

Dial In

The Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication

Featured Articles

MEET THE DIAL CENTER'S
NEW DIRECTOR

Page 2

AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Page 4

MEET ALUM OLIVIA BARUCH

Page 5

HEALTH COMMUNICATION
WITH PROFESSOR NAGY

Page 6

A LETTER TO DR. ROBERTS

Page 8

Pre-Register for Spring Courses

Who: Communication Studies Minors and Prospective Minors

When: Thursday, October 7th, 3-4 pm

Where: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99361035714>

Pre-registration is the perfect opportunity for current and prospective communication studies minors to get the **inside scoop** on Spring courses directly from the professors. No need for *Rate my Professor*, you get the student's perspective at the event!

Want to **skip the line** and get into classes you want? Students at Pre-Registration have the **opportunity to enroll EARLY** for their chosen class! Don't miss out!

FOLLOW US



Facebook.com/UFDialCenter



@ufdialcenter

Welcome the Dial Center's New Director...

Have you heard that the Dial Center gained a new Director? Meet Dr. Emily Rine Butler! Dr. Butler is a Master Lecturer who specializes in linguistics and communication. Initially starting her teaching career lecturing in classes such as Language & Power, Dr. Butler found her love for communication studies through the Dial Center's Speech and Debate Team. As someone who was involved in the activity herself when she was in high school, Dr. Butler was ecstatic to reunite with her teenage hobby. This involvement with the speech and debate led to a career pivot for her. Although Dr. Butler received her Ph.D.

in linguistics, she fell in love with the Dial Center and the study of communication. This interest opened up a new career path for her as Dr. Butler currently teaches classes within the Dial Center, such as Introduction to Interpersonal Communication as well as cross-listed courses with the Department of Linguistics including Language and Social Interaction.

Planning for the Fall

Dr. Butler is beyond excited for what's to come with the Dial Center this year. One change she is proud of is the new collaborative office space for the Dial Center Ambassadors and the Speech and Debate Team. Dr. Butler considers the students and Ambassadors a central piece to the Dial Center, which is why she is thrilled to reward them with their own space to do work and prepare to represent the Center and the University. Another project she anticipates is working with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to determine the communication needs of all CLAS students. Communication is vital in every major and college, which is why this project will be so important.

And Associate Director!

In addition to Dr. Butler becoming the new Director of the Dial Center, Dr. Amy Martinelli has become our new Associate Director! Dr. Martinelli attended the University of Florida as a student, later returned to teach, and now is our Associate Director, as well as the Director of the Public Speaking Program. Anyone who has taken a class with Dr. Martinelli can attest to the fact that she is incredibly passionate about her work, cares immensely for her students, and never fails to put a smile on your face. We are so excited for what's to come, and would like to give a final warm welcome to Dr. Butler and Dr. Martinelli!



Dr. Butler's Advice

Dr. Butler's advice to every student is to take risks and be positive. Every day is a new day for learning and growth. She has her own saying that she lives by: "Embrace the suck." Things might be difficult right now, but it's important to keep a positive mindset and work towards your goals.



Visit the Dial Center website at cwoc.ufl.edu for an updated list of our staff and their contact information. Feel free to stop by any of our many events throughout the semester to welcome Dr. Butler and Dr. Martinelli yourself!



Ambassador Leadership Program

Offered by the Dial Center, this specialized program will strengthen your Leadership and Communication Skills! If you have a passion for communication, this program is likely the place for you! Read more about our program in our **featured article** on page 4!

If you're interested in joining the Ambassador Leadership Program, be on the lookout for our **information sessions** offered throughout the fall. Ambassadors are also present at **all Dial Center events**, so please stop by if you're interested!

Spring 2021 Communication Challenge Recap

Each Spring marks the official kick-off of the Comm. Challenge held by the Dial Center. The Challenge consists of a series of events designed to help students engage with our community and to develop as communicators. The 2021 Comm. Challenge offered opportunities for growth and involvement through workshops on interview skills, public speaking, corporate culture, and conflict management, as well as debates hosted by the UF Speech & Debate Team, culminating with a virtual picnic & games at our "Lake Wherever" social.

In the end, over 130 students participated in the 2021 Comm. Challenge! Congratulations to everyone who participated in the challenge and especially to our winners, who received raffle prizes ranging from restaurant gift cards to student planners!

Do you want to get involved, sharpen your communication skills, and earn some gifts and extra-credit along the way? Join us for the Comm. Challenge in the spring of 2022!

Happy 10th Anniversary to the Ambassador Leadership Program!

The **Ambassador Leadership Program (ALP)** is a two-year program designed to help students taking courses in Communication Studies practice and apply the skills they learn in the real world, while also representing the University of Florida's Dial Center. This school year, it will be the Ambassador Leadership Program's 10-year anniversary, so we want to take the time to share more about the program and its story!

The Beginning:

The Ambassador Leadership Program started when Dr. Jade Williams arrived at UF in the Fall 2011. Dr. Williams has served as Ambassador Program Director for 9 years and has been very active in the communication realm. At one point, the organization was entirely run by students. According to Dr. Williams, "It was having trouble blooming and growing in the way everyone knew it could. It had so much potential." When she got there, there was only one student left-Christy Jones. Dr. Williams heard Christy had an idea about a two-year Ambassador Leadership Program, so she talked to the administration about the idea. They loved it and wanted to go for it. From there, what once was just a student organization, was now an official program!

How the Ambassador Leadership Program Works:

The Ambassador Leadership Program is a two-year commitment. The first year of the program gives students the opportunity to tap into their leadership and communication skills as an Ambassador Apprentice. Then, during the second year, students can put those skills into action as an Ambassador Leader. Dr. Williams says, "Every single person has their own leadership program and their own things they're working on; and each of you is helping each other to get and attain your leadership goal."

In the second year as an Ambassador Leader, students are immersed in transformational leadership, which looks at how they manage and develop others. This includes organizing, leading, mentoring, and training teams. Overall, this program operates by allowing the students to work in teams to support and train each other. By having structured hierarchies, students are able to practice the leadership skills they've learned their first year.

Highlights of the Ambassador Leadership Program:

For many years, the Dial Center had hosted pre-registration but the Ambassadors have taken it over and made it our own! Pre-registration takes place every Fall and Spring, and interested students can attend workshops, meet professors and register for communication classes before everyone else. We also created the Communication Challenge, held during the Spring semester. Students can get extra credit in certain classes for attending and win great prizes. There is also a social meet-up during the challenge: "The Dial Center and Friends at Lake Wauburg" Event. Those traditions were started by the ALP and we're incredibly proud of the progress we've made.



Advice from Dr. Williams

"The classes you are taking in the Dial Center have the power to not only change your life, but the world!"

"Follow your interests by taking classes that sound interesting to you. Not easy, but interesting because it can lead you to finding your niche for the future."

"The Dial Center offers those staple courses that everyone needs to be a better communicator and students can create a growth journey out of it."

Visit cwoc.ufl.edu if you are interested in learning more about our program, or reach out to us via our email: ambassadors@cwoc.ufl.edu!

Where are they Now?

Checking in with our Dial Center Alumni

Dial Center Alum Olivia Baruch graduated from the University of Florida in 2020 with a B.S. in Telecommunication and a minor in Communication studies. She now attends law school at New York University and cites the Dial Center Ambassador Leadership Program as the “cornerstone of (her) college career.” Olivia shared some insight into her experience as an Ambassador; in fact, her entire personal statement for law school was centered around her time at the Dial Center! She says being an Ambassador helped calm her nerves, be more poised in front of people, and helped her gain confidence.



Olivia Baruch


As an NYU law student, Olivia uses the communication skills she learned at the Dial Center in oral arguments and mass public speaking assignments; she knows how to deliver her messages effectively and center herself. One of the perks of the Ambassador Leadership Program is the one-on-one attention you receive; Olivia feels this was a unique aspect, and she always had someone to go to when seeking guidance. Finally, to students who are considering becoming an Ambassador, Olivia says “DO IT!” She states that even if being an Ambassador seems intimidating, it really does change you for the better and helps you grow!

According to Dr. Williams, “the alumni of the Ambassador Leadership Program are so devoted to this program and they will do anything and everything for it.” Yet, this program does a lot for its members as well. Alumni from the Ambassador Leadership Program have gone on to law school, medical school, veterinary school, various master's programs, and successful careers. While the Ambassador Leadership Program is technically an academic program, it offers so much more. We teach the skills necessary to lead and communicate in any environment, as well as the personal benefit of lifelong friends.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM ON PAGE 4

Health Communication with Professor Nagy.

Why should everyone consider taking Health Communication? The answer is simple: because everyone should want to be a good healthcare consumer. There is a misconception that Health Communication is a class only for pre-med majors, and that is not true! For pre-med students, it is important to learn how to communicate with patients and with other providers. For non-pre-med students, it is beneficial to learn about various aspects relating to healthcare, such as insurance or getting along with medical providers. Whether it involves us, our family members, or loved ones, we all must deal with health issues at some point in our lives—regardless of your major!



Taught by the brilliant Professor Nagy, this course examines more than just patient-doctor interaction. Some of the other topics explored are cultural competence, social support, family caregiving, electronic health, healthcare administration, and crisis communication. This class consists of textbook readings, discussions, journals, several activities, and a research project on a topic of the student's personal choice. There are no exams but there are chapter quizzes.

After taking Introduction to Interpersonal Communication to fulfill a gen-ed requirement in college, Professor Nagy became so excited about the material and never lost that sense of excitement. She realized how communication remains a part of our whole lives through different relationships with significant others, co-workers, bosses, friends, and more. Professor Nagy worked in healthcare for 18 years, so when she learned that there was a field for health communication, she felt as though it was written for her! While health communication is her focus, she took all kinds of communication courses as an undergraduate and graduate student and enjoys teaching a wide variety of courses across different contexts. Professor Nagy's Health Communication and Global Health Communication courses that she teaches are her personal favorites.

SPRING 2022 COURSES

COM1000–Introduction to Communication Studies
LIS2001–Introduction to Library Research
SPC2300–Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
SPC2594–Intercollegiate Forensics
SPC2608–Introduction to Public Speaking
SPC2351–Listening
SPC3331–Nonverbal Communication
SPC3513–Argumentation
SPC3602–Advanced Public Speaking
SPC4425–Small Group Communication
SPC4710–Patterns of Intercultural Communication
SPC4905–Individual Study
COM4911-UG Research Communication Studies
COM4930-Global Health Communication
COM4930-Life Span Communication
COM4930-Communication Practicum
COM4930-Computer-Mediated Communication
COM4930-Language and Social Interaction
COM4930-Sports Communication

**Learn more about our Spring 2022 courses at our
Pre-Registration Event on October 7th!**



GRADUATION CORD CEREMONY

Are you GRADUATING this semester?

**Celebrate your achievements and receive your
Communication Studies Minor cord
from the Dial Center!**

**Invitations to the ceremony will be sent via email to
graduating seniors who have completed or are on track to
complete the Communication Studies Minor.**





Thank You Dr. Roberts

This past spring, the Dial Center gave the biggest thank you to our former program director, Dr. Kellie Roberts. In June of this year, Dr. Roberts stepped down from her director position after years of dedicated service and hard work.

Throughout her tenure of being associate, interim, and full director of the Dial Center, Dr. Roberts has been the catalyst of the growth and enhancement of not only the program itself but also of the education of the students within it.

Dr. Robert's impact doesn't end with the Dial Center, as her contributions and leadership also saw a translation to the UF Speech and Debate Team. Under her direction, the team has won dozens of awards with accomplishments including being the host of nationals 3 times and numerous 1st place finishes.

Even when dealt with the difficulties of staff departures and Covid-19, Dr. Roberts found a way to push through and not only meet expectations but surpass them. She was able to cultivate a strong faculty over the years and more recently guided them in the transition of the program to a virtual setting due to the pandemic.

Despite her extensive list of achievements, Dr. Roberts will tell you that her most valued success has been seeing her students succeed. Over the years, she has had the pleasure to see many go on to graduate school, become teachers, and even become parents.

Looking ahead to the future, Dr. Roberts plans to get more in touch with past alumni, create new courses, and put most of her focus into the Speech and Debate Team. Although she may be stepping down from the director position, her presence will definitely still be felt within the program through the many goals still yet to accomplish.

Once again, we cannot express our immense gratitude for Dr. Roberts and all she has done for us. But even with that being said, we might as well try. So, thank you for everything!

**Best,
The Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication**



Interview Tips: Strengths and Weaknesses

“What are your **strengths** and **weaknesses**?”

Have you ever been asked this in an **interview** and either felt you didn't know what to say or you could only think of simple and generic answers? Well, taking a **strength test** can help

you! Switch out leader for developer, perfectionist for intellection, problem-solving for restorative, and so much more. Having a new set of words to describe your strengths and weaknesses will not only advance your answers but provide more specificity for your interviewers. Yes, the quiz is long, but it's an investment in your knowledge as well.

Want to explore your strengths and weaknesses? Check them out using this QR code!



Why is it important to know my strengths and weaknesses?

Keeping track of your strengths can be incredibly beneficial in the workforce. It can help you determine which jobs and projects you'd be a good match for. Additionally, when properly communicated to employers, it not only shows what you're good at, but also can demonstrate that you are introspective enough to recognize it.

While it may seem easier or even beneficial to focus only on your strengths, identifying your weaknesses is very important.

Not only does it show self-reflection, but it gives one a fantastic opportunity for growth. Don't get too caught up in one area over the other, both are equally important!

Pro-tip: After identifying your weakness in a job interview, explain to your interviewer what you've been doing to make progress in that area. Bonus points if you can provide information or confirmation of growth.