

CommDev E-Newsletter

Jan. 22, 2009

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1. Welcome back, CommDevers!

The Communication and Development Studies Program would like to give our warmest “Welcome back!” to all the CommDev faculty, staff and students! We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful winter break and now is full geared to embrace the exciting winter quarter

2. Prof. Thomas Tufte visits Athens

Professor Thomas Tufte from Roskilde University paid a visit to Athens during the winter break. On Dec. 17, he held a lecture at Alden Library and discussed his work on entertainment education, cultural studies, HIV/AIDS communication and international development. The lively discussion was joined by Program Director Dr. Rafael Obregon, CommDev faculty, Dr. Vibert Cambridge and about 15 CommDev students.

3. Fruitful winter break

While the winter break was relaxing for many CommDevers as they traveled and enjoyed time with family and friends, others took advantage of the time to be engaged in varied field work, internship and academic activities.

Second-year CommDever Aurelie Kpagnane Somda, traveled to Ghana and worked with Rescue Mission Ghana, a Ghanaian non-government organization focused on the promotion of health and development. With former CommDever Ebenezer Malcalm as its director, the program aims at providing ICTs and other employable skills through youth-oriented projects in order to empower young people and promote tolerance towards people living with HIV in order to reduce stigma. Describing her experience as a “fun and enlightening,” Aurelie was involved in the preparation of the project’s 2009 proposal, fundraising activities as well as the organization’s last award ceremony.

Second-year CommDever Genoa Rucker and first-year Titus Gwemende attended Ohio's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual HIV and AIDS Conference held in Columbus. The event was attended by delegates from several universities and NGOs working in the field of HIV and AIDS.

First-year CommDever Carolina Novella Centellas reported that, during her travel back to her hometown in Barcelona, she had the opportunity to meet with a local organization Projecte Emetis that works with entertainment education strategies (using dance, puppets, theater and magic games) to increase condom use awareness among teenagers.

#### 4. CommDev student representative elected

First-year CommDever Syed Khalid Jamal has been elected as the student representative for the CommDev program. The student representative, one for each program in the Center for International Studies, engages on Center-wide issues and provide feedback and inputs on program issues.

#### 5. CommDev Alumni Forum to be held

Following its successful film review debut last quarter, the Communication and Development Association, the program's student organization, is holding its second annual academic event this winter quarter. This quarter's event is designed to be a CommDev Alumni Forum, which is expected to take place on a regular basis from now on. The association would like to invite three interested CommDevers to participate in this year's forum. If any former CommDever doing field work would be interested in participating, please email Diana DeCola, president of the association, at artemis1120@hotmail.com. As a forum speaker, the CommDever will be invited to present and share his or her experiences upon completing studies in the program. The event is scheduled to be held in April. More details will follow soon.

#### 6. CommDev job/internship E-newsletter debuts

The CommDev program has just announced the debut of its bi-weekly E-newsletter called Upd@ed CommDev Opportunities, providing information on latest job, internship and volunteer opportunities. Submitted since Jan. 19 to all recipients in the program's faculty, staff, alumni and student database, the E-newsletter is intended to bridge market needs and student expectation while creating a closer bond among the CommDev community.