Journalism program partners with ESPN
By: Max Koltai

The Journalism program will soon benefit from a new partnership with ESPN. A new track in Sports Broadcasting and Journalism has been added to the major and students will have the opportunity to produce and broadcast live Canisius sporting events on ESPN3.

The contract with ESPN holds Canisius to the highest quality broadcast production level, and that’s what students in JRN 358 and 359 will be working on. The students in those courses will form the nucleus of the broadcast crew for basketball and hockey during the coming year, with other sports to follow.

The new Sports Journalism and Broadcasting concentration requires 15 credit hours of coursework, and is open to all majors, not just those in Journalism. In addition to the six credits earned through JRN 358 (Sports Field Production I) and JRN 359 (Sports Field Production II), students are required to take JRN 336 (Sports Journalism). Students will also select one Sports Communication elective and one Broadcast and Journalism elective from a list of classes to complete the concentration requirements.

Along with the new program, the school will build a new broadcast center to be located in Science Hall. Construction on the new facility begins this summer, and is expected to be completed by the fall semester.

“Buffalo is a major sports town, and the Bills, Bisons and Sabres all offer great internships for students, and students in our Sports Journalism and Broadcasting concentration will be ideal candidates for those internships,” said Dr. Catherine Foster, director of the Journalism program. “That then leads to jobs in the rapidly growing field of live sports broadcasting and production. This is an exciting opportunity for our students, and, we hope, great news for our alumni all across the country who will be able to follow the Golden Griffins on ESPN3.” (more p.4)

Video Institute turns 10

The Video Institute celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special event, “Filmmakers on the Front Line: Living the Mission Through Video Institute Alumni” in March. The screening and discussion featured Matt Rath, a 2009 Communication Studies and Digital Media Arts graduate, who now works for Samaritan’s Purse, an evangelical humanitarian aid organization that helps people in need in third world countries.

Rath’s work as a videographer was featured at the event, particularly pieces on human trafficking, conflict in Sudan and ISIS. Rath talked about his time at the Video Institute and how it helped prepare him for this job and the purpose he feels from his work.

The event also highlighted several other Video Institute alumni who are working in the fields of filmmaking, journalism, nonprofit management, marketing and web design.
The Digital Media Arts program once again excels in the area of game design. The Digital Media Arts program worked with Buffalo Game Space on hosting the Global Game Jam in Science Hall this past January.

P.J. Moskal, Ph.D., Director of Digital Media Arts, and a board member of Buffalo Game Space, says, “The objective of the game jam is to bring talent together – artists, musicians, writers, and programmers – to one space and have them work together on a game prototype based on a theme announced at the beginning of the jam by the Global Game Jam organizers.” It was Moskal who proposed that Canisius College host the game jam to provide our DMA program with another unique opportunity for its students as well as showcase the talent in our Digital Media Arts program.

The event took place in January with the theme “What do we do now?” According to Brooke Ballard DMA major and 3D content artist: “It was kind of crazy, there was no time at all. You can spend months planning a game, and people usually forget the long period of testing and learning how the game works at the end,” as participants had 48 hours to create a game from scratch.

Despite the short time frame most came up with an ambitious concept of a 3D game that worked and a prototype well received. Although there are teams, the game jam is not competitive, and the overall feeling is one of collaboration.

“Canisius has become the academic partner of Buffalo Game Space,” says Moskal, “I foresee strong collaborative efforts between the two organizations that will benefit our students and develop a vibrant gaming industry in Buffalo.”
Anne-Marie Dobies receives
Marilyn G.S. Watt Alumni Award
By: John Bassanello

When Anne-Marie Dobies learned she was named the 2015 Marilyn G. S. Watt Award recipient, she didn’t have to look far to understand the character of the late Communication Studies chairperson and professor.

Dobies, now the Assistant Vice President and Director of the GRIFF Center for Academic Engagement at Canisius, was deeply influenced by Watt, who served as Dobies’ mentor and advisor throughout her undergraduate studies.

“There are people you meet who make an impact and stay with you through life. Sometimes it’s an aunt, grandparent, neighbor, or teacher. For me it was Dr. Watt. She just had this enthusiasm to life that warranted you to do the same,” says Dobies.

Dobies graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies in 1992. After serving as a work-study in the Office of Publications, Dobies accepted a position there upon graduating. In that role, Dobies’ supervisor encouraged her to enroll in the newly created College Student Personnel and Administration masters program.

Later, she became the assistant director of the Office of Student Activities and completed another masters program in Counseling and Human Services. After, Dobies became Director of Disability Support Services and was later promoted to Director of Student Academic Support Services before accepting her current position in 2014.

“I think my Communication degree is the foundation of what built who I am today. It let me see my strengths and it acknowledged my weaknesses,” says Dobies, recognizing her degree in Communication credits many of her accomplishments.

Outside of her career, Dobies has made a point of living out one of Dr. Watt’s traits by giving back. Dobies is a proud parent and active member of Families of FANA, WNY, an organization that connects abandoned children in Colombia with families in the U.S. seeking to adopt.

Complete our Alumni Survey
Complete our alumni survey by clicking here! We love to hear what is happening in your life and to be sure our information is up-to-date. So whether life has changed or stayed the same please let us know!
The Journalism program is changing its curriculum and will now offer three possible concentrations for Journalism majors – Sports Journalism and Broadcasting, Narrative Journalism, and Multimedia Journalism.

“We believe that these three choices cover all the major growth areas in the field of journalism,’ said Dr. Catherine Foster, Director of the Journalism program. “The fact that most of these courses are being taught by working professionals – names you see in bylines in the newspaper and faces you see on the TV news – make our program completely up-to-date with trends and current practices.”

In addition to Journalism majors, students who major in Communication Studies, English, Creative Writing or Political Science may find the Narrative Journalism concentration an important addition to their degree, while those who major in Communication Studies, Digital Media Arts or Computer Science may find a natural fit with the Multimedia Journalism concentration.

“These new concentrations, which require only 15 credit hours, or five courses, may fit some students’ schedules better than a minor or dual major, while still providing specialized knowledge and skills that should be valuable in a career search,” Dr. Foster said.

The new curriculum is effective with the 2015-2016 academic year catalog.

New Course Curriculum for Journalism:
• JRN 100, Introduction to Journalism
• COM 203, Writing for the Public Media
• JRN 200, Multimedia Storytelling
• JRN 301, News Gathering and Reporting
• JRN 310, Journalism I
• JRN 490, Senior Project and Portfolio
• Either DMA 216, Digital Media Law, or COM 351, Media Ethics

Narrative Journalism Concentration:
• JRN 311, Advanced Journalism/Newsroom
• JRN 322, Feature/Magazine Writing
• JRN 342, Narrative Journalism
• 2 concentration electives

Multimedia Journalism Concentration:
• JRN 201, Advanced Multimedia Storytelling
• COM 361, Introduction to TV Production
• Either DMA 342, Introduction to Web Design, or CSC 108, Introduction to Web Computing
• 2 concentration electives

Sports Journalism and Broadcasting Concentration:
• JRN 336, Sports Journalism
• JRN 358, Sports Field Production I
• JRN 359, Sports Field Production II
• 2 concentration electives
Fostering Learning
By Jessica Kobis

Education has always been important to Dr. Catherine Foster, which has shown through her recent promotion to associate professor and being granted tenure. “I always thought it [school] was important. I actually did like it. I liked the structure, the starting point and the ending. I liked knowing the particular things the professor promised me I would know.”

Her education has taken her all over the country. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Journalism at the University of Tennessee, she began her career in journalism while obtaining her M.S. in Communication at the same school.

After working in journalism for several years in Tennessee, Dr. Foster moved to Illinois, where she began her work in public relations. First, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, then at Argonne National Laboratory, while simultaneously earning her MBA in Business/Corporate Communication at Lewis University, where she eventually taught part-time.

Because of how much she enjoyed teaching, becoming a professor became Dr. Foster’s next goal. She worked toward and received a Ph.D. in Organization and Management from Capella University. When she saw an opening at Canisius for an instructor in public relations and journalism classes, she jumped at the opportunity.

In February 2007, Dr. Foster traveled to Buffalo for an interview. “When I came to campus I thought, ‘What a nice campus and environment. I really like it. If these people don’t hire me it’s going to break my heart.’”

After a long hiring process, which included meeting with both students and other professors, she was not disappointed.

“My heart didn’t get broken.”

After almost eight years of teaching at Canisius, Dr. Foster was awarded tenure. “It’s a relief. I’m so happy here and looking forward to staying a long time.”

It is evident Canisius is looking forward to her staying, too.

Designing Success
By: Sarah Brault

One of the Communications Professors awarded tenure at the Faculty and Promotion Ceremony last fall, was Przemyslaw (P.J.) Moskal, Ph.D. Also promoted to Associate Professor, Dr. Moskal teaches classes specializing in Digital Media Arts and Game Design.

Dr. Moskal, born and raised in Poland, moved to the United States as a teenager to earn an education in both undergraduate and graduate studies. When he came to the States he didn’t speak English and worked on Long Island Farms to support himself. Twenty-five years later, he is now the Director of the Digital Media Arts program.

As the computer revolution arrived in the 1990’s, he attended and graduated with a Master of Professional Studies degree from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. From there, Dr. Moskal returned back to his roots in Poland in 2011. He earned his Ph.D. in Film Art from The Leon Schiller National Higher School of Film, Television and Theatre in Łódź, Poland under the supervision of Professor Stanisław Szymański.

At Canisius, Dr. Moskal teaches courses in Game Design, Interaction Design, 3D Graphic Design and a course in Serious Games. With the recognition as an associate professor and job security with tenure, Dr. Moskal is excited about the ability to broaden his research and teach topics he specializes in. Now in his 7th year of teaching, Dr. Moskal’s career includes work with exhibitions around the world including China and Poland. With his experience internationally he hopes that it motivates his students to think more globally.

Dr. Moskal recognizes the commitment and responsibility that comes with the tenure position.

Knowing he is a part of an elite selection of professors granted tenure, he intends to fulfill the responsibilities of this honor. But most notably to keep improving the Digital Media Arts Program here at Canisius College.

This newsletter was created and edited by Matt Gorczyca, Graduate Assistant for Communication Studies with the help of students in COM 330: Public Relations Writing taught by Dr. Catherine Foster.