

Communication & Journalism

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The University of New Mexico

Journalism programs earn accreditation; perfect marks given in every category

by STEVE CARR
UNM Today

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) has unanimously approved the accreditation of the journalism and mass communication programs in the Department of Communication & Journalism at the University of New Mexico.

“We are elated with the decision of the Accrediting Council,” stated John Oetzel, department chair. “They found us in complete compliance with all of the standards validating the excellent work of the faculty and department.

“We are pleased to state that our journalism and mass communication programs are now accredited. We look forward to working with students, the university, community, and media organizations to continue this excellence and further strengthen our program.”

As part of the accreditation process, an ACEJMC site team visited the Department of Communication & Journalism Department in January 2008. Accreditation was extended that spring.

The council found the department in compliance with each of the nine standards of the ACEJMC including: Mission, Governance and Administration, Curriculum and Instruction, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty, Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity, Student Services, Resources,



A banner welcomed students to new C&J building

Facilities and Equipment, Professional and Public Service and Assessment of Learning Outcomes.

“I am delighted that our programs in journalism and mass communication are now accredited,” said Brenda Claiborne, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“The Communication and Journalism faculty worked diligently over several years to achieve this distinction. They carefully evaluated the curriculum, used assessment findings to strengthen the programs, and worked with community and media organizations to enhance opportunities for students. The faculty members are to be commended for their outstanding teaching, research and service.”

The journalism programs are broadcast and print media, and the mass comm programs are advertising and public relations.

News site

Check the online news site at www.unm.edu/~cjdept/department/c&j_online.html, which carries stories and videos by students.

C&J Faculty

John G. Oetzel
Department Chair

Karolyn Cannata-Winge
John Carr
Karma Chávez
Mary Jane Collier
Patricia Covarrubias
Janet Cramer
Karen A. Foss
Miguel Gandert
Dirk C. Gibson
Judith Hendry
Dennis F. Herrick
Pamela Lutgen-Sandvik
Virginia McDermott
Tema Milstein
Saumya Pant
Nagesh Rao
Iliia Rodríguez
Richard Schaefer
Jan Schuetz
Janet Shiver
Olaf Werder
Judith White
Gill Woodall

C&J faculty on branch campuses:

Taos
Kathryn Cordova
Shirley Gish
Bill Knief

Gallup
Pamela Stovall
Gloria J. Dyc
Mike Voltz

Los Alamos
Raymond B. Becich

Valencia
Chad Perry

C&J Staff

Mary Bibeau
Sean Solowiej
Jeannette Albany

3 new faculty members join C&J department in fall

The communication major at C&J gained three new faculty members this fall, all coming as tenure-track or tenured professors.

They are:

- Karma Chávez, assistant professor in communication.

Dr. Chávez's current research generally explores the rhetorics of marginalized groups in contexts of neo-liberalism. She is most interested in the relationships between sexuality and immigration.

- Saumya Pant, assistant professor in communication.

Dr. Pant teaches communication classes. Her research is in the intersection

of gender and communication with a special interest in how subaltern counterpublics are created and maintained. While teaching methods and theory classes for C&J, she will also be teaching for the Women Studies Program. There, her focus will be on Third World Feminism and Globalization.

- Nagesh Rao, associate professor in communication.

Dr. Rao teaches communication courses. His research is in the intersection of culture and health, with a special interest in how our objective and subjective culture shape our health beliefs, attitudes and behaviors, and vice versa.

Students in Action

Teaching award

Courtney Fletcher, a C&J graduate student studying for her Ph.D. in communication, received the Gunter Starkey Teaching Award from the College of Arts & Sciences at UNM for 2008. It is a college-level award given to only two TAs in the college.

1st job and internship fair

First proposed by the C&J chapter of Society of Professional Journalists, the idea of a job and internship fair for C&J students drew the support and participation of other student groups and the administration, culminating in the first such event for the department on

March 4, 2008. More than 200 students attended the fair, which featured exhibits by 25 employers.

Students at class in Mexico

A group of C&J students led by Dr. Richard Schaefer of the C&J broadcast faculty traveled to Mexico and Guatemala in July 2008 to work with students from Universidad Fray Luca Paccioli in producing radio reports on immigration.

C&J student named editor

Damian Garde, a C&J major, was named editor of *The Daily Lobo* student newspaper for the 2008-2009 school year.

Visit C&J Web site at unm.edu/~cjdept

New building

A \$5.8 million renovation of the Communication and Journalism building played a major role in the department being accredited for its journalism and mass communication programs in 2008.

The project expanded the building's usable space by 2,000 square feet, providing for a modern broadcast studio, an additional computer lab (now allowing a PC and a Mac lab for classes), additional classrooms, improved administrative space and office for graduate assistants, and replacement of the building's heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems.

The building reopened for classes in the fall of 2007.



C&J students now can use a state-of-the-art broadcast studio

You can help with donations to building

Alumni and other supporters of C&J have an opportunity to help ensure the continuing improvement of the department's building, equipment and facilities.

Tax-deductible contributions toward the instructional needs can be made out to "C&J Building Fund" and mailed to University of New Mexico, Department of Communication and Journalism, MSC03 2240, 1 University Dr., Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001.

Details on a number of different ways to contribute to C&J's building, scholarship and other funds can be found on the "Giving to C&J" web pages. They start at unm.edu/~cjdept/friends.html.

We are moving to e-mail; help us stay in touch

One of the great barriers to departmental newsletters is the cost related to their distribution. Rather than lose touch with our alumni, we are hoping to increase our communication with you via e-mail. Please e-mail the following information to cjdept@unm.edu:

Name

e-mail address

Year of graduation

Current employment

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Tony Hillerman remembered as author, educator

Tony Hillerman, 83, who died Oct. 26, 2008, is remembered by a generation of C&J journalism students as a teacher, mentor and —



Tony Hillerman, in a photo taken in the 1970s when he was teaching journalism at C&J.

despite his fame as a international best-selling author of South-west mystery novels — as a pleasant and humble man.

He passed away after a long illness.

After a long and successful career as a newspaper and wire service journalist, he received his M.A. in English at UNM and taught journalism in the C&J Department from 1965 to 1987. During that time, he served as department chair from 1966 to 1974.

Frank D. Martinez, former UNM director of Communication and Marketing, was a student of Hillerman's.

"When I was a student, Hillerman was chair of the journalism department," Martinez recalled.

"I had several classes with him. He was an inspiring professor, genuine, down to earth and related well with everyone. He knew his subject matter and was as effective as anyone in the classroom. There was no one more qualified to teach writing at any level. He was also a master editor."