

P E A R C E  C E N T E R  
FOR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

CLEMSON

Annual Report 2013-2014



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# Word from The Director

The 2013-2014 year was another exciting one for the Pearce Center. Once again, Clemson was recognized by US News & World Report as a “Top School for Writing in the Disciplines.” We owe this recognition in part to the continued growth and success of two of our signature programs, the Pearce Center Interns and the Writing Center Fellows, which provide Clemson students with opportunities to learn and lead in the areas of professional communication and writing across the curriculum. The Pearce Center Interns worked on projects for numerous clients, including Decipher, School of Computing, and the English Department and the Writing Center Fellows served as peer tutors in classes across various disciplines, including Introduction to Nanotechnology, Public and Environmental Health, and Global Policy Process. The Pearce Center continues to sponsor the Client Based Program – a service learning initiative in advanced writing courses in which students work in teams on professional communication projects for university, industry, and community clients.

The Pearce Center also continued to augment the intellectual climate of the university by sponsoring and hosting many events, including visiting speaker Ta-Nehisi Coates, Senior Editor at The Atlantic and author of *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood*. Coates spoke to a full house in the Self Auditorium on the topic of “Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil War?”

Thanks to generous funding from the Provost’s office, the Pearce Center also completed significant infrastructure renovations and technology upgrades to the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication in Daniel Hall. In the first phase of renovations, we equipped the “middle room” with state-of-the-art technologies for collaboration and communication. In

the most recent phase, we transformed the conference room into a cutting-edge presentation space, where Clemson faculty and visiting speakers can present their work and where Clemson students will be able to hone their skills as they prepare to enter the workforce. This space will function as a signature classroom and presentation area.

The Pearce Center’s innovative Communication Across the Curriculum program sponsors scholarly research and innovative teaching by Clemson faculty across the disciplines. For example, we recently completed plans to enhance the new presentation space with gaming equipment and software to support a new “gaming across the curriculum” initiative, spearheaded by Professors Cynthia Haynes and Jan Holmevik in the English Department. We were able to offer a preview of these developments at a very special event this summer, when the Pearce Center hosted the Class of 1941 alumni reunion in the Studio. The Pearce Center also successfully launched two new Summer Scholars programs for high school students this summer: “Professional Communication for Emerging Entrepreneurs” and “Writing for College Admissions.” We look forward to expanding our summer offerings and our work with high school students in the years to come.

Once again, this annual report has been prepared by the undergraduate interns in the Pearce Center. I hope you’ll be able to take a few minutes to admire their work and to read about the latest developments in the Pearce Center!

Michael LeMahieu  
Director



# MISSION

The Pearce Center for Professional Communication promotes effective communication as an integral part of the learning process at all levels of schooling. The Center pursues these goals through a comprehensive program of interdisciplinary workshops, collaborative ventures, sponsored projects, and action research. Working through the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication, the Pearce Center brings together the study and practice of the communicative arts in innovative ways to emphasize flexible applications for technology and new media.



# PEARCE CENTER HISTORY



Roy Pearce (1919-2004), President of Clemson University's Class of 1941, credited his professional success to his communication skills. He led the Clemson community, serving as the President of the Clemson Alumni Association as well as of the CU Foundation. As a result of his accomplishments, Clemson University recognized him with an honorary doctorate, the Distinguished Service Award and the President's Award. In 1991, Pearce was awarded Clemson's highest honor, the Clemson Medallion.

In 1989, Pearce and his wife established the R. Roy and Marnie Pearce Center for Professional Communication at Clemson. Pearce strongly believed that all students should have the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills to meet the challenges they would face as professionals. In 2001, Pearce's graduating class endowed the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication, which opened in 2004 in Daniel Hall.

# CLASS OF 1941 STUDIO FOR STUDENT COMMUNICATION

The Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication opened in January 2004, thanks to a generous million-dollar gift honoring the class's 60th anniversary.

Combining teaching and research, the Studio fosters oral, written, and digital communication. By providing customized project spaces for work groups, state-of-the-art multimodal communication tools and software, and space for guest speakers and other events, the Studio enriches student communication.

Entering the Studio, visitors are greeted in the Reception area, which houses laptops, high-end digital and video cameras with supporting equipment, two iMac workstations, and an LED display of ongoing projects and events. The Production and Design Studio occupies the middle room and is a large collaborative space designed to facilitate the production, discussion, design, revision, and completion of communication projects. The Lounge area outside of the Presentation room serves as an intimate space for individual or small group work.

The back area of the Studio is the Presentation space, which has recently been upgraded with large LED displays and an improved sound system, and is ideal for faculty, students, and guest speakers to present their work.







# PEARCE SCHOLARS

The Pearce Scholars Program, initiated in the 2012-2013 academic year, places students in positions allowing them to develop the culture of writing at Clemson, serve as resources for their peers, improve their written communication skills, and gain worthwhile professional experience.

South Carolina offers a supplement to the Life Scholarship for recipients who choose to major in math, science, or engineering. The Pearce Scholars Program aims to match this for students working in the fields of writing and communication.

Pearce Scholars, who work in both the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication and the Writing Center, are introduced to cutting-edge communication technologies. These tools allow them to engage and learn through experience in a professional environment.

These opportunities provide Pearce Scholars with the chance to pursue the goals they find most valuable to their future careers. Scholars can work as a Pearce Center Intern or a Writing Fellow to benefit students across the Clemson campus.





# Writing Fellows

Writing Fellows is a program that illustrates the effect peer editing has on student writing. This program is also part of the Pearce Scholars. Clemson Writing Fellows works to build on the strength of its best writers, offer practical experience to the Fellows, and create a climate of academic conversation and revision. Writing Fellows enroll in a course on the theories of writing pedagogy and process writing as well as the history and evolution of writing instruction. As important, though, is the practical work of teaching Writing Fellows to offer useful written feedback and to discuss strategies for revision with their peers. Writing Fellows, paired with writing intensive courses, comment upon drafts of papers three weeks before the due date, and then meet with each student for a one-on-one conference. Student writers and Writing Fellows alike learn to see writing not as an act to perform, but as a process with which to engage.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, there were 22 writing fellows from 11 different majors. These students worked with approximately 290 students in 13 different classes.

## Courses Served:

Jeff Appling, Scientific Skepticism

David Coombs, Critical Writing about Literature

Deborah Falta, Public and Environmental Health

Jeff Fine, Global Policy Process

Walt Hunter, Critical Writing about Literature

Chris Kitchens and Thompson Mefford, Introduction to Nanotechnology

William Lasser, New Deal: FDR's Legacy

William Lasser, Spy Novels

Michael LeMahieu, Civil War, Civil Rights

Dom Mastroianni, Critical Writing about Literature

Meredith McCarroll, Early Southern Literature

John Morgenstern, Honors Contemporary Literature

Will Stockton, Critical Writing about Literature

## 2013-2014 Writing Fellows

Megan Brovan, English and Political Science

Elaine Day, English

Parker Essick, English and Political Science

Alyssa Glazener, English

Grace Green, Microbiology

Caroline Hensley, Pre-Professional Health

Shannon Kay, Industrial Engineering

Laura Lamantia, Psychology

Caroline Mercer, English

Ethan Moore, English

Haley Nieman, Communication Studies

Macara Oshida, Secondary Education English

Michaela Reinhart, Biochemistry and Genetics

Taylor Shields, Biological Sciences/Political Science double major

Olivia Souther, Biological Sciences

Rachel Solomon, Communication Studies

Farris Steele Johnson, Religion

Jenny Tumas, Communication Studies and Political Science

Jacob Webb, Communication Studies

Sloane Wiggers, Biological Sciences

Samuel Wilkes, English

Carly Zvakos, English



# INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Pearce Center offers semester-long internships, allowing students to gain experience and exposure to the world of professional communication. Affiliated with Clemson's Undergraduate Professional Internship and Co-op Program, Pearce Center Interns work on many long-term projects, including writing, editing, marketing, event promotion, video production, and graphic design. As a result, they gain valuable experience that translates to their future careers.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, a team of interns contributed to Decipher, a magazine promoting Clemson's undergraduate Creative Inquiry program. The interns interviewed faculty and students about their research, gathered important background information, and composed and edited articles. The Pearce Center Interns also took photographs, designed layouts, and consulted with the Director of Creative Inquiry, Dr. Barbara Speziale. One of several Pearce Center projects, Decipher afforded students opportunities to learn about and apply professional publishing methods. Junior English major and Assistant Editor Alyssa Glazener appreciates the experience: "Working with professional clients to develop our projects gives us real, practical experience that I don't get in the classroom. I've also learned how to work with a team and the importance of communicating expectations with clients."

Interns also promote the Pearce Center across Clemson's campus through social media outlets. A member of the social media team, Whitney Rauenhorst, a senior English major, said, "This experience has helped me learn the ins and outs of social media, especially in terms of what should be published and how it is used as a marketing tool. While researching communication tips for students, I've also learned things that will go a long way toward my future career after graduation."

Pearce Center Interns also collaborate on Clemson University's Solar Decathlon project, comprising a team of students elected to participate in the Department of Energy's 2015 Solar Decathlon Competition. Clemson students from across campus will build an eco-friendly house in Clemson, then dismantle and transport it to Irvine, California, where the competition takes place in Fall 2015. Interns on the team focus on communication, engagement, and marketing, including public relations and event planning. Junior Communication Studies major, Chris Diorio, talked about the challenge of starting a new project within the Pearce Center, saying, "Having to create a communication strategy from the ground up could be related to starting a new business."

The Pearce Center Internship Program capitalizes on the abilities of Clemson students by building a team from multiple disciplines who work collaboratively to develop effective communication skills.

### 2013-2014 Pearce Interns

Haley Barinowski– Marketing and Communication Studies

Lillian Boatwright- Communication Studies

Christa Chappell- Communication Studies

Raquel Cobb– Communication Studies

Chris Diorio– Communication Studies

Alyssa Glazener– English

Saahirah Goodwin– Graphic Communications

Sarah Grosse– Graphic Communications

Jeff Kinnison- Computer Science/English

Chelsea Kozma– English

Marissa Kozma– English

Colby Lanham– Communication Studies

Amelia Marlowe- Communication Studies

Sarah Rains– English

Whitney Rauenhorst– English

Ashley Rogers- Communication Studies

# CLIENT BASED PROGRAM

In 2003, Dr. Summer Smith Taylor created Clemson's Client Based Program (CBP), which met with such success that it continues to be an important initiative supported by the Pearce Center. The CBP gives students the experience of using communication skills in the workplace by matching them with local clients.

More than 4,500 students have participated in the CBP since its inception, producing quality documents for approximately 250 clients. The CBP classes have provided their clients with deliverables such as instruction manuals, websites, poster presentations, and radio advertisements.

In Spring 2014, English Department Senior Lecturer Mike Pulley's CBP class worked with the Clemson Bioengineering Program to convert food waste to biofuel using the Black Soldier Fly. "This project is one of the most exciting ones on campus involving environmental sustainability," Pulley said. "Imagine: The larvae of a little fly eats food waste from campus restaurants, then releases a substance that's used as biofuel in campus vehicles." Students developed promotional, informational and instructional communications, emphasizing Clemson's focus on sustainability.

Andy Taylor, one of Pulley's students in the class, appreciated working hands-on with a professional and learning how to conduct standard business protocols for client communication. Working on an informational video introducing Clemson's biofuel efforts gave Taylor experience in a business setting.

The CBP has also received multiple awards. Most recently in 2013, CBP Director Ashley Cowden Fisk received South Carolina Campus Compact's Faculty Award for Service Learning, which recognizes four South Carolina students, faculty members, staff, or campus partners for remarkable civic engagement. The Client Based Program has become a well-known Pearce Center initiative, benefiting students, faculty, and organizations in the Clemson community.







# COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Collaborating with the Campbell Chair in Technical Communication, the Pearce Professor of Professional Communication, and the Writing Center, the Pearce Center works to advance Clemson's tradition of excellence in Communication and Writing Across the Curriculum.

U.S. News & World Report once again named Clemson a "Top School for Writing in the Disciplines" in 2013, a distinction Clemson has received every year since the creation of the category. Other schools recognized in 2013 include Brown, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

Faculty research projects, dedicated space in the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication, and multiple writing, editing and publication projects support the advancement of Clemson's Communication Across the Curriculum initiative. These initiatives help to improve the teaching of writing and communication in all disciplines across campus by promoting the use of new technologies, fostering discussion about best practices, funding education and scholarly research, and assessing the effectiveness of educational innovation. In 2013-2014, the Pearce Center funded and otherwise supported research projects conducted by faculty members from Health Science, Chemistry, Political Science, English, and Communication Studies

# PUBLICATIONS

The Pearce Center for Professional Communication, in close collaboration with the Campbell Chair in Technical Communication, continues to support various publications. These include The WAC Journal, which publishes innovative research on Writing Across the Curriculum; Upstart, an online journal of English Renaissance Studies; and English Unbound, the new departmental newsletter.

The WAC Journal is a national peer-reviewed journal of contemporary research relating to writing across the curriculum, available in print and online through Colorado State's WAC Clearinghouse. The process leading up to publishing Volume 24 in November 2013 provided Pearce Center Interns with experience designing the cover of the journal and copyediting articles for publication.

The Upstart Crow, a Shakespeare journal that has been in publication for 35 years, evolved in 2013 to a new online format under the new name, Upstart. Pearce Center Interns helped with the transition to an open-access journal that will continue to publish peer-reviewed essays, performance reviews, and poetry on Shakespeare's work and the English Renaissance. The new format features an informal blog and regular updates. Interns also created a new logo for Upstart and designed the website.

Pearce Center Interns began working on English Unbound to keep the English department's students, alumni faculty, and donors informed about its initiatives. Featured content included event summaries, student spotlights, and alumni updates. Interns wrote stories, designed layouts, and photographed events for the newsletter.

The Pearce Center interns will be assisting Barton Palmer in his position as editor for the South Atlantic Review (SAR). SAR is published quarterly and distributed to the organization's membership of more than 1,000 academics in the Southeast, the review publishes research devoted to language, literature, rhetoric and composition, and other topics of scholarly interest in the humanities.



# FACULTY RESEARCH AND FUNDED PROJECTS

The Pearce Center for Professional Communication works closely with Clemson faculty by sponsoring research projects while also providing space and technology to support innovative approaches to teaching Communication across the Curriculum. Through these efforts, the Pearce Center enhances instruction in multiple avenues of communication, from oral and written communication to digital and visual communication. In 2013-2014, the Pearce Center sponsored different projects by faculty from multiple departments to engage Communication Across the Curriculum at Clemson University.

Dr. Rhondda Thomas from the Department of English and her students conducted research on the life, work and legacy of Jane Edna Hunter, as well as African American food traditions in literature, with the purpose of publishing a biography and producing a documentary about Jane Edna Hunter. This research will also lead to publication of a soul vegan cookbook. "Student researchers are becoming more familiar with the African American literary tradition, its tropes, theories, themes and other literary strategies, while also examining relationships between specific aspects of African American culture, particularly language, music, food and literature," Dr. Thomas said about her students' work on the project. "They will also gain experience in writing, designing, publishing and marketing print and electronic versions of the cookbook."

Dr. Gautam Bhattacharyya from the Department of Chemistry helped conduct a project to learn how students in sophomore-level chemistry courses determine and attribute meanings to diagrams representing organic molecules, reactions, and mechanisms. The Pearce Center provided researchers with resources such as digital audio and recording equipment and funding to travel to an American Chemical Society (ACS) national meeting for the principal investigator and the student working on the research. The results of this project will directly impact chemistry instruction by providing insight on effective verbal and linguistic ways of communicating chemistry information and helping students develop scientifically valid interpretations of these visual representations.

On another project, Dr. Jan Rune Holmevik taught a PhD seminar on digital rhetorics, training the students in digital tools and methods they will need to be successful in the PhD program and their future careers. Dr. Holmevik's students also helped develop a proposal for equipping the Class of 1941 Studio's newly

renovated conference room with gaming capabilities. "This space will act as a research site for students and faculty interested in Game Studies," Dr. Holmevik said. Dr. Cynthia Haynes is also a part of the project, and sees the addition of gaming technology as a great learning opportunity for students, saying, "We think playing is a way to learn. We wanted to have a place where we not only play games, but where we also research and highlight this Gaming Across the Curriculum move. In the 19th century, genre was the big thing, and in the 20th century it was film, and in the 21st century, it's games." Dr. Haynes likes the options that the Game Lounge will provide to create a fun learning environment and incorporate a different way of learning for her students.

## 2013-2014 Faculty Projects

Brendan Kendall: Creativity < Communication > Professional Ethics

Cynthia Haynes & Jan Holmevik: Video Game Lounge

Gautam Bhattacharyya: Organic Eye Candy: Transfer Between Diagrammatic and Verbal/Linguistic Representations in Organic Chemistry

Jeff Fine: "Political Communication Technology"

Matthew Johnson, Lady Temesvari and Peter Kent: Curiously Speaking: Producing Audio Programs and Using Social Media for Science Literacy and Scientist PR Building

Meredith McCarroll: Black Appalachia

Rhondda Robinson Thomas: Jane, a documentary celebrating the life of the most influential early 20th century African American activist you've never heard of – Jane Edna Hunter

Windsor Westbrook Sherrill: "The Healing Words of Balm Reader:" Using Literature to Improve Patient Communication and Impact Health Outcomes



# PEARCE SPEAKER SERIES

The Pearce Center for Professional Communication is committed to enhancing the cultural and intellectual climate of Clemson University. To accomplish this goal, the Pearce Center regularly sponsors visiting speakers in various fields and professions, introducing students and faculty to nationally and internationally recognized professionals. This year's speakers represented multiple fields, including communications, education, government, journalism, marketing, public relations, and publishing.

Specific events included Visiting Speakers, Writers Reading, Literary Events, RCID Colloquium, Career Paths and Thoughts Worth Thinking. The Pearce Center partnered with the Campbell Chair in Technical Communication, the Calhoun Honors College and the National Scholars Program as well as a number of departments across campus to enhance Clemson's diverse intellectual culture.



# VISITING SPEAKERS

Ta-Nehisi Coates, Senior Editor for The Atlantic, spoke to an audience of roughly 250 people in the Self Auditorium of Clemson's Strom Thurmond Institute to give a lecture entitled, "Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil War?" Along with sharing some of his background, which involved overcoming a childhood surrounded by poverty and crime, Coates explained his journey toward understanding the ongoing influence of the Civil War on today's society. After describing how learning about black history in high school and visiting Gettysburg on a class trip inspired his interest in slavery and the Civil War, Coates then spoke about how slavery has left its mark on contemporary culture, society, and politics.

Co-sponsors included: National Scholars Program, Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Center for Student Life, Chief Diversity Office, Calhoun Honors College, Student Affairs, Pearce Center for Professional Communication

The Pearce Center brought Lennard J. Davis to the Class of 1941 Studio in November, 2013. The University of Illinois professor has authored several books, all of them focused on the issue of disabilities. In the Pearce Center, Professor Davis gave a lecture entitled "Depression as a Disability: A Biocultural Approach."

Co-sponsors included: Student Disability Services, English Department, College of AAH, Chief Diversity Office, Pearce Center for Professional Communication

# WRITERS READING

The Pearce Center hosts a variety of events that give published writers the opportunity to lead readings and discussions of their work with Clemson students, faculty, and other attendees.

On March 1, 2013, the Pearce Center hosted Brian Norman, author of *Dead Woman Wanting: Beloved and the Problem of the Ugly Citizen* who read and spoke on his work in the Class of 1941 Studio. The talk focused on questions involving identity, belonging, justice, and the role literature has in asking such questions. Beyond writing, Brian Norman is a professor at Loyola University Maryland.

The Pearce Center also hosted Kevin DeShazo, founder of Fieldhouse Media, on March 5, 2013 as he presented his most recent work *iAthlete: Impacting Student-Athletes of a Digital Generation*. The presentation was aimed towards influencing those involved with student-athlete culture to rethink their views on the ways student-athletes use social media.

The Pearce Center also partnered with the Strom Thurmond Institute on September 26, 2013, to host a public lecture by Ta-Nehisi Coates titled "Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil War?" Ta-Nehisi Coates is a Senior Editor at the Atlantic and used readings from his book *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood* to address issues involving different races' perspective on past historical events.



# LITERARY EVENTS

The Pearce Center again partnered with the Strom Thurmond Institute to host the annual Writers' Harvest event, in which Clemson fiction writers and poets read their work in a campus benefit for Loaves & Fishes. The impressive array of writers included Joseph Bates, Sarah Cooper, Akel Kahera, Alex Kudera, Keith Lee Morris, Angelina Oberdan, Mike Pulley, John Pursley III, Jillian Weise, and the music group All Are Called.

Planned by Jillian Weise's and Keith Lee Morris's Creative Inquiry courses, the Literary Festival is an annual event at Clemson. The Pearce Center once again sponsored aspects of the festival, which took place from March 26–29, 2014. This year's festival featured a reading and book signing by United States Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey at the Alumni Center, as well as readings from highly acclaimed authors at venues downtown, panels and readings on campus, and a book fair. All events were free and open to the public.

# RCID THEORY AND CRITICISM COLLOQUIUM

The RCID Theory and Criticism Colloquium meets every other Monday throughout the year to discuss philosophical, theoretical, literary, critical texts relevant to the work of students and faculty in the Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design PhD program and the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. The colloquium also offers us a chance to "theorize" (and maybe, hmm, "criticize"?) the work of RCID. The Pearce Center collaborates with this initiative by offering Studio space and event staff support.

# CAREER PATHS

A joint initiative of the Department of English and the Pearce Center, Career Paths invites Clemson English alumni to campus to speak about their professions and the paths they followed to arrive in their current position. Clemson students build their own professional networks while learning and interacting with these alumni.

Michael Gunn, a writer for Aaron Sorkin's HBO series *The Newsroom*, visited the Pearce Center in the Fall 2013 semester, facilitating a workshop on screenwriting and discussing his experiences. Previously, Gunn was a television and screenwriter for major companies in Hollywood. Born and raised on a Christmas tree farm in South Carolina, he earned degrees from Clemson, Cambridge, and Boston University; He has also worked as an ice-cream maker and political science instructor.

Cynthia Ott, Vice President for Human Resources at Maersk Line, is responsible for all human resources activities for the company in North America. Prior to becoming Vice President, she was Director of Human Resources at Maersk Line in Charlotte before joining the company in 2006 as a Regional Human Resources Manager. Ott also held leadership positions in supply chain management, textiles, paper, and graphic communications. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Clemson and a Masters in Human Resources from the University of South Carolina. Ott's daughter, Katie (English '13), worked as a Pearce Center Intern and is currently a law student at Wake Forest.

Will Cathcart spoke on his experiences as a former media advisor to the President of Georgia in Tbilisi, where he helped the post-war administration connect with the United States through various media outlets. Formerly an editor at the Charleston Mercury newspaper, Cathcart's work has appeared in various online and print publications. He graduated from Clemson in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in English while also receiving the English Department Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fiction Writing and Special Commendation for the Roger B. Rollin English Essay Competition. Currently, he is the Director of Business Development for the Black Sea Region for Maybank Industries in Tbilisi.

Lauren Sausser reports on hospitals and health care reform at *The Post and Courier* in Charleston, South Carolina, and her work is published in various news outlets. During her visit to the Pearce Center, Sausser conducted a brief writing workshop for students interested in pursuing a degree in journalism. Lauren graduated from Clemson in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She received a graduate degree from Columbia University in 2010.



# THOUGHTS WORTH THINKING

Thoughts Worth Thinking (TWT) is a TED Talk-style discussion series hosted by the Calhoun Honors College and the Pearce Center for Professional Communication. The series is designed to bring together Clemson's top professors with students to explore a wide range of ideas. Made possible in part through funding by the Human Adventure Symposium, TWT is a yearlong program intended to nurture open discussion between teachers, students, faculty, and graduates. Started in the Spring 2012 by Clemson graduate Allison Kidd, TWT has grown to include speakers from various disciplines across Clemson's campus. Students are actively involved throughout the process, choosing future talks based on student recommendations. The series continues to encourage students and professors to investigate theoretical and practical "thoughts worth thinking."

## 2013–2014 Thoughts Worth Thinking Series

October 2: "Climbing to the Summit" —Fran Mainella, 16th Director of the National Park Service, Mrs. Mainella shared stories and secrets about climbing to the summit of her profession as NPS Director for parks and recreation.

October 30: "Transparency vs. Deception in Foreign Policy" —Carlos Luria, Retired CIA Officer. A native German, Mr. Luria spoke of his time as a retired CIA officer and his insight on thought-provoking issues in our country's foreign policy.

November 20: "Flaming Camels and Road Diets: Why Do We Have Such a Hard Time Creating Elegant Sustainable Solutions?" —Dr. Leidy Klotz, Professor of Civil Engineering. Dr. Klotz discussed current issues such as climate change and other sustainability challenges and related them to war strategies from ancient generals.

February 26: "Prime III: Making Every Vote Count" —Dr. Juan E. Gilbert, Chair of the Human-Centered Computing Division in the School of Computing. Dr. Gilbert demonstrated Prime III, a secure, multimodal electronic voting system that takes a universal design approach to addressing security.

April 2: "Putin's Black Sea Adventure: Why Russia Conquered Crimea" —Steve Marks, Professor of History. Professor Marks presented the Russian and Ukrainian perspectives on the Crimean crisis during his political presentation.

# In Closing

The Pearce Center thrives on the strength of our staff and the depth of our collaborations. Angie Justice, Pearce Center administrative assistant, and Barbara Ramirez, Class of 1941 Studio coordinator, provide experience, knowledge, and commitment that make our multiple operations run smoothly. Ashley Cowden Fisk, assistant director, served as the acting director of the Pearce Center while I was on research sabbatical in the spring and will continue to act in that capacity during the 2014-2015 academic year. Ashley makes the formidable task of teaching and managing our team of Pearce Interns look much easier than it actually is. The Pearce Center smiled as Ashley gave birth to her daughter Marett Frances Fisk on March 8, 2014. We look forward to assigning Marett to various projects in the years ahead.

Special thanks also go to David Blakesley, Campbell Chair in Technical Communication, for serving as what we decided to call “interim acting director” while Ashley was on maternity leave. And, more generally, thanks to Dave for his constant willingness to collaborate, mentor, and teach while juggling all of his other commitments. Steven Katz, Pearce Professor of Professional Communication, continues to advise and collaborate with the Pearce Center, particularly in the fields of scientific writing and communication and writing in the disciplines. Meredith McCarroll, Director of the Writing Center, helped shape the Writing Fellows Program from its inception. Thanks to her vision and guidance, it has developed it into a signature initiative in Clemson’s longstanding commitment to Writing Across the Curriculum.

The many Pearce Center initiatives would not be possible without the ongoing support of our many advocates, supporters, and donors. The Pearce Center Faculty Advisory Committee provides ongoing input and advice, as do the faculty of the Departments of Communication Studies and English. And College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities Dean Rick Goodstein consistently and generously offers his creative leadership and strong advocacy.

We are sad to see our graduating seniors leave, but even more excited about the prospects ahead of them: Sarah Grosse, Sarah Rains, Whitney Rauenhorst (Pearce Center Interns); and Lisa Camp, Farris Johnson, Jessica Lau, Caroline Mercer, Haley Nieman, Rachel Solomon, Olivia Souther, Jenny Tumas, Jacob Webb, and Sloane Wiggers (Writing Fellows).

And I want to close by giving special thanks to Katie Mawyer, a student in the MAPC program and Pearce Center graduate student for two years. During that time, Katie has shared with us her time, vision, and leadership. Katie has accepted a position as [job title] with [company name] in her native Richmond, VA. We wish Katie all the best as she embarks upon her career!

One of the singular pleasures of directing the Pearce Center is the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and students from across the university. Please be in touch if you have any suggestions for new ideas, projects, or initiatives—we’re already looking forward to writing next year’s report!



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Picture Description Tittle

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