



USC Annenberg Explores Language Barriers

Recently, a pair of young ladies (Barbara Estrada and Taylor Villanueva) studying broadcast and digital journalism at Annenberg produced a short video exploring the similarities between the languages of Spanish and Arabic. They published the video to Facebook on November 3rd, 2015, and it has now been viewed over 12 million times by other USC students and beyond. #Breaktheinternet

The video features two young women (assumed to be USC Students) being filmed saying simple words, one in Spanish and one in Arabic, growing increasingly surprised because of the similarities between the words of the languages.

Medical Initiatives of Annenberg

The health journalism-training program within the Annenberg School has recently made some impactful changes. One being changing its name from The CA Endowment Health Journalism Fellowship to the Center for Health Journalism. Another change being adding a community voice and outreach program to their website.

Women Hack the Gender Gap at USC Annenberg

Just last month, the Annenberg School partnered with MediaShift, a virtual media company and online magazine dedicated to technology's impact on traditional media, to organize a women's hackathon to provide women with the opportunities to turn their ideas into viable businesses.

It was a competition-structured talk/event that took place over the weekend of October 10th, 2015 at the Wallis Annenberg Hall. There were 75 students and participants in attendance and 15 mentors available from the areas of marketing, media and technology to serve as facilitators.

The winner of the competition was the team with the idea for Habitat, a virtual storytelling environmental news startup. Other technologically innovative initiatives discussed during the hackathon were mentioned as well.



The Art of Capital Punishment

The Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism hosted an art exhibition and discussion entitled, “Windows on Death Row Art from Inside and Outside the Prison Walls”, Thursday, October 22nd, 2015.

Inmates on death row worked alongside editorial cartoonists Pat Oliphant and Jeff Danziger to draw and paint their daily lives.

The reception included remarks by Chappatte, Widmann, and artist Ndume Olatushani, who was wrongfully sentenced to death and was freed in 2012.

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Amara Aguilar, assistant professor of professional practice in digital journalism at Annenberg had this to say about the expansion of traditional media into the digital field, “It’s really important for journalists to explore this area because it’s growing so rapidly; it’s a very powerful form of storytelling.” She participated in the hackathon as a judge for the competition.

The hackathon featured a panel of women within the industries to have a talk about the importance of increasing the number of women in each. The growth in this area has contributed to huge amounts of success and the break down of multiple barriers as far as gender roles. The idea to host this competition at USC came from MediaShift founder, Mark Glaser, who held one similar at West Virginia Reed College of Media. “The idea is how can we give women and students a chance and space that they might not get and feel empowered to be in teams, creating things on their own, and having great support network,” he said. “The goal has always been [to] get women to do what they might not be able to do under circumstances and [to] give them a unique experience they wouldn’t get otherwise especially in schools where they don’t have things like this.”

Women in Film Study at Annenberg



The USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism released a study entitled “Gender & Short Films: Emerging Female Filmmakers and the Barriers Surrounding their Careers”, done by Stacy Smith, Ph.D.

The study found that funding is not often available for female directors and filmmakers to advance their careers through doing big projects.