

Communication Studies

Newsletter

2014-2015

Graduate Spotlight:

Dr. Robert Garcia graduated from the Department and is now the Mayor of the City of Long Beach
Page 1

Chair's Message

Department Chair Ann Johnson shares an update about the exciting times of the Department
Page 2

New Faculty

Dr. Subrina Robinson, Dr. Jessica Russell, Dr. Chris Duerringer, and Dr. Clariza Ruiz De Castilla join the faculty.
Page 2

Awards, Honors, News, and Notes

Many members of the Department continue to be honored, and there are many noteworthy news items to report.
Page 3

Update on Centers and Programs

Read about recent news from the centers and programs of the Department.
Pages 4-5

Alumni in the Community Colleges

Making a difference in community college education
Page 6

Faculty Publications

Faculty continue research in order to advance our understanding of communication.
Page 7

Graduate Spotlight: Mayor Robert Garcia

"My degree and training as a Communication Studies major prepared me for a career in education and politics. The faculty were engaged and focused on theory and practice."—Mayor Robert Garcia, Ed.D.

On June 3rd, 2014, alum **Dr. Robert Garcia** became the first person of Hispanic descent, the first gay, and, at 37, the youngest person to become mayor of Long Beach. However, the path to mayor was not always an easy one. After emigrating to America from Peru at the age of 5, Robert grew up in Covina and credits his mother, his grandmother and his aunt for his strong sense of family values and emersion into American culture. Robert's education eventually led him to a major in Communication Studies at CSULB. When he lost his first run for Associated Student Body President, he signed up for Dr. Craig Smith's course in Campaign Persuasion. The next time around Robert won the presidency, and

the rest is history. Concerning his major in Communication Studies, Robert has said, "My degree and training as a Communication Studies major prepared me for a career in education and politics. The faculty were engaged and focused on theory and practice."

Like many of our alums, Robert was the first in his family to graduate from college. He went on to earn a masters degree in Communication Management at USC and to become the public relations director for Long Beach Community College. In 2010, he completed a Doctor of Education degree at CSULB writing a dissertation on the evolution of the California Education Master Plan. He has taught communication courses here and at LBCC. He won the First District city council seat and eventually became Vice Mayor of Long Beach. He was then appointed to California Coastal Commission. He is now the 28th mayor in Long Beach's history.

Mayor Garcia has been named one of

Long Beach's "Most Innovative Minds" by *Long Beach Magazine*, the *Advocate Magazine's* 40 Under 40 List in 2010, and to *Instinct Magazine's* Leading Men in 2009. He was the recipient of the 2014 Vanguard Leadership award from Equality California. Robert lives in downtown Long Beach. Dr. Garcia plans to join Dr. Smith to co-teach a class in Communication and Political Leadership during the presidential primary season in the Spring semester of 2016.





Dr. Ann Johnson
Department Chair

A Message from the Department Chair

Since I began serving as Department Chair in 2013, I have seen our students and faculty accomplish amazing things, many of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

As this newsletter heads to press, the Department’s Speech and Debate team finished the season ranked #11 out of 203 universities in national rankings and debate partners Li-Ren Chang and Brandon Fletcher (a Communication Studies major) finished the year ranked #12 out of 777 debate pairs in the nation.

Our students brought home quite a few awards at the 2015 commencement as well, including the top prize of Outstanding Graduate Student in the College of Liberal Arts, won by graduate student Nicholas Matthews.

We look forward to another successful year for our students and department as we welcome new faculty members Jessica Russell, Chris Duerringer, and Clariza Ruiz de Castilla to Speech at the Beach.

New Faculty Members

Dr. Subrina J. Robinson joined the department of Communication Studies in the Fall of 2013. Dr. Robinson teaches courses in storytelling, performance and culture, and intercultural communication. Her area of expertise consists of performance studies, culture, and activism. Dr. Robinson’s publications can be found in *Race, Ethnicity, and Education*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, and the *World Journal of Education*. Her current research addresses gendered racial representation in the media, performance ethnography, and oral narrative.

Dr. Jessica Russell also joined the department in the Fall of 2013. She teaches courses in interpersonal communication, health communication campaigns, and quantitative research methods. Her program of research examines support communication in sensitive contexts with a heavy emphasis in applied and community-based settings. Dr. Russell’s most recent work is in the domain of health, specifically concerning difficult health conversations. Her current research aims to inform planning procedures and strategies employed in initiating such conversations and their respective outcomes.

Dr. Christopher Duerringer joined the department in Fall, 2014. He teaches courses in rhetoric, the public sphere, popular culture, and argumentation. His scholarly research deals primarily with political rhetoric that circulates in American popular culture. Dr. Duerringer is especially interested in understanding rhetoric that creates and maintains publics and counterpublics; analyzing the rhetorical strategies used by powerful publics to silence dissent; and considering opportunities for opening up the identities, topoi, and modalities of appropriate public discourse.

Dr. Clariza Ruiz De Castilla joined the department as a Visiting Professor in Fall, 2015. She teaches courses in rhetoric and media effects. Her scholarly research deals primarily with English and Spanish news media portrayals of immigrants and Latino populations in light of the Arizona Senate Bill 1070 (The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act). She has published book chapters on political cartoons of female leaders such as former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.



Dr. Jessica Russell



Dr. Christopher Duerringer

Awards, Honors, News, and Notes

Cara Vanderhook was inducted into the Event & Arena Conference Management Hall of Fame for her work as the digital voice of the Anshutz Entertainment Group, which runs the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Adrian Haro, who graduated in 2008, has left his position as speechwriter for the Secretary of Labor and moved to the public relations firm Civitas in Washington, D.C.

After completing her MA with us, **Jennifer Holmgren** became a systems analyst at Long Beach Community College.

Eric Maag, earned his BA and MA with us, and **Rachel Hastings**, who earned her MA with us, are teaching at Southwestern College in Otay Lakes, California.

Joe DeSantis has become Professor at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, California.

Saleha Bholat teaches at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas, Virginia.

Duval Bodden teaches at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York.

Tara Kubika Miller and **Jared Miller** teach at Santiago Canyon College in Orange, California.

After finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Utah, **Michael Middleton** employed there as an assistant professor.

Leslie Ramos Salazar has completed her Ph.D. and is now an assistant professor at West Texas A&M University.

Minodora Moldoveanu has entered the Ed.D. program at CSULB.

Stephanie Hoffman Krone has become English Department Co-Chair at Whittier Union High School.

Visiting Professor, **Dr. Clariza Ruiz De Castilla**, completed the Los Angeles Marathon on behalf of the Communication Studies Graduate Scholarship.



Cara Vanderhook, Event & Arena Conference Management Hall of Fame



Adrian Haro, Former Speechwriter, U.S. Secretary of Labor



Dr. Leslie Ramos Salazar, Assistant Professor at CSU-Fresno



Jared Miller, Professor, Santiago Canyon College

In October, **Tatsuya Kohrogi**, who will become an alum in May, was hired by SoftBank, a Japanese Telecommunication Corporation.

Dr. Julia Johnson became Dean of the College of Liberal Studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

David Stephens and **Taylor Ortega** were recipients of the Douglas W. Robinson Student Success Scholarship, awarded for outstanding achievement in service learning.

Paul LeBaron was promoted to Commander in the Long Beach Police Department.

Linda Nguyen is Secretary of OnLife Suicide

Jeff Wood is Vice-Mayor of the City of Lakewood.

Ava Nguyen is Communication Specialist at UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Alma Salazar is Vice President of Education and Workforce Development for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Brandon Whearty is teaching at Palomar College in San Marcos, California.

Jeff Huber is Technical Sales Specialist Manager for Western North America at Thermo Fischer Scientific.

Lieutenant (Dr.) Larkin E. Magel is Assistant Program Director for Naval Medical Center San Diego's residential post-traumatic stress disorder program, and was selected as Junior Psychologist of the Year.

Under the instruction of **Jennifer Gradis**, students studied event planning in a hands-on approach--raising over \$1,000 for community needs in the greater Long Beach area.

RECENT HIRE: IN THE NEXT ISSUE WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER, DR. YUPING MAO.

Update on Centers and Programs

interACT Performance Troupe

interACT had a productive 2014. To start, the troupe was awarded a major contract by the United States Navy and Marines to be the primary rape prevention program provider. Between July and December, interACT performed for over 27,000 troops. In addition to trips throughout the United States, interACT also performed at bases in Italy, Japan, Guantanamo Bay, and the Middle East. interACT also continued to present at universities throughout the country. In 2014, interACT performed for the entire incoming classes at the University of Connecticut, Tulane University, and the University of Redlands. The troupe also performed at Stanford University's Title IX "It's on Us" campaign, which is devoted to sexual assault prevention. Maintaining a local presence at CSULB, interACT presented their sexual assault prevention performance for five hundred incoming freshman for the department of Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR), hundreds of members of the Greek System, the Take Back the Night rallies, and of course, the

extraordinary communication studies students enrolled in various courses throughout the year. Check out the interACT Facebook page to see where they are going this Spring: <https://www.facebook.com/interACTTroupe>



interACT troupe presented their sexual prevention performance for U.S. troops.

Hauth Center

The Hauth Center for Communication Skills continues to provide individualized communication coaching to all CSULB students. Students use and return to the Hauth Center when preparing for class presentations, interviews, and other activities. The Center also has a peer coaching model, which provides additional opportunities for majors. Because of the growth in, and support of, the endowments offered by the Hauth's, the center awarded two scholarships to peer coaches this year. The Audrey Nichol Hauth Scholarship was awarded to graduate student Chris Forsythe. The award funded his tuition for the Fall 2014 semester while he worked with the Center's Technical Director, Scott Allen. The new Luster E. Hauth Scholarship was awarded for the first time to undergraduate student Kevin Nguyen. The award will fund his tuition for the Spring 2015 semester and he will also

work in the center. Additionally, the center was able to replace and upgrade equipment, which will ensure another successful year.



Luster E. Hauth, Audrey Hauth, and CLA Dean

Tutoring Center

During the 2014–2015 academic year, the Communication Studies Tutoring Center (CTC) has continued to thrive! The CTC provides FREE academic coaching in COMM coursework for undergraduate students during the Fall and Spring semesters; students can receive help with using library research databases, preparing (and practicing) for presentations, editing papers, brainstorming topics for projects, studying for tests/quizzes, proofreading assignments, formatting with MLA and APA guidelines, computing and interpreting statistical calculations, reviewing assignment guidelines, and receiving general study-skill advice. Peer Mentors are elite, highly successful current COMM students who have been hand-selected to tutor their

peers. In the Fall 2014, the team of 5 Peer Mentors received praise from fellow student-visitors saying they were "wonderful," "passionate," and "a true asset to the department." In Spring 2015, the department was able to offer Peer Mentors the opportunity to enroll in COMM 495 Service Learning Internship to receive official documentation on their transcripts, as well as 3 units of credit for their service; as a result, the team grew in size with 12 current Peer Mentors. On behalf of Dr. Stacy (Sly) Young, the current CTC Faculty Advisor, and the entire COMM department, we extend our deepest appreciation to the Peer Mentors who have shared their time, energy, and enthusiasm for COMM to make the CTC an ongoing success!

Update on Centers and Programs

Beach Forensics

Beach Forensics has experienced one of its most successful seasons this decade. The debaters consistently placed in the top 10 nationally, resulting in an end of the season ranking of 11 in the nation by the National Parliamentary Debate Association and a ranking of 12 in the nation by the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence. CSULB debaters made final round appearances twice in Spring 2014, which culminated in a Tournament Championship at the University of California at Berkeley tournament. The debate team's success was a product of student work as well as the effort by Mr. Bill Neesen, the debate coach and Director of Debate.

In addition, the speech team has worked to put Long Beach back on the forensics map. As a painful goodbye was said to its former Director of Individual Events, Ms. Reyna Velarde, a

cheerful hello was said to Mr. Jeff Samano, the incoming Director of Individual Events. Under the leadership of Reyna and Jeff, Long Beach students won championship titles at tournaments hosted by CSU, Northridge; University of Utah; CSU, Long Beach; Concordia University at Irvine; and the Western States Communication Association Speech Tournament (at Gonzaga University this year).



First Amendment Center

The Center for First Amendment Studies continues to be active on campus and in the community. In September, the center hosted the university's observance of Constitution Day with a lecture by Dr. Craig Smith and Dr. Kevin Johnson on the impact of corporate money on the mid-term elections. Dr. Smith and Dr. Johnson also continue to produce research on the First Amendment, most recently recognized with the Robert O'Neill Award for the top paper of the Freedom of Expression Division of the National Communication Association. The First Amendment Scholars, undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellence in the First Amendment, are also active in creating exciting projects for the Center, including the first paper to be translated into Spanish about the Supreme Court confirmation process. First Amendment Scholars Alumni also continue to thrive as evidenced by Alyssa Dillard, who recently graduated from the

USC Gould School of Law and is working as a prosecutor in Tulare County, California. For more information about the Center, and to access research conducted by the Center, please contact the website at <http://firstamendmentstudies.org/>



First Amendment Scholars

Multicultural Center

The Multicultural Center's signature project "Students Talk About Race" (STAR) has provided a 6-hour Professional Diversity Workshop to some 100 students in the Fall and Spring semesters. As always, founding Director Dr. James Manseau Saucedo conducted the sessions offering cross-cultural facilitation skills and role-modeling on how to engage in controversy with civility and respect. The MCC's Director also recently moderated an engaging panel on "Critical Dialogues: Black Lives Matter" in the USU Ballrooms (over 200 students attended), which examined the ongoing tensions from the Ferguson and Stanton Island police

brutality incidents. In the Spring semester, the center launched the "International Café," a fun and informal opportunity to bring CSULB's international students into contact with domestic American students. Assistant Director Cynthia Schultheis is heading up this effort and is offering six "Cafés" in the semester (Fridays at 12:00 noon–2:00 pm.). The MCC Programming Award is also developing several programs. One will feature the Filipinos contribution to social justice (highlighting Larry Itliong) alongside the work of César Chávez, and the other will approach issues of culture through the lens of linguistics.

Making an Impact in the Community Colleges

Several of our alumni are making an impact as full-time professors in California community colleges. Here is a list of some of the graduates. Don't see your name on the list, and it should be? Contact us and let us know. We would be happy to get a complete list.

MyHanh Anderson (ELAC)
Felicia Coco (OCC)
Joseph DeSantis (Copper Mountain)
Kristi Dowlatshahi (LBCC)
Joseph Evans (El Camino)
Samira Habash (LBCC)
Nader Haddad (ELAC)
Rachel Hastings, Ph.D. (Southwestern)
Josh House (Cypress)
Linda Joesting (LBCC)
Jared Kubicka-Miller (Santiago Canyon)
Tara Kubicka-Miller (Santiago Canyon)
Eric Maag (Southwestern)
Lynne Misajon (LBCC)
Georgie Monahan (OCC)
Christina Moorhead (LBCC)
Heidi Ochoa (Saddleback)
Lucas Ochoa (Saddleback)
Doug Raphael (LBCC)
Analisa Ridenour (LBCC)
Jeff Samano (Fullerton)



Eric Maag received both his BA and MA from Long Beach. He was hired immediately upon graduation as a full-time faculty member at Southwestern College, where he now serves as Chair of the Communication department at Southwestern College and president of the Southwestern College Education Association.



Dr. Rachel Hastings received her MA in Communication from Long Beach before earning her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. In 2013, Dr. Hastings joined the faculty at Southwestern College.

Communication Studies

Newsletter

2014-2015

Department Staff

Wendy Lucas — Administrative Coordinator

Candace Forbes — Administrative Services Assistant II

Ann Kinsey — Administrative Support Coordinator

Newsletter Ideas?

Would you like to become more involved as a volunteer for our department? Do you know communication studies graduates who would be good candidates for alumni profiles? Please contact the editor, Dr. Kevin Johnson, with these (and other) suggestions for the newsletter at: rhetoricalcritic@gmail.com

BEACH FUND

Though Cal State Long Beach is a publicly supported institution, generous contributions to the Beach Fund are critical to keeping the University thriving. More than 20,000 alumni, parents and friends of the university contribute to the Beach Fund each year. Gifts to the Beach Fund make it possible for our gifted students to earn the lifelong benefits of a quality CSULB education and protect the value of degrees already earned. When you receive a phone call from the beach fund, please consider directing your gift to the Communication Studies Department.

Faculty Research

- Asenas, Jennifer J. and Kevin A. Johnson. "Illegal Immigration Rhetoric and the Context of Globalization: Moving Beyond Arizona and American Illegal Immigration Rhetoric." *Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society*. 4.1 (2014). Online.
- Cargile, A. C., & Haghghat, H. (2014, February). "A brittle sense of self: Uncertainty and ethnocentrism among a sample of prototypical individualists". Paper presented to the Intercultural Communication Interest Group at the Western Speech Communication Association conference, Anaheim, CA.
- Cargile, A. C., & Ramos Salazar, L. (2015, May). "Sorry you had to go through that": Analyzing individual responses to stories of social suffering. Paper submitted for presentation to the Interpersonal Communication Division at the International Communication Association conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Duerringer, C. M. (2015). Be a man—Buy a car! Articulating masculinity with consumerism in Man's Last Stand. *Southern Communication Journal*, 80(2), 137-152. doi:10.1080/1041794X.2015.1017654
- Duerringer, C. M., & Justus, Z. S. (2014, November). Stretching credulity: The limits of satire in responding to extremism. Paper presented for the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division at the National Communication Association conference, Chicago, IL.
- Holmstrom, A. J., Clare, D., & Russell, J. (2014). Problem-focused content in the job search: Two tests of the cognitive-emotional theory of esteem support messages. *Human Communication Research*, 40, 161-187. doi: 10.1111/hcre.12025
- Jarvis, Sharon and Clariza Ruiz De Castilla. "Are Latinos Citizens? Labels, Race and Rights in News Coverage of Immigration Reform." In Brystrom, D.G., Banwart, M.C., & McKinney, M.S. (Eds.), *AlienATION: The Divide and Conquer Election of 2012*. New York: Peter Lang.
- Johnson, Kevin A. and Jennifer J. Asenas. "The FCC and Indecency Regulation in the Wake of Fox Television Stations v. FCC." *First Amendment Studies Journal*. (Fall, 2013): 133-152.
- McCroskey, L. L., Teven, J. J., Minielli, M. C., & Richmond McCroskey, V. P. (2014). James C. McCroskey's instructional communication legacy: Collaborations, mentorships, teachers, and students. *Communication Education*, 63(4), 283-307.
- Perks, Lisa and Kevin A. Johnson. "Electile Dysfunction: The Burlesque Binds of the Sarah Palin MILF Frame." *Feminist Media Studies*. 14.5 (November, 2014): 775-790.
- Russell, J. & Boster, F. (2014). Measuring the locus of causality as a means of generating explanations for the legitimization of paltry favors effect. *Canadian Social Science*, 10, 9-14. doi: 10.3968/4761
- Russell, J. (2014). *Difficult patient communication*. In T. Thompson, (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Health Communication*, Thousand Oaks, CA Sage.
- Smith, S. W., & Russell, J. (2014). *Message sidedness*. In T. Thompson, (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Health Communication*, Thousand Oaks, CA Sage.
- Smith, S. W., & Russell, J. (2014). *Control theory*. In T. Thompson, (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Health Communication*, Thousand Oaks, CA Sage.