Dear Members and Friends of the CST Community,

Why do we do what we do? Well, to put it simply, we believe that communication is at the very center of human life. We believe that its transformative potential is powerful, and that we can all learn to practice it more deftly, with better processes and results. As our Mission puts it, “We teach and research communication to connect people, create change, and work toward a just world.” What could be better than that?

Of course, like anything worth doing, good quality communication requires patience, practice, and persistence. Together, through the engaged and deeply engaging practice of ethical communication, we can build beautiful relationships and communities that sustain us. We also believe that studying communication is a rich and constant source of fascination.

I am very proud of what we do. So I am truly happy you are reading this newsletter! Current CST students wrote, designed, and developed it for their fellow students, alumni, and friends. It has been a labor of love, and a lot of hard work has been poured into these pages. As you will see, there is much good news to report about what is happening in the Department of Communication Studies at UNCG. Here you will read some wonderful stories about what students, faculty, friends, and alumni have been up to lately. Enjoy!

Chris Poulos
Professor and Head
Department of Communication Studies
UNCG
Dr. Kinefuchi’s advice to student’s who wish to study abroad:
“My advice is simple: Do it! But remember that studying abroad takes planning, too. Save money and learn about the places you are interested in. Plan your program of study so that study abroad is naturally embedded in it. And of course, keep your grades up while abroad!”
As student editors, one of our earlier conversations was about the importance of the Communication Studies major and how it is reflected throughout campus. We wanted to see how the department's mission statement is viewed by our students. We interviewed various CST students from different years to get their personal views by asking the questions:
What does communication studies mean to you?
Where do you see communication studies taking you personally and professionally?
What are misconceptions that people might have about a CST degree?

**Freshman**
Ayana McDuffie

I chose CST as a major because my plan is to become an editor for a major magazine or news publication. To me, Communication Studies is why and how people speak to one another. A common misconception I’ve observed is that people seem to think CST is an “easy major,” when in reality, it’s the challenges of the major that I love most! I look forward to gaining a better understanding of people through communication within the next three years at UNCG.

**Sophomore**
Kelsey Fields

I aspire to turn my passion for football into a career in sports broadcasting. I believe that a Communication Studies degree can take me there. People often think that CST only focuses on writing and speaking, but there is so much more to it. To me, CST means building the skills to make personal connections with people in diverse settings.

**Junior**
Bradly Leonard

When I discovered I enjoyed speaking in front of others, I wanted to “hone in” on that skill and make it the best that it could be. That is why I chose CST as a major. I was so excited about everything the department had to offer. Now, as a junior, I’m currently the Relay for Life chair for UNCG and, one day, hope to serve in a leadership position as a Relay for Life Community Manager for the American Cancer Society.

**Senior**
Christopher Jordan

To me, Communication Studies means understanding how people interact and relate to one another. People often look at CST majors as just people who do speeches all the time, but I love how Communication Studies is so practical, applicable, and useful to everyday life. Although I’m not sure exactly where I want to go after I graduate this May, I am grateful for a Communication Studies degree because I know that the sky is the limit with this major!

**Grad Student**
Jeanette Musselwhite

When I tell people I have a degree in Communication Studies, I’m often asked if I study the way people talk or if I’ll be working in television or radio—it is so much more than that! There are amazing career opportunities with our major such as public relations, sales, event planning, teaching, and non-profit. Some of the misunderstandings I encounter about CST lead to great conversations about the work we get to do, so I welcome them.

**CST ’14 Alumni**
Jeffrey Tanner

My CST internship prepared me for my career as a Program Coordinator at the Center for Creative Leadership, a global organization where effective communication is vital for success. Every day I use what I learned in CST classes in creating an environment for people to get to know and work well with each other in meaningful ways.

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**CST Mission Statement:**
“We teach and research communication to connect people, create change, and work toward a just world.”
As she celebrates her fifth anniversary as Associate Professor in CST, we honor Dr. Loreen Olson and the impact she has made to the department, the University and to the greater Greensboro community. Dr. Olson’s work is truly impressive! Her classes and her research are primarily focused on gender and interpersonal communication as well as family communication and its darkside. When not in the classroom, Dr. Olson works closely with the Dean of Students, The Title IX coordinator, legal counsel, UNCG police and the Student Health Center to bring awareness to students, faculty and administrators on issues related to the campus sexual assault, timely warnings, and the Clery Act.

As part of her work with the UNCG Center for Women’s Health and Wellness, in 2014 Dr. Olson became the Director of the UNCG Program to end gendered violence. As director, Dr. Olson works with the campus community as well as direct service providers throughout Guilford County to bring awareness through education about intimate partner violence. While taking on these multiple responsibilities, more recently Dr. Olson has also added the role of CST Director of Graduate Studies managing recruitment, admission and daily contact with all the CST graduate students. Even with this full and hectic schedule, at the end of the day, you will no doubt find Dr. Olson with knitting needles in hand creating those beautiful scarves she wears while sharing quality time with her husband Dr. Mark Fine and twins Kenyon and Keaton discussing all the activities of everyone’s day.

Excellence in teaching, mentoring, service, diversity enhancement, and scholarship just starts the discussion of Dr. Cerise Glenn’s accomplishments since joining our CST department in 2009. The list of her accomplishments in her research area of Cultural identity and identity negotiation, African-American communication and organizational culture is impressive. Just to mention a sampling of her honors, in 2013, Dr. Glenn was awarded the Outstanding Journal Article award for her research of black male students at a predominantly white institution. In 2014, she was again recognized nationally. Of all the competitive nominations submitted to the National Communication Association by students, Dr. Glenn was selected as one of the winners of the Spotlight on Teaching award. However, ask Dr. Glenn what is her most proud accomplishment at UNCG and she states, “I’m most proud of my work mentoring, working and co-authoring and presenting at conferences with students.” In March, she co-authored a research paper with Christina Blankenship, MA student in Communication Studies (pictured above) at the National Council for Black Studies. To further her outreach to the entire UNCG community, next semester, in addition to her CST class schedule, Dr. Glenn will become the director of UNCG African American and African Diaspora Studies Department. Ask Dr. Glenn about her leisure time and she’ll immediately pull up pictures of her niece Mikayla - showing them together enjoying hours of playtime as only a 15 month old can provide. Ask Dr. Glenn for a recommendation of a good book – no doubt it will be an Agatha Christie novel or anything related to mystery!

With a personality as rich as hers, it’s no surprise that Dr. Killian Manning’s journey to UNCG is as interesting as they come. She began her undergraduate career at Auburn University studying German, as well as taking on three minors and joining three sports teams. With intentions to pursue her German studies, she continued her education at U-Conn where she spent her first year traveling in Germany and many surrounding areas. Her fondest memories from that year of travel come from Madrid, Spain where she visited all kinds of museums and attractions. Just days before her final compositions of her masters program, Manning made a decision that she would never regret: She jumped on a plane to Boston to pursue her love for dancing. It was not until she began teaching Dance at UNC-Chapel Hill that she was introduced to the Communication Studies department. After taking an Introduction to Performance Studies course, she was hooked and went on to earn her Masters at UNC in Performance Studies. She then continued her education and earned her PHD in Communication Studies at the University of Utah. Dr. Manning has been with UNCG since the Fall of 2004 and says that she loves the freedom that the Communication department has offered her for the last 12 years. The most important thing we can learn from Manning’s experience is that life does not go according to plan. It is vital to be flexible and ready for the next adventure. With everything we pursue in our careers and in our lives, Dr. Manning advises you to never be afraid of difficult conversations and to always be brave!
Dr. Patricia Fairfield-Artman has been at UNCG since 1998. She has been a motivator, inspiration, mentor, treasured teacher, and valuable asset to the Communication Studies department. After almost twenty years of service to UNCG, Dr. Fairfield-Artman is now going to be fulfilling her dream of moving to Holden Beach with her husband. As much as UNCG will miss her in the classroom, the department is fortunate that she will still be teaching online. Dr. Fairfield-Artman touched the lives of many throughout the years. Scot Aitcheson, alumni, is “deeply and sincerely grateful for Pat Fairfield-Artman.” He states that “she guided, encouraged, inspired, and mentored me…I am at a loss for words that really capture her influence.” Tori West, a rising Senior, is thankful that “Dr. Fairfield-Artman pushed me to do things outside my comfort zone.” Dr. Fairfield-Artman is not only praised and respected by her students, but also fellow colleagues. Dr. Poulos, Department Head, shares that “her love of students and her passion for building rapport-infused community is infectious.” Dr. Poulos will always think of Pat Fairfield-Artman as the “Connector.” As one can tell, Dr. Patricia Fairfield-Artman has made lasting impressions on the CST department and will continue to impact the lives of many for years to come.

Zithobile Nxumalo, 11
Non-Profit Program Manager
Zitty moved to Greensboro from Swaziland at 4 years old. Growing up, Zitty learned the value of building confidence through effective communication. “I grew to really value the people who communicate well and effectively in my own life and I wanted to cultivate and pass those skills to others in the same way. Pursuing a graduate degree in Communications Studies was the perfect choice.” Today, Zitty is Program Manager for Boundless Impact, a nonprofit supporting diversity and global engagement across commerce, civic, education, and faith sectors in NC. March 2016, Zitty was honored the Business Journal’s “40 Leaders Under 40” award in recognition of her lasting and impactful contributions to non-profits and civic organizations. Her advice to students, “Trust the process. There will be times when you will second guess some decisions… open up to the relationships and lessons available to you today. This is the time of your life where you can find out who you are.”

This issue was written, designed and edited by CST majors Kristine West, Tori West, Lauren Dillingham and Tess Regan with the supervision and expertise of Dr. Poulos and Dr. Fairfield-Artman. Each of the collaborators considers it an honor to work on this project.