



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# School of Communication Alumni Newsletter

## Fall 2021

### Director's Note

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Welcome to the Fall 2021 Alumni Newsletter! It is so great to be back on the beautiful SDSU campus this fall. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the immense efforts taken on by our faculty, staff, and students since March 2020. Our entire way of teaching, learning, and conducting research changed. I am so impressed by the grit demonstrated by our School of Communication community. As alumni, you know how special our faculty and staff were when you were students here. I can attest that they continue to put students first in all they do, including our cadre of graduate teaching associates who are teaching public speaking in new ways. I hope you enjoy this issue of our Newsletter, which highlights alumni, faculty, and students. Now that we are back on campus, come on by the Communication building and visit us soon!



*Heather Canary*

## Faculty Spotlight!



### **Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin**

Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin is retiring this year, and she's led an amazing career the past 36 years! Dr. Geist-Martin earned her M.A. in Communication from the University of Northern Iowa in 1979 and a Ph.D. in Communication from Purdue University in 1985. Since then, she's taught at the University of Hartford, University of Hawaii, and has been with us at San Diego State University since 1990, receiving over 25 academic awards. As a professor of communication for over 35 years, she has taught and published books and articles about narrative and writing as a form of inquiry. She teaches her students to write with passion and clarity from their hearts, what they believe in, and where they stand in their intersectional identities. Not only has Dr. Geist-Martin been an amazing professor, but has a national and international reputation as a scholar and storyteller. She's authored five books and over eighty articles and book chapters. Her work has been competitively selected and presented at over 150 conferences throughout the nation and in other countries, including The Czech Republic, Australia, Italy, Ireland, and England. She has been invited to share her expertise in colloquiums or short courses at over fifty universities or organizations.

When asked what her fondest memories of being a professor were, Dr. Geist-Martin said that memories are never down to one moment, she's always loved being at the School of Communication with a group of colleagues who care about teaching and are hugely productive, with such positive energy, and care about deeply about their students and their work. She's always felt autonomous, she never had anyone telling her what to do while being supported and trusted. For years it's been exciting for her as a professor to see undergrad and graduate students go on to further their education, get careers and to see students become professors. One of the most rewarding things for her is when students reach out and tell her that she's always with them when they make decisions in life.

**Save the date for Saturday March 19th at 6pm for Dr. Geist-Martin's**

**retirement party!** Stay tuned for further details. To be included on the invitation list, email [sdsuschoolofcomm@gmail.com](mailto:sdsuschoolofcomm@gmail.com)

"I tell students as bell hooks does, that theory is a location for healing; by storing their experience, they're theorizing about their lives, their pain, and developing practices for creating resilience."

-Dr. Geist-Martin

## Alumni Spotlight!



Meet SDSU Alum Danielle Biss - recipient of the NCA Masters Education Section 2021 Top Qualitative Thesis Award! Danielle is currently a doctoral student at Ohio University. She conducted a community-engaged research project in collaboration with a local anti-violence nonprofit and was supported by the Bread and Roses Fellowship. The ethnographic study titled, "Bridging trauma informed organizing and accessible practice: A qualitative study of dialectical tensions," explored organizational tensions that resulted from trauma-informed accommodation practices and discourses of disability. She hopes that her thesis yields practical insights and suggestions to ASL interpreters, anti-violence nonprofit organizations, issue-based and identity-based organizations alike to better provide trauma-informed care to their diverse clients. Her thesis research also has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Applied Communication Research*! Danielle said, "I found it meaningful due to the nature of the work centering on how organizations can better support disabled and Deaf survivors of sexual violence. In the organizational communication subfield, I believe it is especially important that we continue to center marginalized voices and strategize ways that organizations can better support disenfranchised community members." Dr. Tiffany Dykstra-DeVette, Danielle's advisor said, "Danielle applied her hard-working attitude and her passion for disability justice to identify opportunities to improve communication in nonprofit organizations, and contribute to critical organizational communication theories."

## Communication Centers: The Institute for Dialogue and Social Justice

### Overview and Goals

The Institute for Dialogue and Social Justice deploys the interdisciplinary



scholarship and activism of SDSU faculty, students, and community members to enhance productive dialogue about pressing social issues of SDSU and the wider San Diego region.

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## Events

### "(Re)Frame: Roundtable Discussion on "Anti Oppression" work

This year long "Brown Bag" series is a result of the collaboration between the Institute for Dialogue and Social Justice, Center for Inclusive Excellence, and the Center for Transformative Justice. On the third Friday of each month, This series not only identifies and deconstructs forces of oppression, but also imagines, identifies, and contributes to the construction of a better, more just world.

[Visit the Institute's website here!](#)

## **Communication Centers: Center for Communication, Health, & the Public Good**

### Overview and Goals

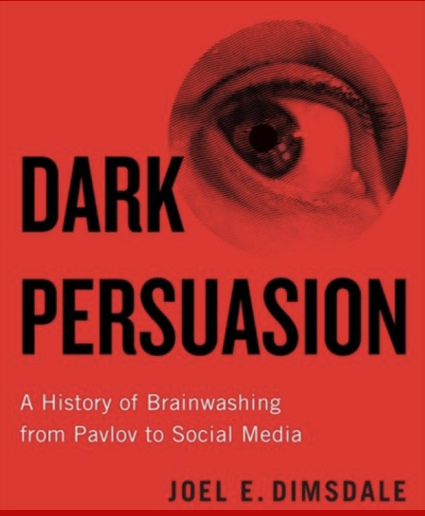
- Conduct basic research about the fundamental importance of human communication when managing wellness, illness, disease, and disorders.
- Investigate how communication functions across a wide array of health challenges, social relationships, cultures, and settings.
- Translate research findings into significant educational resources for improving communication that enhances quality of life and healthcare.
- Develop sustainable programs designed to advance the public good.



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Past event





# DARK PERSUASION

A History of Brainwashing  
from Pavlov to Social Media

JOEL E. DIMSDALE

This semester, the Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good organized the lecture "Dark Persuasion: A History of Brainwashing from Pavlov to Social Media". This event was co-sponsored by SDSU School of Communication, SoCal (Society of Communication & Leadership), Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, & Health Communication Student Organization.

[Visit the Center's website here](#)



## News article from our very own professor!

Alanna Peebles, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Media Studies as well as in the School of Communication here at SDSU, co authored an article released by Common Sense. Common Sense Media is a non-profit focused on providing research-based reviews, reports, and curricula about young people's media use, where Alanna was a former research manager. This article dives deeper into how important media representation is for kids' development on their perspectives on ethnic-racial groups and how there is a lack of representation for ethnic groups in the media.

[Click here for the full story!](#)

## What Does A Communication Degree Get You?

The question as graduation nears is always, "What am I going to do with my degree?!" Well, popular press has some insight on what a Communication degree really does!

### What Can You Do With a Communications Major? 10 Jobs to Consider

by Molly Ritvo



**The Muse** lists 10 possible jobs to consider as a Communication major:

1. Journalist
2. Social Media Specialist
3. Sales Manager
4. Nonprofit Program Manager
5. Human Resources Manager
6. Professor
7. Event Planner
8. Customer Service Representative
9. Public Relations Manager
10. Editorial Assistant

[Visit their website here for further details and salary information!](#)

## What Your Gift Can Do

The School of Communication relies on private support to fulfill our mission of providing quality graduate and undergraduate education in the field of human communication. Click the link below to make a gift to the School of Communication or choose from one of our specific programs.

[Donate here](#)

## Forensics Update



SDSU Forensics is off to a great start this year! We have had multiple debate teams advancing to elimination rounds under the leadership of debate coaches Mikay Parsons and Adeja Powell. Debate Captain, Matt Hitomi, was ranked the 7th best speaker at the Crossman Invitational Tournament. Our speech competitors are also hitting the ground running this semester, having already competed in 4 tournaments. Senior, Reychel Joy Robles, took 5th place in persuasive speaking at the Fall Swing Tournament hosted by James Madison University in early October. Hailea Stone, team president and speech captain, took 1st place at the Golden Gate Opener hosted by San Francisco State and 4th place at the Crossman Invitational in her programmed oral interpretation piece. Naomi Clift,

a second year on the team, took 2nd place in dramatic interpretation at the Crossman Invitational.

Our debaters competed virtually at the Annual Golden Gate Invitational Tournament hosted by UC Berkeley the last weekend of October. On another exciting note, we will be sending 6 speech competitors and 2 coaches to our first in-person tournament of the year, The Norton Invitational Tournament, hosted by Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois during the first weekend of November.

Stay tuned for some updates from our amazing students and as the year draws to a close! Please remember that we are always looking for donations to help support our students which can be made through our website and are completely tax deductible.

[Donate here](#)



Ashley Nuckels-Cuevas,  
Director of Forensics

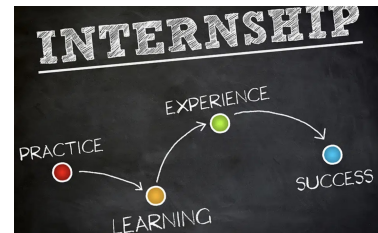
[Visit the Forensics website here!](#)

## Don't Miss Our Upcoming Internship Session:

### "Internships: Alumni Perspectives On The Classroom To Career Connection"

This event will be held Thursday November 4th from 2:00-3:00pm in the Adams Humanities building in room 2103. Members of our Alumni Advisory Board will share their insights with current students.

We can't wait for you all to come and connect!



**Save the Date!**



The Annual Alumni and Awards Banquet is coming up on April 30th at 6:00pm!

We will be recognizing outstanding Alumni for 2020 and 2022. The Lambda Pi Eta induction ceremony will take place and we will recognize student achievements and scholarship recipients as well.

SDSU Alum Vince Hall recalls the Banquet as:

"An incredible evening of inspiring speakers and reuniting with old friends."

## **School of Communication**

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