FSU Student Assists Communication Studies Department with Course Redesign

Frostburg, MD, April 30, 2012 – Frostburg State University (FSU) Senior John Alan Adams completed his Communication Studies Capstone experience with a 3-credit semester long internship within the Communication Studies Department. He worked alongside Dr. Brent Kice, assistant professor of Communication Studies, in helping to conduct research for the redesign of the beginner course for the CMST major, CMST-102: Introduction to Human Communication. Adams hails from Williamsport, MD, and is the proud son of Alan and Margaret Adams.

While working with Kice to aid him on the course redesign, Adams helped on several projects. A large portion of his work on the internship was helping to gain feedback on the course from students who were taking it at the time. He visited the individual class sections that were taught the spring semester to help the students prepare for persuasive speeches, and in doing so, he was able to offer advice on how to properly deliver a speech. He helped to revamp the exit survey that is administered at the conclusion of the class and designed and led a focus group comprised of students to gain qualitative feedback on the course. The data and feedback he collected helped the department in their evaluation of the course redesign especially because the redesign is still in its initial stages. In regards to the experience, Kice says, "Assessment is a valuable aspect of an organizational project, and Mr. Adams will be able to use the experience gained from his capstone as a foundation for future assessment opportunities."

Although there is currently no undergraduate learning assistant (ULA) position within the department, Adams helped the department to blaze a path to move in this direction should it be a viable option in the future.

Adams’s capstone experience has benefited him greatly. He says, “I couldn’t imagine doing this capstone experience with anyone but the Communication Studies Department here at FSU. I’ve come to know the professors in the department and I’ve grown attached to things here. I wouldn’t trade it for anything. The capstone experience has left me with a sense of pride knowing that I have helped to mold the educational experience here at FSU. I feel like my organizational skills have shot through the roof under the tutelage of the professors in the Communication Studies Department.”

For more information regarding the Communication Studies major at FSU, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, department chair, at 301-687-4480 or elruminski@frostburg.edu. For more information pertaining to the course redesign of CMST-102, contact Dr. Kice at 301-687-4709 or bkice@frostburg.edu.

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