

Professor of the Month

Kim Flottesmesch

By Charles Hines

Dr. Kim Flottesmesch started her teaching career in the special education area because her brother had a learning disability, and she felt really drawn to this area. She received a teaching minor in communication studies and really started to like that aspect of studies. This was when Flottesmesch decided to pursue her master's degree in communication studies from North Dakota State, and later, she received her doctorate degree from the University of Idaho.

Flottesmesch first joined Concordia in 2010 as adjunct faculty and later became a full time faculty member in 2012. She has 20 years of combined teaching experience at the junior high, high school, and post-secondary level. Previously, she was an associate professor of communication at Lewis Clark State College in Idaho (where she was voted "Best Faculty Member" by the student body for her teaching) and the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Her research interests include distance education, inter-ability communication, and educational pedagogy. Flottesmesch has published articles in refereed academic journals such as Education Technology, Journal of Academic Leadership, and Northwest Passages and has co-authored two book chapters in the published book Strengthening Service and Learning in Teacher Education. Most recently, Flottesmesch received an award for outstanding research by Allied Academies for her work "Learning Through Narratives:

The Impact of Digital Storytelling on Intergenerational Relationships."

When Flottesmesch was asked about her favorite part of teaching, she replied, "My involvement with the students. I get as much from teaching as the students get from learning and it feels like communication is extremely relevant to people's personal and professional lives. I teach the way that I would like to learn: straightforward learning in a way that you can understand. I like hands-on instructions, enforcing what you have learned through activities."

This perspective leads Flottesmesch to have a unique and agreeable style of teaching. "I've had four or more classes with Kim, and I really like her linear teaching style," stated Alana Mosely, a graduating communications major. "She is able to break down complex theories in an understandable way. Plus, she's very relatable and easy to get along with."

One of her other students had similar words of praise for his professor. "When it comes to Ms. Kim she elevates communication to another level," said Demetrius Beaver, also a graduating communications major, "a level in which when you're in her class you feel engaged with the lesson and theories."

In her closing remarks, Flottesmesch said, "I am passionate about communication studies because of its applied nature. When used well, it can really enhance someone's life in either a professional or personal way."

Student Senate Update

By Josh Eckstein

Hello everyone, it has been a while since the last Student Senate update, and we are still going strong as the semester goes on. CAB had a wonderful turnout at the Blood Drive from earlier in February, and thanks to all of you that donated. Be sure to look out for the upcoming CAB event, CSP's Got Talent, which is coming up on April 2nd, and the winner will get to perform at Knollapalooza in May. In light of the recent decision that CSP will no longer provide laptops for every student, Student Senate came up with some questions to ask the university in order to get a clearer understanding on how it will affect students. If you want to voice your opinion on this decision (or any other topic on campus), feel free to contact a student senator and we will make sure your voice is heard.

Since the last Senate Update, we have approved the budget for the future Art Club mural project that will eventually be up in the tunnel connecting Luther Hall to the Art Building. Student Senate has also completed updating and revising the Constitution of the Student Association (which you are a part of). It is currently being re-read by all the senators and will be approved soon so that you can eventually vote on it in the near future. Another event that is coming up quickly is the Day at the Capitol on April 3rd. It will start in the BEC with a light breakfast and then move on to the Capitol to meet the representatives in this area. Any student who attends will be excused from classes from the day, and lunch will be provided as well. Be on the lookout for any information regarding signing up if you are interested.

Also, the process for elections of next year's Student Senate Executive Board is currently underway! Be sure to be aware of who is running for what position, and make sure to vote when the time comes. We hope you are enjoying the arrival of spring!

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