Communication and Theatre Arts

The Department of Communication and Theater Arts (CATA) offers a major that focuses on human communication in a wide variety of settings, face to face or through mediated, for functional or artistic purposes. For all students the major stresses both general knowledge of the process of communication and skillful development and presentation of messages. Within the major students will select one of two areas of concentration: Communication and Media or Theatre. In addition to course work students gain practical experience in their concentration through internships, independent study and co-curricular activities. CATA majors may work in business and organizational leadership, public relations, in journalism or radio and television, in corporate training, in education, or in live theatre (to name only a few career opportunities); all of these involve the need to understand and develop useful communication strategies.

Communication and Theatre Arts Major Requirements.

A major in Communication and Theatre Arts consists of 36 semester hours, including CATA 101, 3 hours of 100/200 workshop credit, CATA 230, 261, 321, 421, 491, an independent study or internship and acceptance of a senior, electronic portfolio. In addition, majors must complete one of the following concentrations: Communication and Media — CATA 231 or 235, two courses from CATA 333, 335, 337, and 339; and one course from CATA 265, 363, and 365; Theatre — CATA 273, 275, 375, 377 and one course from 370, 371 or 372.

Communication and Theatre Arts Minor Requirements. The following three focused minors are available:

Communication Minor. CATA 101, at least one semester hour of workshop credit, plus CATA 231 or 235, 233, and two courses from CATA 333, 335, 337 and 339. Media Minor. CATA 101, at least one semester hour of workshop credit, plus CATA 261, 263, 363, and 365. Theatre Minor. CATA 101, at least one semester hour of workshop credit, plus CATA 273, 275, 370 or 371 or 372, and 375 or 377.

Internships

Internships are an integral part of the CATA major. All majors are required to complete an internship experience or an independent study project. Internships can be taken in a wide variety of job settings from management to radio and television, to journalism, to public relations, to the arts. A listing of recent internships in the department can be viewed at the CATA web site’s internship page. The internship experience usually occurs in the Junior or Senior year or in the summer between. CATA faculty routinely advise and assist students in finding good internships. An internship is normally for three semester hours of credit. Typically students to spend between 125 and 150 hours at the internship site or about eight to ten hours per week.

Facilities and Activities

The Wells Theater, is a state-of-the-art facility. It features computerized lighting control, a counterweighted fly system, large scenic and costume shops, a design lab with a CAD system and plotter, and computerized front-of-house operations. Crimson Masque, the department’s drama society, involves well over 100 students each year in four faculty directed productions. Additionally, substantial opportunities for student directing, playwriting, acting and designing are available each year.

Our cable television studio is a versatile facility with stage, lighting and audio equipment for producing newscasts and variety shows. The programming is broadcast through a campus wide cable television station which is supervised by the CATA department. Radio station WMCR is a student operated campus station, broadcast through the campus cable system in FM stereo. The station has two, new, professionally equipped audio broadcast studios located in the Stockdale Center, one “on-air” and one for production and laboratory work. The studio equipment used is like that in a commercial station. Over 60 students participate in radio activities each semester.

We operate a newly constructed Computer/Media laboratory was opened in Wallace Hall with Windows based stations for 20 students, including computers equipped with software for audio/video editing, multi-media production, graphic design, web authoring and other applications.

The CATA television studio in Wallace Hall is home to MC-TV, a series programs featuring news, entertainment and original student films broadcast to the campus on cable channel 14. Recently the studios were converted to all-digital production. Over 35 students participate in producing MC-TV each semester.

For further information regarding internships activities or other aspects of the program including student web-based electronic portfolios, contact Dr. Lee McGaan, CATA Chair or visit the CATA web site found at http://department.monm.edu/cata/default.htm