Comm Arts Travels

The old Communication Arts trailers that once was home to a small black box theatre, offices, and classrooms for the Communication Arts Department recently underwent demolition.

The Department has been housed in several different buildings around campus before finally settling in its new home in Sanford. Sanford serves as a second home to many Communication Arts students and houses all Communication Arts majors. Sanford has many features such as the media convergence room, and the broadcast film studio that are tailored specifically for the majors.

Before Sanford was remodeled for the department, Communication Arts resided in a trailer behind Carroll and the IT building. The department was originally expected to stay in the trailers for a short time, but ended up staying for nearly twenty years.

Tyson Davis, MMFP Professor said, “I won’t particularly miss anything about the old trailer; I didn’t hate it, but at least we were all together. My favorite place to relax was the wheel chair ramp in the front of the trailers.”

Dr. Beverly Graham, Communication Studies professor said, “One of my most memorable experiences in the old trailers was when a student went into the men’s room, and the urinal fell off of the wall and water went flying everywhere.”

In addition to the trailers, the Department was housed in Hollis; the South Building, another temporary trailer, and Veazey Hall. The Communication Arts Department also offered classes in the IT building, and Forest Drive. Previously located in Hollis, the broadcast studio, as well as the former educational A-V Center was housed in Carroll until it was relocated in Sanford.

After a long journey to finding its place on campus, the university remodeled Sanford. Sanford was originally constructed as a dormitory for Georgia Southern students occupied in 1939 into the home away from home that we know today.

Graham said, “It’s nice to have a building that you feel is like home, and can still see former students and feel like you have a connection with them.”

Davis said, “I love that Sanford is a preserved building with historical significance. I was thankful to learn that they were building Sanford for us, and they couldn’t have told me anything better. There is no place I’d rather be than right here.”
Comm Arts Talk

Comm Arts Internship, Networking, Career Fair

Looking to build connections or for an internship? The Communication Arts Department is hosting Comm Arts INC. April 14. in the Center for Art and Theatre from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The theme for this year’s fair is “Think B.I.G.” (Before I Graduate). The event is an internship, networking, and career fair. The event is designed to provide students the opportunity to receive “real world” insight from professionals in their prospective fields, resume critiques, networking experience, and job interviews for potential internships.

Comm Arts INC. will feature speaker Greg Pallone from Orlando News 13, as well as breakout sessions and panel discussions from professionals on various topics relating to the communication arts field. Pallone will be speaking on covering the Orlando night club shooting, and how to handle a traumatic story.

The event is coordinated by public relations students from the event management course.

Sonia Nazario Speaks at Sanford on Journalism

Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Sonia Nazario, spoke to a group of Georgia Southern students in the Communication Arts Department on Feb. 28. Nazario provided insight into advocacy and “fly-on-the wall” reporting.

Specializing in social issues such as immigration, Nazario is a Pulitzer Prize winner for her novel, Enrique’s Journey, a novel about a young boy’s journey to crossing the Mexican border to find his mother in the US. The novel is recognized as the most read novel on immigration.

During her presentation, Nazario spoke about the process of writing about Enrique’s Journey. Nazario revealed that in order to write the novel, she went to Mexico and took the same route to the US border to follow Enrique’s footsteps so she could create the narrative details. The journalist’s voyage included riding on top of freight trains, and encountering “Mexican gangsters.”

Nazario said, “When I hear a story, I want to be moved on an emotional level, so I look for stories with universal themes, movement (a spiritual or physical journey), great characters, and conflict.”

Nazario also spoke about other stories that she has written that have been featured in the LA Times and NY Times. She suggested that in writing stories on social issues, to find a narrative thread to write about the issue.

Insight on the current state of the journalism industry today, emotions in reporting, and ethics on investigative journalism were also topics of discussion.

“You can’t have democracy without strong press, holding the people accountable,” Nazario said.
As the semester and academic year is winding down, the Communication Arts Department is hosting its annual awards ceremony, “Lights, Comm, Action” April 13, from 5:15-7 p.m. in the Center for Art and Theatre.

“Lights, Comm, Action” is an Oscar-themed banquet, highlighting the accomplishments of Comm Arts majors.

The event will feature guest speaker Greg Pallone from Orlando 13 news as the Communication Arts Distinguished Lecturer, a short performance of Chicago, and a silent auction. Refreshments will be served.

The event is coordinated by public relations students from the event management course. Tickets for the banquet are $5. Tickets can be purchased at the door, Venmo GSUPRSSA, Sanford entrance, or via email to Jeff Licciardello at jl06129@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern presented the production She Kills Monsters at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region IV as one of five plays selected for performance. The production reviews led to 9 national awards:

- Outstanding Ensemble of a Play
- Distinguished Production of a Play
- Distinguished Director of a Play - Nicholas Newell
- Distinguished Choreography - Jake Guinn (guest artist)
- Distinguished Costume Design - Sarah McCarroll
- Distinguished Lighting Design - Spencer Collins (student)
- Distinguished Performance by Actress in a Play - Kelsey Alexandria (student)
- Distinguished Performance by Actress in a Play - Sade Thomas (student)
- Distinguished Performance by Actor in a Play - Will Cox (student)

Nicholas Newell Play Director said, “We were able to put up a fantastic show, present it to a huge audience, and it is quite thrilling to see that work rewarded with so many accolades from the national festival.”