Frostburg State University Senior Helps to Plan Maryland Communication Association’s Annual Conference

Frostburg, MD—Frostburg State University senior Eric Chaney completed his degree in Communication Studies this summer. Chaney, officially graduated in August. Chaney was a member of the Communication Studies Student Association and graduated with honors with a GPA of 3.5. Chaney, who is a Cumberland native, is also a third generation alumnus of FSU.

As part of FSU’s Communication Studies major, students are required to complete an internship, identified as a Capstone experience, to apply theories and concepts learned in the major in a professional organizational setting to gain real-world, hands on knowledge. In order to meet this requirement, Chaney is serving as assistant to Maryland Communication Association’s First Vice President, Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski. This year’s conference, with the theme “Let’s Chat: Negotiating Communication Today,” will be held at Frostburg State University on Sat., Oct. 23. A preconference event with live music will be held on Fri., Oct. 22 at Mountain City Traditional Arts. Guests from all over Maryland will be in attendance, as well as some from West Virginia and Pennsylvania. This year’s keynote speaker will be West Virginia University professor Dr. David Westerman, a published author in the field of communication technology, masspersonal communication, and telepresence.

The Maryland Communication Association (MCA) is a group of communication educators, students, and professionals throughout the state of Maryland. Many of its members are active researchers and authors in the field as well as past officers of regional and national communication associations. More details regarding this year’s conference can be found at the official MCA page, www.marylandcomm.org.

For the upcoming conference, Chaney has successfully helped to further the success of this event in a number of ways. He has been working with several different FSU departments, including catering services, to make this event as professional as possible. He has learned how to effectively promote an organization’s event by working with the Office of Publications on the design and distribution of posters, flyers, and press releases. Chaney has also been able to use social media resources such as Facebook to recruit attendees for this year’s conference. Chaney has been able to use what he has learned at FSU while talking with publishers and sponsors in an effort to make this year’s conference a continued success. First Vice President Dr. Ruminski, who was Chaney’s site supervisor for the Capstone experience, said that, “The more time Eric spent serving as a representative of this state-wide organization, the more savvy he demonstrated, and his enthusiasm to learn helped him to get the most out of the organizing experience. He is a good role model for our other Communication Studies majors at FSU.”

For more information regarding the Communication Studies major at FSU, or for information about the upcoming MCA conference, please contact Dr. Ruminski at elruminski@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4480.