

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER: COMM ONE, COMM ALL.

LEADERS. LEGENDS. LIMITLESS.

Jim Mustian has been in journalism for more than 20 years, and his impressive career goes far beyond the classroom.



Mustian graduated from Northwestern State University in 2008 and later began teaching as an adjunct professor in August 2021. Two years later, he became the Wise Endowed Professor of Journalism.

He recalls the times spent at the dining hall with friends reading newspapers, yes newspapers, and talking until Iberville closed. He also participated in the ISEP travel abroad program, something that he described as, "genuinely life changing." Through this program, he spent an academic year studying in Germany, learning a second language, making connections, and earning his NSU degree.

Mr. Jim Mustian

Since Mustian's time at NSU, NMJCA has seen an improvement in resources available to students. Whether its podcast equipment or opportunities through ESPN+ and student media, it is through fundraising that the department stays ahead of the curb.

Mustian believes that "Additional funds also could be used for students to take more trips like to conferences in New York and New Orleans, something that's been absolutely invaluable for them in networking and preparing for their first jobs." These chances to build connections and further education outside the classroom could attract and retain students.

When asked about his hopes for the future of the department, Mustian said, "Mostly that it retains its hard-fought reputation for excellence. We are a department that has long punched above our weight and produced a remarkable roster of talent. This can only be done by remaining committed to instilling in our students a passion for storytelling and arming them with the skills and tools to be competitive in the industry."

Through further fundraising and excellent instructors like Jim Mustian, the NMJCA department will continue to set the bar and cultivate excellence.

Jessica "Jie" Zhang started as Department Head in the summer of 2021, and has been giving it her all ever since.

Since her time at NSU, all of her favorite memories and moments all involve students. When referring to learning of student's success, Zhang said:

"The students credited their success to the faculty and staff in our department, but what truly touched me was the strong sense of camaraderie among us. To me, students are not just students or customers; they are friends, partners, and family members. I appreciated their eagerness to share their achievements with me and our community. My fondest memories associated with NSU revolve around the students, and I will always be their number one fan."



Dr. Jessica Zhang

Communication students learn through hands-on experiences, as well as instruction that happens in the classroom. Through fundraising students are given more opportunities to take part in conferences and events that open the door for further learning and even job opportunities. These improved experiences would enhance both students and the department they graduated from.

In the future, Dr. Zhang wants to continue to ride the wave of new technology, provide more internships and job opportunities, and continue to build partnerships with local and national organizations. All these goals are obtainable through continued support and fundraising of the NMJCA department.

The Voices of Tomorrow

When asked what the department meant to them, this is what students had to say.

Bradie Villemarette, Strat Comm, Junior:
Creating new opportunities.

Logan Chadwick, Strat Comm, Senior:
Giving students the opportunities
they deserve.

Allison Florez Bermudez, Strat Comm, Junior:
Helping to pursue a dream.

Taylor Spitzner, Strat Comm, Senior:
Empowering voices of the next
generation.

Tavay'e Ferrell, Sports Comm, Senior:
The department that opens your
eyes to new things.

Cody Ruiz, Strat Comm, Senior:
The department that feels like
home.

Karly Stansell, Strat Comm, Junior:
Where communication meets
innovation.

