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Alum Requests Orange and Blue from Iraq Major Payton Sims (AB '90) is a Support Operations Officer stationed in Baghdad. **See page 3.**

IN THE CLASSROOM

Christian Sandvig

Communication Technologies and Society

For Professor Christian Sandvig's students, active learning means more than just showing up for class and writing papers. In all four of his communication and technology courses, Professor Sandvig requires students to create and maintain their own blogs. The blogs act like online diaries in which students relate the course material to their own lives. "One problem I run into is trying to convince students that technologies are important," Sandvig notes, "The blogs change that."

In his Introduction to Communication Technologies and Society course, Professor Sandvig's first assignment requires students to go on a communication technology "treasure hunt." Students choose from a list of local communication technology sites, such as the transmitter tower for the local community radio station 90.1 WEFT. They then go to the site, learn about it and photograph it, and then blog-post their discoveries. The assignment acquaints stu-

dents with the ubiquity of communication technology. Another assignment, called the "misguided archeologist," connects students to communication technologies of the past.

Students pretend they are archeologists who have found an artifact from another civilization. After carefully examining the pieces of technology and even taking them apart, students post their notes on their blogs. Some students get so excited by the projects that they actually do extra assignments. After deconstructing a Nintendo console and describing it as an ancient BlackBerry, one student then examined the archaic science of cup phones. And he did not even ask for extra credit! Professor Sandvig's courses are giving students a firsthand look at the impact of communication technologies in our society.



Speech Communication Website Gets Facelift This Winter

The department's web site is undergoing a redesign process. Starting this fall, the web page (www.spcomm.uiuc.edu) will receive an overdue facelift and reorganization to make it easy to use, more helpful, and more professional. We have hired a professional graphic designer and a photographer to spruce up the site, and to create a page that better reflects our top-ranked communication program.

The updated site will feature a new resource page for alumni, including an easy

way to keep in touch with us and each other. The front page will also be made into a portal to attract new students, and so it will feature recruiting information, a slide show, quick links to the faculty, class offerings, and admissions steps. The main page will also feature listings of current events, news, and announcements about the department.

Watch for our newly remodeled website in the next few months.

headlines...



Barbara J. Wilson
Department Head

Greetings! The Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois is an exciting place to be these days. We are 27 faculty, 78 graduate students, and nearly 500 undergraduates strong. We offer 129 sections of courses that enroll over 3,500 students across campus. Our faculty and graduate students are engaged in cutting edge research on communication problems that will shape society's future.

Some of you may not know me. I became department head in January 2002. I am only the fifth head in the department's history, which began in 1947. Clearly, most of my predecessors hung on for a long time. David Swanson, the former head, lured my husband (John Lammers, Associate Professor) and me to U. of I. five years ago. David was very persistent and he had to be—we were living in Santa Barbara, California, at the time. We moved here in 2000 and we have never looked back. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been an exceptional place to teach and conduct research. And we are happy to be raising our two daughters closer to extended family. As many of you know, David died unexpectedly last November (see page 3). At the time he was Associate Provost and had moved over to the Swanlund Administration Building. People all around campus miss David a great deal. He gave so much of his life to this department and to this University. Speech Communication flourished under his leadership from 1994 to 2002.

As I have taken over this position, one of my goals has been to increase our connections to alumni. That's one of the reasons we are resurrecting our newsletter, which has been in a dormant state for about eight years. My apologies! We will do better. We plan to publish one newsletter a year and we hope it will be a good way for us to keep in touch. But we need your help too. We invite you to contribute to the "Class Notes" section by sending us news about you—marriages, births, career changes, and awards—to share with your fellow alumni.

There are other ways for you to connect with us. Four years ago we began hosting a departmental reception for alumni at Homecoming. The reception is held in the Lincoln Hall foyer two hours before the football game. We hope you can come to next year's reception, which will be October 7, 2006. Most of our faculty are in attendance to greet alumni, so it is a great way to stay in contact with your favorite professors. And of course, you can spend a moment rubbing Abraham Lincoln's bronze nose for good luck.

We also began a tradition of hosting alumni career panels for our current students. Last year, for example, we had a panel of alumni talk to us about event planning as an occupation. Many other alumni have graciously agreed to visit campus to share their work expertise with undergraduate and graduate students who are hungry for career advice. If you would like to come back to campus to talk to students, we would love to have you. Please contact Professor John Lammers at jclammer@uiuc.edu.

Our department continues to grow and prosper. In 2004, the National Communication Association conducted a reputational survey of 64 doctoral programs in the field of communication. Speech Communication at the University of Illinois was ranked sixth overall as a comprehensive department offering a variety of specialties. The support of our graduates is critical to our continued success. We hope you continue to take pride in our department and that you find ways to stay in touch with us.

Winter 2006

Speaking of...Communication

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TOP 10 Department Ranked Sixth in the Nation

The Department of Speech Communication ranks sixth in the nation in the overall quality of its doctoral program, according to a study conducted by the National Communication Association. The study was released in October 2005 and is based on a survey of 376 graduate faculty members who teach in communication programs in the U.S. Respondents were asked to evaluate programs in terms of the scholarly quality of the faculty, effectiveness in educating researchers, and quality change in the last five years ("better," "little or no change," or "poorer" than five years ago).

Departments designated which of nine specialty areas they wished to be rated in, so some departments were rated in only one or two areas whereas others were rated in more. In all, 64 doctoral programs were evaluated.

The University of Illinois' Department of Speech Communication ranked sixth in overall quality among comprehensive departments that offer training in at least five of the nine specialties. Three comprehensive departments tied for first place: the University of California at Santa Barbara, Michigan State University, and Pennsylvania State University. The University of Texas at Austin and USC were ranked fourth and fifth respectively.

In separate rankings of each specialty, our department ranked second in the area of interpersonal communication, third in communication technology, fourth in health communication, and fifth in organizational communication. "In recent years we have reallocated resources to the areas of communication technologies and to health communication, so it is gratifying to see that these investments are paying off," said Barbara Wilson, Head of the U. of I. Speech Communication Department. She also pointed out that the department has a large number of newly hired assistant professors. "Doing this well in a reputational study is a mark of distinction for such a young faculty," she said. In summer 2006, the National Research Council will begin a new national study of university programs, which will be based primarily on research productivity rather than reputational data.

IN MEMORIAM



DAVID SWANSON
(1944-2004)

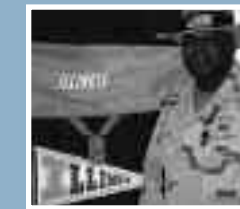
It has been more than a year now since we were saddened by the sudden death of colleague and friend, Professor David Swanson. The campus has seemed somehow smaller in the year since. Many may remember David for his outstanding leadership in the department. He served as Associate Head from 1983-1994 and Department Head from 1994-2001. Others will recall him as the popular instructor of SPCM 177 (The Art of Public Discourse). Still others were fortunate to have him as an advisor and mentor. But

some alumni may not have known him at all. Nevertheless, David's influence can still be felt all around Lincoln Hall.

David worked tirelessly in several roles over the years to make the Department of Speech Communication a better place. In the words of Professor Emeritus Joe Wenzel, David's "selfless commitment to preserving the best of a strong department and working to make it even better began the renaissance that has brought our department to its present eminence in the field."

David taught people what it meant to be truly loyal to the University. At a campus memorial service, David's life long friend and colleague Acting Provost Jesse Delia said, "David was a person whose life was deeply woven into the fabric of the Urbana-Champaign campus." David *was* the epitome

Alum Requests Orange and Blue from Iraq



Earlier this summer, the Department of Speech Communication received an unusual request from one of its alumni. Major Payton Sims (AB '90), a Support Operations Officer stationed in Baghdad, emailed

with a challenge. He and a group of his Army buddies decided to see how their alma maters would respond to a "request" to send collegiate goodies to Iraq. Sims was anxious to claim "bragging rights" among friends who challenged their own universities, including Notre Dame, Purdue, Syracuse University, and Louisiana State University.

The department was only too happy to comply. A large collection of memorabilia was gathered and sent over to Iraq. The stash included T-shirts, a mug, banners, an Illini chair, and strings of orange and blue lights. The Illini Alumni Association got wind of Sims' request and sent goodies too. After receiving the packages, Major Sims wrote, "I got the package of Orange and Blue today. There is nothing but jealousy and envy around this place. The lights were outstanding and by far the most original form of school pride. I have been truly blessed by the generosity and efforts of the Illinois Alumni Association and Speech Communication Department."

Major Sims is scheduled to return to the U.S. in April or May. We thank him for his efforts and for keeping the Illini spirit alive and well, so far away.

of "Illinois Loyalty." Richard Wheeler, Dean of the Graduate College, wrote for a memorial booklet, "Most comfortably himself when working behind the scenes, David was a profound and important force in sustaining the practices that make the University of Illinois a premier place for study and research."

David came to the Department of Speech Communication in 1972. After his many years of service in the department, he became Associate Provost in 2001.

David Swanson passed away November 1, 2004. He is survived by his wife Sharon, his daughter Holly, his brothers Gene and Jerry, his sister Cindy, and his three grandchildren. His presence among us continues to be missed.

—Barbara I. Hall

Dale Brashers Receives Prestigious Campus Award

Professor Dale E. Brashers was named a University Scholar in 2005. The award is the highest honor given to faculty at the University of Illinois. Brashers was one of only six Scholars named in 2005 at U. of I. The award, which was established two decades ago, recognizes the most talented teachers, scholars, and researchers on campus. Brashers is the first Speech Communication faculty member to receive this honor.

In the eyes of those who know him, the recognition is well earned. Brashers joined the department in 1998 and was already well on his way to becoming one of the field's foremost scholars in health communication. His research focuses on how people manage and cope with illness. He has concentrated on the experience of

persons living with HIV/AIDS. He is currently conducting studies in outpatient clinics to test interventions that teach newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS patients a range of communication skills for better managing their illness. His research has been recognized as creative, programmatic, and of great social importance. In 2001 he received the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award from the National Communication Association, honoring the most outstanding scholarly article or monograph published during the previous calendar year. That same year he received the Young Scholar Award for outstanding early career research from the International Communication Association.

In addition to Brashers' exceptional talents as a researcher, he is also an outstanding teacher. His infectious sense of

humor and wicked one-liners in the classroom are near legendary; yet amidst the antics, the keen eye will detect the formidable skill Brashers uses in making learning at once thoroughly enjoyable and undeniably effective.

This combination of talents is what draws so many students to work with Professor Brashers. Dr. Lance Rintamaki, a recent graduate of the PhD program and one of Brashers' former advisees, had this to say:

"Dale is one-in-a-million. I was so fortunate to have Dale as my advisor. He helped shape my academic interests, honed my teaching skills, and provided me with the finest of professional role models. For that and so much more, I'll be forever grateful."

Two Faithful Staff Members Retire Mary Rudder and Jean Christman

On May 30, 2004, faculty, staff, and students said good-bye to Mary Rudder and Jean Christman. Both women were longtime staff members in the department who, after many years of service, decided to retire. The department held a well-attended reception at the Illini Union to honor them both.



David Swanson, Mary Rudder, Jean Christman, Barbara Wilson, and Jesse Delia.

Mary Rudder began working in the department in 1980, although she first started at the U. of I. in 1957. In Speech Communication, she served as secretary to

the department head. She had to adjust to three different executive officers (Jesse Delia, David Swanson, and Barbara Wilson) during her time in this position, and she managed to make each transition look smooth and effortless. In truth, Mary was the glue that held many things together during times of change. She always made new faculty and graduate students feel welcome.

Jean Christman also joined the Department of Speech Communication in 1980, proof that good things come in pairs. Jean was the first person to greet faculty

and students as well as visitors when they walked through the door of the main office in Lincoln Hall. She produced countless course rosters for instructors, "politely" hounded faculty to turn in their grades, and helped lost students find their direction. She was a true professional who valued service with a smile.

Department Head Barbara Wilson remarked that Mary literally jumped out of her seat to help faculty members in distress and noted that Jean rarely missed a day of work in her 25 years in the department. Praising their service, Wilson said of both women, "They have given us a long-lasting loyalty, they have devoted themselves to the department, and they have tended to our traditions." The Department of Speech Communication wishes them a restful and relaxing retirement.

A Fond Farewell to a Dear Colleague: Dan O'Keefe

Professor Daniel O'Keefe left us this year to take a faculty position at Northwestern University. O'Keefe's long association with the University of Illinois began with his AB (1972), AM (1974), and PhD (1976) degrees in Speech Communication. After holding assistant professor positions at the University of Michigan and Pennsylvania State University, he returned to Illinois in 1980 to begin a 25-year career. During that time, he became known as an outstanding teacher, exceptional graduate mentor, and internationally acclaimed scholar.

O'Keefe was named to the "Incomplete List of Teachers Rated as Excellent" every year he taught. He also built Speech Communication 102 (Introduction to Communication Theory and Research) and 421 (Persuasion Theory and Research) into student favorites. His book *Persuasion: Theory and Research* (Sage Publications, 2002), is one of the most popular

persuasion texts currently available.

O'Keefe's research has won the most prestigious awards from the National Communication Association, International Communication Association, and International Society for the Study of Argumentation. More recently, he has become the guru of meta-analysis, a complex statistical procedure for accumulating evidence across studies of a phenomenon. He is continuing work on a project with Professors Dale Brashers and Daena Goldsmith on the effects of social support on mental and physical health of people living with HIV.

In addition to all of his fame and fortune, he is an amazing colleague. His laughter and quick wit ("And why are you telling me this?") are missed greatly in Lincoln Hall. But we know that he is happy to live in the same city as his wife does, after commuting for seven years. Barbara O'Keefe, former faculty member in Speech

Communication at U. of I., is the Dean of the College of Communication at Northwestern. We all wish Dan the best as he embarks on a new journey "up north!"

SUSAN THOMAS RETIRES

Susan Thomas retired last spring after 25 years of teaching and service in the department. She was known to many as the instructor of Speech Communication 251, Public Information Management. Susan and her husband, Stafford (emeritus faculty member, 1989), have left Champaign and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to be closer to their daughter Ginny and her husband. In fact, they built a house right next door to their daughter's home. We wish them well in their new surroundings.

New Computer Software System In Place

After years of being SPCOM, the department rubric is now SPCM. Most of the courses in the department have been renumbered too. SPCOM 177 is now SPCM 277, and so on. All of these changes are part of a new data system that now manages all of the major functions of the University. Gone are the days of scheduling classes by hand or registering with data processing cards at the Armory. Even UI Direct, the former computer registration system, has been put to rest.

The new system is called Banner. Banner now manages registration, student

records, hiring, human resources, and budgeting for all three University of Illinois campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield). When students apply to the University, they are assigned a personal number. The same occurs for new employees and faculty. Using this number, members of the University community can access a personal menu on their campus website that contains all kinds of pertinent information. Faculty, for example, can access their course rosters and course information. They can also use the system to enter grades at the end of the semester.

Students can use the system to view their registration information and even their financial accounts.

Banner has taken time to get used to and the system still has some quirks. To make the transition, the new software has required a lot of staff training time and patience. But all three campuses are now linked into one large data system, and students now have more control over their own registration, records, and financial information.

new faculty profiles



Debbie Hawhee

Assistant Professor Speech
Communication/ English

Can sports inform academics? Talk to Assistant Professor Debbie Hawhee and it becomes clear that the

answer is yes.

Hawhee played basketball for the University of Tennessee as an undergraduate. She played small forward, but her six-foot frame makes her seem anything but small. She was still eligible to play ball when she began a Masters program in English, so she stayed on the team. This combination of sports and graduate school was pivotal. While studying the history of rhetoric, Hawhee witnessed the overlaps between public discourse and the body. For her, Socrates' orders and training became tangible during ball practice.

Hawhee's book *Bodily Arts: Rhetoric and Athletics in Ancient Greece* (University of Texas Press, 2004) explores rhetoric's junction with the body by arguing that sports such as wrestling and boxing informed the emergence of rhetoric. In fall semester, she brought her interests to the classroom with two new courses, "The Rhetoric of Gesture" and "Spawn of the Dead: Aristotle and Rhetorical Studies." Hawhee finds Speech Communication a particularly fruitful site in which to explore such questions. She can apply theory in class by having students produce what they learn when they do speeches. With her newly created joint position in Speech Communication and English, Hawhee claims that this is "my dream teaching job." Along with teaching, she is working on a new book about Kenneth Burke's theories of the body.

In 2004 Hawhee left U. of I. to take a faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh. But after one year she is back. "I missed the vibrant intellectual community this University offers, the talks and the events," she said. Always the athlete, Hawhee spends her free time off-road biking at Kickapoo Park and, of course, playing basketball.



Ned O'Gorman

Assistant Professor
Speech Communication

In some ways, Assistant Professor Ned O'Gorman's research could not come at a better or worse time,

depending on how one looks at current events. O'Gorman studies national catastrophes. His book in progress, *Catastrophic Vistas: Discourses of American Disaster, 1952 to 2002*, looks at how catastrophe and democracy are played out rhetorically and aesthetically. Traditionally catastrophes undermine democracies—Ned's work asks how democratic societies can deal effectively with catastrophe.

O'Gorman comes to the Department of Speech Communication after completing a PhD at Penn State University. During his graduate work, he found Aristotle and Socrates fascinating. The theoretical and philosophical applied to the aesthetic offered the perfect combination for understanding art and artfulness. As much as he takes pleasure in studying the esoteric, O'Gorman appreciates the practical importance of rhetoric: It allows for public discussion and debate. "Public debate is a big deal—not to be taken for granted. There are so many cultures missing this," he emphatically noted.

Professor O'Gorman did not teach classes in fall semester, but he is anxious to do so. He misses learning about student culture. Although new to this campus, he has noticed some interesting differences between University of Illinois students and those at Penn State: our students like to be outside. This spring he will teach two undergraduate courses, *The Rhetorical Tradition* and *Rhetorical Criticism*. Expressing his enthusiasm for this subject matter, O'Gorman said, "In many ways teaching rhetoric is teaching what we already know—we make what is implicit, explicit."

Keeping in line with his appreciation of concretizing the abstract, O'Gorman is an amateur carpenter. He likes the challenge of creation as well as the satisfaction of using the finished product. Since moving to Champaign, he has made several bookshelves and a bed set. So far, none of his woodworking projects have been catastrophes.

faculty news

Scott Althaus has been on leave from teaching this past year to research his book project on the U.S. government's strategic communications to gain public support for various wars during our history. Questioning assumptions about the efficacy of the government's strategies, Althaus suggests that the impact of government spin during wartime is quite limited.

Dale Brashers is investigating the role of communication in the management of health and illness for persons living with HIV or AIDS. One project, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research, involves describing the nature of uncertainty and the mechanisms of uncertainty management for people living with HIV or AIDS. This study will lead to the development and testing of an uncertainty management intervention in which individuals who are newly diagnosed with HIV will learn communication skills from a peer educator. Brashers served as the department's Director of Graduate Study and will become Associate Head in January 2006.

John Caughlin studies communication in families and other close relationships. Although people often assume that open communication is always best, Professor Caughlin's recent work has located circumstances when it is better to avoid talking about certain topics. Caughlin is also currently planning the next International Association of Relationship Researchers conference, which will be held on the island of Crete in July 2006.

Ruth Anne Clark was busy this fall training first-time instructors in the public speaking course (assisted by a talented group of experienced teaching assistants). She also introduced first-year graduate students to empirical research methods. Students are conducting projects exploring sex differences in the flirtatious teasing behaviors and norms of college men and women, an interest of hers that emerged from the undergraduate honors seminar she teaches on the development of social communication skills.

Tom Conley's recent work has been published for the seventh time in a European country, offering evidence that an interest in the history of rhetoric enables one to do research in interesting places. It also insures that our department has considerable visibility abroad.

Noshir Contractor has been appointed as Director of the Science of Networks in Communities Group at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the U. of I., and as Co-Director of the Age of Networks Initiative at the Center for Advanced Study. His research program builds on his recent book *Theories of Communication Networks* (co-authored with Peter Monge, Oxford University Press, 2003). Presently, Contractor is helping to design social networking systems that lead to the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of dynamically linked knowledge networks among profit, non-profit, government and non-government agencies.

Travis Dixon's research addresses the relationship between screen media and stereotyping. His recent work includes a consulting project with the RAND Corporation that examines inter-racial interactions between police and citizens as captured by police cruiser videotapes in the city of Cincinnati. The project will likely shape policy and police training designed to improve police-community relations.

Cara Finnegan's book *Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs* (Smithsonian, 2003) was honored at the 2004 National Communication Association Convention with the top book award. Moreover, her Depression-era photography was recently featured on "Odyssey," a nationally-syndicated program produced by Chicago Public Radio. Finnegan's work on visual rhetoric made her the go-to expert for international and national press coverage of images from Iraq. This past summer Finnegan trained for the challenging Pikes Peak Ascent, a 13-mile race featuring a 7800-foot vertical climb. Six inches of hail pelted the runners, but she still finished in a respectable time of 5 hours, 17 minutes.

Daena Goldsmith published *Communicating Social Support: Advances in Personal Relationships* (Cambridge, 2004), which discusses how friends and family help one another during stressful times. It also develops a model to explain why some conversations about problems make you feel better, whereas other well-meaning comments may actually make you feel worse. In her research, Goldsmith and a team of students are analyzing interviews with couples in which one of the pair has had a heart attack or bypass surgery. The findings

will focus on the challenges involved in supporting lifestyle changes—how do you talk with your spouse or partner about exercise, diet, and smoking cessation in a way that is supportive rather than nagging, encouraging good health rather than dwelling on the negative? She has also launched a separate study that will examine how couples cope with a diagnosis of cancer.

Kristen Harrison spent the past year studying the media's role in the development of eating disorders, the nutritional content of foods marketed to children, and television's effects on children's nutritional knowledge and reasoning. The past three years she has been conducting a longitudinal study with elementary school children in east central Illinois to determine whether media exposure leads to disordered eating in the development of discrepancies between children's actual and ideal selves. Her research has recently been featured in *Harpers' Magazine*, on National Public Radio, and in major newspapers worldwide.

Stephen Hartnett's fourth book, *Globalization and Empire*, co-authored with graduate student Laura Stengrim, will be published in January 2006. He is also publishing essays this year on the death penalty, the Iraq War, the U.S. Revolution, and the War on Terrorism. He continues to work with local activists, including helping to organize a series of events to commemorate the fourth anniversary of 9/11. His true love, however, is to play in the park with his daughters, Anya and Melia.

James Hay is completing several book-length projects—one on Houston, Texas; one about reality television; one about homeland (in-)security; and one about the governance of youth through various media and spheres of activity. Professor Hay visited the Slovak Republic this June on behalf of the U.S. State Department to discuss the developments of television and new media in this part of the world.

Debra Hawhee returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this year with a joint appointment in English and Speech Communication. Her recent book, *Bodily Arts: Rhetoric and Athletics in Ancient Greece* (University of Texas, 2004), examines the activities in the ancient gymnasium that linked training and performance in the seemingly unrelated spheres of sports

and oratory. Hawhee's interdisciplinary research focuses on the history of rhetoric (especially figures such as Aristotle, Cicero, and Kenneth Burke) in areas where body, mind, and language come together.

Leanne Knobloch published research on how people manage uncertainty within close relationships in *Communication Research, Human Communication Research* and *Personal Relationships*. She co-authored a paper with PhD candidate Erin Donovan-Kicken that received a Top Paper Award from the Interpersonal Communication Division at the 2005 National Communication Association conference in Boston.

Michele E.J. Koven recently finished her book project, *Selves in Two Languages: Bilingual Lusodescendants' Enactments of Identities in French and Portuguese*, and has submitted it for publication. The book manuscript addresses how the Paris-based daughters of Portuguese migrants perform different identities in their two languages. After some health troubles, she's back to teaching undergraduate intercultural communication courses, as well as graduate courses on culture and communication.

John Lammers' research bridges his interests in organizational communication and health communication. He studies communication in health care organizations, including hospital teams, managed care practices, surgical teams, and public health organizations. Recent projects have examined national and sectoral differences in hospital climate, quality improvement in health care, group dynamics in health care teams such as surgical teams, and ways of improving health care delivery in multinational public health organizations.

Maria Mastronardi's work was featured at the 2005 National Communication Association (NCA) conference. Her paper, "Pro-Ana Pathologization and Every Day Dieting Discourse," was selected for the Emerging Scholars Panel of the Critical and Cultural Studies Division of NCA. The competitive panel is designed to showcase the most promising submissions by junior faculty in this area. She is currently working on a new book project about the gendering of violence and aggression in popular culture.

faculty news

Peggy Miller recently published an article synthesizing 25 years of her research on storytelling in working-class families. This paper reports that working-class youngsters participated in many more stories of personal experience than did their middle-class counterparts. Last year, Miller became the co-editor of a new book series on child development in cultural context, published by Oxford University Press, and wrote chapters and articles on the same topic. She was appointed a Fellow of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities for 2005-2006.

Ned O'Gorman has recently published an article on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Rhetorical Discourse Ethics. He is presently working on his first book, *Catastrophic Vistas: Discourses of American Disaster, 1952 to 2002*.

Andrea Press received funding in 2004 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project titled "Connecting the Private to the Public: New Information Technologies and the Future of Public Life" (joint with Bruce Williams of the Institute of Communications Research). She was appointed as a Faculty Fellow to the Center for Advanced Study for the 2005-2006 academic year and won a research board grant to continue and extend her NSF research.

Christian Sandvig studies communication technology and public policy. His research investigates the ways that new communication infrastructures begin. In a current project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sandvig is studying the grassroots development of new wireless Internet technology (such as "Wi-Fi"). Sandvig's previous work included the ethnographic study of state-funded inner-city computer centers.

Tracy Sulkin's research focuses on the linkages between political campaigns and governing. Her first book, *Issue Politics in Congress* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), focuses on the idea of "issue uptake"—how winning representatives and senators respond to their previous challengers' critiques. Presently, Sulkin is at work on a new project about how candidates for the House and Senate make and keep campaign promises.

David Tewksbury recently received the LAS Dean's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. His research looks at how news audiences choose and interpret stories and news sources. One current project studies how audiences evaluate television news organizations when they learn that the content of TV news often originates with governments, corporations, and special interest groups.

Dmitri Williams' research on the uses and effects of playing video games was featured in *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, among other media outlets. He has also been teaching a class on video games, conducting research on the social impact of voice-over IP networks, and helping to revamp the department's website.

Barbara Wilson's research focuses on developmental differences in how children respond to the media. In the past year, she has worked on projects with graduate students involving children's attraction to cartoon violence, preschoolers' attachment to popular media characters, and how parents talk to children about frightening stories in the news. She is currently co-editing the *Handbook of Child Development and the Media* with Sandra Calvert (Georgetown University). In 2005, she was appointed as the Paul Friedland Professorial Scholar by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, an award recognizing outstanding achievements in research. In her spare time, she watches TV and goes to movies with her two daughters so she can be a better mother, teacher, and researcher.

Trina Wright studies the intersections between gender, race, and class in organizations. Her recent work includes a study funded by the William T. Grant Foundation that explores the communication factors that influence high school students in career decision-making.

EMERITI FACULTY

Ken Andersen holds an appointment in the Office of the Vice President for Administration, serving as the campus representative to the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He also serves on the Sen-

ate Executive Committee as senate parliamentarian and in the senate as one of our department's senators. Along with these duties, Andersen is currently co-authoring a book on communication ethics.

Cheris Kramarae is currently a section editor of the *Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity Through Education*. In March 2005, she participated in "Muted Group Theory—Past, Present and Future: A Colloquium" at George Mason University. Cheris and husband Dale Kramer live in Eugene, Oregon, where Cheris is a Visiting Professor in the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Joanna Maclay has run off to be an actress in her retirement. She has performed with the Shattered Globe Theatre Company and the Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at the Victory Gardens in Chicago, at the Milwaukee Shakespeare Company, and at the highly regarded Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. She and husband, Howard, share their time between Chicago and Champaign along with lengthy visits with their kids and grandkids.

Joe Wenzel continues his chief volunteer activity as faculty coach of the U. of I. undergraduate mock trial team. He plans to cut back on that and other academic pursuits, however, in order to spend more time in travel with his wife Patricia. Visits to their daughter and son-in-law in Chicago and to their son's family, which now includes three grandchildren, are high on the Wenzels' agenda.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Robert Husband continues to teach communication training and development and case studies in organizational communication. This semester, he will be facilitating a graduate seminar in organizational communication theory and its application, which will bring back to campus former faculty members Dave Seibold, Scott Poole, and Randall Stutman; as well as alumni Steve Corman (PhD '88, AM '84), Brad Kolar (AM '91), and Andrew Stroth (AB '90). Husband continues to consult actively with a variety of companies nationwide and has recently become much more involved coaching executives within these companies.

graduate student silhouettes



Laura Stengrim
Graduate Student
in Rhetoric

Speech Communication doctoral student Laura Stengrim was not even born when President Jimmy Carter addressed

the nation in his legendary cardigan sweater, but now she has met him! After putting the final touches on her forthcoming book *Globalization and Empire* (University of Alabama Press, 2006) with Professor Stephen Hartnett, Laura felt she needed a break from school last summer. So she applied for an internship at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. As the only research intern, she worked for Steven Hochman, assistant to President Carter. Laura served as a fact-checker on President Carter's new book, *Our Endangered Values*, and helped research material for his speaking engagements by digging into the Center's archives. She also applied her research skills to construct a bibliography for Dr. Hochman's Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Public Policy course at Emory University. And she produced the Center's weekly updates on Iraq, international democracy programs, and the constitutional processes in over 50 countries. Describing the work as a labor of love, Laura noted, "I learned a lot about other countries, especially about life and poverty in Africa."

As a rhetoric student who focuses on globalization and NGOs, Laura found her work at the Carter Center a perfect match. The Center offers two sets of human rights programs: health initiatives and peace programs. Through its peace programs, the Carter Center concentrates on Conflict Resolution, Global Development, Human Rights Initiatives, Latin America, and the China Villages Election Project, which advises local villagers on electoral reform. Laura, who believes in the value of the democratic process, said, "I think there's something beautiful about all the different protests, the different opinions and voices."

Laura also found the Carters to be affable people. "Jimmy Carter is incredible; he travels and writes his own speeches....he's a forward-looking person." During her internship, Laura not only got to know President Carter, but she also got to see his legendary sweater which is displayed in a glass case in the presidential museum.



Robin Jensen
Doctoral Student
in Rhetoric

When the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) announced "Belief" as its 2005 theme, Speech

Communication doctoral student Robin Jensen knew she should apply for a fellowship. As a rhetoric student, Robin studies how women discuss, understand, and navigate their own health. She is particularly interested in public discourse about sexuality and sex education during the Progressive Age.

The dawn of the 20th century was rife with hostility toward immigrants and their children. Lies and misinformation about sex kept working class women ignorant and poor. Maverick women such as Margaret Sanger, Rochelle Yarrors, and Dr. Ella Flagg Young responded by disseminating information on birth control and hygiene. Robin studies how these women got the word out through pamphlets, books, lectures, and classes.

Robin *believes* in changing our views about women and sex. With her focus on women speaking to women, she uses her research to explore how the past informs our understanding of the present. "In many ways, the exact same issues exist today as did 100 years ago," she asserted. "For instance, there are many restrictions about what can be said in public schools about sexual education." Robin pointed out that this is not the first era in which young people have worn chastity rings—youth did so 100 years ago as well. Robin believes such signs of avowed purity can have serious and unintended repercussions. She plans to use her dissertation to educate others about the high stakes involved.

The IPRH fosters interdisciplinary research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Robin is enjoying her year at the IPRH where she meets with other fellows in biweekly discussions of their research. She also will participate in an end-of-the-year conference showcasing the work being sponsored on the theme of Belief.



Emily Withenbury
The Joffrey Ballet
Internship, Summer 2005

Emily Withenbury loved dance, but never saw the practicality in it. "I figured after graduation I could work for a dance

company in administration. That way I could be part of the dance culture," she reasoned. Last summer changed all of that for Emily when she interned at The Joffrey Ballet Company in Chicago. She worked as an administrative assistant in the ticket office, but she couldn't help sharing her dreams with the artistic staff. As the internship was wrapping up, Emily was invited to take one week of dance classes. Despite an injured knee and lack of practice, the instructor told her she was "definitely a dancer." "I wasn't expecting this," Emily reflected, "but seeing that the fifty people who made dance their career were normal people just like me encouraged me to pursue my artist dream."

"I always wavered on what dance was for me. After this internship I decided to give dance a chance," she said. Emily, who will graduate in 2006 with honors in both Speech Communication and English, will audition for dance companies including The Joffrey Ballet. Although Emily appreciates The Joffrey's non-traditional, egalitarian (non-star) approach to dance, she also plans to apply for apprenticeships with the Cincinnati Ballet Company, the Saint Louis Ballet, and the Kansas City Ballet.

Even though her major did not directly affect her career choice, Emily notes that Speech Communication gave her the practical mentality that led her to pursue the internship that changed her life. "It sounds corny, but I am now a big advocate for internships," she said. "It opened my eyes to the real world and helped me see that I'll never know unless I try."

class notes

Rachel Arnold (AB '04) moved to Los Angeles for an entry level 1 management position with American Airlines in Cargo Sales. Rachel tells us there is a lot more than baggage in the belly of an airplane. She has seen everything from monkeys and asparagus to motorcycles and slot machines! In July, Rachel was promoted to a level 3 management position in the operations side of LAX Cargo. Now Rachel is in charge of making sure all the cargo she used to sell, moves!

Chris Folkens (AB '05), producer of U. of I. cult film, *Toxin*, landed an Associate Producer's position with Leo Burnett Production Company in Chicago. Chris now makes television and radio commercials for Kellogg's and Beck's beer. In his spare time, Chris is developing and raising funds for another short film that he will shoot on our campus and in the surrounding Champaign-Urbana area next year.

Melissa (Orr) Luebbe's (AB '01) job as a Travel Account Manager for *Midwest Living Magazine* has convinced her of the Midwest's natural beauty and historical significance. She has visited the stunning waterfalls, yawning canyons, historical villages, and stretching cityscapes of the Midwest. Melissa recently married Jim Luebbe on the University of Illinois campus at St. John's Catholic Church.

Jerome Jenkins (AB '89) owns and operates C. Jenkins Necktie & Chemical Company, which develops fabric, papers, and chemicals for the necktie and craft industry. Jerome is responsible for product development, international distribution, and strategic planning with companies such as Mattel, Hewlett Packard, and Crayola. This coming summer C. Jenkins will host the opening of its first retail operation where crafters of all ages can create their own crafts in its new 7,000 square-foot facility. Married for 16 years, Jerome has three children and hopes at least one will attend the U. of I., because, as he says, he still "bleed(s) orange and blue."

J.D. Miller (AB '97, AM '98, PhD '02) works for Vignette Corporation as a Senior Sales Executive for their Collaboration, Knowledge Management, and eMarketing product lines. He also teaches Speech Communication at Wright College. J.D. lives in downtown Chicago. Still committed to marathon and triathlon training, J.D. is currently training for a half-Ironman in July 2006.

Deborah Parker (AB '93, AM '95) After graduating with her master's in Speech Communication, Deborah worked for Arthur Andersen Business Consulting in their Chicago office. In 2002, Deborah left Andersen and began work as the Director of Strategic Alignment

for McDonald's Corporation's Information Services and Shared Services. On a personal note, in 1999, Deborah married U. of I. alum, Greg Klamrznyski. They had their first child, Kaitlin Elizabeth, in November 2004.

Chris McPartin (AB '96) is working as a builder of single-family homes in the western suburbs of Chicago. Chris still enjoys sports, though he claims his participation is restricted to that of a spectator, unless it is golf.

Ryan McPartin (AB '97) is a professional actor in Hollywood where he lives with his wife, Danielle. You can catch Ryan playing Riley Martin on *WB's* sitcom *Living with Fran*. Soap opera fans may recall seeing Ryan play Hank Bennet on *Passions*.

Mary Peternel (AB '03) After working for Cardinal Health in Columbus, Ohio, Mary got a job offer she could not refuse. She seized the opportunity of an all-expenses-paid move to San Diego, Calif., to work as a Project Manager for Medimatch Healthcare Systems. Mary manages the sales communications, internal communications, and event coordination. Mary loves the San Diego weather that allows her to jog and play soccer year-round.

2005 Winners of the Illinois Tradition Awards

Joshua Barbour was the recipient of the **Ruth S. and Charles H. Bowman Award**, which honors the department's most outstanding graduate student in terms of scholarship, teaching, and service. In addition to planning his upcoming wedding, Josh is working on his doctoral dissertation, "Health Care Institutions, Medical Organizing, and Physicians: A Multilevel Analysis."

Jeremy Engels received the **Karl R. Wallace Award** for distinguished scholarship as a graduate student. Jeremy recently published sole-authored essays in *The Quarterly Journal of Speech* and in *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*. He is working on his PhD dissertation, "America's Enemies and the Contested Rhetorics of Nationhood, 1776-1812."

Jennifer Bute was presented the **Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award**, which recognizes the department's most outstanding veteran teaching assistant. Jennifer teaches Speech Communication 230, Introduction to Interpersonal Communication. She has served as lead instructor in the course, and she has helped to improve and refine course materials. She is also working on her dissertation research in interpersonal communication and health.

Kevin Coe received the **Henry L. Mueller Award**, which recognizes the department's most outstanding new Teaching Assistant. Kevin has been a TA in Speech Communication 277 and will take over as lead instructor of that course for one semester this year. In addition to teaching, Kevin is publishing two essays this year on contemporary U.S. politics.

Nicole Evans was chosen for the **Stafford H. Thomas Award**, recognizing exceptional service to the department by a graduate student. Nicole was honored for work in her role as President of the Graduate Student Association. She was particularly helpful in assisting Professor Brashers with the recruitment activities for new graduate students.

Seniors **Christopher Folkens** and **Ryan Spain** were both honored for their outstanding academic records, based on GPA. Chris, recipient of the **Wayland Maxfield Parrish Award**, is now working for the advertising firm Leo Burnett. Ryan was the recipient of the **King Broadrick Allen Award**, and is currently working for The Heartland Partnership, doing economic and community development work for the Peoria area. He has been admitted to the Masters for Public Administration program at Syracuse University for Fall 2006.

Laura Elkayam and **Laura Wendel** were co-recipients of the **Richard Murphy Award**. The award recognizes undergraduates who have authored outstanding scholarly papers in the preceding 12 months. Laura Elkayam's paper (written for a class taught by Professor James Hay) analyzed the installation of video monitors in exercise facilities and how their arrangement regulates exercisers. Laura Wendel's paper (written for a class taught by Professor Stephen Hartnett) mapped the major argumentative strategies employed in over 250 years of debates about capital punishment.

Katelyn Letizia received the **Otto A. L. Dieter Award** for her exceptional service as an undergraduate. Katelyn was honored for her hard work and dedication in support of the department's mock trial team. She continues to be an enthusiastic member of the team and hopes they advance to national competition this year.

Allison Faetz was awarded the **Bonita M. Whitlock Scholarship**. The award is given to a junior majoring in Speech Communication based on an outstanding academic and service record on campus. The scholarship funding is to be applied to the student's senior year of study. Allison will graduate in December 2006.

Homecoming 2005 Brings Alums Back

About 40 people enjoyed the department's 2005 Homecoming reception on October 22 in the Lincoln Hall foyer. Alums renewed acquaintances with faculty and former classmates prior to the Illini/Penn State football game. Chicken and bean chili, hot hors d'oeuvres, and drinks helped fans prepare for the cool evening game.

Paul Lisnek (AB '80, MA '81, and PhD '86) came back to campus as part of the Homecoming festivities to be honored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He received the 2005 LAS Dean's Quadrangle award, which recognizes achievement and exceptional service to the college. Paul has given generously to the Department of Speech Communication over the years, and has helped to support the department's mock trial team. Before receiving the LAS award, Paul stopped by the department to talk with undergraduate and graduate students about his work as a jury consultant.

Please plan to join us for next year's Homecoming reception on October 7, 2006, two hours prior to kick-off, in the foyer of Lincoln Hall.



A Undergraduates Michelle Hemphill ('07) and Kimberly Watson ('06) stopped by to welcome back alums. Kimberly was a member of the 2005 Homecoming Court.

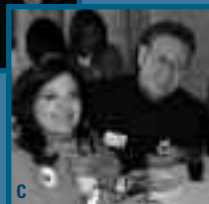
B Barbara Hall, Undergraduate Advisor, with Ingrid Poternel (AB '69, AM '70) and George Peternel (Finance AB '69).

C Faculty members Maria Mastronardi and John Lamers enjoyed a laugh over chili before greeting alums.

D Bob Husband, Adjunct Faculty and Director of Applied Communications, saw many former students.

E Brenden Connor ('04) and Samantha Fiscella ('05) visit with Professor Cara Finnegan.

F Paul Lisnek with Department Head Barbara Wilson.



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