

## **Rita Mannelli ('01)**

Being a Communication major opens several doors for various future career paths, whether it is in a corporate, nonprofit, international, or educational setting. Rita Mannelli is the Director of Marketing and Communications at DePaul University School of Music. Her communication education has landed her a great position dealing with several aspects of communication including marketing plans and promotions. To learn about what she thinks is the number one thing to do as a student in the University of Illinois Department of Communication, continue reading her alumni spotlight!



### **1. What are the responsibilities in your current position?**

I currently work as the Director of Marketing and Communications at DePaul University School of Music. I am responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of the marketing and communications plan for the School of Music. I promote the school and its degree programs, concerts, workshops and master classes to our audiences through print publications, the school's website and social media.

### **2. In what ways do you use your communication education in your career?**

As a Speech Communications major, I learned how to communicate clearly and effectively. I learned to think critically and to work

collaboratively with a team. I use these skills everyday in my career and in my life.

**3. What was the best class you took in the communication department and why?**

I loved my Gender and Communication course. We had fantastic discussions in that class!

**4. What did you enjoy about being a Communication major at the University of Illinois?**

I loved the faculty! I had wonderful professors who were amazing teachers and great mentors.

**5. What advice do you have for undergraduate students who are majoring or minoring in communication?**

Take classes that interest you and get to know your professors. Ask questions, be involved in discussions and have fun!