

# *comm*·unity

## SPRING 2022

## New Facility Upgrades at the Communication Department



by Caroline Bart

Spring 2022 has been a great semester so far for the communication department as it's gearing up for exciting new equipment and facility upgrades. This semester, communication students have been able to take advantage of these new developments firsthand in and out of class, as well as in communication clubs such as MCTV. Some of the new equipment ranges from new projectors in classrooms, all the way to a new audio mixer in the TV studio and so much more. The department is always looking for ways to be ahead of the times in terms of technology and ways to enhance the program since these are the tools students will be using once they are out and working in the field.



The state-of-the-art Sumner Redstone Television Production Center, built about 14 years ago, went through one big upgrade 6 years ago. Michael Grabowski, Ph.D. chair of the Communication Department, discussed the importance of always being ahead of the times when it comes to technology in the TV studio.

“About five years ago, we were the first school in the New York area to upgrade our studio to 4K content ... we went from being behind the curve to being ahead of the curve and that was really exciting,” said Grabowski. He noted it was also during this last upgrade when a new switcher was installed, in addition to new cameras.

This semester is the time to once again jump ahead of the curve. The TV Studio is now undergoing a few upgrades here and there that foretell a big impact. Grabowski detailed some of the new and exciting additions to the studio.

“We now have a brand new audio mixer and it's the same brand audio mixer we use in our brand new mobile production unit, so the nice thing about that is students can train in our TV studio and then work at ESPN and they'll be very comfortable on that mixer,” said Grabowski.

He also noted that students will be able to “stream things out of the studio as well as bring the live stream into the studio so that anyone in the world can see what's happening right then and there.”

Other exciting upgrades include expanding the number of cameras in the mobile production unit as well as purchasing new lenses for the 4k cameras which will help “produce an even sharper image and allow us to shoot in lower light environments in the studio,” Grabowski said.

Students will also be able to take advantage of the new iMacs in the multimedia lab located on the 3rd floor of Leo Hall. At the moment they are temporarily housed in what used to be a biology lab but the department is on the lookout for a new space for them.

**“ I’m always looking to see what is happening in the industry so that our students can learn how to do their jobs when they graduate so they don’t have to learn on the job... and the goal is that as much as possible, I want them to be able to learn here so they just hit the ground running when they enter their fields – Michael Grabowski**

Grabowski highlighted the importance of hands-on learning while at MC. “That’s our goal...to make sure the stuff is working and what you’re getting exposed to here is the same stuff that you’re going to see when you go out into the field. I’m always looking to see what is happening in the industry so that our students can learn how to do their jobs when they graduate so they don’t have to learn on the job...and the goal is that as much as possible, I want them to be able to learn here so they just hit the ground running when they enter their fields.” ★

While these upgrades impact the department as a whole, media production students will definitely experience the benefits. Grabowski mentioned how the upgrades will bring more functionality to the work in the department. With new PCs being set up, students will now be able to do certain tasks with much more ease, like bringing their own graphics into the studio right from their Google drive, as opposed to the much more tedious process in place before. There is also a new slider that can help students create dolly shots, which is such a fun addition to take advantage of.

With most of the new equipment already in place and a few more upgrades to come, this is very exciting for the communication department. These new upgrades will allow students to learn and adapt to professional-grade equipment they’ll see out in the workplace post-graduation.