A Note From the Director....

I watch the replay of the Clemson Tigers’ game winning touchdown drive in last year’s National Championship game a lot. It always makes me smile and feel great about a team that has been fighting for years to get back to the college football play-offs. The Clemson players decided it was time, and they “brought their own guts,” as head coach Dabo Swinney likes to say. Swinney wants his players to give it their all in every practice, and in every step of preparation. On game day, he expects their best.

So, do you “bring your own guts” to a public speaking event? Or, do you feel slightly sick whenever you have to stand up and make a presentation? Do you procrastinate until the last minute and then slap something together, hoping that somehow it will be good enough? Do you even know the essentials of effective public speaking?

If you want to feel comfortable when you have to speak in public, let us help you! Make an appointment today at the Speech Communication Center. We have two locations to better serve you: 205 Joyner East and 3508D Laupus Library.

Our services are always free, and we will work with you managing speaking anxiety, writing and delivering an engaging presentation, and developing professional communication skills.

Come for a visit or two or three or 20. We don’t offer quick fixes or promise instant results. BUT, we will work with you on your communication issues and we will help you become a more confident communicator.

So, what are you waiting for?

Dr. Pamela Hopkins
252-328-2790
www.ecu.edu/comm/center
“Being a Distance Education student, it is difficult to get the same help that a campus student receives. I am unable to meet with professors or help centers face to face so I have to do everything through email. I contacted the Speech Communication Center about a required assignment and knew I would possibly need to take time off from work to do it. I spoke to Kelsey a few times and she was so understanding about my schedule and made her own schedule flexible to work with me. I sent her my outline and she gave me great advice about what I should change and told me what she liked about it. I also had to give her my speech via video chat and she was very helpful and kind. She helped me so much that I decided to contact her again on my own for another speech I had to give. I definitely recommend the Speech Center. They are there to help!”

- Jennifer Baker
Distance Education student, Communication Major

“I’ve always been pretty apprehensive about campus services because I always feel like my questions either don’t get answered, or I’m led astray. However, when I finally decided to give the SCC a chance, I was very surprised with the amount of help I received. More than being helpful, the people at the SCC were actual down-to-earth people who took the time to patiently understand me and get to know my situation. They provided me with the tools needed to build my confidence and effectiveness during interviews and other public speaking events. As a student, I greatly appreciate the effort and importance that the SCC representatives show towards my success!”

-Landon Sugar
Senior, Engineering Major

“Learning I had to take a required Public Speaking class as a senior, I had apprehensions about being in such an intimidating class. As a senior communication student with a concentration in journalism, writing is second nature to me, but public speaking gave me a lot of anxiety. After the first day of class, my instructor explained all the amazing resources the Speech Communication Center offers. So, I knew visiting the SCC would help my grade in the class and my confidence in myself. When I scheduled an appointment on the SCC’s online portal, it was extremely easy to access. I had an upcoming speech in class and the thought of standing in front of people talking for seven minutes made me so uneasy. When it was time for my appointment, Kelsey Rhodes gave me great feedback while going through my outline in the SCC. After leaving, I knew the areas I needed to revise and how to practice for my speech.

I can now say that my public speaking anxiety has lessened and I have more confidence in not just my public speaking skills but my ability to perform in front of people I’m unfamiliar with. With the help of the SCC, I was able to successfully deliver a speech to over 50 scholarship donors from ECU’s College of Fine Arts and Communication in October. The SCC is a great resource to all ECU students, not just communication majors, and I hope students take advantage of it.”

-Emory Saia
Senior, Communication Major

“"The Speech Communication Center has been immensely helpful to me as a student in Public Speaking. I can set up a time at the SCC, and I can practice a speech for any class, I can bring in a speech outline for critique for any class, and I know I can get solid, reliable feedback.”

-Brandon Underwood
Senior, Computer Science Major

Fall 2017: What We’ve Done

Since our last newsletter in September, we have been quite busy. Along with providing one-on-one services in the Center, we are very active on campus. In late October, SCC Assistant Directors, Kelsey Rhodes and Caroline Umphlett hosted two free workshops in Joyner East on topics including effective communication and managing speaking anxiety. We have given many presentations across campus on a variety of different topics including effective visual aids, organizing speeches, effective and professional communication, tips for group presentations, and managing speaking anxiety.

Dr. Hopkins provided two workshops for graduate students participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The workshops focused on giving tips for their delivery, organization, and the rules of the competition. Both the People’s Choice Winner and Grand Champion Winner attended the workshops that were offered. Each semester the SCC provides a workshop for professionals who work in the Human Resources Department at ECU. This is part of certification program for staff members who plan to move into positions that require public speaking and communication skills. In early November, Dr. Hopkins provided a workshop focusing on confident presentation skills to members of the Chancellor’s Student Leadership Academy (CSLA). CSLA is a premiere leadership program designed to help emerging leaders develop valuable skills to inspire, empower, and influence positive change.

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Coming Soon!

In our September newsletter, we announced that the staff of the Speech Communication Center has collaborated with Carlyle Rogers, Licensing Associate in the Office Technology Transfer at ECU, to provide a virtual reality experience for clients to practice their speeches and overcome their fears of public speaking. We have recently completed the filming of different presentations on topics including effective communication and managing speaking anxiety. We will soon have access to using the Samsung Gear VR headset to experience rehearsing their speeches in front of these audiences.

Thank you to everyone who attended our You Can be an Effective Communicator workshop on October 24 and our Managing Speaking Anxiety workshop on October 25. Between the two workshops we had over 70 attendees. Additional workshops will be announced soon!

Do you have any workshop requests? We will gladly take suggestions. Email us at commcenter@ecu.edu.