Lecture in the School of Information on ICT Trends and metadata.

October 2014

Doctoral candidate Katharine Bedsole & her daughter at the 2014 CCI Barbecue.



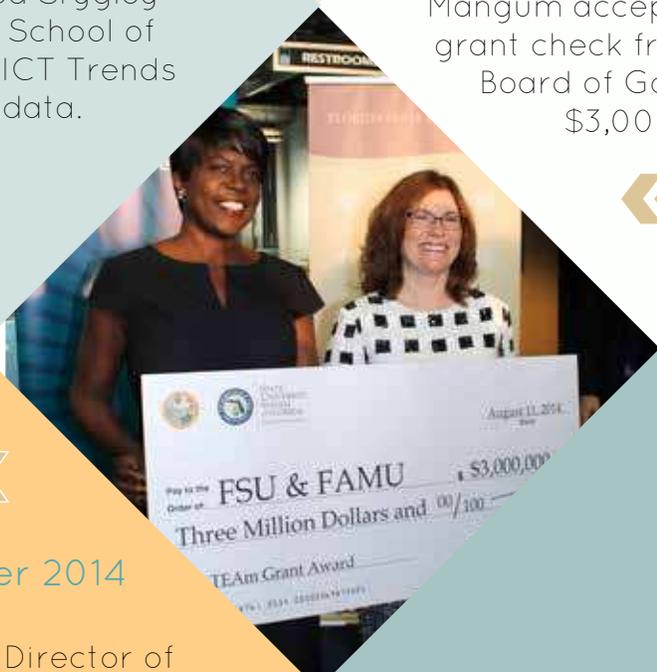
August 2014

Interim President Garnett Stokes & FAMU President Elmira Mangum accept FITC Alliance grant check from the Florida Board of Governors for \$3,000,000.



September 2014

ESPN's Senior Director of Communications, Keri Potts, talked to students about hard work & daring career choices.



August 2014

The Tallahassee Democrat hosted two Pakistani journalists who spoke to faculty and students about media perceptions.





November 2014

Dean Larry Dennis & President John Thrasher at the Homecoming All College Tailgate.



September 2014

COMM alumnus Ritesh Gupta, returned to speak to students about making the right career choices.



October 2014

Sol Hirsch, iSchool alumnus, was the guest speaker at the CCI Scholarship and Awards Reception, as well as awarding two scholarships.



August 2014

FSU STARS Alliance won the Best College Chapter Award amongst 42 other chapters in Washington D.C.



July 2014

Dr. Gary Heald returns to Florida State University as Director of the School of Communication.



September 2014

Dr. Stephen McDowell and Dean Larry Dennis with visiting professor Shafiq Jullandhry from Pakistan.



October 2014

FSU STARS Alliance trains STEM Middle & High School students at TSA Orlando Conference.



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COMM alumna **Cecily Sorensen** works at Firehouse Subs as the Vice President of Corporate Communications. She received her Bachelor's in Communication and her Master's in Mass Communication from Florida State University. "I owe what has been such a fascinating, rewarding, and lucrative career to my alma mater."

Check out our alumni stories at [news.cci.fsu.edu/tag/alumni](http://news.cci.fsu.edu/tag/alumni)

## The Very Real Spirit of FSU



by Helena Sims  
Leadership Board Chair

My mother ate a whole box of chocolates when she realized that the equal rights amendment would not be ratified. A native of Louisiana, my mother was an environmental writer for the Miami Herald, single mother, crusader for women's rights

and forever worried about her weight. So I knew that failure of the equal rights amendment in 1979 was a big deal. It had to be if it drove her to eat an entire box of chocolates.

I was raised in a household where equality mattered. We were expected to stand up for what we believed in. When I enrolled in FSU in 1969, I found that it embodied the values I had been taught by my mother. Equality was important. People stood up for what they believed in. Students marched against the Vietnam war. One of my professors, Dr. James T. Wills, had marched with Martin Luther King. Much like FSU, he inspired me.

Given my role on CCI's leadership board, I see that FSU students continue to be intellectually inspired. I see that we prepare them for careers beyond the "finite limitation of the five senses." Students are helping deaf children communicate, tapping the past to harness the power of information and inspiring young women to pursue careers in technology.

It was with dismay that I read an October 10th article in the New York Times. The article portrayed FSU and Tallahassee as being mindlessly committed to football. It focused on the recent behavior of FSU football players. Certainly FSU, like any university, must lay a foundation for civil society. An institution cannot be great unless it gets the basics right. It must also be dedicated to the proposition that students are innocent until proven guilty. I believe that FSU will sort out recent events and determine an appropriate course of action based on the facts. I am confident that FSU will do what I have come to expect of it. It will be guided by its moral compass.

Certainly there is football, but Tallahassee is also a beautiful place, welcoming place where Dr. Wills lead a speech choir for African American students and introduced me to poets like Carl Sandberg. FSU put me on the pathway to an intellectually stimulating career. Football and academic rigor are not mutually exclusive. Neither are pride in community and intellectual curiosity.

FSU will continue to inspire students and foster their success by building on our legacy, dealing appropriately with those who break the law or besmirch our reputation, and continuing to do what we have been doing for generations. Our actions will speak for themselves and our students will continue to feel the spirit that is both real and abiding.

To learn more about the Leadership Board, visit [cci.fsu.edu/leadership](http://cci.fsu.edu/leadership)