

AVEN UNDERGROUND

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THE PROMPTER

FALL 2017

Mississippi College
Communication
Department

This special edition of the Prompter is aimed at those who are considering not only a college, but a concentration. We are here to tell you about the offerings of the Communication program at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. If you know someone in this position, please pass this Prompter along. Find us at communication.mc.edu or @mccomdepartment



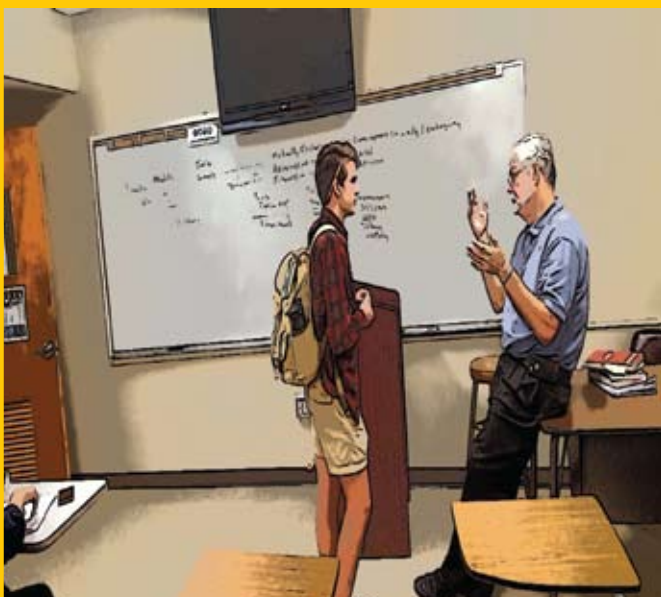
I am Vicki Williams. I am administrative assistant to our chair, Dr. Fortenberry. I have been described as the glue that holds the department together. I prefer to think of myself as the greeter who invites students into our home. I move us past the stuffy, formal living room into the warm, welcoming den where we can become better acquainted. I value knowing and serving each student. I enjoy helping them discover what it means to be an adult and become the person the Lord Jesus made them to be.



I am Cliff Fortenberry. I am chair of the Communication Department and teach many of its courses. This includes communication law, media sales, process and effects and public relations. Some of the careers our graduates have successfully pursued include being a spokesperson for governmental agencies, church related fields, TV reporters, owners of radio stations, writing for and owning newspapers and teaching all levels of education.



I would say that Mass Media is a form of communication that can easily be associated with practice applications such as print media, television, radio, broadcasting, advertising and etc.



Mass Media is still relevant. For example, take radio in terms of Mass Media. Radio actually reaches more people than social media. AM and FM radio reach 93% of the population. That's more than Facebook and Twitter! Although, many of our students come to careers in digital media because it is a part of our evolving culture. Our students work in corporate areas which demand a level of training and skills. MC's COM Department trains and equips you to be on the correct level of being prepared. A Mass Media degree can prepare you for a variety of careers.



I am Mignon Kucia. Students in public relations take a variety of skills-based classes including radio and television, the history and practice of public relations, plus mass media theory and communication law. PR students complete an internship to gain valuable work experience. Our former students work in nonprofits, colleges, law and accounting firms, PR firms, publishing, ministry, and entertainment.



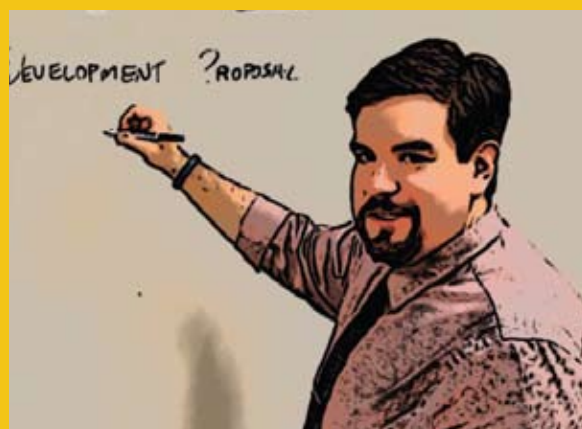
Our Public Relations concentration requires 160 hours in an internship. This provides practical experience and offers networking opportunities in places such as nonprofits, colleges, law and accounting firms, PR firms, publishing, ministry, and entertainment. While Public Relations and Journalism are the only concentrations to require an internship, we offer one in every concentration here. Teaching students about Public Relations is a wonderful challenge. It is wonderful because I get to see them as they begin to understand that PR is more than having 'having lunch', 'talking to people' and 'planning events.'



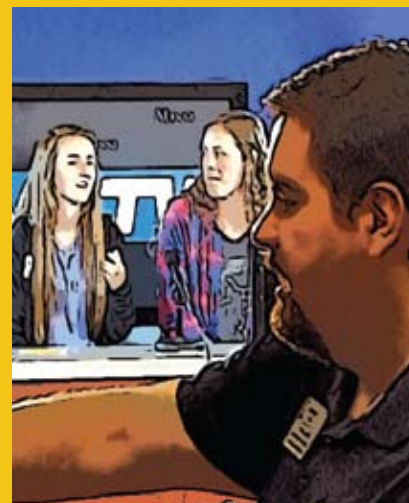
I am Tim Nicholas. I teach most of the journalism courses including journalism I and II, writing for periodicals, interviewing and reporting, and PR writing. Journalism students write for the student newspaper, the Collegian, and complete an internship in some publication or television station. Many have graduated to work for newspapers, magazines and TV stations. Others have entered the public relations field. One of my classes designed and produced this 'comic book' you are holding in your hands.



I am Ryan Capell. I earned my master's degree here in the Communication Department where I now teach video production courses, such as TV workshop and cinematography. Some of the professions our graduates go into when they leave here are filmmaking, television news, Web or app design, and professional videography. I enjoy movies and good storytelling. My students get to tell those stories.



One way for students to get involved is with MCTV. It's a short video segment that updates the school on everything happening on campus weekly. It's a great way to prepare students for future jobs. The jobs that our graduates go into are filmmaking web or app design, professional videography, and television news. Stations like WJTV and WLBT have hired MC students. This area is all about storytelling, and at MC, these students are quite able.



I am Reid Vance. I teach courses in sports media, mass media, and journalism. Our sports media courses include sportscasting, public relations in college athletics, and sports journalism. We have graduates working in local broadcasting, minor league baseball, and in the front office of an NFL team. I enjoy teaching because it allows me to help students discover their calling while developing the skills and habits they need. MC Communication students - and students from other majors across campus - can gain hands-on experience in sports media as member of the Sports Media Team. This team helps plan and produce radio and Internet broadcasts and game day experiences for MC.



Team members can serve in a variety of roles on the air and behind the scenes, learning how to interview, shoot and edit video, call play-by-play, engineer broadcast, and produce in-stadium elements on game day. Students receive class credit for being a part of the team.





I am Phyllis Seawright, Ph.D. in Theater. I teach theater as a minor within our Communication Department. I began teaching theater because I felt that was what the Lord was calling me to do, in order to use my talents in a way he shaped me my whole life. Many of my graduates have also gone into teaching, but others have gone into performing arts, acting, directing, ministry, or mass media. The skill and craft of theater crosses many disciplines, so my graduates are ready for many opportunities.

With a degree in Communication you can do *anything*, well maybe not surgery, but *most* everything! We may not offer a degree in Theater but each of you will be an actor as long as you are alive, so why not come and learn some basic skills to help you become an even better actor and improve your skills.



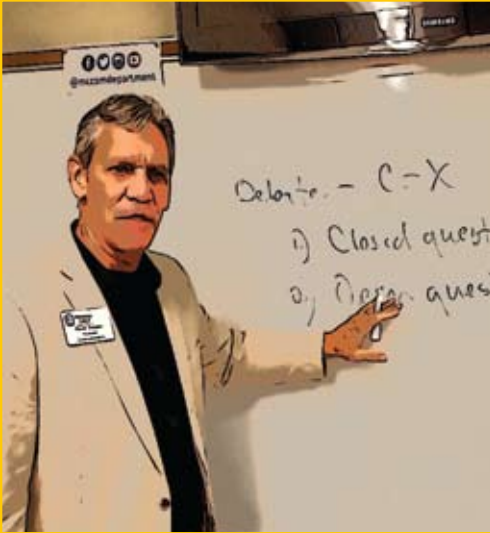
I am Sandra Grayson. I teach Oral Interpretation, directing one, Acting II, Public Speaking, Professional Communication, and Introduction to Theater. Also, I direct *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Communication, to me, is key to a successful life.



Every year students wonder, "how can I meet new people?" Well, if you audition for *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, you are sure to make friends! The show is hysterical and what goes on behind the scenes is the best part! After weeks of production the actors become like a little family.



This year's Shakespeare play is set in Modern times. A gang of military guys are home on leave and there are romances and shenanigans that ensue while they stay at a posh beach house in Pensacola, Florida.



I am Merle Ziegler. I primarily teach Interpersonal and Public Communication. Some of the courses offered are nonverbal, argumentation, listening and negotiation. I also coach the debate team. Some students have gone on into ministry, law, insurance and pharmaceuticals. Our new political communication students will be ready for speech writing, advertising and campaign managing. I have found interacting with college students to be extremely rewarding.



"People that do well and go into interpersonal usually have a curiosity about people and like to study people, but it doesn't necessarily mean they like to talk. I'm not much of a talker but I think I'm a good fit for Interpersonal communication." -Ziegler



Political Communication is a new concentration offered at MC. This looks at how people communicate in the political realm. Students will look at language and how it is used along with methods of persuasion. A good question to ask when looking at Political Communication is 'How does that promote agenda?'



The Washington internship offers students the opportunity to enhance their portfolios, build their resume, gain valuable contacts and connect with other MC alumni in the area. Courtney Parella from Grenada, Miss., (pictured left) interned with Senator Thad Cochran. She now works in communication for the House Administration Committee on staff with Representative Gregg Harper.



"The COM Department is filled with faculty and staff that truly care about you as a person. I feel that I have truly been prepared for a future in communication." - Andrew Grissom



"The professors truly care about their students and prepare us for jobs. They pray for us and allow us to grow together both academically and spiritually." -Lacey Higgins



"I feel that the lessons you learn in the COM Department can apply not just to your chosen field, but can be applied to other areas of your life as well." - Blaine Case



"The COM Department works like a close knit family, and they treat everyone well. They treat everyone like a family." - Drake Denson



"This department makes me feel like I belong. Although it can be challenging, I feel that I am very prepared for life." -Hillary Wragg



"All the professors are hands on. They are always willing to lend a helping hand and answer questions that they have probably answered a thousand time before ." -Josh Carter



"My favorite thing about this department is that each and every person in this department works and cares about your current and future success." - Tiffany Strain



"My favorite thing about the Com Department is the teachers. Although they are a crazy bunch of people, they are all genuinely interested in the lives of their students and want to see them succeed." -Jesse Bingham



Mississippi College

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JACKSON, MS
PERMIT NO. 374

Department of Communication
Box 4019
Clinton MS 39058

Phone: 601.925.3229
Fax: 601.925.3477
Email: fortenbe@mc.edu

To Our Alumni,

Many of us wish to have an influence not only while we are here but after we are gone. As you think about what kind of legacy you wish to leave, let me encourage you to invest in our students. What you do for them will outlive you. I have chosen to continue to give to the Communication Department, so that the next group of young, bright minds can continue the work that began long before I got to MC and will continue after I am gone. Let me encourage you to do the same. To put it in perspective, if every communication graduate and friend gave the cost of a large pizza a month, it would make a world of difference in the lives of our students. Remember, too, that all gifts to MC are fully tax deductible.

--Cliff Fortenberry



This edition of the Prompter
“Aven Underground” was brought to you
by MC’s Public Relations Writing class
headed by Dr. Tim Nicholas.

Pictured left to right: Kyoshi Robinson,
Darby Damon, Drew Graham, Courtney
Williams, and Tamia Craft.