OCC Director’s Message

Over the past three years, our OCC has served an average of 800 clients each semester, with an increasing number served successively. This semester we are very excited about offering our services in McKeldin Library (Rm. 2113), 5 – 8 pm, Mon. to Thurs., in addition to our regular location in Skinner 2117.

We are also happy to be piloting a workshop series for STEM graduate students who share science with non-technical audiences.

On behalf of Team OCC, thank you to all who continue to support our work. Best wishes for a wonderful semester!

Rowie Kirby-Straker
OCC Director

Highlights from 2014/15 Academic Year

- 1960 clients served
- 16 workshops conducted
- 19 peer consultants trained
- 5 presentations at National Association of Communication Centers conference
- Launch of OCC blog

Oral communication competence consistently ranks among the skills most highly sought by employers. The 2014 survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) showed that employers expect recent college graduates to be skilled in group, interpersonal, and public communication.

Interestingly, a 2013 survey by the Chronicle of Higher Education and American Public Media’s ‘Market-place’ indicated that employers perceive a gap in the level of oral and written communication skill level college graduates possess and the required skill level. Oral communication centers like ours can help to close this gap.

Spring 2015

Highlights from 2014/15 Academic Year

Contact us today!
2117 Skinner Building
Tel. 301-405-3137
oralcommcenter@umd.edu
Click here to schedule an appointment
Check our BLOG for all things OCC

Excellence from planning to practice
Making an OCC appointment is as easy as 1 2 3

1. Go to www.umd.mywconline.net and register with our online scheduling system.
2. Click on the schedule and scroll to the day on which you want the appointment.
3. Click on any available white space and complete the short appointment form.

DEAR COMM107 INSTRUCTORS:

The OCC needs YOU. Please:

1. Encourage your students to visit the OCC.
2. Volunteer here to become a workshop presenter, brown-bag speaker, or speech coach for a grad student.
3. Recommend your students as OCC peer consultants.
4. For all things OCC, check out our blog:

http://umdocc.wix.com/blog

Extra Special Thanks to our 2014/15 OCC Peer Consultants

- Ezra Allswang
- Juantrice Alvarado
- Andrew Ballard
- Zuleika Bouzeid
- Alex Chill*
- Nankwat Dakum**
- Vanessa Davis
- Shivana Dinally***
- Ariella Gordon
- Ashley Jensen**
- Lillian Johnson
- Dana Kahati
- Cara Kim
- Amanda King**
- Scott Lanoue
- Rashel Maikhor
- Frank Peng
- Christy Rettig
- Hannah Richardson
- Nadia Salameh
- Caitlin Smith
- Maya Suero

*Volunteer
** Research Assistant
*** OCC Assistant Director
****Executive Director, Oral Comm. Program

Shivana Dinally and Frank Peng earned outstanding contribution awards.