CONVERSATIONS

A publication for College of Communication alumni

Professor Xing Lu, flanked by David Frank (University of Oregon) and Doreen Wu (Hong Kong Polytechnic), at the IAICS conference. See page 8.
According to a 2015 article in Forbes, the North American sports market, worth $60.5 billion in 2014, was expected to climb to $73.5 billion by 2019. The biggest reason, according to the article, was increased revenue from media rights deals. Clearly sports media is a growth market, and the College of Communication saw an opportunity to ensure that its students are well-prepared to participate in this burgeoning job sector. In 2018, the college launched a new sports communication degree, which takes an interdisciplinary approach that includes, but goes well beyond, traditional sports journalism.

Associate Professor and Journalism Program Chair Jason Martin, formerly a professional sports journalist, always thought he would teach sports journalism once he finished his PhD, but his specialties and research led him in another direction. Thus, when the college began looking at expanding its sports communication offerings, he jumped at the chance to get involved. "We are still serving the traditional sports journalism path really well, but the job market there is slowing down," says Martin. "But there are a lot of jobs with sports teams, leagues, organizations, entities, agencies and brands that deal with sports. So we started to look around and ask, 'How can we pull together strengths in a lot of existing things that we have and create new opportunities?''"

With that, Martin, Associate Dean Carolyn Bronsten and faculty from across the college created a working group to explore the idea. Faculty were excited at the new course creation possibilities, that this program brings, and taught new courses like Sports journalism, sports promotion and publicity, and sports and society, so that no matter what your desired skill set and professional interest is, the program will be of great value and relevance.

Within Chicago, numerous adjunct faculty members and DePaul alumni are connected with the sports industry. Students may be taking classes with instructors "who covered college football for ESPN or someone who ran Gatorade's account for a major advertising firm," Martin says. In the future, there may be study abroad opportunities that match students with international sports teams doing everything from public relations to marketing communications. So far, the college is pleased with the number of first-year sports communication majors who have enrolled. According to a recent community college survey, the best fit. "It allows students to take classes from both the media side and the communication studies side of communication. It can really appeal to a broad range of students," says Nightingale. "What's nice about it, particularly for transfer students, is they can have the flexibility of the classes they already took counting, so they're not going to be behind if they have a lot of transfer credits."

A unique feature of the program is that it is cohort-based. "Students take the same classes together as a cohort every quarter," says Nightingale. "We have laid out the two years for them. For the most part, these 13 students are going to be taking the same classes together every quarter as they progress through the program." The scheduling logistics for faculty who teach classes at DePaul and Harper can be challenging, so the program currently has only one cohort of students per year, with the eventual goal of running two cohorts a year.

Prospects are bright for the partnership. "It's very important for DePaul faculty and staff to understand the experiences of the students who are taking advantage of this exciting opportunity. The idea for the partnership began at an annual roundtable conference held by DePaul's Office of Community College Partnerships during which faculty from community colleges meet DePaul faculty in their disciplines. Associate Dean Carolyn Bronsten attends this annual conference and appreciates the productive exchange. "It's very important for DePaul faculty and staff to understand the experiences of community college students so that we can continuously enhance our programs to meet their needs," she says. "The Harper/DePaul degree program is a great example of a partnership that makes a DePaul education available to students who are not able to attend classes at our Loop campuses because of family or work obligations or other factors. Bringing DePaul courses to Harper increases accessibility for an entire student population.""
Navigating Relationships

Can We Talk?

Associate Professor Tim Cole Teaches the Art and Science of Interpersonal Communication

“W hat we’ve got here is failure to communicate.” The cruel Captain in the 1967 film “Cool Hand Luke” utterst his famous line after whipping Luke, a prisoner on his chain gang who refuses to meet the Captain’s expectations for obedience. The movie scene illustrates an extreme breakdown in communication, but this type of failure is hardly unique. Human beings, social, and our lives are filled with interactions that can go well or badly, depending upon the expectations we have and the communication skills we bring to our social exchanges.

Associate Professor Tim Cole focuses his research and pedagogy on relational communication, specifically close relationships and deceptive communication. “If I had to summarize it, what I teach is how to manage interdependence,” Cole says. “It’s one of the most difficult and complex things you’re going to do. So we look at this process, how this process works, and the benefits and constraints of being in a close, intimate relationship.”

Relational communication is a far cry from the more traditional subjects taught at colleges and universities, but as automation and artificial intelligence increasingly displace the person-to-person interactions that used to be the norm, the value of what Cole calls the “empathy economy” becomes all the more important. “This is what people talk about the future of jobs talk about—the importance of empathy, constructive communication, setting clear goals and objectives, giving constructive feedback and managing conflict,” says Cole.

Cole affirms that what works in personal relationships also makes for successful managers and leaders in the workplace. “There is really interesting research out recently on the most effective leaders,” Cole says. “They are the most humble people, the people who are the best listeners, and the people who are the most empathetic. They bring out the best in others. They know how to motivate others, and again, they know how to make other people feel understood, cared for, valued. They build a lot of trust.”

Fred Astaire’s Dancing Lessons

Professor Dustin Goltz bridges the LGBTQ+ generation gap with his solo performance piece

Dustin Goltz cuts a curious figure onstage. Dressed in a wide-striped T-shirt, a print kimono, open-toe orthopedic sandals and white crew socks, Goltz contorts his face grotesquely as he launches into his latest performative creation, “Fred Astaire’s Dancing Lessons.”

Goltz premiered the show in late October 2018 at the DePaul Art Museum and will be touring it to colleges and universities across the country. He prefers performing in intimate settings. “It’s actually like familiar spaces being transformed with performance rather than spaces that are set aside as ‘This is for theatre!’” he says. As a professor of the performance of literature, performance for social change and the rhetoric of popular culture, Goltz has focused much of his research over the last decade on cultural narratives surrounding gay male aging, and particularly on the “idea of ‘the homosexual’ as this predatory being,” Goltz says. “We have a lot of mediated stories of LGBTQ community members in their 20s and 30s, where there isn’t that element of threat. But the older queer body is still seen as dangerous, particularly if it exhibits any sexual desire.”

“The phrase ‘Fred Astaire’s dancing lessons’ is queer vernacular about queer mentorship,” Goltz explains, referencing how the queer community functioned before it came out into the open during the late 1960s LGBT civil rights movement. “It is a way of being brought under someone’s wing and being taught what it is to be a part of the queer community, its norms, language.” Cole says. “Coming out was not about a public declaration. It was about being welcomed into a subcultural space—and that’s shifted. Gay culture is no longer a space or a location, but rather a pervasive identity.”

Goltz came of age in the late 1980s, just after the generation that was decimated by AIDS. “From the moment I understood gayness,” he says, “it had an inescapable linkage to HIV and AIDS.” With the loss of that generation, the mainstream narrative about gay culture has lost much of its history and stories. “You talk to a student body of LGBTQ freshmen and sophomores, and the majority of their understanding of HIV/AIDS is that it’s a sexually transmitted disease—a bad one. It’s divorced from sexuality. It’s divorced from history. How do we share LGBT history when now gayness, in some ways, has gone mainstream and the textbooks only talk about HIV/AIDS as a health issue?”

With “Fred Astaire’s Dancing Lessons,” Goltz has made a place for the complications and tensions of this generational rift to exist and mix. “Performance is where you can really have discussions and create spaces for ideas to be processed in a way that’s profoundly different from what we could do in a traditional lecture or a book,” he says. “This piece, in many ways, is a very personal, self-reflexive attempt to provoke that discussion.”
A Companion to Media Fandom and Fan Studies
By Paul Booth (editor)

With: “A Companion to Media Fandom and Fan Studies” (Wiley Blackwell)
Associate Professor of Media and Cinema Studies Paul Booth has curated more than 30 original essays by an international team of scholars on the rapidly expanding field of fan studies. The book’s five sections are Histories, Genealogies, Methodologies; Fan Practices; Fandom and Cultural Studies; Digital Fandom; and The Future of Fan Studies. It also considers fandom and fan studies as models of 21st-century production and consumption and looks to the future of this area of academic research.

A Celebration of Slashers
By Paul Booth and Alena Karkanias (editors)

Taking its name from the 2018 DePaul Pop Culture Conference, “A Celebration of Slashers” (Blurb) contains essays and other contributions from event participants, who included Rachel Talalay, director of “Freddy’s Dead: The Final Nightmare” and panelists for discussions such as “Questioning the Slasher: Genre Considerations and Feminism and the Final Girl.”

Electronic Word of Mouth as a Promotional Technique
Edited by Shu-Chuan (Kelly) Chu, Junan Kim and Charles R. Taylor

Consumers online interact and share their thoughts on brands and their experiences using them, and these electronic word-of-mouth (eWOM) communications have become very important to the success of products. In “Electronic Word of Mouth as a Promotional Technique: New Insights from Social Media” (Routledge), Associate Professor and Public Relations and Advertising Department Program Chair Kelly Chu and her co-editors offer insights into how eWOM advertising operates and how marketers can influence eWOM on social media and other online sites.

Broken Trust
By Tim Cole and Emily Duddleston

The key to working through an intimate betrayal is learning how to communicate with your partner in a way that promotes truthfulness and understanding, say Associate Professor Tim Cole and co-author Emily Duddleston in “Broken Trust: Overcoming an Intimate Betrayal and Reclaiming Your Life” (Immensus Press). The book provides a research-based approach to coping with emotions, taking the necessary steps to rebuild trust and creating a more loving and compassionate relationship.

It felt like jumping into a pool where you’re just overwhelmed with sensations,” says TV investigative journalist Prabjot “PJ” Randhawa (CMN ’81). “It felt like jumping into a pool where you’re just overwhelmed with sensations,” says TV investigative journalist Prabjot “PJ” Randhawa (CMN ’81). “I was told it takes several years of being nominated to win, and I only had one nomination. So I really didn’t expect to be called on stage,” she says.

But her report on prescription drug errors for NBC affiliate KSOK in St. Louis impressed Emmy voters and viewers alike. The scope and dangers of the problem caught Randhawa and her team’s attention, and interviews with pharmacists confirmed that they were being pressured to fill more prescriptions an hour or be replaced with pharmacists who would.

“We were able to find a man who was struggling with lung cancer, and he was given the wrong prescription. He almost died, and there are so many people out there like this,” she says. “They’re given a settlement and forced to sign a nondisclosure agreement, so we don’t hear about it.”

The value of investigative journalism is its ability to shine a light on hidden problems and make the public aware that they may need to take action. Sometimes these reports get the attention of investigating agencies and legislators, but sometimes the findings go nowhere. When that happens, Randhawa says, “it’s the worst feeling in the world.”

Still, she says, “It’s the daily, little successes that keep you going—getting somebody their money back or making a business change its policy.” Indeed, people who have been taken advantage of often turn to their local TV news station for help. “It is something that we can do that not many people, not many other fields and professionals, have the power to do,” she explains.

Randhawa is a Canadian Sikh whose parents, Suhilev and Kuljinder Randhawa, immigrated to Winnipeg from India almost 50 years ago. She ended up in Chicago because her sister was a doctor at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. “My parents didn’t want me to live in the U.S. by myself.”

After excelling as an undergraduate at Northeastern Illinois University, Randhawa decided to pursue her master’s in journalism at DePaul. “I got a lot of encouragement from my mother, who wanted me to be the next Oprah,” Randhawa says, but first she would have to overcome her shyness. “I didn’t plan on going into journalism to be in front of the camera, but then I got to DePaul, and I just had a lot of encouragement. Once I was representing an issue, telling my story, the shyness went away—because it wasn’t about me.”

As a Sikh, Randhawa was guided by the main tenet of the religion—everyone is equal—in choosing her career path. “I knew exactly what I was going into because I was being taught and trained by people who have been there, who saw value in pursuing this path and who didn’t just abandon me once I graduated,” Randhawa says. “I have such wonderful memories of my time in grad school, and I’m so thankful for all the opportunities I had there.”

“I knew I wasn’t going to be doing entertainment news. I wanted the hard stuff, things anyone would find impactful, relevant,” she says. Although she is now an award-winning journalist, Randhawa still turns to her mentors at DePaul, Professional Lecturer Rick Brown and Anne Khanarg (CMN ’81), an adjunct faculty member in investigative journalism. “I knew exactly what I was going into because I was being taught and trained by people who have been there, who saw value in pursuing this path and who didn’t just abandon me once I graduated,” Randhawa says. “I have such wonderful memories of my time in grad school, and I’m so thankful for all the opportunities I had there.”
Intercultural Communication Studies Conference Held at DePaul

The 24th International Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, chaired by DePaul Professor Xing “Lucy” Lu, took place on the Lincoln Park Campus July 5–8, 2018. Keynote speakers included Margaret D’Silva, professor of communication at the University of Louisville and IACCS’s president-elect; David Frank, professor of rhetoric at the University of Oregon, Robert W. Vaagan, professor in media studies and journalism at Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway, and Associate Dean and Associate Professor Michaela R. Winchcraft, from DePaul’s College of Communication. They and other speakers presented on the theme, “Communication and Dialogue: Integrating Global Communities.”

DePaul Hosts Illinois Broadcasters Association’s Student Conference

On Sept. 28, DePaul played host to the annual, one-day student conference of the Illinois Broadcasters Association. Twenty-two universities took part, and a career fair was held outside of the Radio DePaul Sports facilities in the DePaul Center on the Loop campus. Panel discussions were held on such subjects as TV news and careers in broadcast and digital sales.

GLAAD Media Institute Training

In October, the college worked with the GLAAD Media Institute to provide training to those interested in learning how to get a message of inclusion and acceptance across effectively in the mainstream media narrative about the LGBTQ community. Topics included in the training were LGBTQ acceptance, understanding media mentality, speaking to your audience, messaging and framing the issue, social media basics, and interview techniques.

Cinema and the City

Film studies scholar Celestino Deleyto, from the University of Zaragoza in Spain, visited the college in October to discuss how cities are depicted in the movies. His talk focused on David Lynch’s “Mulholland Drive.” He is part of a research project called From Utopia to Armageddon: The Spaces of the Cosmopolitan in Contemporary Cinema.

Data Visualization Expert Visits College

Cole Knaflic visited the college to give a talk, “Storytelling With Data: Bringing Data to Life Through Pictures and Story.” A prominent voice in the world of data visualization, she is the author of “Storytelling With Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals.” The subjects Knaflic touched on included directing your audience to your most crucial data elements and using the power of storytelling for compelling communication.

Fan Studies Network Conference

The inaugural Fan Studies Network (FSN) North America Conference took place Oct. 25–27, 2018, at the college. The popular FSN conference, which celebrated its fifth year in 2017, branched out this year to include scholars from throughout North America. Abigail De Kosnik, an associate professor in the Berkeley Center for New Media and the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, gave the keynote address, “Everything Is Fandom, and Fandom Is the Problem. So What Are We Going to Do About It?” Among the DePaul participants were Assistant Professor Samantha Close, who was part of a roundtable discussion about fandom studies in the media classroom; Associate Professor Paul Booth, who spoke on fandom and the 2016 U.S. presidential election; and Associate Professor Blair Davis, who gave a talk titled “All-Negro Comics and Black Comic Book Fandom in the 1940s/50s.”

Media Engagement Lab Opens

The Media Engagement Research Laboratory (ME Lab) officially opened in October 2018. This collaborative space for faculty, undergraduate and graduate students was started by PRAD faculty to investigate the impact of communication on society. The ME Lab aims to become a multidisciplinary consortium of faculty and students that examines advertising, public relations, health communication, marketing, social media and other communication methods.

Journalist Dan Sinker Visits DePaul

On Oct. 25, Dan Sinker, former director of OpenNews, which helps place creative technologists in news rooms, visited Carol Marin’s investigative journalism class to speak to students about the current state of journalism and discuss its future.

New Faculty and Staff

The college welcomes new faculty and staff: left to right below: Ashlyn Lozano, administrative assistant; Kristen Pengelly, instructor, communication and media, organizational communication, and communication studies; Juliet Stantz, instructor, public relations and advertising; Nina Abnee, advertising professional in residence; Katherine Cooper, assistant professor, organizational communication; and Jen Himes, digital content administrator.

Alumni and Student Event in NYC

On Nov. 29, alumni, friends and students of the College of Communication met in the New York office of Edelman to hear from Dean Salma Ghanem, network, and reconnect with classmates and friends. The event was held as part of the New York Way study away course. “I’m grateful for these opportunities to connect students, industry and alumni as an example our college’s commitment to student learning.”

8 | AROUND THE COLLEGE | CONVERSATIONS
College of Communication Awards

Each year, DePaul presents awards to faculty and staff across the university for their dedication to academia and the campus community. At the annual academic convocation ceremony on Aug. 30, the College of Communication faculty and staff recognized were Paul Booth, with a Quality of Instruction Council Excellence in Teaching Award, and Shena Ramsay, who received a Staff Quality Service Award. In addition, the college presented an Excellence in Teaching Award for part-time faculty to Adriane Storer (CMN ’02, MA ’08).

2017 Career Outcomes Bright

Results of a 2017 career outcomes survey by DePaul’s Career Center show that a College of Communication degree sets alumni up for a high rate of success. More than 90 percent of bachelor’s and master’s degree recipients were employed, continuing education or not seeking employment within six months of graduating from DePaul. Of those who were employed, 87 percent of undergraduate students and 93 percent of graduate students said their jobs were related to their degree. Many master’s degree recipients advanced their existing careers, with 72 percent reporting new or better jobs immediately following graduation.

CJIE Grant Award

The College of Communication received a $20,000 grant from the Gannett Foundation to expand annual programming related to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reporting. The funds will help DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) host its second annual FOIA Fellows training and mentoring program, which helps DePaul’s Center for Journali...
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