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## #Handsonlearning: lessons from student "takeover" of CSB/SJU social media

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# #Handsonlearning

# Lessons from COMM 384 "takeover" of CSB/SJU social media

Presented by
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# "Takeover" Assignment

- Assess CSB/SJU and its audience and set goals for takeover
- Design strategic plan using communication theory, processes, and case studies
- Enact proposed plan
- → Present analysis of takeover project, offer recommendations for future network-specific use



# What Students Hoped to Gain

- "Real-world experience"
- Feedback from someone in social media position
- ☐ Resume-builder
- On-campus experience



# What C&M Hoped to Gain

- Student perspective
- Content and experience w/ emerging networks
- ☐ Feedback from "focus group"

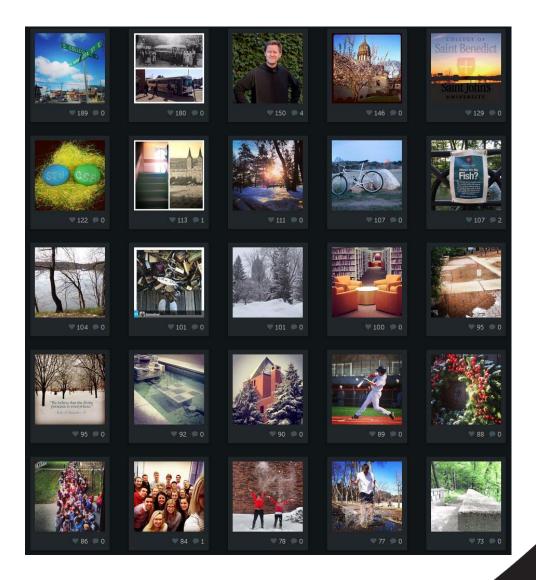


## **Quantitative Outcomes**

- 46 percent growth in audience on Instagram 2013 monthly audience growth averaged 16 percent
- 464 percent growth in audience on Vine
  Minimal effort was invested in Vine prior to takeover, monthly metrics weren't monitored

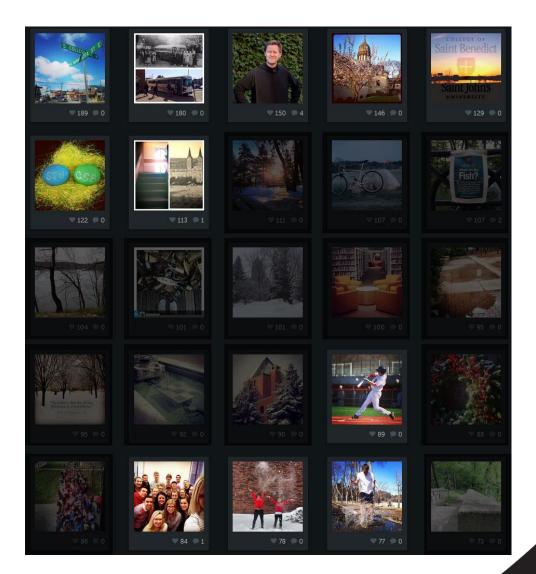


# **Quantitative Outcomes**





## **Quantitative Outcomes**



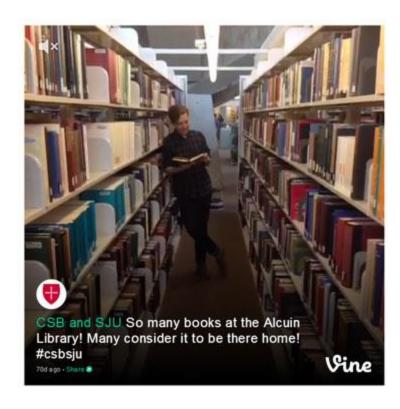


#### **Student Feedback**

- Students felt real sense of accomplishment
- ☐ Students felt their work had impact
- Partner feedback to students
- □ Partner presence in class
  - → Student 'Aha' moments



### **Student Feedback**





#### **Student Feedback**





### Successes/Feedback

- ☐ Helps CSB/SJU visibility
- Collaboration with GBUS/Newhouse
- Multi-Level partnership with United Way
- → Related internships for students on campus and off campus



### **Benefits to C&M**





#### **Benefits to C&M**



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#### **Benefits to C&M**

- Suggestions for new tools
- Ways to source community-generated content
- Questions on behalf of our audience
  - Social media the new cheerleading?
  - Guidelines for what we'll post, when and where



#### **Benefits to Students**

**Previous Collaborations:** 

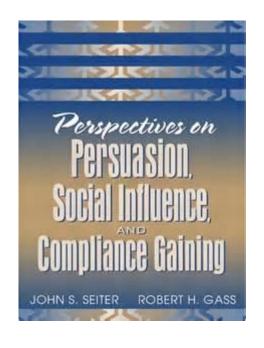
- Grads hired for newly created social media positions
- ☐ Freelance work
- ☐ Communication-related positions that also interact with or include social media



# **Benefits to Departmental Curriculum**

- Loss of marketing courses
- Complement and extend current courses









# **Benefits to Departmental Curriculum**

2 OF THE 3 MAJOR GOALS:

- **☐** Analysis of Communication
  - Learning to think critically about messages analyzing and evaluating communication
- **☐** Effective Oral and Written Communication

Learning to create effective oral and written messages that are appropriate for particular situations and audiences.



# **Benefits to Departmental Curriculum**

#### **Major Strength-Experiential Learning**

Added opportunity for applied learning without extra time required for service learning





# **Applied Learning/Student Benefits**

- Blending communication theory and praxis
- ☐ Still intended to have students apply their learning to bettering communities
- Holistic learning by incorporating the classroom and community into the learning experience
- Enhances critical thinking skills
- ☐ Fosters career exploration



#### **Future Course Plans**

- Projects manageable within the semester timeframe
- ☐ Add reflection piece

In-class or small written reflection, perhaps for student course evaluations

Key

Outcomes



# Working With A Partner

- Partner presence in class
- Partner feedback to students
- Early collaboration to discuss project possibilities
- Partner feedback on assignments during writing process
- Partner providing supplemental information

