



Aletia Prevo <amprevo@sdsu.edu>

School of Communication Alumni 2022 Highlights

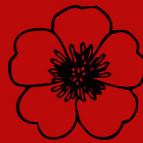
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To: amprevo@sdsu.edu

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 12:01 PM



School of Communication Alumni Newsletter Spring 2021



Director's Note

Welcome to the March 2022 issue of the School of Communication Alumni Newsletter! It is my pleasure to introduce the new Interim Director of the School of Communication, Dr. Temple Northup. Temple took over for me beginning March 1st when I began my appointment as Interim Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. This month's newsletter is brimming with information about the upcoming (in person!) Alumni & Awards Banquet, this year's recipients of our Outstanding Alumni Award, highlights from Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin's retirement party and more! I am so impressed with the continued commitment of our faculty, students and alumni to enact the School of Communication Core Values in multiple contexts. Even though I've relocated to an office in another building, my heart (and my research!) is still with the School of Communication. Temple is an excellent choice to carry on the tradition of excellence in the School. I hope many of you join us at the Alumni & Awards Banquet on April 30th so you can meet him!



Dr. Heather Canary,
Interim Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

Welcome to our new Interim School of Communication Director!

I am excited to join the School of Communication as its interim Director. It is, to be honest, an easy position to begin as there is so much already going on! From the dedicated faculty to the gifted students, this school is among the best in the nation. I look forward to getting to know not only our students and faculty better, but also all of you--our esteemed alumni and supporters of the school. Together, we can truly build something special and I look forward to this opportunity. As Heather mentioned above, I hope many of you can join us on campus April 30 as it would be a fantastic way to stay connected with the school and hear about all the exciting things going on.



Dr. Temple Northup,
Interim School of Communication Director

Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin's Retirement Celebration





Thank you to all 95 attendees who came to celebrate Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin this past weekend!

"Everyone should be so fortunate to have the career I have had: fabulously smart and dedicated faculty, bright and engaging students, caring and fun-loving friends, and a loving and supportive family. I will carry with me all the ways that I have been elevated and influenced by all the people I have worked with and learned from in my career in the School of Communication at San Diego State. I'm grateful to EVERYONE who helped to make it a great success. The Retirement Celebration event has entered my top ten list of fabulous memories."

-Dr. Patricia Geist-Martin

Alumni Spotlight



Meet SDSU Alumni Casey Woodrum! Casey graduated from SDSU in 1981. Casey said he chose Communication as his major because he wanted a major that would play to his verbal strengths, he also said he wasn't good at any math beyond Algebra (I'm sure most of us can relate to that).

Casey's favorite part about being a Communication major at SDSU was that he could take things he learned in any lecture and apply them the moment he walked out of the classroom. He thought the small department intimacy was also very welcoming. It was easy for him to get to know his peers due to sharing so many classes together! Casey also liked how professors were all well recognized nationally for their research, and of course, excellent communicators which made the material engaging and interesting!

Obtaining a Communication degree helped Casey in his professional career because of his fantastic listening skills, empathy, and the ability to organize his thoughts for best reception by his audience. The study areas of Intercultural, non-verbal, interpersonal, and organizational communication just to name a few, are useful every day! He's gained technical training to advance in his career, but his interpersonal skills gathered at SDSU is what helps him attain success every day!

Casey said being an SDSU Alumni means feeling gratitude for all that he's gained from his experience at SDSU. He feels that SDSU was the right place at the right time for him, and feels a commitment to helping the university continue to be that place for growth and opportunity for generations to come!

Meet Our New Faculty!



Dr. Katrina Pariera,

Associate Professor of Communication

Dr. Pariera grew up in Oregon where she attended community college before transferring to Portland State University. She received her B.A. in Applied Linguistics, and, as a first-generation student, was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She received her M.A. in Communication, Culture and Technology from Georgetown University, and her PhD from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication. Her core research interest is in difficult conversations in interpersonal and health contexts, specifically sexual communication, parent-child communication, and health disparities. Dr. Pariera will be teaching Health Communication, Health Communication and Relationships, and Relational Communication. Other areas of her expertise include social support, social norms, and health campaign design. Her recent projects include exploring parents' paths of acceptance for their gender diverse children, and testing a social norms campaign to encourage parent-child sexual communication with teen sons. Her teaching philosophy focuses on creating an inclusive and challenging learning environment by exposing students to a diverse range of experiences and opinions, and creating a space that facilitates challenging conversations in the classroom.



Dr. Rebecca de Souza,

Associate Professor of Communication

Rebecca T. de Souza (Ph.D., Purdue University) is Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Her research is concerned with how political and economic systems impact access to food, health, and social wellbeing. Her work pays particular attention to the ways in which racism, ethnocentrism, and other oppressive ideologies influence policy, practices, and environments. Dr. de Souza's critically acclaimed book *Feeding the Other: Whiteness, Privilege, and Neoliberal Stigma in Food Pantries* (MIT Press, 2019) explores the role of stigma in the lives of food insecure individuals. Her book won the 2021 Outstanding Book Award from the International Communication Association and the 2020 Outstanding Monograph Award from the National Communication Association (Organization Communication Division). Her work has been published in top tier journals such as *Communication Theory and Health Communication* as well as in interdisciplinary journals such as the *American Journal of Health Education* and *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. Dr. de Souza is a publicly engaged scholar, who has brought her work to national and international attention through op-eds, podcasts, and other public forums.



Dr. Rati Kumar,

Associate Professor of Communication

Dr. Kumar is a critical health communication scholar with a focus on health inequities and culturally situated health interventions. Her work draws on the strand of "health in displacement," conceptualizing displacement both as spatial displacement induced by voluntary and forced migratory processes, as well as a meta-level systemic displacement of disenfranchised communities. Her research focuses on centering the cultural knowledge of marginalized communities within mainstream health spaces as agents of structural and policy change. Dr. Kumar's recent scholarship focuses on refugees and migrant-workers, and in communities and families affected by mass incarceration. Drawing on her ethos

as a former student-athlete and law school graduate, she is passionate about action-oriented, community-based, and policy focused research. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and is the lead editor for a *Frontiers in Health Communication Research* Collection, while serving as ad hoc reviewer for other journals in the discipline. She has also published in flagship journals such as *Health Communication* and *Qualitative Health Research* among others, in addition to book chapters and white papers on issues of minority health. She has extensive teaching experience in the areas of Health, Intercultural, Conflict and Strategic Communication, taking a social justice centric approach to engaging students with theoretical and methodological constructs.

Student Spotlight



Our very own undergraduate student here at SDSU, Shaylee Lavaughn Anderson, recently received a 2022 Top Paper Award from the National Communication Association's (NCA) Lambda Pi Eta student organization. Anderson was recognized at the 2022 Western States Communication Association Annual Convention. The Lambda Pi Eta Top Paper Award recognizes the outstanding research of undergraduates at the regional level. The award is presented to the Lambda Pi Eta member with the highest ranked individually authored paper at the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference. Anderson received the award for the essay, "The Confluence Model: Factors and Their Effects on Sexual Aggression in College-Age Males."

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.

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 to 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.



Past event

This semester, the Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good organized the lecture "Turning the (lab) tables: Upending ableist ideologies in laboratory sciences by creating more inclusive policies and practices". 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](#)

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



At the last regular season tournament of the year during the weekend of Feb 25-27, SDSU forensics competed in the Pacific Southern California Association's Spring Championships Tournament online. In the Parliamentary Debate Division (Junior) Ian Layng and (Senior Comm Major) Katherine Chen took Gold in the tournament and were awarded 4th and 10th place speakers for their individual skills overall. In the Speech Events, (Senior Communication Major) Hailea Stone took 2nd Place in Poetry and 1st place in

Persuasive Speaking thus earning her the region's ONLY bid to the Interstate Oratory Association's National Championship for the 2nd year in a row! Hailea was also awarded the Bovero Award for competitive excellence, collegiality, and community service within forensics over the course of her 4 years in college. She is being awarded a \$200.00 scholarship and joins a long list of competitors who excel in all aspects of Forensics. Overall, the team earned 1st Place Sweepstakes in the Limited Entry Division and 4th Place 4 Year School Sweepstakes. Matt Hitomi and Kyle Pryor-Landman also for placed 5th in the country at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence! Congratulations to Matt Hitomi for taking 3rd place speaker in the country. We are beyond proud as this is best run that we have ever had at this tournament. Hailea Stone, our very own Communication Studies Senior, who competed in the National Online Forensics Championship Tournament March 19-20, 2022, and was named National Champion in BOTH Poetry and Persuasive Speaking. This is the first National Title that our program has secured in a long time and we are thrilled!

Stay tuned for some updates from our amazing students as the year continues! 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 Forget to RSVP!

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

Please make sure to RSVP by April 15th

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 as well as scholarship recipients.



[Get your tickets here!](#)



School of Communication
College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Dr. San Diego, CA 92182-4560
voice: (619) 594-8512 . fax: (619) 594-6246
www.communication.sdsu.edu

Please connect with us on Social Media!



School of Communication SDSU | 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego , CA 92182

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Aletia M. Prevo <amprevo@sdsu.edu>
To: Temple Northup <tnorthup@sdsu.edu>

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 2:07 PM

Hi Temple,

Hailey sent out the newsletter today, however she listed Rati Kumar as an Associate Professor. Unless there were side negotiations, we advertised for, and Rati was hired as an Assistant Professor. Do you think it should be updated and resent? Lourdes suggested I ask you.

Thank you.

Aletia M. Prevo
Administrative Support Coordinator II
PSFA/School of Communication

amprevo@sdsu.edu
O: 619-594-8512

San Diego State University | SDSU.edu
5500 Campanile Drive | San Diego, CA 92182-4560

