



COMMUNITY NEWS



Spring Quarter 2015

Dear Friend,



In February 2012 I stood on the grounds of the State Capitol in South Carolina, looking at a Confederate flag. It was atop a flag pole roughly 100 feet from the front steps of the Capitol. I wondered, "Will this flag fly here forever?" We now know that the answer is 'No', after two weeks of tragedy, grace, and courage. As a citizen, I applaud this outcome. As a professor, I am intrigued by the ways in which communication has been central to this surprising development.

In the immediate aftermath of the racist killings of nine people in a Charleston church, civil rights activists and leaders mounted a Twitter campaign to make the case that the flag should go. This campaign was propelled by pictures of the alleged killer, posing with the flag. Twitter is too rarely a place for reasoned discourse, but in this case an alliance of established pundits and journalists found common ground with #blacklivesmatter activists to mobilize sentiment. South Carolina politicians initially sought to wait until after the funerals before discussing the flag's presence, but the Twitter wave forced their hand early.

[Read more Words from the Chair and how the Department of Communication is working to build a better world with the creation of the Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity >>](#)

► Communication Graduation Celebration 2015

The Department of Communication Graduation Celebration took place on Thursday, June 11 in the Quad, where more than 400 students walked across the stage in the sunshine to receive their diplomas. Distinguished alumna Lori Matsukawa (M.A., 1996) gave an inspiring keynote speech that urged the soon-to-be graduates in the professional world to never give up and keep pushing forward.

[View a video of Matsukawa's speech, along with the rest of the ceremony, including Alumni Board representative Taylor Soper's \(B.A., 2012\) send-off to the grads >>](#)

► CCDE Launch

The new Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity launched with three days of opening events from May 27 to 29. Activities included a keynote speech by Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz Herman Gray, a staged reading of "The Mamalogues" by playwright and Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas Lisa B. Thompson, and a cross-cultural communications workshop led by Rosetta Lee.



[A full re-cap of the events containing videos, photos, and student articles can be found here >>](#)

► IN-NW

This spring, the Communication Leadership program worked with the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce to hold the fourth annual IN-NW Conference, a two-day event that connects Seattle's business community members to each other and to local and international trends in the industry. "Dig-In" presentations were featured at this year's conference, and included sessions at several Seattle-based companies, law firms, and public

relations firms, along with a discussion at Google on women in tech and gaming. [Read more here >>](#)

► More Stories

- Professor Lance Bennett and Ph.D. alumnus Hak-Soo Kim were named ICA Fellows. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The Policy Debate Coalition was named the Brady Lee Garrison New Program of the Year by CEDA. [Read more](#).
- Doctoral candidate Jennifer McClearen will be a PIP Fellow at UW Bothell for the 2015-16 academic year. [Read more](#).
- Artist in Residence Sarah Stuteville was honored as 2015 SPJ Educator of the Year. [Read more](#).
- Students received more than \$100,000 in scholarships and awards. [Read more](#).
- Susan Wilson Williams (B.A., 1973) received the 2015 UWAA Distinguished Service Award. [Read more](#).

► In Memoriam



The journalism world has sadly lost three long-time pioneers in the first half of 2015, all alumni of the UW Department of Communication. One of them with strong ties to *The Daily* was known to never back down from expressing his own opinions; one was a staple in the Tacoma news scene for nearly three decades, and the other an academic leader at the University of Oregon.

[Read more about William Asbury \(B.A., 1949\), Rodney Cardwell \(B.A., 1953, and Arnold Ismach \(Ph.D., 1975\) >>](#)

We have also created a webpage to honor alumni who have passed away, including those who have received nominations to the Alumni Hall of Fame. [Click here to view](#).

THIS NEWSLETTER WAS SENT BY:

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