his past year, we conducted two faculty searches that resulted in two new additions to our Department: First was Dr. Young Ji Kim, an expert in small group collaboration and collective intelligence, who arrived in July following her PhD at USC and then a post-doc at MIT. She will be teaching courses in organizational and small group collaboration. Then Dr. Joe Walther, who came to us from his most recent post at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Dr. Walther started his position in November as the inaugural Bertelesen Presidential Chair in Information Technology and Society, and will soon be the Director of the Center for Information Technology and Society at UCSB. We are very glad to have them both on our faculty. We also had two of our long-time faculty members retire including Dr. Howie Giles who had served as a previous Department Chair and as the graduate program director for many years. Dr. Giles remains on campus as a Distinguished Research Professor, along with Dr. Linda Putnam who retired last year. Dr. Giles has taken on a new role as the Director of Volunteer Services at the Santa Barbara Police Department so you might see him strolling the streets of Santa Barbara in his uniform. Dr. Anna Laura Jansma also retired after spending over 20 years as a full-time lecturer in our Department and being heavily involved with both our Alumni Association and our internship program. We wish them both well in their future endeavors!

In the coming year, we are hiring another new faculty member in digital communication and we can’t wait to see what cutting-edge new research the candidates have to show us in the next few months as we work through the interview process. We are also recruiting a new class of graduate students so anyone thinking about getting a PhD in the social scientific study of communication should consider UCSB as the premiere Department in that area. Applications are due January 1st! See: http://comm.ucsb.edu/graduate/prospective. We also have several great events coming up so save the date for our annual Career Day event during All-Gaucho Reunion on April 28. Any alumni who want to come talk to our majors about how they use their Communication Degree in their careers should let me know: ndunbar@ucsb.edu.

Norah Dunbar, Department Chair
The Black Studies Department at the University of California at Santa Barbara has launched the Black Studies Emphasis (BSE) for students enrolled in doctoral programs in the departments of Communication, History, Feminist Studies, Political Science, Sociology, and Chicana and Chicano Studies (in the College of Letters and Science), and the department of Education (in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education). Faculties in these units routinely work together exchanging scholarly perspectives, launching interdisciplinary projects, and training graduate students. The BSE builds on our university’s great strengths in Race Studies, Comparative Ethnicity, and the Black experience, and positions UCSB as a leader in Black Studies and Social Justice research and pedagogy.

U.S. News and World Report’s 2018 “Best Colleges” guide, the most widely read college guide in the nation, ranks UCSB as number 8 among all public universities.

**UCSB ENROLLMENT**

Over the last 4 years, UCSB has seen a 13% increase in its student population, bringing current enrollment at UCSB to 24,250.

As a result of this surge in enrollment, 30% of all courses on campus are impacted or overloaded, according to the Registrar's Office.

The Communication major (including pre-majors) is now the second largest major in the College of Letters and Science (after Economics) with approximately 1700 students, representing an increase of 350 undergraduates in the Department of Communication since Fall of 2012.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, American Marketing Association is a collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association. UCSB students of all majors are given the opportunity to understand and become experienced in the field of marketing.

The Communication Association at UCSB is a student-run organization dedicated to providing students with an outlet to explore the multi-faceted Communication major. The club offers students a place to participate in workshops, internship mixers, career panels, and networking opportunities.

Lambda Pi Eta is an honors society created to recognize, foster, and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in Communication studies, stimulate interest in the field of communication and promote & encourage professional development among Communication majors.

**YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Your gift of $50 or more helps the department to meet all types of needs from classroom equipment and supplies to software for computer labs.

Want to do more or donate towards a specific need? Here’s how you can help:

- **$100**
  - Helps to provide information about internships posted on the department website
- **$150**
  - Helps to provide sashes for Honors Students to wear at commencement
- **$200**
  - Provides recognition symbols/signage for Communication graduates at commencement
  - or -
  - Special career development materials from the National Communication Association
- **$300**
  - Helps to provide a reception to honor graduates following commencement

Please visit the Department of Communication’s giving page at [HTTP://WWW.COMM.UCSB.EDU/GIVING](HTTP://WWW.COMM.UCSB.EDU/GIVING)
Our Communication Department — among the top in the country and one of the most competitive majors on campus — yields many driven, multi-talented graduates. Here we catch up with three UCSB Communication alumni about where they are now in their careers and how their academic backgrounds helped prepare them.

Cheyanne Brooks, Class of 2014

What do you do currently for your profession?

I am the Special Events Coordinator at the Santa Barbara Zoo.

What classes did you take at UCSB that you find helpful/useful today?

I found that my Interpersonal/Relational Comm courses were most helpful. I think the taught me a lot about how to interact with others in the workplace and the different types of personalities you might come across moving forward.

Favorite Communication class?

My favorite course was probably any class I took with Professor Aldonis. She was the best!

What did you do beyond academia that helped you while you were at UCSB that helped you to achieve success in your career today?

I worked full-time on top of school, as well as an internship. I loved the most was Dr. Aldeis’ The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication. This class allowed me to reflect on my current relationships and to be cognizant of future uncertainties.

What do you do currently for your profession?

Earlier this year, I started my own consulting firm, Deeper Engagement. Most of my work involves doing career workshops for small to midsize tech companies. It’s disruptive and expensive for companies when their employees leave and they have to train new people, and research shows that lack of career development is the #1 reason people leave while the #1 reason they stay is when they have meaningful work. So I help companies save time and money by providing more meaningful career guidance for their employees.

What classes did you take at UCSB that you find helpful/useful today?

Some of the classes that were most directly applicable to my work today are Organizational Comm, Comm & Technology, and Interpersonal Comm. Other classes were less linked to my work, but I found them valuable in expanding my horizons and making me more effective at dealing with many different people – those included 20th Century History, Cultural Anthropology, several sociology classes, and a really interesting Intro to Linguistics class that I still think about a lot!

Favorite Communication class?

I took an Advanced Organizational Comm class where we created survey instruments to help organizations measure aspects of diversity and inclusion. I learned a ton from that class, and it led directly to becoming a Research Assistant the following quarter where I helped a grad student do research about internet use in the campus residence halls.

What did you do beyond academia that helped you while you were at UCSB that helped you to achieve success in your career today?

I was on the Summer Orientation Staff for 3 years – 2 years as an advisor and 1 year as a student coordinator. That experience taught me so much in so many different areas – teamwork, diversity, self-awareness, public speaking, event planning, advising and counseling skills – and of course how to walk backwards while giving a campus tour! I’ve used the lessons I learned from OSStaff in many places throughout my career, and I’ve remained good friends with the people I met during those experiences.

Nick Duggan, Class of 2000

What do you do currently for your profession?

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Cori Sainte Marie, Class of 2017

What do you do currently for your profession?

After I graduated from UCSB this past spring, I got the Social Media & Communication internship at The Walt Disney Company. In this role, I help manage the LinkedIn accounts for ESPN, ABC, and The Walt Disney Studios as well as the Disney Careers Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages.

What classes did you take at UCSB that you find helpful/useful today?

During my time at UCSB, I found that Communication and Technology taught by Professor Andrew Flanigan was one of the most useful classes for my success. It helped me gain a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between individuals and technology, which has enabled me to apply this knowledge to marketing. Relationship Communication, taught by Dr. Aldois, was another class related to my success because it taught me how to build relationships and network with people, which is essential for success in the entertainment industry.

Favorite Communication class?

Although all the Communication classes I took during my time at UCSB proved to be really helpful in my career, the one I loved the most was Dr. Aldois’ The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication. This class allowed me to reflect on my current relationships and to be cognizant of future uncertainties.

What did you do beyond academia that helped you while you were at UCSB that helped you to achieve success in your career today?

Aside from my classes, the experiences I had outside the classroom guided me towards my success. As a transfer student, I wanted to get as much experience as I could in a short period of time. I worked as a campus tour guide, which armed me with the social media-related experience which I later used at Disney. Lastly, attending panel events like the ones organized by the Communication Association helped me network with faculty members, alumni and peers, which gave me an edge for future job seeking.
Caffeine Machine - Study spots are a commonly overlooked aspect of the college experience, but every student needs a place to numb the pain of finals with some snacks to minimize the hunger and background music to calm the mind. Each spot brings a different environment and ambiance that pulls together a collection of similar scholars who need a caffeine boost to get through the school day. Around Isla Vista and Goleta there are plenty of relaxing places to have a cup of joe to keep you focused and an atmosphere to keep students from spiraling into the stresses of finals. But what makes a study spot great? What are your study spot must-haves? Maybe the perfect pastry, free Wi-Fi, or the most amazing chairs. Here are some of our top picks for perfect study spots around town:

Isla Vista

Equilibrium - If background music and crêpes are your style, this Isla Vista shop will give you the ideal spot to study. With a roomy study area, there is ample space to write a research paper.

Coffee Collaborative - This is the place for people with a serious tolerance for high caffeine and a love for funky décor. Coffee Collab is known for its friendly staff and strong cups of joe that will keep you fueled all day.

Goleta

Peet’s Coffee - Peet’s Coffee, small, clean, and rarely crowded, is a prime study spot to catch up on any mid-week assignments that need your attention. Make sure to try their seasonal drinks during the winter season.

Java Station - Java Station is the place to go if you need a comfortable couch and the best piece of avocado toast for your study session. If studying in spurts is your cup of tea, Java Station has board games for study breaks.

Starbucks - The Starbucks in Camino Real Marketplace is a great place for people watching with a constant flow of people and the perfect spot for a long night study session as the coffee is poured until 11 pm most days.

French Press - One more laid back Goleta study locale is the French Press which has a clean, modern look and a mouthwatering menu.

On Campus

Library - Although study room availability can be low, if you are lucky enough to find a secluded spot in the lib, there is a promise of silence and plenty of outlets to help keep you on track for your class cramming during those dreaded all-nighters.

The Coral Tree Cafe - This underrated cafe located near Cheadle Hall and North Hall is an easy spot where burgers, fries, fruit, snacks, and burritos are plentiful. Finding a booth is an ideal way to spend time between classes grabbing food and getting an assignment done without leaving campus.
Where did you come from before coming to UCSB?
I came from the MIT Sloan School of Management where I was working as a postdoctoral research associate for three years. At MIT, I was part of the research group that examines collective intelligence of human groups and human-computer systems. Prior to my postdoc, I was at the USC Annenberg School for Communication for my PhD and lived in LA for six years. I am originally from South Korea, and lived there until I graduated from college.

What is your area of research?
I am interested in collaboration in group and organizational settings, and large-scale collaboration in online communities and crowds. Recently, my collaborators and I have been studying collective intelligence, which our group defines as a group’s ability to work together on a wide variety of tasks—similar to IQ but at the group level. We have examined collective intelligence in various contexts ranging from student project teams to online gamer teams to human groups with a bot facilitator. My research particularly focuses on examining predictors of collective intelligence as well as communication and coordination processes in which collective intelligence emerges.

Why did you choose UCSB?
My number one reason for choosing the UCSB Department of Communication is its world-class faculty and graduate program. I have long admired the faculty here ever since I was a young graduate student. During my visit to the UCSB campus back in January, I got to talk with most faculty members and graduate students and I felt like I instantly became “smarter” through those conversations. I got thoughtful feedback about my research, and became confident that I could grow in this inspiring environment as well as contribute to it. Secondly, the interdisciplinary, collaborative culture around the UCSB campus was also attractive as my own research involves working with scholars from various disciplines such as technology management and computer science. Third, I love teaching and I heard great things about undergraduate students at UCSB. I look forward to working with them both in the classroom and on research projects. Finally, and this goes without saying but the weather is not bad at all!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

Who doesn’t count the hours until the weekend? Luckily, there is not a lot of variation in the temperature over the course of the year in Santa Barbara, making any day the perfect day to put away the laptop and make the most of nearby adventures all year long.

I WANT TO EAT.

Jeannine’s for brunch
The perfect way to end your weekend and start your week off right is by visiting this 30-year-old, family-owned restaurant and bakery with three locations throughout Santa Barbara and Montecito.

East Beach Tacos & Batting Cages
Tacos and batting cages may not be the most iconic of duos, but they make for the duo you didn’t know you needed. Located off of South Milpas, East Beach Tacos is a must for a quick meal and the batting cages make for an affordable activity with friends.

I WANT TO UNWIND.

Get some fresh air at a park in IV
Despite being only one square mile in size, Isla Vista is home to over 20 district parks. Organizing a picnic with friends, enjoying the beautiful weather, or playing a game of spike ball are excellent ways to make use of the parks and relax.

I WANT TO GET OUT OF TOWN.

Visit the Channel Islands
A great getaway for those who love the outdoors is to visit the Channel Islands, the namesakes of some of dorms on campus, which are visible from the UCSB campus. You can board the ferry in Ventura which takes you straight to the islands where you can enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, whale-watching, and more!

Camping on Jalama beach
For $114 a night, campers can access beach-front campsites only an hour drive from the UCSB campus at Jalama Beach County Park—a spot known for it’s surfing, whale-watching, and nature photography. While you’re there enjoy a “World Famous Jalama Burger.”

I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.

Tired of Netflix? Go to the Drive-in
The West Wind Santa Barbara Drive-In, located in Goleta, provides a classic twist to the movie-watching experience. Viewers receive the proper radio channel to tune in to upon entrance as they enjoy classic and recently released films from the comfort of their cars.

Visit the on-campus Farmer’s Market
Located in between Campbell Hall and North Hall, the Gaucho Certified Farmers Market brings fresh and local produce, foods, and food trucks right to our campus every Wednesday from 11AM to 2PM.

START HERE

Congratulations! You got the letter of acceptance to UCSB. But now what? Here is some advice from one transfer student to another.

TAKE IT SLOW. Do NOT take more than three classes your first quarter, especially if you are coming from the semester system. Same goes for the pre-major courses, it is better to take only one your first quarter.

BE PRESENT. Go to every class, once you start missing class it is easy for it to become a habit.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS. Get to know your peers in class. PLUS, it’s a great way to start a study group!

MAKE IT RELEVANT. Apply what you learn in class to examples from your life, it makes it easier to remember!

SPEAK UP. Participate in class – ask a question, give a relevant example, etc.

STAY ENGAGED. Sit in the front of the class. The farther back you are the easier it is to get distracted.

PRACTICE. Review your notes as many times as you possibly can – either the night of the day you took them or the day after.

GET IT DONE. Do NOT procrastinate! Assignments in the quarter system approach faster than you think. Start your assignments early.

FIND BALANCE. Take time away from school to relax, exercise, and enjoy life! Your personal health is the most important. If you are not well, you will be unable to be productive at school.

HELP YOURSELF. Utilize the campus resources available to students go to the Writing Center, tutoring, Transfer Center, etc. (see our Student Resource Guide on page 14).
Getting Resourceful

UCSB has a plethora of resources to help students with their classes, identities, and adjustments to the college experience. From comfortable spaces to helpful mentors, each on-campus resource gives students insight into how to succeed and feel connected within the Gauchos community. Here is a list of some of the top resources that benefit UCSB students.

ONDAS

The Opening New Doors To Accelerating Success (ONDAS) Center was opened in 2016 after UCSB was given the Department of Education Title V HSIs grant for being recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution. The center hopes to help first-generation students in their adjustment to UCSB and have services including academic advising, first-generation focused workshops and major specific tutoring. They are located at 1150 Kerr Hall. http://ondas.ucsb.edu

Transfer Student Center (TSC)
The Transfer Student Center (TSC) is located at the far end of the Ocean Side of the UCSB Library, which can be spotted by its bright blue wall. The Center was founded in 2016, to assist incoming and current transfer students to navigate and prosper in not only during college but also their future careers. Offering resources such as College of Letters & Sciences advising, a mentor and mentee program, workshops, and a study and community space to name a few. http://transfercenter.ucsb.edu

CARE

The Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education Office (CARE) is a safe space for students and faculty who are impacted by sexual assault, stalking and dating/domestic violence. The CARE services give support through events and appointments and educates the campus community about these issues. All services at CARE are confidential and the office is located at Women’s Center inside the Student Resource Building. http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/care/home

OISS

The Office of International Students and Scholars provides immigration support for the UCSB community, advising for international students, and cultural programming. oiss.sa.ucsb.edu/

BSEP

The Black Student Engagement Program (BSEP) is designed to connect Black undergraduate students with existing campus resources while also advocating for areas of need specific to the Black community at UCSB. BSEP, through its mentoring program, connects undergrads with like-minded faculty, staff, and grad students so as to support student's aspirations and expand their imagination for life after graduation. BSEP's office is located in the SRB, Student Resource Building, Room 3123.

RCSDG

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, located on the 3rd floor of the Student Resource Building, works with students, staff and faculty to ensure LGBTQI identities, experiences and concerns are represented and addressed at UCSB. The center aims to create a vibrant and engaging environment through social and educational programming, volunteer and leadership opportunities, a comfortable and welcoming social and study space and professional and student staff members for support and advocacy. The RCSGD hopes that all LGBTQI students can thrive at UCSB, feeling safe, affirmed and valued on campus. The establishment of the RCSGD can be credited to the efforts of students, staff and faculty whose presence, requests, demands and activism led to the creation of the center in 1999. (Source: http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/RCSDG/about)

http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/RCSDG/home

DSP

The Disabled Students Program, located in the Student Resource Building, serves temporarily and permanently disabled students at UCSB. These students receive access to resources like class notes from classmates, specific test accommodations, and transportation services. The DSP staff dedicates itself to ensuring students receive equal access to all campus resources. http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu

CLAS

The Campus Learning Assistance Services, offers tutoring for academic skills, math, science, and economics in addition to writing help for multilingual students facing an urgent financial need that impacts their current educational goals and paths toward graduation.

A student experiencing a severe crisis can email FinancialCrisis@sa.ucsb.edu and a Financial Aid Advisor will respond within one business day to meet and develop a plan of action with the student. The timely communication, guidance, and assistance from a Financial Aid Advisor resolves many crises that arise. In cases where available financial aid processes cannot help resolve the crisis, the Financial Aid Advisor forwards the details to the Financial Crisis Response Team to collaborate with additional service programs. (Source: UCSB Student Affairs)

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Nearly 18,000 UCSB students receive OFAS Services, including:

- One-on-one appointments with Financial Aid Advisors
- Financial Crisis Response Team
- Budget planning
- Financial Emergency loans
- Financial awareness counseling
- Scholarship search assistance

Embedded within the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Financial Crisis Response Team assists students facing an urgent financial need that impacts their current educational goals and paths toward graduation.

The Gaucho Communicator - Fall 2017, Issue 15
Research Spotlight

Stephenson Brooks Whitestone
Stephenson Whitestone is currently PhD student in the Department of Communication. She is interested in areas of the trans experience, including aging, sexual harassment and assault, media portrayals, personal narratives as community history, and participation in online communities. We recently caught up with Stephenson about her current projects and what inspires her work.

What current research projects are you working on?
I’m working on a few different things. All are trans-related. I am looking at stress and resilience in trans couples (couples that include at least one transgender or gender-expansive individual). I’m working on a study of transgender identity after death. And I’m doing research on media portrayals of trans people.

What inspires your research?
My interest in trans identity-after-death was inspired by the death of Melony Smith. I did not know Melony, but my friends did. When she died, I went to her calling hours as a show of support for my friends. But when we got to the casket and looked inside, we did not see a woman. The family had cut her hair and dressed her in a man’s suit and tie. They had erased her identity. The experience had a profound effect on me. Who should control a person’s identity after death? Don’t we have a right to our own identity -- even if it is at odds with our family’s feelings?

Stephenson Whitestone

What/who inspires you?
My friends in the trans community inspire me every day. They’re not famous, but their courage in the face of hate and prejudice is empowering. I came to UCSB to do research that I hope will lead to a better understanding of trans people. The trans community represents a wide spectrum of expressions and identities. There are so many stories yet to be told.

What are the benefits of doing research here at UCSB?
In the short time I’ve been here at UCSB, I have gotten to work with some of the top (if not the top) people in their field. Howard Giles, Dan Linz, Tamara Afifi. The number of publications those three have produced is nothing less than extraordinary. I’m very fortunate to be working with them.

What contributions do you hope to make through your work?
I am hoping to shine a light on the trans community -- one of the most invisible and misunderstood communities in the U.S. In the future, when I’m teaching, writing or speaking in public, I hope that my training and research here at UCSB will make me a much stronger and more effective advocate.

What’s your greatest achievement?
My greatest achievement is not giving up. Life is not always easy. I’ve failed at a lot of things. But the key, I think, is to never give up. To keep on trying. To keep on trying to do something significant in the world. That’s my goal.

What makes your current research different from previous research?
Previous research in media and media effects have all contributed a great deal to race and representation. I would like for my work to tackle the rich spectrum of Blackness. We are all not Tupac, or Blackish (which I’ve published a paper on) or Obama (but that would be awesome). I hope that my research not only fills some gaps in what exists, but also celebrates Black life in media and the potential effects this beauty may have on Black audiences.

David Stamps
David Stamps is a current PhD student in the Communication Department. In May, he was elected as the President of UCSB’s Graduate Student Association. You can discover more about David in his website www.davidstamps.com.

What is the current research you are working on?
I’m working on a lot of stuff! I have three projects that are ongoing, including a study on positive depictions of Black women in entertainment media, emotions tied to news media depictions of protest and riots, and a third study looking at mainstream media news programming and its effect on Black audiences esteem and well-being. Outside of this, I’m always conducting research on Black media representation — right now, it’s all about Cardi B. and her unapologetic and problematic portrayal of Black stardom. That might be the title of my project!

What inspired your research?
My research is inspired by my life. I want to see myself, an unapologetic Black person, represented in media and research here at UCSB. And the potential effects this beauty may have on Black audiences.

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What are the benefits of doing research here at UCSB?
Here at UCSB, I get to work with some of the top (if not the top) people in their field. Howard Giles, Dan Linz, Tamara Afifi. The number of publications those three have produced is nothing less than extraordinary. I’m very fortunate to be working with them.

What contributions do you hope to make through your work?
I am hoping to shine a light on the trans community -- one of the most invisible and misunderstood communities in the U.S. In the future, when I’m teaching, writing or speaking in public, I hope that my training and research here at UCSB will make me a much stronger and more effective advocate.

What’s your greatest achievement?
My greatest achievement is not giving up. Life is not always easy. I’ve failed at a lot of things. But the key, I think, is to never give up. To keep on trying. To keep on trying to do something significant in the world. That’s my goal.

What makes your current research different from previous research?
Previous research in media and media effects have all contributed a great deal to race and representation. I would like for my work to tackle the rich spectrum of Blackness. We are all not Tupac, or Blackish (which I’ve published a paper on) or Obama (but that would be awesome). I hope that my research not only fills some gaps in what exists, but also celebrates Black life in media and the potential effects this beauty may have on Black audiences.

What inspired your research?
My research is inspired by my life. I want to see myself, an unapologetic Black person, represented in media and research here at UCSB. And the potential effects this beauty may have on Black audiences.
Visiting Scholars

Every year our department welcomes scholars from all over the world. This year, we are proud to host two prominent scholars from Norway:

Ingunn Hagen

I came from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), located in Trondheim, Norway. I work as a professor at the Department of Psychology, NTNU where I have been employed for the last 23 years. I live with my family right outside Trondheim. I originally come from Western Norway, where I grew up on an island called Stord by a Norwegian fjord http://www.stord.edu/ & https://www.trondheim.com/the-university-of-trondheim+dntntu). Where did you come from before coming to UCSB?

Jacobsen: I have a long-term relationship with UCSB. I came here for the first time on an exchange program in 1984, and ended up getting an MA in the Communication Department in 1986. Then I worked with people who were employed in the Communication Department at that time, like Professor Federico Subervi-Velez and Professor Janet Wasko. I also worked with people in other departments, like Professor Cedric J. Robinson, who was then the Head of the Center for Black Studies. I was back a few years later on a Fulbright scholarship, while I worked on my Ph.D. Then again I worked with Cedric Robinson, who at that time was the Chair at Department of Political Science. I have also been back to UCSB and the Communication Department twice before on Sabbaticals, in 2004/2005 for eight months and in 2010 for three months. It was in 2004/2005 that I started the cooperation with Ron Rice, which has been a very fruitful one. There are also many excellent scholars and nice people at the Communication Department at UCSB, so I always get learning tutorials. This is also where my interest in peer learning comes from and I have gradually developed an interest in digital learning and in using digital tools for faculty development. When this is printed I am mostly engaged with writing up some research I have done over the years on student response systems (SRS). I think SRS are great tools to facilitate peer learning.

Why did you choose UCSB?

Hagen: I mostly chose UCSB because my family and I have been here before and because we have good connections here that could set us up with what we needed professionally. My spouse is also a visiting scholar in the Communication Department and we both knew that we would be well received and that this is a good place to do work.

What is your favorite thing to do in Santa Barbara?

Hagen: Santa Barbara has such a beautiful nature, so my favorite thing here is to be outside. This time we brought our dog along, so I am lucky to go for small walks with him in our neighborhood every day. I have always been very fond of the beaches here, especially Goleta Beach, which now I must admit has lost some of its former charm. So this time I am more fond of Campus Point where my son goes surfing. I also love to walk around near Santa Barbara Wharf. And going to the Channels Islands is also an adventure. Then of course I find Santa Barbara very culturally stimulating with continuous events like the UCSB Arts and Lectures Series, and the Mind and Consciousness Series events. I have also attended some great workshops through the Continuing Education Program through Santa Barbara City College.

Jacobsen: Santa Barbara has a lot of opportunities and coming from Norway up north, one of the things we value is the possibility to stay outside without freezing or getting wet from the rain. I am an outside person also at home, and whenever I have time off I try to find something useful to do outside. In Santa Barbara this means going to the beach or for a walk in the sunshine. I also appreciate all the museums and cultural offerings that are available here.

Jacobsen: I started the cooperation with Ron Rice, which has been a very fruitful one. There are also many excellent scholars and nice people at the Communication Department at UCSB, so I always get new inspiration and knowledge for my research and teaching from being here. It is also part of the story that my family came along when I had sabbatical here. So they have developed their own relationship to UCSB and Santa Barbara. My spouse Dan, who is a researcher in Education, has also had sabbaticals at UCSB. And my son Odin went to preschool here when he was 4 and 5 years old, and then to elementary school for a few months when he was 10 years. He had lots of interesting experiences here and also made good friends. So all of us have good memories from UCSB and Santa Barbara, and we also have developed good friendships here.

Jacobsen: Mostly based on my own educational experience and teaching from being here. This time we repeated similar focus group interviews ten years later, in 2015/2016, again at the same two universities. We are currently writing a paper based on these data. Right after I arrived here I was informed that we received funding from the European Union’s ERASMUS + program on a research project called “HIPPOCAMPUS: Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing among Young People through Yoga”. The project is coordinated by a team from University of Salamanca, Spain. Beside Norway/NTNU the partners include teams from Belgium, Italy and the UK. I will try to coordinate the project from here, while two of my colleagues are working on the project part-time in Norway. This project is indicative of my recent interest in yoga as a potential source of mental health and wellbeing.

Here I am also working on a book project in Norwegian. If translated to English the working title of the book would be something like: “A life with meaning and growth: Notes about happiness and tools for personal and professional development”. My research has otherwise mainly been in media studies, since my position is as a Professor in Media and Communication Psychology. I was also trained in this field, with a Ph.D. in Media Studies from University of Bergen. I am also trained as a Clinical Psychologist. I have worked in several areas and on a number of research projects in media studies, like Audience Research, TV News Reception Studies, Political Communication, Children and Young People’s Use of ICT, Consuming Children: the Commercialization of Childhood, and Risks related to Children’s Internet Use (through the European project EU-Kids Online).

Jacobsen: My background is in educational science and higher educational development and I did my PhD on medical students doing problem-based learning tutorials. This is also where my interest in peer learning comes from and I have gradually developed an interest in digital learning and in using digital tools for faculty development. When this is printed I am mostly engaged with writing up some research I have done over the years on student response systems (SRS). I think SRS are great tools to facilitate peer learning.

What is your area of research?

Hagen: I will first mention two of my current research projects: I am involved in a research project on Media Mastery: “Young adults’ use and mastery of digital communication media: The role of (new) media technology in the lives of students.” This is a project where I collaborate with Professor Ronald E. Rice, and currently also with Nicole Zamanzadeh. Ron and I started this project in 2005 when I also had sabbatical here, by doing focus group interviews with students at UCSB and NTNU. On Ron’s initiative we repeated similar focus group interviews ten years later, in 2015/2016, again at the same two universities. We are currently writing a paper based on these data.

Jacobsen: Mostly based on my own educational experience and teaching from being here. This time we repeated similar focus group interviews ten years later, in 2015/2016, again at the same two universities. We are currently writing a paper based on these data. Right after I arrived here I was informed that we received funding from the European Union’s ERASMUS + program on a research project called “HIPPOCAMPUS: Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing among Young People through Yoga”. The project is coordinated by a team from University of Salamanca, Spain. Beside Norway/NTNU the partners include teams from Belgium, Italy and the UK. I will try to coordinate the project from here, while two of my colleagues are working on the project part-time in Norway. This project is indicative of my recent interest in yoga as a potential source of mental health and wellbeing.

Hagen: Where did you come from before coming to UCSB?

Jacobsen: I am visiting here from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), which is based in Trondheim, the third largest city in Norway (see https://www.trondheim.com/), located in Mid-Norway, I work as a professor at the Department of Psychology, NTNU where I have been employed for the last 23 years. I live with my family right outside Trondheim. I originally come from Western Norway, where I grew up on an island called Stord by a Norwegian fjord http://www.stord.kommune.no/no/Pages-in-English/About-Stord/.

Jacobsen: I am visiting here from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway where I have been teaching and doing research for the last 25 years. I have also had two previous stays in Santa Barbara (2004 - 2005 and spring quarter 2010) when I was affiliated with Instructional Development.