With the Fall 2020 semester in the rearview mirror, we are anticipating a restful holiday season before classes resume in the new year. It seems like lately there is never a dull moment, so with this newsletter we try to convey just a snapshot of the department's recent accomplishments.

Four new tenure-line faculty joined our department in August 2020 and they have hit the ground running. They teach and research in the areas of interpersonal communication, strategic communication and social media and will maximize our ability to educate our students, generate high quality, impactful research and serve the University - in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Brandon Boatwright joins the department from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed his Ph.D. Brandon teaches and researches in strategic communication, public relations and non-profit organizations.

Jordan MacNeil joins the department from the University of California, Davis, where she completed her Ph.D. Jordan is a communication scholar and educator in public relations, health communication, strategic communication, publicropb and corporate organizations.

Greg Cranmer is a professor in the College of Communication, Media, and Film at Clemson University. Greg received the 2020 Sue DeWine Book Award from the National Communication Association's Social Cognition Division. His book, "Athletic Coaching: A Communication Perspective," was recently published by Peter Lang. Greg Cranmer's scholarship is focused on sport communication, strategic communication, intercultural communication, and mediated communication. Greg received the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award from the National Communication Association's Intercultural Communication Division.

Amberly Sorensen is a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Alabama. Amberly received the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award from the National Communication Association's Intercultural Communication Division. Her article, "Victims' Self-Justification: How Defensiveness and Inflation of Blame Help Reduce Helplessness," was recently published in the journal Communication Monographs. Her research interests are in strategic communication, public relations and corporate organizations.

Skye Wingate joins us from the University of California, Davis, where she completed her Ph.D. Skye received the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award from the National Communication Association's Intercultural Communication Division. Her article, "Victims' Self-Justification: How Defensiveness and Inflation of Blame Help Reduce Helplessness," was recently published in the journal Communication Monographs. Her research interests are in strategic communication, public relations and corporate organizations.

In many ways, the experiences during this crisis have enlightened so many of us. They teach and research in the areas of interpersonal communication, public relations and non-profit organizations.

Everyone in the Department has been working on ways to maximize our ability to educate our students, generate high quality, impactful research and serve the University - in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We hope you enjoy the Winter 2020 issue of our alumni newsletter. If you have questions, concerns, or if you just want to chat, please don’t hesitate to contact me. We are thrilled about what we are doing and even more excited about our future.

Have a happy holiday season, a healthy and prosperous new year and…Go Tigers!

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