

WORD ON THE STREET

The Department of Communication's Monthly Newsletter



Students Represent Detroit in San Diego!

Members of PRSSA (affectionately known as the "PR Fab Six" by Shelly Najor) traveled to the the International PRSSA conference in San Diego, CA. They also won the bid to host a district PRSSA conference at Wayne State in April 2020. Another opportunity to position ourselves as leaders in our region and to show off our beautiful campus and of course Midtown! Jaymi Gittens won PRSA Detroit Durocher Memorial Scholarship and will be awarded this at the PRSA Detroit Annual Meeting Dinner in November. Congrats to all of these hardworking PRSSA students!

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OCT. 25, 2019

Faculty/ Student Updates

Stine Eckert and **Jade Metzger-Riftkin** at the first re:publica conference in Detroit on September 27, 2019. They discussed the results of a study on Detroit area Muslims' experiences of and responses to Islamophobia during the 2016 US presidential election.

Her panel also included local artist and entrepreneur **Noura Ballout** who founded the **Habibi House** art residency space and program (more information here <http://www.nouraballout.com/>).



The re:publica conference franchise hails from Germany where its annual flagship event in Berlin draws thousands of participants, including prominent speakers from technology, news media, politics, and business. It is Europe's biggest conference on the digital media society. The inaugural re:publica conference in Detroit focused on issues of access in the city: <https://detroit.sequencer-tour.com/en>.



Michael Fuhlhage was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA) for a three-year term running 2019-22. The AJHA Board of Directors serve as representatives of the membership and counselors to the organization, identify issues, propose solutions, propose initiatives, provide guidance to the standing committees when they raise questions, propose and vote on amendments to the by-laws of the group, and provide oversight for the committees, treasurer, and elected leaders.

He's delighted to be able to give back to the group of scholars who have done the most to help him establish himself as a researcher and teacher of media history.



Rosie Featured on Local News Station

Rosie Jahng was interviewed with Channel 7 about the online fake news spreading in Michigan.



Rahul Mitra had a book chapter accepted with grad students **Kelsey Husnick** and **Mostafa Aniss**: *Husnick, K., Aniss, M., & Mitra, R. (In press). Naturalizing environmental injustice: How privileged residents make sense of Detroit's water shutoffs. In C. Schmitt, & T. Castor (Eds.), A Mighty stream: A confluence of water, rhetoric, and social justice. Lexington Books.*

Rahul also created and facilitated a workshop, based on this chapter, for local activist group Detroit Jews for Justice on Sep 24. The goal of the workshop was to identify key messages and create programming that would activate suburban residents in Metro Detroit to be more involved in the city's water affordability and scarcity problems. On Oct 15, Rahul participated in a campus-wide panel discussion titled "Greening the curriculum: Sustainability in the classroom" that discussed how environmental issues and themes can be broached through classroom projects, learning, and activities. This discussion was part of WSU's "Green Street: The Intersection of Learning and Sustainability," organized by the President's Standing Committee on the Environment.

Questions for the Chair

Question: *In the wake of the ongoing #CommunicationSoWhite and NCA Distinguished Scholars issue, what is our department doing -- and what does it plan to do -- to better address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)? Despite efforts at the professional association, or even higher up in the university/college, real and meaningful change originates from the grassroots level. And yet, it seems that our department rarely talks about diversity, equity and inclusion -- unless it's time for us to hire faculty members, or recruit PhD students, or think about accreditation. At such times, DEI is often included in ad hoc group meetings, but in the past six years I have been here, I have yet to witness an honest broad-based conversation among faculty, staff and students about what DEI means for us, what it should/could mean, and how we can take concrete steps to institutionalize it. And yet, if we are indeed an urban research university, and we pride our connection to Detroit's rich ethnic and labor roots as a department, it would seem that the least we could is engage in such conversations. Not only do we lack a standing committee on DEI -- although DEI is central to everything we do as a department -- our existing assessment and evaluation procedures do not take DEI into account, either.*

Answer: Thanks for this message. Area Heads and Program Directors are bringing this up in their meetings this semester and doing so enthusiastically: So glad to see areas, faculty, and students embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion. I want this to be intentional, deliberate, and faculty led conversations, but as chair, I also have a role in making sure that the higher-level documents, policies, procedures, awards, etc. also reflect DEI. The graduate students are also embracing this, as **Ariel Seay** and several others are planning a conference in February. This Conference will be the first Diversity Conference ever held at Wayne State University. We would like to give all students, faculty, and the public a chance to show off their current, and diverse research. This conference is also a safe space to talk about issues; such as diversity in higher educational institutions. The conference will be held on February 28- 29 of 2020. The theme of this conference is: Voice, Identity, and Inclusion and this event welcomes all cultures, sexual identities, and ethnicities. We want any and every one to feel welcome when attending this event. So thank you for these important conversations and efforts to make this part of who we are as a department.

There have been several requests from individual faculty regarding how to access **CourseLeaf**.

Here are the set of links that can be used:

For new courses or course changes:

<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/courseadmin/>

For Course Material Fees:

<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/miscadmin/>

For Program proposals (minors, majors):

<https://nextbulletins.wayne.edu/programadmin/>

Brown Bag Sessions



As many of you know, the university is encouraging the development of a range of modes for delivering course instruction. Face to face is well-established. Hybrid and fully online instruction is being developed and opens up opportunities for students to fit their schedules and also expand the outreach of our work. For many of us, designing and teaching online is a mystery. Office of Teaching and Learning offers an annual intensive summer institute as well as workshops and webinars throughout the year on different aspects of online pedagogy. The college would also like to facilitate and support faculty expanding their instructional tool box to include online pedagogy. To that end, we are sponsoring a Virtual Brown Bag series for college faculty (FT and PT) and GTAs using the Zoom system. These will be interactive sessions with the presenters sharing some ideas and suggestions and engaging the audience in discussion. We will start off with a “primer” on the essentials of online teaching with Alisa Hutchinson, OTL.

In later weeks, we will draw on current college faculty from each department who have been engaging in online pedagogy to share their experiences, challenges, benefits and strategies.

The kick off of the series will be on Friday, November 1 from 2-3:00 entitled “ OTL Virtual Brown Bag: Online Teaching Essentials for CFPCA”; Alisa Hutchinson, OTL

Upcoming sessions:

Friday, December 13, 2-3 pm.

Mary Anderson and Doug Risner of Theatre and Dance will share their ideas, challenges, and discoveries in their experience with the MA in Teaching Artistry, a fully online program.

If you are interested in sharing your experiences in online pedagogy through the virtual brownbag series, please contact:

Loraleigh Keashly, Associate Dean, Curricular & Student Affairs
313-577-5747, l.keashly@wayne.edu



Upcoming Event



CFPCA Graduation is the 10am ceremony on Tuesday Dec 10. That is ALSO the holiday party, so we will push the time back to 1:00 like we did last year.