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THE SPOKESMAN

Department of Mass Communications
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Savannah State University

IT'S OFFICIAL!
**Department of Mass Communications Earns
National ACEJMC Accreditation**

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Department of Mass Communications has won national accreditation - joining the University of Georgia as having the only two such university programs in the state to earn the designation. By a unanimous decision, on May 4, in Portland, Oregon, the Accrediting Council of ACEJMC voted to award program accreditation to SSU, one of 13 U. S. colleges or universities seeking the designation. The accreditation is a signal moment in the history of the program, which has granted degrees in mass communications since 1983. The department went from being a program in the department of liberal arts to a separate department in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences effective August 1, 2002. The department began the five – year ACEJMC accreditation process in September 2002. The accreditation process involved a total team effort by the administration, faculty, staff, and students from which a 300 page final ACEJMC self – study document emanated. To earn accreditation, SSU's mass communications program had to comply with rigorous criteria in nine academic standards, covering everything from curriculum details and faculty performance to public service and assessment of learning outcomes.



A MESSAGE *From the* CHAIR

It is difficult to say goodbye to a very special group of faculty, staff, and students after 35 wonderful years as a professor and administrator at Savannah State University, as I go into retirement effective June 29, 2007. The recent ACEJMC (Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications) accreditation of the department of mass communications is a part of the legacy that the mass communications staff, faculty, and students helped bring to fruition for Savannah State University. I thank the administration of Dr. Carlton E. Brown, former Savannah State University president; Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr., former vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Jane M. Gates, (former dean - College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences), now interim vice president for academic affairs, as they played a major role in the successful ACEJMC accreditation process. However, I would be remiss if I did not talk about the contributions of the “Fantastic Four” (Reginald L. Franklin, associate professor; Novella C. Holmes, associate professor; Kai C. Walker, assistant professor; and Karen R. Conner, senior administrative secretary) to the accreditation process. The chair, and the “Fantastic Four,” wrote, designed, and edited the final ACEJMC accreditation document of over three hundred pages. The faculty and staff worked tirelessly for a five year period to achieve accreditation, and I could never adequately thank them for their efforts. I must also thank the students who worked with the MCSA (Mass Communications Student Association) to help educate students on the nine ACEJMC accreditation standards and the ACEJMC core values and competencies. The department is grateful for the superb documents and statistics received from Dr. Michael Crow, director, institutional research, and Eric Lauffer, data architect and administrator. Special thanks are also in order for the excellent library reports and statistics received from Mary Jo Fayoyin, director, Asa Gordon Library, and Louise Wyche, librarian, reference and circulation, and liaison to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Micheal Summers, director, Medgar Evers Physical Plant, and staff, did an excellent job of preparing the department of mass communications for its successful ACEJMC site visit on January 21-24, 2007. I am leaving the department with wonderful and cherished memories of a great faculty, staff, students, and senior administration. As I make my valedictory, these words of Tennyson, from *Ulysses*, reverberate in the windows of my intellectual soul—“I am a part of all that I have met; ...To follow knowledge like a sinking star – beyond the utmost bound of human thought.”

Students Selected For Journalism Training Programs



MaSovaida Salemo Morgan, a senior mass communications major at SSU and editor-in-chief of the Tiger's Roar, has been selected for the 2007 class of the Chips Quinn Scholars Program.

The Chips Quinn Scholars program offers journalism students of color hands-on training in journalism and mentoring by news career veterans. The aim of the program is to provide special support and encouragement that will open doors to news careers and bring greater diversity to the nation's daily newspaper newsrooms.

The program, sponsored by the Freedom Forum in Arlington, Va., provides college students of color who are pursuing print journalism careers with internships, training and \$1,000 scholarships. Internships are offered in the spring and summer.



Tiffany Fletcher, a senior mass communications major student at SSU, has been selected to attend the New York Times Student Journalism Institute. **Erika Dukes**, also a senior mass communications major, was also selected to participate in the New York Times Student Journalism Institute.

Latoya James, a senior mass communications major at SSU, was awarded an internship at **Lifetime Networks**.



Mass Communications Student's Studies Extend Beyond The Campus



Jesse Brandy participated in Savannah State University's Study Abroad Program to Egypt and Ghana. He also participated in the **9th Annual Lonnie E. Mitchell National Historical Black Colleges and Universities Substance Abuse and Mental Health Conference in Washington D.C.** The Study Abroad Program was a six credit hour program that took place during the summer of 2005. As a part of this program, the students had an opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Cairo, Egypt for three days. While in Cairo, they visited all of the historical sites such as the pyramids, the Nile River, and the famous museum in Cairo. The four week summer study abroad took place in Ghana, West Africa. During this four week period the students resided at the University of Ghana, where they were instructed by a professor from Savannah State University and also a professor from the local university. At the Substance Abuse Conference, students attended several workshops and forums that focused on substance abuse and mental health treatment, prevention, research, and education. Through these workshops the students and staff from various HBCUs received knowledge and training in curriculum and program development and evaluation, policies and workforce development, and also shared stories of campus based initiatives. This three day conference had a number of sponsors including the Morehouse School of Medicine, one of its top sponsors.



**WHO'S, WHAT, And WHERE?
Grads Update (Continued)**



Ruben Perez Jr.

Class of 2007

Sports Information Director
Chicago State University
Chicago, Illinois



SaAdatu Olanrewaju

Class of 2007

Cum Laude

Graduated with top honors: She is the recipient of the Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Award; Highest Leadership Academic and Military Performance Award; SSU/AASU Naval Reserve Training Award; Distinguished Leadership Award, and many other honors, awards, and special letters.



Michael Cherry

Class of 2007

Visual Information Specialist
Technical Support Instruction
Savannah State University
Savannah, Georgia



Jovielle Chelice Coxon,

Class of 2003

Earned a master of arts degree in speech-language pathology, May 11, 2007, South Carolina State University.

Rahsheim A. Wright, a 2004 graduate, is working at the College Network as a Program Marketing Coordinator.

LaFreda Hendley, a 2003 graduate, is working as an entrepreneur. The name of her business is **Xposure Consulting/Be Free Management**.

**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE**



CLASS OF 2007

Erika Nicole Alexander*	Stone Mountain, Georgia
Perrice Uralus Austin	Washington, DC
Ayeisha Patrice Bonds	Savannah, Georgia
Denean Franee' Boyce	Monroe, Georgia
Rolando Roshawn Cantrell*	Atlanta, Georgia
Michael Anthony Cherry	Savannah, Georgia
Camara TearLora Ferby*	Decatur, Georgia
Azaria Quinee Graham*	Lithonia, Georgia
Arkieva Cherie Jackson	Hepzibah, Georgia
Anthony James Johnson	Loganville, Georgia
Amber Tiffany Jones	Macon, Georgia
Gil Anthony Jones	Savannah, Georgia
Ashley Nicole McGhee*	Quitman, Georgia
Sa'Adatu Oluwafummielayo Olanrewaju*	Conyers, Georgia
Ruben Rafael Perez Jr.	Brooklyn, New York
Lazarus Polanski Pittman	Hampton, Georgia
Dominique Loreal Simpkins*	Savannah, Georgia
Ebony E. Stewart*	Savannah, Georgia
Felicia Renee' Walker-Hayes**	Savannah, Georgia

***Summa Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

*Cum Laude

!In Absentia

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*Congratulations to Dr. Charles J. Elmore on your retirement.
Best Wishes*

The Department of Mass Communication's Faculty, Staff, and Students

Designed by Karen R. Conner