Teaching Associate Program

We are excited to feature the Department of Communication Studies’ very own Teaching Associate Program in this issue of Communiqué.

For many decades, CSUN’s Communication Studies Teaching Associate Program has provided graduate students with an exciting opportunity to develop strong teaching skills during the course of their M.A. program. Teaching Associate positions are open to qualified M.A. students who teach two sections of CSUN’s GE course, the Fundamentals of Public Speaking. Unlike many other graduate teaching opportunities, our program provides graduate students the opportunity and support to step into the role of instructor of record with full responsibility for all aspects of teaching.

According to TA Program Director Dr. Aimee Carrillo Rowe, appointed TAs “are the instructor of record, and responsible for conveying course content, running every class, creating their own lecture materials and classroom activities, and evaluating student work.” CSUN lecturer and TA alum Darrin Murray reflects on this self-directed approach, “I think the TA program was one of the most significant experiences in my first round of graduate education because it put me in the position of having full responsibility for two courses each semester, not just assisting someone else teach a course, or acting as a discussion group leader, as happens in many other programs.”
Throughout his experience, Murray felt nurtured and supported by the TA community that was comprised of both faculty and fellow graduate students.

Prior to the start of the academic school year, the program offers an intensive 3-day training, as well as software training that prepare TAs to hit the ground running with an excellent foundation of core concepts. Teaching Associates also participate in ongoing professional development workshops, meeting once a month to share activities and insights, while providing support and community building.

For Dr. Carrillo Rowe who became the basic course director in 2015, one of the most rewarding parts of the program is watching the TAs grow: “The TA program is one of those accelerated growth activities, an ongoing trial by fire. The challenge is so great, it makes people rise. When I observe the TAs in action and see them smiling, nodding, drawing students out, pushing for deeper thinking, truly enjoying the act of teaching, I feel so happy. I am happy because I can see they are fulfilled.”

The TA program has taken a leading role in providing graduate students with practical application, pedagogical instruction and personal experience of teaching that supports them as they become professionals in academic settings and beyond. Communication Studies lecturer, alum of the TA program, and current director of the department’s internship program, Professor Randi Picarelli, shares with us her profound experience as a member of a program, “The opportunity to teach as a graduate student positioned me well for a career as an educator. I know first hand that Communication Studies department chairs at local Community Colleges view CSUN TA’s as pedagogically well prepared and experienced. We emerge from our teaching associateships as viable candidates in the adjunct market.”

The invaluable experiences gained from the program lead to personal and professional growth, enabling graduate students to move into careers as teachers. The graduate student teaching experience has become integral to long and successful careers in academia, as a significant number of TAs who come through the program go on to dedicate their lives to teaching. Many former TAs are now working in tenured, tenure-track or adjunct positions at a number of esteemed colleges, including but not limited to Santa Monica College, Pierce College, College of the Canyons, Moorpark College, and CSUN.

The TA program aims to prepare M.A. students for independent instructor roles through cultivating an openness to feedback, strong instructional skills, and collaborative learning. “The TAs from the past are the colleagues, friends, and mentors of the future. I am grateful that I get to know them during this time of accelerated growth and then get to keep knowing them for the rest of our lives,” Dr. Carrillo Rowe tells us. The communitas of the program has carried the torch, from one generation to the next.
One of the most valuable things the program offers is a chance to build life-long relationships while facilitating personal development as an instructor. As Dr. Murray so eloquently put it, “the TA program has created lifelong professional associations and friendships and more. This facilitated my development as a professor, but also was instrumental in making all of my studies as a graduate student more rich and meaningful.”

Testimonies from alums of the Teaching Associate Program in the Department of Communication Studies

I think the TA program was one of the most significant experiences in my first round of graduate education...I felt I could take chances and excel because I had my on cheering squad there rooting me on, just as I did my best to provide that same level of faith and encouragement for my cohorts. I am still in regular contact with many of the faculty from the program, and several of my most cherished friendships today were sparked in the TA community that I bonded with almost (well, dare I admit it?) almost 30 years ago!

Darrin Murray, PhD
California State University, Northridge

I love my career as the owner of a successful communication consulting firm and a lecturer at CSUN! Being a TA at CSUN prepared me for both of those roles. I would not have been able to do most of what I do if I had not been a TA! I am incredibly grateful for the program and all the mentors and colleagues who supported me while I participated in it.

Bridget Sampson, Faculty Member of CSUN Communication Studies and CEO of Sampson Communication Consulting

Alums of the Teaching Associate Program at Area Community Colleges:

- Barbara Anderson, Professor, Former Dean and Department Chair, Pierce College
- Nate Brown, Professor, Santa Monica College
- Yeprem Davoodian, Department Chair, Pierce College
- Nancy Hemmert, Dean and Former Department Chair, Santa Monica College
- Sally Kassamanian, Professor, Pierce College
- Simon Kern, Assistant Professor, College of the Canyons
- Karyl Kicenski, Professor, College of the Canyons
- Amy London, Department Chair, Oxnard College
- Victoria Leonard, Professor and Former Department Chair, College of the Canyons
- Jennifer Rosenberg, Professor and Former Department Chair, Pierce College
- Karen Swett, Professor, Glendale Community College
- Shane Underwood, Professor, Pasadena City College
Alums of the Teaching Associate Program currently serving as lecturers in the Department of Communication Studies at CSUN:

- Calvin Abbasi
- Jasmine Ashoori
- Max Brichta
- Michelle Brownlee
- Mikaela Fleming
- Samantha Garcia
- Monique Gevorkian
- Brianne Ingram
- Matthew Bruns
- Alex Cadena
- Ashley Castro
- Ambria Dean
- Joe Martinez
- Aimee Newton
- Paolo Ochoa
- Troi-Jeanette Phillips

The Richard Aronstam Memorial Library is the main resource center for students in the department of Communication Studies. The library offers access to valuable resources which include Great Speeches videotapes, communication research journals, graduate school information, computers and low-cost printing.

Volunteers are needed to staff the library for student and patron use. Library hours are Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Undergraduate and graduate students that are available to work 3 hours per week are encouraged to sign up by contacting the Department of Communications at (818) 677-2853.
Upcoming Events

The Department of Communication Studies is excited to announce the MA Graduate Professionalism Series 2018

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES
MA PROFESSIONALISM SERIES 2018

February 16–18
Field trip to Western States Communication Studies Association Conference in Santa Clara, California

March 5, 3:30-5:30 PM
"Navigating the Academic Job Market and Applying for Teaching Jobs"
Featuring CSUN Alumni:
- Barbara Anderson, Professor of Communication Studies and former Dean at Pierce College
- Robert Loy, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Pierce College
- Dinah Nucum, Lecturer Faculty Member of Communication Studies at CSUN

April 2, 5:30-7 PM
"Reporting Back from WSCA: The State of the Field"
Organized by and featuring COMS MA students

April 23, 3:30-5:30 PM
"Workshop on Effective Interviewing and Networking Skills"
Featuring CSUN Alum Bridget Sampson, CEO of Sampson Communication Consulting, Lecturer Faculty Member of Communication Studies at CSUN.
Workshop will include mock interviews with Assistant Professors Jade Huell, Dave Keating, Joel Lemuel and CSUN alum Brianna Broady

Light refreshments will be provided at all events.

Located in the Aronstam Library, MZ240
Between April 2-5th, 2018, CSUN’s Department of Communication Studies will host a week-long series of events in honor of our department, culminating with our upcoming Alumni event that will feature the Teaching Associateship Program.

2018 Alumni Event: APRIL 5
Honoring Teaching Associateship Program

The Teaching Associate Program in the Department of Communication Studies is integral to student success at CSUN and serves to professionalize our graduate students for teaching careers in institutions of higher education across the region and country.

Join Communication Studies alumni, students, and faculty for an evening of celebration and networking to honor the accomplishments of our current students, graduates, and faculty.
Diversity Day: Secondary Trauma Awareness

Lecture by Author of "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome," Dr. Joy DeGruy & Founder and Director of The Trauma Stewardship Institute, Laura van Dernoot Lipsky

April 7th, 9 am-3 pm
Northridge Center

Past Featured Talks and Events

Conversation regarding campus safety, communication, and protocol with Dr. William Watkins, VP of Student Affairs & Anne Glavin, CSUN Chief of Police.

Wednesday Feb 28
2:00-3:15 pm
Aronstam Library MZ 240

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 2-3:15 PM

In response to the February 16th Snapchat incident that took place on campus, we will:

- Share concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding campus communication and protocol
- Engage in a productive dialogue to address campus safety

Join us for a conversation with Dr. William Watkins, AVP of Student Affairs and Anne Glavin, Campus Police Chief

Wednesday, February 28th
2:00-3:15 PM
Aronstam Library, MZ 240
The workshop was designed to help performers conceptualize, create, and stage original performance work.
American Marketing Association: Professional Development Event

Establishing relationships with representatives from the business field.

March 9th, 2018
6-9 pm
Grand Salon

We would love to hear more about the projects you are involved with, as well as upcoming events or exciting news taking place in the community. Please feel free to send an email to Jasmine at jasmine.ashoori.804@my.csun.edu to share your experiences and additional resources!

Special thanks to Dr. Carrillo Rowe, Dr. Darrin Murray, Professor Ronda Picarelli, and Professor Bridget Sampson.