The Master’s Degree in Communication Studies at San José State University

Student and Alumni News

Darcy Osheim successfully defended her thesis “This Could Be a Game: Defining Gamification for the Classroom” in Spring 2013.


Karina Momary successfully defended her exams in Spring 2013. She will be continuing on in her position as Director of Middle School Forensics at Harker School in San José where she coaches the nationally ranked speech and debate team.

Kati Ireland successfully defended her thesis “Propriety of Self-Disclosure on Facebook: An Examination of Its Impact on Teacher Credibility” in Spring 2013.


Daniel Lebrija successfully defended his exams in Spring 2013.

Raquel Nevarez has been initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She completed a marketing internship with NBC Bay Area in May and in June a marketing internship with Cinequest, a Silicon Valley non-profit that promotes emerging filmmakers.

Erin Michaela Weeks successfully defended her exams in Spring 2013.

Jacqueline Kershing successfully defended her exams in Spring 2013.


Valerie Garcia successfully defended her project “Perspectives on Deaf Culture: Identifying One’s Self Relative to the Deaf Community” in Spring 2013.
Calling All Radio Transits

By Richard Bui

First year graduate student and graduate teaching assistant Patrick Kramer knew from the age of ten what he wanted to be when he grew up. It was that year Patrick was a guest on the nationally syndicated Radio Disney station. Radio Disney was his favorite and his guest spot on the show sealed his love of radio. Patrick spent the next seven years expanding his music knowledge and recording “pretend” radio shows onto cassette tapes in his living room. “My interest in radio grew throughout the years and I eventually decided that I wanted to pursue a career in radio.”

He chose San José State University because of KSJS and has worked for the radio station since August of 2008. “I toured colleges as a high school student with radio specifically in mind, and felt that KSJS was the best match for me. I went to their meeting during the first week of school and registered for the training classes. I have been a staff member since.” Patrick hosts “Dolphin Party Central!” every week, which airs on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 10 pm. The show features all sub genres of rock, focusing primarily on punk, ska, indie, and metal. His past shows include the Funhouse, the Rockery, Patrick’s Piñata Party, Shark Attack, and Live/Love/Laugh/BeHappy.

While working at KSJS, Patrick pursued first a bachelor’s and now a master’s degree in Communication Studies with a specialization in performance studies. Combining radio experience with the study of performance has provided him a unique perspective on music and radio industries. “Performance studies allowed me to study music, concerts, and even the way I conduct my own show from a critical perspective.” Studying performance and communication has given him a deeper appreciation of his radio show, the music he listens to, and the entire music industry.

Patrick plans to work in the music industry in the future and ideally would like to be a program director at a major radio station. He also plans to write scholarly research about music and concerts. In addition to his work at KSJS, Patrick also volunteers with adults and children with special needs and plans to start a non-profit agency that provides musical training and music-oriented activities.

“I have come to realize that my radio show is a continuation of my identity, and it reflectively shapes my identity as well.”

Patrick Kramer
Navigating the South Bay

By Richard Bui

In the past year, first year graduate student Michelle has worked in marketing/PR for a non-profit and customer service for a financial institution. In her marketing/PR work, she has done a lot of outreach with existing partners, identified new ones, and drafted press releases, advisories, and other announcements. As a customer service representative, Michelle has been able to figure out customers’ needs and where to direct them.

The most challenging aspect of Michelle’s job is making sure both parties are satisfied with the outcome. “Sometimes you aren’t able to meet everybody’s requests for certain reasons and that is not always easy to communicate to the other party. You want to be as positive and constructive as possible without outright rejecting what they want.”

Michelle explains that she wouldn’t have known about the great groups and businesses in the South Bay if it weren’t for her work. “The South Bay is definitely culturally diverse, though some groups are still under-represented. It is a hard initiative to cater to all groups, but it is a good sign that we are trying to make the effort to connect with as many people as possible.”

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Michelle Tran