

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Michael Bruner



Our growing community of Communication Studies students, researchers, teachers, and practitioners faces challenging times due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, but everyone should know that we are very well-positioned to ensure that high-quality education continues remotely for the remainder of spring and summer semesters. All courses required for a Communication Studies degree have already been offered online, and all our summer courses will also be available online. See the interview in this issue with Dr. Natalie Pennington, our Undergraduate Coordinator, who walks you through some of our offerings.

We also provide some useful advice for transitioning to online education, introduce the stories of some of our graduate and undergraduate students, and otherwise provide information to ensure we all stay safe and well while working on courses remotely. Your excellent faculty moved our key courses online long before we were asked to do so on short notice, so you are in good hands! I would encourage all students to reach out to their faculty through WebCampus, faculty email, WebEx, and other mechanisms provided by your instructors, and let your teachers know, if you can, if you have technical challenges with doing your coursework from a distance.

In this issue of our newsletter you will hear from Ayla Gelsinger and Shawn Roof in our Undergraduate Spotlight. Ayla tells the story of her path to Communication Studies and why the field of study means so much to her. Very active in undergraduate research and our department's honor society, Lambda Pi Eta, she also explains why she wants to go on to graduate school. Shawn Roof is a returning student taking advantage of MGM's online education program, representing the best of our non-traditional students at UNLV. You will also hear from three of our graduate students: Matt Mohan, Brooke Wolfe, and Curtis Chamblee. They variously explain what it is like being a graduate student and the different ways people can engage in research. You will hear as well about how a researcher in Communication Studies is focusing on how a popular television show, *Black Mirror*, interrogates the more insidious ways technology intrudes upon our lives. Finally, you will be introduced to our National Communication Association Student Club.

Yes, the teaching and the research shall go on, your teachers are well-prepared to teach the online courses needed to complete the degree and in their areas of research specialty, our undergraduates will continue to become more involved in research and internship opportunities, and UNLV has the technology in place to ensure that online courses are as personal as you want them to be. What matters most, of course, is everyone's health and happiness, and so I wish everyone extended safe time in a safe place, and rest assured that we will do everything we can to ensure that everyone makes smooth progress toward their educational goals.

"The Department of Communication Studies is very well-positioned to ensure that high quality education continues remotely."

With the COVID-19 outbreak forcing a temporary hiatus from face to face classes, students and faculty have had to quickly transition to remote learning. While most classes use at least some online component, the shift to an all-online curriculum might be difficult for some. However, students and faculty can take action in order to succeed in the online workspace.

MASTERING REMOTE EDUCATION

Succeeding in an online classroom
environment

One of the biggest challenges that UNLV students and faculty will face during this time is communicating through technology. Some fear that the lack of direct face-to-face interaction will discourage students from wanting to participate and complete assignments. Instructors, however, can substitute the direct interaction with conference calls. Sites such as Google Meet and WebEx also allow instructors to host a video conference room where students can join a live lecture and participate in class discussions. So interact with your professors! Additionally, professors can record their lectures using sites such as Panopto to post onto Canvas so students can refer back to them later. Adjusting to strictly online learning can be tough although manageable with the following tips:

Make a schedule

Make a schedule to remind yourself of your class times if you are doing video chats.



Maintain Communication

Maintain regular communication with your professors if any questions or concerns arise about assignments.

Manage Your Time

Set time blocks for each of your classes in order to allocate enough time for assignments.

Minimize Distractions

While working on homework, minimize distractions by turning off your cell phone and situating yourself in a quiet area.

Organize Your Study Area

A clean, organized study space will allow you to focus more on your course work without any distractions and will make it easier for you to locate assignments.

Take a Break

Do your work in blocks to lessen the strain. After finishing one lesson, take a five minute break before moving on.



Credits: UNLV Tips for Success Online: <https://www.unlv.edu/learn-online/tips>

Taking Care of Yourself During COVID-19

Life resources to help you deal with the pandemic

There are many unknowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that can seem overwhelming. However, there's always positives in every situation. With life on pause, this is a great opportunity for us to rewire our brains and take control of our health—both mentally and physically. In a time of social distancing, resources are available to entertain and help us.

VIRTUAL CONCERTS

The Kennedy Center has a digital stage where you can watch performances such as comedy shows and concerts.

Visit them at
<https://www.kennedy-center.org/digitalstage/>



UNLV STUDENT COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Student counseling and psychological services will continue to offer mental health care via telephone.

M - F
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
(702) 895 - 3627

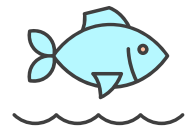
THREE SQUARE FOOD SOURCES

Three square food bank is doing emergency food distributions in various locations throughout Southern Nevada.

<https://www.threesquare.org/help>

VIRTUAL ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

Several zoos and aquariums have virtual tours and live webcams like the Seattle Aquarium and San Diego Zoo.



NETFLIX PARTY

Enjoy a movie or TV show with friends by downloading the Google Chrome extension, Netflix Party.



VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOURS

Visit famous museum exhibits from the comfort of your own home like the Louvre in Paris and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence!

Credits: Resources for UNLV during COVID - 19: <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/resources>

SUMMER 2020 TERM

The UNLV Department of Communication Studies is making sure that this summer is filled with exciting classes. Students will be able to take classes required for graduation to ease their workload, or special topics classes to dive deeper into the field. Dr. Natalierose Pennington, Undergraduate Coordinator for the Communication Studies Department, shares her excitement about some of the new courses being added this summer. "Summer is a great way to help make your spring and fall loads lighter as a result or graduate sooner if that's a goal for you as well," says Pennington. "When I was a student, I did summer intersessions every year and it helped me graduate on time. The most unique part about the summer classes offered by the department, however, are the applicability of their content to the real world." The skills that students will learn from these classes, whether it is public speaking or rhetorical criticism, can apply to not only the field of communications but fields as diverse as math or biology.



"For students who haven't thought about taking summer classes, I encourage them to look at that because the summer is when the publishing faculty get to teach in their areas of specific research," says Pennington. "I'm teaching COM 212 in the fall, which is a broad survey course for students new to the field. In the summer I get to teach COM 332, which is an Online Relationships class." Pennington describes the class as a three-week, intensive online class in Summer Term I about using technology in relationships. She wants to encourage students to really self-reflect on what they know about forming relationships, maintaining relationships, and ending relationships, whether with families, friends, significant others, or even coworkers. As an assistant professor, Pennington is in fact researching the topic of technology and its effects on relationships.

The first Summer Term session differs from the other sessions due to its extra short duration. While most summer classes last five weeks, those taking the Summer Term Session I courses will have to learn all the material in just three weeks, lasting from May 18th to June 5th. While it may seem like a challenge for some students, Pennington encourages it. "What I love about Summer Term I classes is that they're so intensive as a three-week course. I do think what you walk away with can be a lot more meaningful, like the relationships you build in that short period of time and the ability to learn the content."

SUMMER 2020 TERM FEATURED COURSES

COM 327x

Communication and Popular Culture (Session I)

Taught by Dr. Carlos Flores, this class will explore certain aspects of pop culture, ranging from comic books, to movies, to reality TV. Students will be able to make critical engagements with pop culture, exploring its relations to meaning making and facets of identity, and even comparing its creation and reception on a global level.

COM 328x

Interviewing and Self Presentation (Session I)

Taught by Dr. Rebecca Rice, this class will focus on communication theories about self-presentation, interpersonal and organizational communication in the context of job interviewing. There will be an emphasis on interview practices, and students will act as both interviewers and interviewees throughout the class. In addition, students will learn how to prepare job documents, how to cultivate an online presence, and how to network.

COM 434

Communication and Conflict Resolution (Session III)

Taught by Dr. Jennifer Guthrie, this class will examine various types and sources of conflict in interpersonal relationships, and the management and resolution of these conflicts through various decision-making models.

Along with the featured courses, below is a list of additional summer courses being offered:

- COM 101 - Oral Communication
- COM 102 - Intro. to Interpersonal Communication
- COM 104 - Critical Thinking in Public Argument
- COM 216 - Survey of Communication Studies
- COM 321 - Political Campaign Debates
- COM 330 - Selected Topics: Digital Persuasion
- COM 332X - Online Relationships
- COM 400 - Human Communication Theory
- COM 404 - Principles of Persuasion
- COM 408 - Rhetorical Criticism
- COM 409 - The Rhetorical Tradition
- COM 434 - Communication and Conflict Resolution

For more information regarding summer courses, contact Dr. Pennington at natalie.pennington@unlv.edu or visit <https://www.unlv.edu/communicationstudies>.

Ayla Gelsinger is president of Lambda Pi Eta, honor society for the Communication Studies students. Lambda Pi Eta is a nationally recognized organization, providing opportunities to students in the discipline while also representing Aristotle's three ingredients of persuasion: logos (Lambda), pathos (Pi), and ethos (Eta). Gelsinger's main goal as president is to strengthen the organization and raise awareness about its presence. She plans on hosting resume-building workshops and headshot photoshoots for members in order to increase professionalism among the students. She hopes to host a panel of graduate students to answer questions for those who may be looking toward the Communication Studies graduate route. With the graduate panel, Ayla hopes to collaborate with other organizations such as the National Communication Association Club (NCASC) to share their expertise with members and to further grow the members' skills.



SEARCHING FOR ACCEPTANCE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Since arriving at UNLV, Gelsinger has constantly expressed her admiration for the faculty. She admires how personable they are, taking the chance to learn her name and learn about her life. However, her admiration with the faculty is strongest with their research, as it is what drew her into the field in the first place. "All of their research is so fascinating to me and they're always there. They're exactly who I hope I can be someday," Gelsinger says. "All the skills they have and the way they present themselves, I hope I can present myself that well someday." Gelsinger has conducted research of her own, mainly focusing on the correlation between Instagram and body image. She does not use any social media herself, priding herself in being able to put an outsider's perspective on such a prevalent culture. At present, she researches how people portray themselves online and how it differs from their daily lives. The aspiring researcher sat down with several participants and interviewed them regarding the topic. In each conversation she noted the presence of *body positivity*, otherwise known as the belief that people should be proud of their bodies no matter the shape or size and thus improving self-confidence. In these interviews, she found that the participants did not believe in the idea of *body positivity*, because the Instagram culture has created such a stigma around having the *perfect body type*. Since then, she has been doing more research on the phenomenon, looking carefully at the #BodyPositive hashtag on Instagram, analyzing the posts to see if it is a platform that promotes acceptance. "It's really interesting because hopefully I can figure out what is truly helpful to people and what makes them feel safe and comfortable and loved online, compared to the ways people make it seem that only certain body types are important," Gelsinger says.

Lambda Pi Eta's president hopes to continue her love for Communication Studies by pursuing a graduate degree. She wants to do more research and hopes to get a PhD as a first generation student. She ultimately aspires to become a therapist in order to help others.

"Hopefully I can figure out what is truly helpful to people and what makes them feel safe and comfortable and loved online."

MOVING FORWARD

How Shawn Roof Continued His Education

Shawn Roof is not your average college student. He is married with two sons, aged 16 and 18, and he worked at the same job for years before becoming the Manager of Security at the Excalibur. He is currently in his 2nd semester at UNLV as part of the MGM Resorts College Opportunity Program (COP), a program that allows MGM employees to apply for an online-only degree offered by one of six NSHE institutions, including UNLV. The tuition is free of charge for all credit hours, in an effort to provide individuals with education and career opportunities they might not have had otherwise due to time or financial commitments.

Born in Germany, Roof moved around a couple of places before settling in Las Vegas for the majority of his life. After graduating high school, he attended UNLV for two years. However, he soon started working full time and never got the opportunity to complete a degree program. During this time, he started taking small steps towards continuing his education. Once he heard about COP, he knew he had to take the opportunity. When he first started college, Roof was an undeclared major. However, he remembered how much he enjoyed his public speaking course. "When I looked at the availability of what they were offering, Communication Studies stood out to me among them, especially in my career field

now," Roof says. "As a security manager, I basically wanted to find something that was available that I could also use in my career or would also be transferable into another career."

The studying has paid off for Roof, as he has found himself using the skills he learned in class in other situations, particularly at work. The writing skills, the interpersonal skills, and the critical thinking skills have all been useful at his job and he is thankful for it. He had initially learned these skills through being in management but since taking Communication Studies courses at UNLV he is able to see the reasoning and the studies behind it all. He finds it especially interesting to see theories he learned be applied to past actions. "My interpersonal communications class, COM 102, is a goldmine for people in my position," says Roof. "Not only are you learning new stuff, but you can step back from the material you learned and look at some of the mistakes you made just by what you've learned in the class."

Roof likes to share what he's learned with his family, especially his two sons. Given that one is headed off to college right now, Roof is happy with the fact that he is able to guide his son in the proper steps, whether it's through submitting test scores or providing helpful study tips. In fact, the family bonds through school competitions. He and his son, 16-year-old Matthew, are in a competition to see who gets the best grades for the semester: push-ups and a nice lunch are at stake. Other than his family, Roof also shares what he learned with his employees at work. He used to sit at his 15-minute work briefings and discuss the opportunities the MGM College Opportunity Program provides, making sure to emphasize the benefits the employees could obtain if they were accepted into the program. However, he recognizes that this is not the only way of gaining more knowledge, and he encourages all forms of learning. As he moves forward in the program, Roof hopes to use what he learns to move to another level in his career; however, he is trying new things while in school and is open to switching careers, maybe in a communications-oriented field. His dream job would be one dealing with teaching, and he has taken a particular interest in writing and speaking. For now, he continues his studies and his job, offering one piece of advice for fellow students: "As far as communications goes, I cannot stress how important it is to manage your time to where you have things you enjoy just for fun. I still have time to play strategy board games with my sons and my friends every now and then. Spend time with the people you want to spend time with. I learned this a lot last semester, but take care of yourself. I like to work out and exercise. Take care of your mind, body, and inner soul. That's all I can tell people."



Shawn Roof



Matthew Mohan

Coming from Topeka, Kansas, first-year graduate student Matthew Mohan made sure to maintain his love for communication. He completed his undergraduate degree at Kansas State University, majoring in communications with a focus in relational communications. Despite entering college as an open-option, or undeclared major, Mohan naturally fell in love with communications. After his first communications course his freshman year, Mohan gained an interest in the field, and it only continued to grow as he moved forward. "I loved the teacher, I loved the class, and I loved the material because I always knew I wanted to help people, and I thought communication itself was just super interesting," says Mohan. "I wanted to learn more about why people value relationships so much and how to communicate better within relationships. I ended up taking another class with this same professor and I declared that as my major."

During his time at KSU, Mohan was able to conduct some interesting research in the communications field. In order to graduate with a degree in Communication Studies, he was required to do a research project, and he decided to do his on self-disclosure and therapy. The statistic he found stated that 50% of people who seek help for mental health issues still experience a depressive episode, and Mohan wanted to look at why that was happening. He interviewed doctors and patients in the Manhattan area to gain a better understanding and to help better assist students and people in the area. "I found that people wanted their therapist to be more relatable to them because a lot of therapists didn't self-disclose about their political or family life or religious beliefs," says Mohan. "When a patient could align their political beliefs or religious beliefs with those of their therapist, or if they could see their doctors as relatable in some way, it kind of helps with their mental illness."

FROM KSU TO UNLV

Matthew Mohan's Continued Interest in Communication Studies

UNLV he joined the GPSA. He hopes to be a representative for the College of Urban Affairs in the coming semesters. Mohan made it a point to continue his research in mental illness for his thesis. "I'm going to continue investigating mental illness and poverty, and how people in poverty experience mental illnesses," says Mohan. "Right now, I'm reading past research that suggests people in poverty experience a lot more mental illness that hinders them from improving their social status."

Given that his interest was in political and rhetorical communication and interpersonal communication, he saw that UNLV had a really good interpersonal and rhetoric program. He made the 20-hour drive from Kansas to Vegas in August 2019. The transition might have been difficult for some, but Mohan made sure to pick up on his old hobbies at KSU to ease the transition. At KSU, Mohan was heavily involved in student government, so upon entering

Since becoming a graduate assistant, Mohan has developed a love for teaching that he sees potentially continuing in the future. Before this, he would have never seen himself as a teacher. The mere fact of teaching in front of 75 students frightened him at first. As time went on, he realized that he learned a lot from his students. "The best part about teaching is the discourse and the conversations we have because I don't like to be that traditional teacher who just reads a PowerPoint," says Mohan. "I like to say this is a co-creation of knowledge. I don't say that it's my class, I say it is our class. Over time they get really open to talking about their lives. I think it's really interesting to have those real conversations in class on what I'm teaching and how it's affecting their lives." Mohan has actively used what he has learned in his studies in the real world. He was very active in politics in Kansas, being a part of the Kansas Democratic Party. In fact, he worked with the nonprofit sector in Washington D.C., lobbying members of Congress about issues such as domestic poverty and global diseases. He thinks about communications theories and rhetorical theories and implements them in discussions and meetings with political figures or when working with others. That being said, Mohan leaves one piece of advice for communications students: "I would say go to class, and don't be afraid to go to your professor or instructor's office hours and ask questions, and always be willing to ask questions and learn more about the topic."

Brooke Wolfe is a graduate student in the Communication Studies program who will be graduating UNLV in May with her master's degree. In her time here, she has had the opportunity to be a graduate teaching assistant for three different courses: Critical Thinking and Public Argument (COM 104), Argumentation & Debate (COM 216), and, most recently, Qualitative Research Methods (COM 432). She became interested in Communication Studies after taking an argumentation course when she was an undergraduate Political Science student at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. The course helped her discover her interest in the connection between messages and power. Brooke came across something else in that course: a new passion for debate. "An assignment for the course was attending a debate tournament as a member of the team, which meant that I participated in over eight debate rounds over the course of the weekend," Wolfe said. "After that tournament, I joined the team as an official debater because I enjoyed the fun of testing arguments and thinking about the world critically." She felt that participating in debate gave her a platform that validated her voice, encouraging her to pursue a graduate degree.



Brooke Wolfe

AN INTEREST IN RELATIONSHIP COMMUNICATION

As an undergraduate student, Brooke was focused on studying rhetorical analysis but has since moved to the study of interpersonal and romantic relationships as a graduate student. In addition to her studies, Brooke has also dedicated her time to contribute to the UNLV campus. She has worked as the Diversity Education Intern for the UNLV Housing Department, which she has since converted into a Graduate Research Assistantship this year. In this position, she has worked with student leaders on communicating topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion with residents living on-campus. It also gave her the chance to practice public outreach with critical communication research and have additional mentorship opportunities with students similarly committed to social justice work. On top of that, Brooke also serves as the Communication Studies student representative for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Her work there involves contributing to decisions that impact both the Urban Affairs College and the entire university. She has also recently been involved with Lambda Pi Eta, the honors society for Communication Studies, and she had the opportunity to present her research at both the Organization for Society, Gender, and Language Conference and the National Communication Association Conference this year.

As a first-generation college student and someone who didn't know what graduate school was before talking to her undergraduate counselors, Brooke has come a long way in her academic journey. After she graduates, Brooke will attend the University of Washington as a Ph.D. student in Communication Studies. Her goal is to become a communications professor who researches romantic relationships, sex communication, and power. For young students going into Communication Studies, her advice is to explore as many courses as you can, develop relationships with professors, and develop your identity as a scholar. "When I arrived at UNLV, I felt torn between my love for rhetoric and my interest in studying interpersonal relationships," Wolfe said, "I would tell students that it is totally okay to have multiple subject interests and to construct a program of study that works for you!"

"I would tell students that it is totally okay to have multiple subject interests and to construct a program of study that works for you!"

The path to graduate school was not clear-cut for Curtis Chamblee. He worked as a casino sales representative for almost nine years, where he sold parts to keep buffets and restaurants running. However, he realized this was not something he wanted to do his entire life. He decided to go back to school. Taking baby steps, he started at CSN in 2014. Two years later, in 2016, he transferred to UNLV where he earned a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. He is currently expected to graduate with a master's degree in the same program at the end of this semester. Communication Studies was not always his field of choice. When he first went back to school, Chamblee wanted to be a surgical technician. He had done it while in the Air Force, and he had a brief moment of wanting to relive it. Upon transferring to UNLV, he had taken a variety of classes that did not help him narrow his choices down as an exploring major. In his second semester, however, he took a Communication Studies class and realized this was something of interest. He soon realized that the skills he learned could apply to his everyday life. As he started taking more classes, he started gaining even more of an interest.



Curtis Chamblee

A CHANGE IN CAREER PATH

Since being in graduate school, Chamblee has accomplished a number of feats. His research focuses on the rhetoric of health and medicine, developing an interest in the topic after beating prostate cancer in 2015. Since becoming a cancer fighter, he became curious about the patient experience, and not just the communication between healthcare providers and patients. He wants to delve more into their experiences and figure out how to make it better. Additionally, he is partnered with the Pre-Professional Advising Center, whose mission is to prepare students who are interested in pursuing a career in health-related professions. He helped put together a four-part workshop series on professionalism, covering topics such as interpersonal communications. He also serves as a mentor for the other teaching assistants in the department, providing tips for success. Since his teaching career started, he prides himself in several things in his classes. First, he makes himself learn all of his students' names by the third week. On the first day of class, in lieu of taking attendance, he hands them an index card and asks them to write their legal name and then their preferred name. When he calls their names by the third week, the students are astonished at his memory recall, as most of them never had professors who recognized their names. This builds rapport between him and the students, and makes them feel comfortable. In addition, Chamblee puts forward community rules in each class.

Given all he has done in the field, Chamblee provides several tips to students who want to continue studying communication. First, he advises them to have a plan. By looking at the potential outcomes, things will become easier. Next, he advises students to practice self-care. Things will get hard, but he emphasizes finding that balance helps one stay grounded. Lastly, he advises students to have fun. Despite all of the negativity in the world, he points out that life will be a drag if one is not enjoying what they are doing. "Don't do anything in life you're not going to enjoy, and that's with work or school," Chamblee says. "Find what you love, enjoy it, and do it."

"Find what you
love, enjoy it, and
do it."

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



Two professors recently published an academic essay in the journal *Critical Studies in Media Communications*, Volume 37. Dr. Donovan Conley is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at UNLV and studies rhetoric, specifically in taste and how we develop preferences. Dr. Benjamin Burroughs is an Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies who researches streaming media and media industries. Dr. Conley recently collaborated with Dr. Burroughs on their second essay on the television series *Black Mirror*. Their essay is titled "Bandersnatched: infrastructure and acquiescence in *Black Mirror*." The piece focuses on the 2018 stand-alone interactive film "Bandersnatch", using it to exemplify the social impact of technology, media, and rhetoric. There were a few other episodes of *Black Mirror* discussed in the essay to highlight the different types of near-future insight and societal themes contained in the show. They felt, though, that "Bandersnatch" was the perfect episode to focus on. "Everything you need to know about *Black Mirror* is right in this episode," said Conley, "It became this urtext for explaining the universe of *Black Mirror*, so we really wanted to dig into that episode while bringing in some of the stuff we had written for the other piece and weave it all together."

The essay is the product of over six months of work. Dr. Burroughs and Dr. Conley believe that *Black Mirror* is a unique television show that interacts with the audience in a new and different way, and they see a lot of global impact from the show overall because of Netflix. They were interested in figuring out what the show is saying and doing rhetorically in each episode as well as examining the relationship between audience, the streaming media industry, and *Black Mirror* as a text. "We think it's a pretty sophisticated critique of our relationship to digital technology. The significance there is what it's trying to do rhetorically about that issue. It's shocking its viewers with the worst possibilities of these technologies to sort of wake them up, the rhetoric of being disruptive and disturbing," said Conley. Both professors are interested in upcoming *Black Mirror* seasons and are curious to see where else the show can go.



Dr. Benjamin Burroughs



Dr. Donovan Conley

Black Mirror is
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L-R: Chloe Powell, Marc Janosik, Jaden Osborne, Diara Hernadez, Rachel Wuester, Jeanine Diehl, Raymond Gallagher, Ayla Gelsinger, Jordan Schuck

National Communication Association Student Club

UNLV'S COMMUNICATION
CLUB IS GOING STRONG

"There is a lot of excitement focused on bringing out our members' innate enthusiasm for communication."

In the last few semesters, UNLV's National Communication Association Student Club (NCASC) has seen an increase in members as more students demonstrate an interest in campus involvement and communication. The club focuses on outreach activities to demonstrate and apply the material learned in Communication Studies courses. Currently, in order to join, members must have taken a Communication Studies course. "I am actually considering removing this qualification, as students from different majors have become interested in the club. This shows that communication is applicable to so many different things," says Director Chloe Powell. The club hopes to also focus on providing members with networking opportunities in order to increase involvement during their undergraduate years. "I tell a lot of my students to get involved and improve their CV's and resumes because involvement is so important. Employers want to see what makes you stand out from the possible 200 applicants they receive."

Jordan Schuck, marketing director for the club, shares: "Our club is incredible. There is a lot of excitement focused on bringing out our members' innate enthusiasm for communication; not just in academia, but applied outside of school." Jordan shares his eagerness for the continued growth of the club, since NCASC wants to give its members the opportunity to find their voice. The current NCASC members range in majors from philosophy to engineering, joined by a common interest in communication. Contact Chloe Powell at chloe.powell@unlv.edu if you are interested in joining.

