



SHIRLEY SEMENYN JALLAD-BATOR, JENEEN JALLAD MCNALLY, AND RACHEL RIDGWAY CLAWSON

LISTEN UP!

JENEEN MCNALLY AND RACHEL CLAWSON TEACH RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

WE'VE ALL BEEN there. You're feeling helpless as you try to conduct a meeting, and your voice gets lost in the chaos of the group. Or you're quivering with fear as you prepare to have a difficult conversation with a family member or your boss. Hillsdale alumnae Jeneen Jallad McNally, '91, and Rachel Ridgway Clawson, '91, are helping individuals conquer those fears and navigate such situations with confidence through their company, Speak So They Listen LLC.

McNally and Clawson met as freshmen in Olds Residence in 1987 and were roommates in the Kappa house their junior and senior years. McNally majored in English, and Clawson in finance, fields that both pursued with additional schooling. McNally attended the Specs Howard School of Media Arts, and Clawson earned an MBA in business management from Western Michigan University. While they pursued different career paths—Clawson started out in banking and McNally in computer training—neither could shake the idea of running their own business.

Inspired by her mother, Shirley Semenyn Jallad-Bator, '64, who "went from being a meeting planner at Ford to becoming a global corporate trainer," McNally decided to create her own company, Speak So They Listen LLC, in 2014. "I saw that so many of the problems in the workplace came down to communication," she says. "By teaching the art of respectful

communication, individuals can perform successfully and companies can grow."

Clawson and McNally had remained close friends since graduation, and Clawson—who was running a fitness club in Atlanta—agreed to join Speak So They Listen as vice president.

The company offers eight workshops, including conflict management, presentation skills, writing effective emails, and assertive communication. In August, McNally and Clawson, along with Jallad-Bator, presented their signature workshop to Hillsdale College staff and community members.

"We were exposed to so much learning at Hillsdale that influences what we do today," Clawson says. "The liberal arts are about leadership," McNally adds. "So much of what I read in my English classes was about the human condition and the choices we make."

For both women, teaching respectful communication has many rewards. "People drive a company's bottom line, and we're helping companies succeed," McNally says. "It's wonderful when people call us to share how what they've learned has helped others," Clawson adds.

Visit speaksotheylisten.com for more information.

MONICA VANDERWEIDE, '95