

Communication Matters

Spring 2019 Edition



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Our Social Media



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LPH Mentorship Program and Induction

Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication and Media Studies Honor Society, introduced a new mentorship program this year that brings upperclassmen and underclassmen together in a mentor, mentee role. Honor society members have made themselves available to younger students, giving them advice not just on their majors and classes, but also on life at PSU as a whole.

Professor Mary Beth Ray explained that, "The goal of the program is to help ease new majors into the discipline and help their studies advance in a successful way." But this program doesn't just help younger students who are just starting out. "It gives the more established Communication and Media Studies students an opportunity to take a leadership position and mentor younger folks," she said.

The program also supports Lambda Pi Eta's main goals, one of

which is stimulating interest in the discipline. The program will hopefully develop some long lasting relationships between those involved.



Photo by Joey Burgess

While on the subject of honor society, the Lambda Pi Eta Induction Ceremony is happening on April 28. The ceremony brings together students, faculty, as well as friends and family to honor those in the CMS Discipline who have gone above and beyond to give back to the PSU community. This year, ten students are going to be inducted.

Three Senior Awards

Three seniors in the Communication and Media Studies were given letters notifying them that they are going to be awarded later this semester.

The awards were the Communication and Media Studies Leadership award, which was given to one student, and the Communication Excellence Award, which two students received.

Both rewards have a different set of criteria a student must meet to earn them. To qualify for the Communication Excellence Award, a student needs a 3.5 GPA, evidence that they've helped to build community, and enthusiasm in the classroom.

The Communication Leadership Award winner needs to have left a lasting impression on the department, as well as the campus wide community. They also need to have strengthened a part of the community and displayed clear communication competence and leadership skills.

This year, the three recipients were Monica Hamel, Julia Thibaudeau, and Nicholas Pulliam.

The three students will receive their awards the night before undergraduate commencement, at the Convocation Ceremony.

Afrofuturism: Celebrating Black History Month at PSU

February was Black History Month and to celebrate, Plymouth State University held two major events. The first was a month long crochet project where students and faculty worked together to create a crochet banner of famous singer and civil rights activist, Nina Simone. Then, to cap everything off at the end of the month, guest speaker Dr. Aria Halliday visited PSU to give a lecture titled, "The Afrofutures of Feminism: Young, Gifted, and Black."



Dr. Ray opening up the lecture

Professor Mary Beth Ray of the Communication program and Professor Kristin Stelmok of the English program played a large role in organizing the event, along with a collection of campus organizations, including: the PSU Women's Studies Council, the Peace & Social Justice Council, the PSU Black Student Union, the PSU Afro-Caribbean Culture Club, the President's Commission on the Status of Women, and Feminist Oasis.

Professor Ray opened up the lecture by thanking all the organization who made the event a reality and explained that this was all part of a

Cluster Project. Referring to the crochet banner, Professor Ray explained that "everyone really had a hand in crafting this; it was a collaborative effort."

She also spoke about Nina Simone, who was a singer and activist. Nina Simone started playing piano at the age of three and performed at her first recital when she was twelve years old. She actually refused to start playing until her parents were allowed to go back to their front row seats, which they had been removed from so that a white couple could sit there instead.



Dr. Halliday posing next to the finished Crochet piece

Dr. Halliday's lecture focused mainly on her role models growing up, including Nina Simone. And it was actually Nina Simone's famous song, *Young, Gifted, and Black* that inspired Dr. Halliday's title for her lecture.

She also talked about famous playwright Lorraine Hansberry, who wrote *A Raisin in the Sun*, which was based on her family's own experiences when Chicago still had segregated housing.

Another iconic figure she talked about was Claudia Jones, who founded the first major Black newspaper in

Britain, *The West Indian Gazette*.

Dr. Halliday had plenty of other famous role models to talk about and she did this to highlight the main point of her lecture, people need to craft their own future by taking action. "The futures we create start with you," she said.

Before entering a Q&A session, Dr. Halliday ended her lecture by listing some modern day Black icons, like Cardi B.



Dr. Halliday giving her lecture

Once her lecture was complete, she took the time to answer questions from the audience, and went into more detail on her personal life. She spoke about how she initially wanted to be a lawyer, but changed her mind one day in class, when she thought she could do a better job than the teacher was doing. After that she created a custom major and spent five years getting an M.A. and a Ph.D.

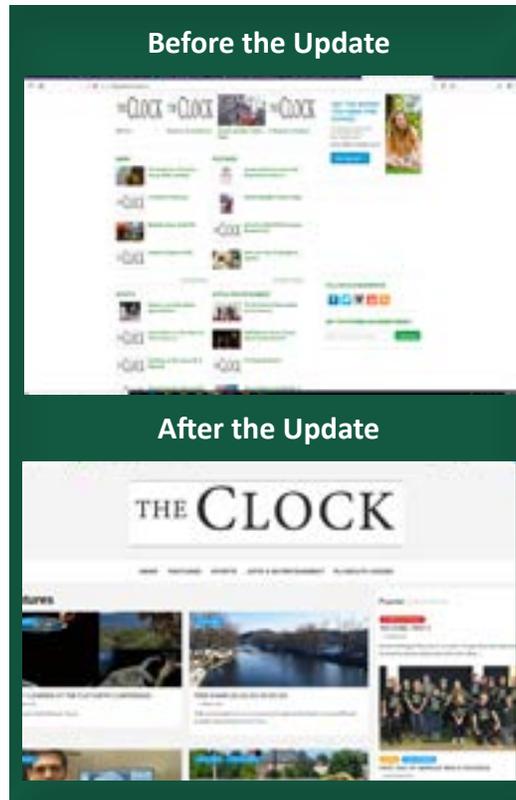
For the future, she is planning on giving more lectures like this one and she's also working on a new book.

Photos are courtesy of Sam Knapton

What's New With The Clock?

Our student run newspaper has updated their website to a sleeker, more modern look. Along with the updated site, comes the paper's fifth official section, Plymouth Voices. This new section, which serves as a spiritual successor to Fiction, highlights the creative fictional work of PSU students.

What makes it special is that it has ongoing series that readers can look forward to every print, including *Mars* and *It's a Cold War After All*. Jordan Cady is the editor of the new section and before this, she worked as the Features and Managing Editor. She said, "It's important because the newspaper now has a section for every type of writer. Poets, fiction and nonfiction writers now can be a part of The Clock family and have a section to call their own."



Student Spotlight: Monica Hamel



Every semester there are students who stand out in the Communication and Media Studies program; this semester is no exception. One of these students is Monica Hamel.

Monica originally joined PSU's community because of its French program, and once she got here, she also discovered the CMS program, and chose to major in Communication, with an option in Media Studies.

She is part of the Film Club, French Club (which she co-founded), Lambda Pi Eta, Phi Sigma Iota, and Poets & Writers.

When asked what drives her to do so well in school, she said, "I think what drives me in school is wanting to make my future-self proud of who I will become. I want to work hard now so that I can get to where I want to be."

Monica is a senior and what she's going to miss the most is, "The sense of home that I have when I come back here after each break. PSU is such an important chapter in my life, I could talk about it for days!" After graduation, she wants to teach English in France.

The Society for Scholarly Dialogue Presents: John X. Christ, PhD

On April 25, Professor John X. Christ will be giving a lecture titled, "Representation and Development at the Crossroads: Reconsidering Creative Placement."

The event is going to be held in the Frost Academic Commons.

A light dinner is going to be served at 6:30 pm, followed by the lecture, which starts at 7:00 pm. Once Dr. Christ is done, there will be a short Q&A session.



His lecture is expected to focus on the representational function and power of public art. He will ask if we really are at a

crossroads when it comes to economic development and creative expression.

Coming Next Year: Film Club's Film Festival



Next year PSU's Film Club will be hosting a film festival. Joey Burgess,

the current Film Club president, said, "The plan is to have students and faculty across campus submit videos to Film Club."

The club will judge the videos based on quality, but also on entertainment value.