Talking About Quality Health Care
By Jessica Rabil and Brittany Wheaton

For many, visiting a medical professional can cause stress and anxiety. As if communicating with someone about health concerns is not enough of a stressor, oftentimes health care professionals may lack the skills needed to communicate effectively or empathetically with their patients. For example, health care professionals may use medical jargon that patients find difficult to understand. We spoke with a senior at Rollins College, Drew Phillips, who is actively studying communication skills in his pursuit of a career in dentistry. Phillips, a Communication Studies major and Chemistry minor whose specialty is health communication, spoke about the importance of health care professionals developing solid communication skills to build positive relationships with patients.

Currently, Phillips is serving an internship at Rincon Dental Arts in Winter Park. When we asked him about how his coursework in health communication relates to his internship, Phillips noted that, “in all medical fields, communication is one of the most important aspects.” Phillips explained that a significant concern in contemporary health care is that doctors are starting to take on more and more patients, which in turn leads to physicians spending significantly less time speaking with their patients. In return, patients are complaining that their doctors are not communicating with them, which is not only frustrating but can also reduce the likelihood of the patient responding well to treatment.

Patients want their doctors to listen to them and feel cared for. According to Phillips, “I feel that there are a lot of very excellent doctors, but they aren’t making their patients happy. In my opinion the ability to make these conclusion is where my communication major has come in.” The Department of Communication is proud of Drew Phillips’ commitment to providing quality health care by learning how to communicate well with his patients, and we wish Drew all the best in his future career!

ComFest: A Celebration of Our Students
By Avery Sherrer and Kate Yellin

Every semester students and faculty alike look forward to the semi-annual Communication Department event known as ComFest. This semester’s program will highlight the fine work our students in Communication Studies have been doing this academic year. Featured in this session will be the best student speeches as well as poster presentations on student research. This event brings together students and faculty in the Department of Communication in order to share and celebrate the work they have done. To give students practical experience in event coordination, the marketing, arrangements, and hospitality for this event are being arranged by Rollins’ own COM 130: Event Planning and Communication class. This semester’s ComFest will be held on Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the Galloway Room and Patio in the Mills building. Stop by to see your friends sharing their thoughts and knowledge while you learn more about what the Communication Studies major is all about!
Our Arabic Connection: Hesham Mesbah
By Catherine Weiser

The Arab U.S. Associate of Communication Educators (AUSACE) is a collection of Arab and U.S. Communication professors dedicated to enhancing the relationship of communication professionals of both the United States and the Arab world. Founded in 1995, the organization’s primary focus is collaboration on research, exchanging teaching techniques, and developing international relationships in the field of communications. The Rollins College Department of Communication is fortunate to have one of our own as a member of the AUSACE Board: Dr. Hesham Mesbah, an Associate Professor of Communication.

Dr. Mesbah was elected to the board of AUSACE in 2012 at their conference in Atlanta during his first semester at Rollins, and he has been involved with AUSACE since 2007. Dr. Mesbah has been fortunate enough to be able to attend several conferences in Arab countries as well as the conferences held here in the U.S. AUSACE has published its own communication journal and Dr. Mesbah is a member of the editorial staff.

When asked if being a part of the organization has affected his teaching or his views on public relations, Dr. Mesbah offered that “being a part of this organization has given me a greater appreciation for international public relations and for diversity in public relations and has made me realize how important teaching those skills are.” Anyone who has taken one of Dr. Mesbah’s classes can confirm that international public relations and diversity are two topics covered in great detail, making those courses both intriguing and relevant in our increasingly global environment.

Ted Talks…to the Media!
By Lyndsey Lang and Paige Ostos

The newest addition to the Rollins Department of Communication, Dr. Ted Gournelos or “Ted” is no newbie to the Rollins campus. Ted began as a Critical Media and Cultural Studies professor back in 2010, but switched over to the Communication Department shortly after the major was formed in 2012. While Ted is known around campus as an enthusiastic and highly informed professor, he is also known as a voice of Rollins College. Ted is a seasoned pro at doing media appearances around the Orlando area on a variety of topics, even doing a Ted Talk in June 2013.

How does a college professor get started doing such media appearances? For Dr. Gournelos, it all started when the Rollins Public Relations department was seeking someone out to respond to a news story and Ted volunteered his insight. From there, Ted went on to be a part of several segments on FOX 35, eventually branching out to multiple media outlets including national radio and television.

Beyond being an exciting opportunity, media appearances are also a great way to get the college’s name out to the public, as Dr. Gournelos noted: “Rollins is a prestigious school, but a lot of people don’t know about it because of how small it is.” Whenever Ted does a media appearance, they say the college’s name at least two or three times, which is a great way for the school’s name to get out there. Often the anchor or interviewer will also mention the Communication Department, which is great press for our new and ever growing major.

With his hands so full from teaching classes at Rollins and other pursuits, why does he continue to do media appearances? Ted’s short answer: Because it’s fun.” He explains, “Nothing makes you think on your feet better than being in front of a camera live... it keeps you moving, keeps your brain sharp.” His TV appearances have been live with no delay—which can be intimidating to some, but is exciting for Ted: “I get bored very easily, so I’m really hungry for that kind of stimulation.” But when asked if he would ever consider putting his teaching career aside to pursue opportunities on-camera, he responded in the negative, saying simply that “Rollins is my dream job.”
Dr. Anne Stone is an assistant professor of Communication Studies who has studied nursing home communication around patients with dementia. Her background in communication and aging led her to teach a course called "Communication Across the Lifespan" this semester. The class explores intergenerational communication and is a community engagement course. In addition to regular course work, students also work with the Brain Fitness Club, which is a facility for older adults in the early stages of dementia. It serves as a middle ground for patients who want to receive some form of treatment, but are not yet at the need for nursing home care. This facility provides a mentally and physically stimulating environment that has been proven to delay the progression of cognitive decline.

Dr. Stone first heard of the Brain Fitness Club when she attended a conference on aging recently and met the director of the club. Dr. Stone was intrigued to learn more about the club and see how it could be worked into her teaching. She believes that taking a community engagement course gives students the opportunity to work with people and groups that they might not otherwise interact with. Working with a diverse group of people and addressing significant lifespan issues can help students grow, break down barriers, and introduce new perspectives. So both students and the members of the Brain Fitness Club can stay sharp and learn from each other!

Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) is the National Communication Association’s official honor society. LPE has over 250 active chapters at four-year colleges and universities around the globe. The organization aims to:

- Recognize, foster, and reward outstanding scholastic achievement
- Stimulate interest in the field of communication
- Promote and encourage professional development among communication majors
- Provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas about the field
- Establish and maintain close relationships and understanding between faculty and students
- Explore options for further graduate studies

According to the President of the Rollins College chapter of LPE, Elissa DeCampli, "Lambda Pi Eta is really good opportunity for students in the Communication Studies major to come together. Each semester we do a community service project; last semester we did the St. Jude’s Give Thanks Walk. Along with giving back to the community, it gives students the opportunity to be a part of a National Organization that encourages students to keep their grades up and stay focused on their major."

In order to become a member in any Lambda Pi Eta chapter, a student must have completed all of the following: at least 60 semester hours in college; have completed at least 12 semester hours of communication study; have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; have a communication studies GPA of at least 3.25; be in the upper 35% of his/her graduating class; be currently enrolled as a student in good standing; and display commitment to the field of communication. Each spring, the Rollins chapter of LPE, Kappa Xi, holds an induction ceremony for the new members of Lambda Pi Eta. Twenty-five new members are to become part of LPE this semester at the induction ceremony held in the Galloway Room of Mills Memorial Hall on Friday, April 4, from 6:30-8:00 PM. Please come celebrate the achievements of these young scholars at this important ceremony!
Network with the Pros: Communiqué
By Morgan Curtiss and Erin Tobin

Looking to get more involved on campus or improve your resume? Consider joining the student organization known as Communiqué. Communiqué serves as the PR, or public relations, club of the college and is affiliated with the Florida Public Relations Society, or FPRA. The student chairs of our organization are Morgan Curtiss ('14) and Alexandra Riley ('14). One important thing that Communiqué members do is to attend FPRA networking events. Communiqué member Alexandra Colvin ('15) reflected on her experiences at FPRA: "Attending FPRA events enabled me to network with industry representatives and learn about evolving PR standards. By building relationships in the association, I achieved an invitation to interview for an intern position with the Dr. Philips performing arts center.” In addition to networking events, members attend FPRA sponsored breakfasts, providing more crucial networking opportunities.

Communiqué has many events planned for the current semester, including a networking event designed to follow ComFest and a LinkedIn seminar with Career Services. Be sure to look out for these and any additional events on our organization’s Facebook page! In addition to holding our own events, Communiqué helps other Rollins organizations strategize and create PR plans for their events. Currently, Communiqué members are working with Dr. Anne Stone and Dr. Carol Lauer to promote the Global Health Speaker Series. Look out for these throughout the spring semester.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Communiqué or simply getting more information on our organization, it’s easy! You can connect with us on our Facebook page, stop by one of our monthly meetings/events, or contact Morgan Curtiss or Dr. Hesham Mesbah. In addition to becoming a member of Rollins’ chapter, students can also pay a $30 fee to join FPRA. This fee will get you even more access to our chapter, FPRA events, contacts, and internships.

Communication at Rollins, Then and Now
By Jade Seah

Dr. Gregory Gardner joined the Communications Department in 1985 and has since been one of the driving forces behind the department and what is today the Communication Studies major at Rollins College. Though this major only became official at Rollins in 2012, developing the major has been a long-term labor of love for Dr. Gardner, who first implemented the Organizational Communication major for the Hamilton Holt School in 1985. At that time, and until 2012, Communication was only available to traditional daytime students as a minor. Over the following years, Rollins saw a rise in demand for both Holt and daytime professional programs, which resulted in the creation of the College of Professional Studies. With the birth of CPS, Dr. Gardner and the Communication Department launched a Rollins-wide Communication Studies major and minor.

As the old Organizational Communication major prepares to graduate its final batch of degree hopefuls in Spring ‘14, the newly revamped Communication Studies major quickly rises in the ranks and is now Rollins College fourth most popular major. According to Dr. Gardner, more and more students opt for the major because of its versatility and its relevance. Graduates in the program have gone on to pursue medicine, journalism, business, language studies and more.

Today, Dr. Gardner continues to work towards expanding the Communication Department to meet this increasing demand. Over the past two years, the department has welcomed two new faculty members, and it continues to adapt its methods and goals in order to prepare students for global citizenship. "Communication is one of the original seven liberal arts,” notes Dr. Gardner, and the Communication Department continues to follow the college’s mission of providing students with a true liberal arts education for the future.
Our Evolving Major: Questions and Answers about Communication Studies
By Meredith Lax and Sarah MacDougall

The daytime major in Communication Studies continues to grow and to adapt to the needs of our burgeoning student population. We sat down with the chair of the Department of Communication, Dr. Sue Easton, to ask her some important questions about the major. She helped us identify crucial information that Communication Studies majors/minors as well as students interested in the major or minor should need to know.

Q: How many courses are required for the Communication Studies major and minor?

A: Twelve courses are required for the major: eight core classes and four classes within the concentration of the student’s choice. The three concentrations within the major are Public Relations, Health Communication, and Organizational Communication and Leadership. Six courses are required for the minor: four core classes and two electives.

Q: What if I have already started a major, but now I want to switch to Communication Studies?

A: If you have started a major in another department, your advisor in the Communication Department can look at the courses you took in your previous major to see on a case-by-case basis if any of those courses can receive transfer credit toward the Communication Studies major. If you have started a minor in Communication Studies, all of the courses you took for this minor will count towards the Communication Studies major.

Q: Should I switch advisors when I declare the Communication Studies major? How do I do this?

A: Yes! It is essential for Communication Studies majors to have an advisor in the department so that they can be current with what’s going on in the major. Students should use Foxlink to request to change their advisor. They should select the Chair of the Communication Department (Dr. Easton) as their advisor. The Chair will then assign an appropriate faculty advisor to the student.

Q: It’s course registration time, and I’m on a wait list for a class that I need. How do I get in?

A: Keep in mind that because priority is given to seniors, you may have to wait until next semester to get into a class if it fills up quickly. As a department, we made a promise that we will provide our core courses every semester. For each core course, we offer one Day, one cross-listed, and one Holt school option. Additionally, we are recalibrating seat distribution to match the needs of our students. Finally, many of our courses are designated specifically for Communication Studies majors. If you want to get into one of those courses, you will need to use Foxlink to select Communication Studies as your major, and you will then ask for Dr. Easton to serve as your advisor. Academic advising starts on March 17, so hurry to select Communication Studies as your major if you want access to all of our courses!
Q: I’m a Communication Studies major, and my concentration courses aren’t showing up correctly in the DegreeWorks system. Why is this? Will I be able to graduate?

A: Your Communication Studies advisor can make notes in DegreeWorks to state which courses count towards your concentration. Student Records personnel will then make those notes official prior to your graduation. So get a Communication Studies advisor now!

Q: Can I get Communication Studies credit for courses taken abroad?

A: Yes, in many cases you can! You need to arrange to meet with the Chair who will decide what will count and what will not. Make sure you bring descriptions of the courses you plan to take so that you may discuss these with the Chair.

Q: I’m a Day student and I noticed that there are open seats in Holt Communication classes. Can I join those?

A: Yes, we’d love to have you. There are forms available in Student Records where you can apply to take a course outside of the Day school after which you’ll be good to go. Many students take night courses because they have seats open when the daytime section is full.

Q: Is it really necessary to go to the first day of class when it’s just going to be a discussion of the syllabus?

A: Yes, go to class! Some students think that not showing up on the first day of class is no big deal because they’ll just be going over the syllabus. Wrong! The first day of class is an important time where you receive information about your class. Also, for many courses, including the three hour long evening courses, the first day of class involves significant instruction and discussion. Finally, if you are not present in class on the first day, the professor will assume that you are dropping the class and will give the seat to a student on the waiting list who really wants the class. If you don’t intend on taking the class, don’t sign up!

Q: What Maymester 2014 courses is the Department offering? What about Summer 2014 courses?

A: We are offering COM 220: Interpersonal Communication this Maymester. For the first six-week Summer term, we are offering COM 305: Listening which will be taught by Dr. Bommelje. We are offering COM 324: Self Leadership and Communication which will be taught by Dr. Bommelje as well during that first Summer term. During the second six-week Summer term, Dr. Easton will be teaching COM 220: Interpersonal Communication, and Dr. Morrison will be teaching Ethics.

Q: Are any changes coming to the Communication Department?

A: Yes. Our department has had a major in the Day school for two years now, and we’ve realized that some changes need to be made. There will be some small changes to the Communication Studies major map. Please check in with your advisor to learn more. Keep in mind that students who have already started the major will be “grandfathered in” and will remain unaffected by the upcoming changes.
**Q: Where can I go to learn more about the department?**

**A:** Feel free to swing by the 2nd floor of the 170 Fairbanks building (where the Department of Communication office is located) to pick up some forms and/or speak with Sherry Lewis, the Communication Studies and CMC Administrative Assistant, or one of our top-notch work study staff. You can also go to the Department of Communication website by searching “Department of Communication” in the search box located on the Rollins homepage to learn more about the department.

In closing, scheduling is very complicated. Because we are a new major, consistency has been of the upmost importance. As a department, we learn more and more every semester because we work as a team.

**Q: When is Fox Day?**

**A:** One day each spring, the President cancels all classes for The Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Professional Studies, providing daytime undergraduate students with a surprise day off.

A statue of the Rollins fox appears on the Green early in the morning and the Chapel bells ring to alert students. The three-foot-high, 300-pound statue, with his knowing air, the hint of a smirk playing at his lips, contemplates the campus all day, watching students, faculty, and staff enjoy their brief respite. [http://www.rollins.edu/foxday/index.html](http://www.rollins.edu/foxday/index.html)

Though classes remain in session, students in the Hamilton Holt School and Crummer Graduate School of Business still have the opportunity to participate in Fox Day activities.

Additionally, the Hamilton Holt School adjusts its schedule so no class is held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. and students are encouraged to enjoy the Fox Day Picnic. [http://www.rollins.edu/foxday/fox-day-for-holt-and-crummer.html](http://www.rollins.edu/foxday/fox-day-for-holt-and-crummer.html)

Students enrolled in classes that start at or after 4 p.m. should know, however, that such classes are in the Holt School and that class will be cancelled on Fox Day only from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. on that day. So whether you are a daytime student or a Holt student, if you are taking a class that starts at or after 4:00 p.m., you should enjoy your Fox Day picnic at 6:00 p.m. but should also be ready to attend your classes as well!