Greetings from Andrew Miller, Chair of the Department of Communication & Media Studies

Having returned from a productive sabbatical, it’s great to be back teaching, and working with students and colleagues. This year we have many exciting things happening in the department, including our initial graduate class, and several events that have already kicked off the academic year.

To our new graduate students and to our returning students:
Welcome to a year that promises to be filled with challenges, hard work, fun, and lots of opportunities to expand your horizons.

GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

The new Masters in Communication program (MACOMM) began its first class of 40 graduate students in September. Students began the initial 8 week module with courses in Media, Culture and Communication, and Multimedia Production. As part of our laptop program, all MACOMM students received a new Apple Mac Book Pro laptop loaded with editing and publishing software compatible with their coursework. An integral part of the curriculum is real world experience, and students are currently exploring media internships throughout the area. We encourage SHU alums interested in a career oriented graduate degree to check out the MACOMM program, and current SHU seniors to contact Professor Jim Castonguay to find out about our 5th year MA program.
Dr. Debbie Danowski’s article, “Re-energize Your Career” will be published in the November issue of ASJA Monthly, a publication of the American Society of Journalists and Authors.

Dr. Sid Gottlieb has an article on Hitchcock's silent cinema in A Companion to Hitchcock (Wiley-Blackwell), and an article on Hitchcock's first silent film in Hitchcock at the Source (SUNY Press). The latest issue of The Hitchcock Annual, volume 17, that Sid co-edits with Richard Allen, will be available next month from Columbia University Press.

Dr. Sally Ross and CMS Instructor Mark Edwards have combined their classes -- Narrative Film, and Acting for the Camera. Students are working together in the new combined class format to produce and act in original short films.

Vision Project has an upcoming group exhibition at the International Center of Photography in NYC - “Remembering 9/11”, including photographs by CMS instructor Rick Falco. Visit: http://www.visionproject.org to view their latest photo galleries, and podcasts/interviews.

On August 12th, CMS Adjunct Prof. Joe Alicastro was a guest lecturer at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. His lecture was part of a media training program for executives from the Guangdong Southern Media Group, one of the largest media companies in China. The areas of discussion were: IPTV, Mobile TV, Streaming Media, and other new media: business opportunities and management.

On October 31st, Prof. Alicastro will be back at Columbia University as guest lecturer to a group of senior executives from China organized by the All-China Journalist Association. The areas of discussion will be film and media distribution, marketing and the business outlook in the near future.

Dr. Lori Bindig joined the Department of Media Studies and Communication as our newest full time faculty member in Fall 2011. Professor Bindig comes to us from the College of Saint Rose where she taught after completing her Doctorate degree in Communication. Her educational credentials include a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Theory from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a Masters of Communication from the University of Hartford, a BA in American Studies, and a BFA in Musical Theater.

Lori’s teaching experience includes the University of Hartford, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Central and Eastern Connecticut State Universities.


She is currently teaching Social Media, and Senior Project in our undergraduate program and Professional Communication in the Digital Age in our graduate program.

When she’s not teaching, Lori loves to read, watch TV and movies, and spend time with family, friends, and her two cats. She’d like her students to learn to create informative, interesting and ethical media artifacts. Most importantly, she wants her students to use their voices to positively impact the media industry and, in turn, affect society.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Dr. Lori Bindig**

**Welcome New Faculty**

**Dr. Lori Bindig**

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**ShuBox** is a student-run production club focused on producing multimedia content. Members write, shoot, edit and air their original ideas. The club meets every Wednesday at 10:00 PM in the Media Studies studio. Interested? Contact SHUBOX Station Manager Erin Murtaug or come to the next meeting!

**WHRT** is SHU’s student-run radio station. We mix the best in new music and talk with favorites of the past. Those involved with the station experience real world challenges applicable to any career path. We invite students from any major to join us for our weekly meeting and try your hand at broadcasting or contribute behind the scenes. Visit whrtradio.com.

**The Pulse** is a student run digital news magazine producing weekly stories, columns and video showcasing university and community stories; currently distributed across multiple platforms such as Channel 3 television, The Open Student Television Network, the SHU website, iTunesU and its very own “Pulse” website. The Pulse is run by the creative and talented students of the TV News Magazine Production II class.
Mark Edwards started his career at Sacred Heart when he was drafted into teaching by his former English professor and SHU writer in residence, Claude McNeal. Mark has been teaching at SHU since 1992 and currently teaches for both the graduate and undergraduate programs. His courses include Introduction to Media Culture, Acting for the Screen and Graduate Seminar.

After completing his BS in English with a minor in media studies at Sacred Heart, Mark went on to acquire a Masters of Media Ecology from NYU and an MFA in creative writing from Lesley University.

Prior to teaching, Mark worked in a variety of media professions including copywriting, freelance writing, and photography.

Mark’s play “Ladies in Hats” tells the story of two women arguing about death and friendship at a wake. It was performed at the 2010 Boston Playwrights Marathon by the Nora Theater Company, and was recently published in the anthology Boston Theater Marathon XI by Kate Snodgrass (July, 2011). The play first premiered at Sacred Heart University in October of 2005 as part of the show “Dead Dog Tattoo.”

His forthcoming book entitled Pirates on Dinosaur Island will be published by Gemma Media in February 2012. Mark has been researching another book for the past two years, entitled The Thieving, set in 11th century Ireland. Mark tries to write at least 500 words a day and draws ideas from notebooks filled with conversations, weird science, odd news stories, descriptions, and observations of people.

According to Mark, a vital skill for students to learn is critical thinking. “It’s more important that students think about their engagement with media than learn trivia about media.” He believes students are more empowered to make change than they realize. “The most important thing I would like my students to learn is that they have much more agency than they believe they do. That they are actually able to take an active and critical part in our culture.”
Award-winning editorial cartoonist Jimmy Margulies visited campus on September 10th to share his background and experiences as a political cartoonist for The Record newspaper in New Jersey. Nationally syndicated, his cartoons appear in magazines and newspapers including Time, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times Week in Review, and television shows such as Meet the Press. His presentation included a look into his creative process, how he gets ideas, and advice for aspiring cartoonists. He provided commentary on a number of his cartoons, and shared his thoughts on the future of print media. You can view his cartoons at www.cagle.com. This presentation was part of a long running lecture series dedicated to the memory of family members of CMS Professor Sid Gottlieb.

International journalist and bestselling author Sebastian Junger spoke to the Sacred Heart community on September 19th. Junger shared his experiences researching and writing the book War and filming the documentary Restrepo. Both focus on a platoon of US soldiers stationed in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, the extreme conditions they endure, and the profound bond of brotherhood that develops under such severe conditions. Junger traveled to Afghanistan five times, spending one month each visit living alongside the soldiers to experience first hand the extreme duress and danger they faced and to report from the soldier’s perspective the emotional experience of combat and the impact of war. Author of The Perfect Storm, Junger has been an award winning journalist for over 20 years, and contributing editor to Vanity Fair and ABC News.

Philanthropist and filmmaker Abigail Disney spoke on October 3 about her latest project, Women, War and Peace, a 5 part PBS series that examines how women are affected by war, and the strategic role women play in peace building. Disney, who is committed to creating social change, was producer for the award-winning documentary film, Pray the Devil Back to Hell, which chronicles the grassroots movement of Christian and Muslim Liberian women who banded together despite their religious differences to force the country’s male leaders to cease fighting and work towards peace. Disney shared clips from the Women, War and Peace series, her experiences filming in third world countries, and discussed issues raised by the film, including the vital role of women in creating social change, the importance of critically assessing the news media, and the challenge of individuals to get involved in creating change in the world.
CMS Alumnus Catherine Fiehn has been a professional photographer for over 20 years. Her studio, located in Milford, Connecticut offers a variety of services, including portraits and model and casting headshots, with her primary focus on pageant and wedding photography.

Catherine graduated from Sacred Heart in 1989 with a BA in Media Studies with a focus on photography and public relations. Catherine was Photo Editor of the Spectrum, and credits that experience, along with the influence of several of her professors that prepared her to be a successful photographer. While still a student, she worked as Manager of Darien Studio of Photography honing her skills and gaining valuable real world experience.

In the early 1990's, Catherine moved to Georgia where she became involved in pageant photography. By the time she returned to Connecticut in 1997 and opened her own studio, she had developed a following in the pageant industry. She is currently the official photographer for the Miss Connecticut and Miss Connecticut’s Outstanding Teen Scholarship Corporation; Mrs. Connecticut; Rhode Island American Pageant; and the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Organization. She travels each year to Las Vegas to photograph the Miss America Pageant. Catherine can also be seen among the photographers at Fashion Week in New York City.

Catherine has won numerous awards, including international recognition for her commercial portraiture, and has been named Creative Photographer of the Year twice by the Connecticut Professional Photographer’s Association. Her studio was named to The Knot’s Best of Weddings list for 2008-2009.

She recently started acting and has appeared on 30 Rock, and Z Rock with Dee Snider and Joan Rivers. She also appeared on the Nate Berkus show and produced the photography segments that were shot in her home.

You can view Catherine’s photography at: www.catherinefiehnphotography.com.

Catherine’s words of advice for students...

- If you are thinking of starting your own business, take a few business or marketing classes.
- Real life experience is very important – pursue internships, or try working as an extra on a movie or TV set. You’ll learn a tremendous amount about production and what goes on behind the scenes just by observing.
- Find good mentors.
- Stand out in the creative field.
- Having a web presence is extremely important.
- When you go for a job interview, or to meet a potential client, believe in yourself and go in with a lot of confidence.
What Have We Been Up To?

CMS Welcome Barbecue

On September 27th, our annual Welcome Barbecue brought together faculty and students for good food, a chance to meet new and old friends, and welcome in the new academic year. Grill master Sid Gottlieb cooked up hamburgers and hotdogs for a hungry crowd!

Special congratulations to Gregory J. Golda, M.Ed., who became a full time CMS faculty member this year. Greg has been an invaluable member of the department teaching as a Clinical Instructor since 1999. Way to go, Greg!

FACULTY MAKES MUSIC!

The Hell or High Water Music Club, featuring Greg Golda and Sid Gottlieb has been seen playing around such places as the Funky Monkey in Cheshire, where audience members included SHU Professors Gary Rose, Jerry Reid, Brian Stiltner, Rick Grigg, and former student, Keith Zdrojowy, who shot photos of the band. They rocked the house!

Please send your comments, suggestions, submissions and alumni news to Suzanne Golub, Editor at: golubs1 506@sacredheart.edu
We’d love to hear from you!!