



DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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IN THE CLASSROOM

Stephen Hartnett

The Rhetorics and Practices of Crime, Punishment and Social Justice

In his rhetoric classes, Professor Stephen Hartnett often tells his students that, "Prisons are where society sends its failures." Now, Hartnett has the chance to send some of society's successes to prison—as part of a class he is teaching!

This spring, speech communication students will have the opportunity to enroll in a new course called "The Rhetorics and Practices of Crime, Punishment and Social Justice." The class, which Hartnett calls "pedagogy in action," teaches modes of citizenship that allow students to produce, not just consume, knowledge. The course requires students to meet once a week in a formal classroom and to spend a second meeting working on one of three projects:

"Poems for Prisoners," a poetry class for inmates; "Books for Prisoners," a volunteer organization that sends books to prisoners all over the country; or "Court Watch," a local group that monitors the courts for biases.

"The Rhetorics and Practices of Crime, Punishment and Social Justice" is an extension of Hartnett's own work in prisons. While finishing his doctorate at the University of California at San Diego, Hartnett began teaching college classes in a local prison. At the time, Pell Grants paid for prisoners' college courses. However, in 1994, President Clinton signed the

Omnibus Crime Bill that ended such funding. Two years later, Hartnett joined a group of educators who voluntarily taught college courses in the infamous San Quentin prison. Since coming to the University of Illinois, Hartnett has been teaching poetry workshops

in the Champaign County Jail. Hartnett says he is thrilled to involve undergraduates in this project through his new course.

Such pedagogical opportuni-

ties have changed some undergraduates' career goals. Sarah Franseen, a senior majoring in speech communication and English, recalls the day Hartnett asked his "Death Penalty" class, "Who wants to go to jail with me?" After spending one day a week helping Hartnett teach poetry to inmates, Franseen decided to become a teacher and to volunteer teach in the penal system. "You just don't think about it, but jails need doctors and teachers because a prison is like its own colony." Franseen's inspiration comes from the inmates' desire to learn, "Ordinarily, inmates are stuck in front of the TV watching *Maury*," Sarah says. "In the poetry workshops, the students want to be there and work on themselves through poetry."

Although talking with prisoners may be "so much cooler than taking a test," as Franseen notes, the new course has its classroom rigors. Students will be required to write three essays on the history, theory, and practice of social justice work based on their public engagement activities. At the end of the semester they will write a long term paper. For Hartnett, paper writing complements and reinforces how the students will "enact what they learn" about social justice.



A Poem from *Captured Words Free Thoughts #1* (Summer 2006)
Writings from the Poetry Workshop at the Champaign County Jail

A Peaceful Silence

By Austin Harris

Silence is the low hum of the cars passing by on Old Route 150
 Silence is the sounds of the drier singing me a lullaby
 as it dries the day's laundry
 Silence is the buzz of my Power Ranger night light
 Silence is the laying your legs straight
 knowing Grandma and Grandpa are close by
 Silence is the crickets chirping out in the yard
 Silence is the soft glow of my Garfield clock
 Silence is the soft snores from the room next door
 Silence is the corn stalk blowing in the night breeze

headlines . . .



Barbara J. Wilson
Department Head

As I write this on a cold February morning, the University of Illinois is blanketed in snow. As many of you know, the Urbana-Champaign campus canceled classes two days in a row because of the “blizzard of 2007.” I am told this hasn’t happened in over 30 years. If you live far away, you may have difficulty imagining what campus looks like right now. Streets are piled high with snow, ice hangs from our buildings, and many sidewalks are impassable. But our faculty, staff, and students are back today, braving the conditions. The University made the national news because of the storm.

The Department of Speech Communication has made national news too in recent months. Our faculty members have shared their research and expertise on topics ranging from political campaigns to the effects of online gaming on communities to the impact of media on children’s nutrition and well-being. Communication issues continue to be central to many of society’s social problems and we are recognized as scholars at the forefront of many of these concerns.

As you read this newsletter, you will learn about several initiatives we are embarking on in the department. We have created a new undergraduate organization called the Speech Communication Leaders. Thirty-three bright and energetic students have been chosen because of their leadership skills and their eagerness to support the department. The Leaders have already made a difference! They have helped us to recruit new majors, spent time with alumni who visit the campus, and worked with us on our new website. My special thanks go to Professors Ruth Anne Clark and Leanne Knobloch for serving as faculty liaisons to the Leaders.

We also have created an Alumni Advisory Board. The inaugural 2006-07 board consists of 14 accomplished alums who are willing to share their professional expertise, talent, and resources with the department. Some of these individuals are visiting campus this semester, serving as Executive Faculty in Residence. Our first board meeting will be held in April in Chicago. The board has already helped identify career opportunities in communication for our students. I am grateful to these individuals for their commitment to the department.

Finally, the department is working on some structural changes that we hope will allow us to change our name. Many of you have observed, rightly so, that the term “Speech Communication” does not adequately convey the range of topics and areas of study represented in the department. “Speech Communication” does represent our roots but it does not reflect our future. In fact, we are one of the last doctoral programs in the country still to be called Speech Communication. Our goal is to become the “Department of Communication,” as is the case at many of our peer institutions. We want to make sure that students understand the major and recognize that it offers a wide range of skills and training in understanding communication problems that cut across a variety of contexts, such as the family, the workplace, and even the media. I will keep you posted on our progress. But you can be sure that even if we change our name, we will still be the same dedicated and intellectually stimulating program that you experienced when you were a student here.

Please stay in touch! We feel tremendous pride when we hear about the accomplishments of our alumni. We hope you continue to take pride in our department and that you find ways to support us as we prepare the next generation of communication leaders and professionals.

Burleson Receives Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Communication Association

Speech communication alumnus Brant R. Burleson (MA, '77; PhD, '82) received the 2006



Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Communication Association (NCA). The award recognizes a lifetime of scholarly

achievement in the study of human communication by a member of NCA. NCA is the oldest and largest national organization serving the academic discipline of communication, with roughly 7,700 members.

Burleson is currently a professor of communication at Purdue University, where he has been a faculty member since 1990. His research interests are in the area of interpersonal communication, with a focus on the role of emotion in the development of personal and social relationships. He studies supportive forms of communication such as comforting in a variety of contexts including parent-child relationships, friendships, romantic relationships, and marriages.

“Receiving the Distinguished Scholar Award from NCA is wonderful for many reasons, of course, but especially because my mentor and advisor from the University of Illinois, Dr. Jesse Delia, was one of the first recipients of this award,” says Burleson. “To be included with him in this group is very meaningful to me, particularly because Jesse and my other professors at Illinois (including Ruth Anne Clark, Joe Wenzel, and Marie Nichols) did so much to shape me as a scholar.”

Burleson has published more than 125 scholarly papers and five edited books. He has previously received awards from the International Communication Association, the International Association for Relationship Research, the American Forensic Association, and the Association for Women in Psychology.

ALUMNI BACK TO CAMPUS FOR 'CLASSROOMS AND CAREERS' EVENT

Nine alums spent a warm fall day on campus last October to help undergraduates learn about communication careers. The daylong event, "Classroom & Careers: Making the Connection," was sponsored by the Department of Speech Communication and consisted of two alumni panels, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. During the sessions, alumni shared their career paths and experiences with students, and fielded questions about professional opportunities in communication.

The alumni included:

- Chris McPartlin** (AB '97), self-employed land developer and builder
- JD Miller** (AB '97, MA '98, PhD '02), regional sales manager, Lexis Nexis
- Tara Spangler** (AB '99), section administrator, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago
- Norm Bilsbury** (AB '92), field sales trainer, United States Surgical/TycoHealthcare
- Tiasha Stevenson** (AB '04), assistant account executive, Weber Shandwick Worldwide
- Ami Novoryta** (AB '00), director of development, Erie Neighborhood House
- Kelly Caywood** (AB '06), personal lines fire underwriter, State Farm Insurance
- Deb Parker** (AB '93, MA '95), director of communications, McDonald's Corporation
- Laura Wexler** (AB '05), communications supervisor, McDonald's Corporation

In addition to the alumni panels, several sessions focused on career resources and internships available to students on campus. Representatives from campus who participated in the event included: Brandon

Bute, from the Career Center; Sara Thompson, of the Leadership Center; Amy Sponsler, from Volunteer Illini Programs; Robin Kaler, of the Office of Public Affairs; and Julian Parrott, from LAS General Curriculum.

Many speech communication students appreciated taking time away from their studies to contemplate their future. But the day was special for alums as well. "The conversations I had with students and other panelists alike were extremely interesting and valuable on a number of professional and personal levels," says JD Miller, regional sales manager for Lexis Nexis. "I think of the campus often, and look forward to returning again soon."



DAENA GOLDSMITH

DEPARTMENT SAYS FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

The Department of Speech Communication said "good-bye" this summer to a long-time faculty member, colleague, and friend. Daena Goldsmith accepted a position at her alma mater, Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. She joined the Department of Speech Communication at U of I in 1993 as an assistant professor. She was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1999 and served as director of graduate studies and associate head from 1999 to 2002. Goldsmith taught numerous students over the years in the very popular SPCM 230, "Interpersonal Communication." She also regularly taught advanced interpersonal communication courses and graduate seminars.

Goldsmith's research on social support communication shifted to a focus on health in the late 1990s. She has been examining the ways that family members and friends communicate with one another during times of serious illness such as cancer and heart disease. Goldsmith's book, *Communicating Social Support* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), has made significant contributions to the interpersonal communication literature.

One of the draws of moving to Oregon is that Goldsmith and her husband, Michael Albery, are now closer to extended family, especially grandparents for their son, Graehm. But she continues to collaborate on research with her former colleagues and students. Professor Goldsmith's presence in the department will long be missed.

new faculty profiles



Lisa Nakamura

The Internet is a tool like any other tool, but how we use this technology is what interests new faculty member Lisa Nakamura. Nakamura studies how people construct different identities in cyberspace. Nakamura became interested in identity construction while writing her dissertation on 19th century “passing subcultures,” referring to people who passed as white or male to gain access and privileges denied to people of color and women. “Just as literature informs us about past cultures, the Internet is a great place to see how contemporary culture works,” Nakamura says.

In the 1990s, the Internet was quite primitive. As it transformed from a text-based tool into a user-producing cultural and interactive one, Nakamura noticed how people were “passing” in the burgeoning online chat rooms. In 2000, when websites were still not used much, Nakamura came across one that exposed Hollywood stars of color who were passing as Caucasian, a discovery that sparked her interest in Internet identity formation.

As Nakamura’s interest in Internet usage grew, she noticed how women who had miscarried were sharing their grief on the Internet. “Doctors have a tendency to overwhelm patients with information, leaving them confused about their prognoses,” she reflects. “I noticed that these women were interacting on the Internet, sharing information with each other, bypassing doctors and creating their own knowledge base as well as communities of support and caring.” Nakamura’s forthcoming book, *Visual Cultures of the Internet* (2007), examines how women who have experienced a miscarriage use the Internet to make their lives known, to share their stories, and to create clipart personae of themselves. Such acts, Nakamura asserts, are transforming these virtual spaces into public spaces.

Nakamura is looking forward to being in the classroom this spring. Her course, “New Media and Identity,” will ask students to think about how gender, race, class, and nation organize people in the virtual world. Students will learn to think critically about the Internet by examining utopian theories of technology that see it as the great equalizer.

Nakamura says her fascination with technology is not just for computers. She also has a passion for tuner cars, which are small import cars that buyers “tune” by adding custom modifications to them. The cars are favored by Asian youths, but have yet to surface in Champaign. However, they can be found on the Internet!



Scott Poole

For many of us, working with a group of people on a project or a task can be daunting. The idea of doing this with sophisticated technology can be downright awful, as returning faculty member Scott Poole knows. Poole’s research aims to improve this combustible combination by exploring how technology affects people and how people affect technology. He is particularly interested in small group communication in organizations such as charities and support groups.

In his research, Poole has found that more often than not when groups of people are expected to rely on technology to communicate, they struggle because many group members are not fluent in using the technology. Yet, fluency is not the only culprit impeding the group’s communication. For instance, Poole has found that a webpage’s utility has much to do with its structure and visual features. “Most websites require a balance of complexity and order,” he explains, “but we found that sites that are easier to navigate offer people a better chance of using its tools.”

Poole also examines why technologies don’t work the way people want them to work. Poole notes that, “The web brings people together, but most tools offered on the Web for communication and collaboration, such as instant messaging and email, are fine until a conflict or problem emerges. Once a conflict or problem erupts, these tools often make things worse, because they promote communication without structuring it in constructive ways. Research shows that more complex tools that require people to walk through a series of steps and are more restrictive do help manage conflict and solve problems. However, because these tools are difficult to use, people avoid them.” Poole is currently working on making these more complex decision-aiding technologies easier to use and more attractive for users.

This spring, Poole brings these concerns to the classroom in his “Advanced Small Group Communication” course, which will focus on the pitfalls and pratfalls of group work with technology. To test the waters, students will conduct a large-scale collaborative project and reflect on their experiences in their written assignments.

Poole, who says he left the Department of Speech Communication in 1985 to conduct his research in a big city with more resources, now finds the University of Illinois an optimal place for his work. Poole is impressed with how Champaign-Urbana has “blossomed” in the 20 years since he left, but he also notes that, “Lincoln Hall is just exactly the same.”

2006 Illinois Tradition Awards (Graduate and Undergraduate Students)

Ruth S. and Charles H. Bowman Award	Jeremy Engels
Karla R. Wallace Award	Jake Jensen
Stafford H. Thomas Award	Bradley Bond
Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award	Erin Donovan-Kicken
Henry L. Mueller Award	Jennifer Knapp
	Paul Spilker
Richard Murphy Award	Kimberly Watson
Wayland Maxfield Parrish Award	Emily Withenbury
King Broadrick Allen Award	Katie Schad
Otto A. L. Dieter Award	Whitney Hutchinson
Bonita M. Whitlock Scholarship	Sara DiDomenico
Outstanding Article Awards	Jennifer Bute
	Erin Donovan-Kicken
	Robin Jensen
	Nicole Martins
	Laura Stengrim

HONORS UNDERGRADUATES, CLASS OF 2006

Departmental Distinction

Nithya Abraham	Omair Akhtar	Emily Anderson
Bryan Ballard	Julie Bensman	Nisse Byars
Kelly Caywood	Lisa Gabris	Maria Lamal
Amy Leon	Katelyn Letizia	Julie Levinson
Amanda Mueller	Monica Natarajan	Daniel Nathan
Katie Schad	Tricia Wegman	Daniel Wilbrandt

College Honors

Kelly Caywood
Maria Lamal
Katelyn Letizia
Julie Levinson
Katie Schad
Karen Shafer
Emily Withenbury

University Honors

Bronze Tablet
Allison Faetz
Katie Schad
Emily Withenbury

James Scholars
Heidi Fromm
Maria Lamal
Blake Mathias
Karen Shafer
Emily Withenbury

SPEECH COMMUNICATION PHDS AWARDED 2006

(Dissertation titles in quotations)

Joshua Barbour

"Health Care Institutions, Medical Organizing, and Physicians: A Multilevel Analysis"

Jeremy Engels

"America's Enemies and the Contested Rhetorics of Nationhood, 1776-1815"

Jennifer L. Jones

"Reciprocity of Sight: The Rhetorics of Contestation and Commemoration on the National Mall"

Karen P. Sodowsky

"Spousal Caregivers: Caregiving in their Own Words"

Allywn Tellis

"Mahatma Gandhi's *Constructive Programme*: Building a New India"

Andrew Weaver

"Reconceptualizing Attraction to Media Violence: A Meta-Analysis and Experiment"

Kyungah K. Yoon

"Expertise Recognition in Multi-Cultural Groups"



Michelle Shumate

Many of us think of organizational communication as "business without the math." This view is supported by the fact that many organizational communication consultants help businesses to increase their profits. But new faculty member Michelle Shumate takes an alternative approach. To her, organizational communication is most interesting when it focuses on the process of organizing. She is particularly interested in how organizations frame and promote social and political issues. Her research applies the theories of organizational communication to global social movements.

According to Shumate, global organizing has been affected by worldwide changes in the conception of time and space. For example, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, people were physically and historically separated, and relations were strictly confined to those that could occur in the moment and in the locale. Since then, sweeping political and technological changes have allowed social networks to develop that transcend time and space. For instance, HIV positive support groups abound in which the members never see one another, and they communicate at different points in times. Yet, despite this time/space collapse, Shumate says, "where you are still matters." Although HIV support groups in the United States and Europe are well connected and thriving, those in Africa are struggling to take shape because of limited resources.

Shumate examines how social forces prompt the formation and dissolution of groups that connect people for support. Shumate studies non-profits and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are coordinating actions across the globe to create social change. At any given time, Shumate is tracking 200 to 500 different NGOs, looking at how they form, what makes them more or less cooperative, and what their social impact is.

This past fall, Shumate taught "Globalization and Communication," a course that encourages critical thinking about globalization. Skeptics often argue that globalization "is nothing new," whereas advocates argue that globalization has changed everything. Shumate says she is impressed with speech communication students because their high reading level keeps them up to the challenges of this complex subject matter.

Since moving to Champaign, Shumate, a self-described "affiliate junkie," has joined the American Heart Association, the Junior League, the Independent Media Center, and other local groups. As if studying hundreds of organizations is not enough!

graduate student silhouettes

**Jiyeon Kang**

Massive protests by young people brought doctoral student Jiyeon Kang back to her hometown of Seoul, South Korea, this summer. Jiyeon's dissertation explores the post-colonial world of South Korea by examining the political rhetoric of young South Koreans who are critical of their own country's relationship with the United States. Much of this rhetoric pertains to the fact

that there are over 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

Jiyeon's case study begins in the summer of 2002 when thousands of young South Koreans took to the streets to demonstrate against America's presence in their country. The protests were initiated when a U.S. military vehicle ran over two 14-year-old South Korean girls. Despite the U.S. military's assertions that it was an accident, many young South Koreans saw the incident as a national tragedy as well as a metaphor for U.S. and South Korean relations. Strikingly, the protests did not erupt overnight. Instead, youths used the Internet to network and coordinate candlelight vigils that over 100,000 people attended across the nation. The protesters demanded an apology from President Bush. Eventually, the two military personnel responsible for the incident were court marshaled and the U.S. Ambassador did issue an apology.

Jiyeon's dissertation asks whether these protests signaled a new political movement in South Korea or were simply impulsive acts overly sensationalized by the media. To answer this question, Jiyeon traveled to Seoul to interview more than 30 protesters, many of who are now in college. "Sometimes we need to study living people," Jiyeon says, "to better understand our rhetorical analyses." In doing so, Jiyeon has gained insight into the generational divide that impacts all global citizens. According to Jiyeon, most Cold War South Koreans view the U.S. military presence as protection from the neighboring threat of communism. However, their children consider it a source of irritation, a marker of the Cold War past. Jiyeon observes, this younger generation "does not want to be mindless, stuck in one moment. They know they cannot go back to a pre-9/11 world." Nevertheless, Jiyeon does not want to romanticize this moment in history. Instead, she hopes her research will help us understand how political movements can generate new conversations about nation and generational change. Her work may indeed highlight the historical significance of those protests during the summer of 2002.

**Siddhartha Raja**

For doctoral student Siddhartha Raja, a return home was also a step forward. Siddhartha spent summer and fall of the 2006 semester in New Delhi, India, a city with 16 million people spread across 1,400 square kilometers. He was conducting ethnographic fieldwork at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the agency responsible for regulating the telecommunica-

tion industry in his country. Siddhartha became interested in telecommunications policy as an undergraduate pursuing a degree in telecommunications engineering in Bombay. He realized that choices about technology were not always technical. "Technologies have a political and economic angle to them," Siddhartha says. "About the same time as I had this epiphany, the Indian government released its 1999 telecom policy, and I was amazed that there was a field of work [telecom policy] that combined economics, politics, and telecom."

Siddhartha's doctoral dissertation will focus on the process of telecom regulation as a cultural activity. This fall he worked with senior staff at the regulator's office in India making presentations on topics of regulatory interest, writing speeches and policy documents, and doing policy analysis. As he took field notes on the process, he also interviewed officials and bureaucrats about the Indian telecom industry's undertakings. "We're adding 6 million mobile phone subscribers a month, and the telephone subscriber base has crossed 170 million. This is phenomenal, since India had only about 20 million phones in 1998!" Despite its short nine-year life, TRAI has a well-established consultation process, similar to the workings of our Federal Communications Commission, where public input is regularly sought.

Siddhartha, who grew up in India's commercial capital, Bombay, did not find the capital of New Delhi intimidating at all. "Things were quite comfortable for me," he says. "I didn't have to deal with the conditions many traditional anthropologists have had to. I had my own office, and was constantly working on new and interesting projects." Siddhartha is also grateful for the flexible academic environment he found in U of I that allowed him to do fieldwork in his home country. The Department of Speech Communication "never said 'no' to me and has brought me to a point where I am able, even now, to make a positive contribution to my field—academically and professionally."

**INTRODUCING THE SPEECH COMMUNICATION LEADERS**

They are walking the corridors of Lincoln Hall, wearing matching navy shirts and bright smiles. They are helping the department recruit new majors at the Majors Fair. And they are escorting alums around campus during their visits back to U of I. Who are they? They are Speech Communication Leaders.

The department formed the Speech Communication Leaders group in the fall of 2006 to enhance connections with some of its brightest and most promising undergraduate majors. A select group of students with strong academic records and leadership experience were invited to apply for membership; 33 students were chosen for the inaugural group.

Speech Communication Leaders serve as ambassadors for the department. They assist with the planning of academic and social events (such as student-faculty receptions, faculty lectures, career information session, graduate school information sessions, commencement); help to publicize department events; offer feedback on department matters (such as the website, course offerings, course titles); and socialize with alumni who visit campus as guests of the department.

Faculty advisers, Ruth Anne Clark and Leanne Knobloch, report that this year's group is an enthusiastic, motivated, and organized crew. "It's fun to put our ideas together and help other students learn more about the major and what it does," says Speech Communication Leader Patrick Horbas. Not only has the department enjoyed the group's fervent support of its events, but the students have benefited from the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through closer involvement in departmental activities. Looking to the future, Leader Meghan Collins believes, "It will be neat to see what happens in the next two years. I want to see how much bigger the club gets!"

faculty news

Scott Althaus is writing two books about the nature of political communication in times of war. The first examines whether public support for war is influenced by wartime news coverage, and the second reviews the ways that American governments have tried to influence war coverage in the news from World War I to the present.

Dale Brashers continues to explore the role of communication in the management of health and illness. One project, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, involves describing the role of social support on physical and mental health for people living with HIV or AIDS. This study, being conducted with former University of Illinois faculty members Dan O'Keefe (now at Northwestern University) and Daena Goldsmith (now at Lewis and Clark College), involves accumulating the results of a large body of qualitative and quantitative research. Brashers also serves as the department's associate head.

John Caughlin studies interpersonal communication, focusing on communication in families and other close relationships. Although people often assume that open communication is always best, Professor Caughlin's research has shown that there are various circumstances when it is better to avoid talking about certain topics.

Ruth Anne Clark will complete her 40-year tenure in the department in the spring of 2007. She will miss the daily interaction with incredibly bright and energetic students and with her exceptionally supportive and stimulating colleagues, all of whom have made the time spent in Lincoln Hall truly a privilege. She looks forward to joining her husband, Jesse Delia, in some of his travels as he works on developing international research relations, and to spending more time with her first grandchild, yet another Jesse.

Tom Conley continues to publish on Byzantine and Renaissance matters and is working on a new book, *Toward a Rhetoric of Insult*.

Tom Costello, a member of the department for nearly 35 years, teaches the Discovery section of SPCM 101, as well as SPCM 211 "Business and Professional Speaking." The addition of

SPCM 211 to our curriculum moved Costello from his Weston Exploration assignment back to teaching freshmen, juniors, and seniors. Costello has been the assistant managing director of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District for the past 32 years and often helps faculty figure out the bus schedule. Costello was recently elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association.

Noshir Contractor is now in his second year as director of the Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) Group at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, and as director of the "Age of Networks" Initiative at the University's Center for Advanced Study. He is investigating factors that lead to the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of dynamically linked social and knowledge networks in a wide variety of communities. His research team (which has grown to include four post-doctorates, two research programmers, and five graduate students) is developing and testing theories and methods of communication networks to map, understand and enable: disaster response networks; public health networks; transnational immigrant networks; massive multiplayer online role-playing game (e.g., *World of Warcraft*) networks; and environmental engineering networks. These projects are funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Travis Dixon's research addresses the relationship between media and stereotyping. He was recently awarded a fellowship from the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society and received a grant from the campus Research Board to investigate the content and effects of Hurricane Katrina news coverage. The first goal of the project is to assess whether network television news coverage framed African Americans in New Orleans as victims or as people who were largely to blame for their own plight in the aftermath of the hurricane. The second goal of this project is to investigate the effects of such coverage on viewers' stereotypes and empathy towards Katrina survivors.

Cara Finnegan is spending the 2006-07 academic year on sabbatical at Vanderbilt University, where she is the William S. Vaughn Visiting

Fellow at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities. At Vanderbilt, Finnegan is participating in a yearlong seminar called "Between Word and Image," which brings together scholars from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss the relationships between language and visuality. While on sabbatical she is also writing her second book, which explores how early 20th century Americans understood the relationship between photography and politics.

Grace Giorgio is enjoying her new appointment as a half-time undergraduate academic advisor and acting course director for SPCM 111-112. Giorgio continues to publish on gender, sexuality, and violence with a new article forthcoming in *Qualitative Inquiry*. Giorgio still teaches yoga at the Atwood Retreat Center and is publishing articles in general interest publications such as in *Your Cat Magazine*.

Kristen Harrison spent the past year continuing her longitudinal research on the media's role in the development of eating disorders among elementary school children in east central Illinois. Emerging results show that early TV viewing increases the likelihood for disordered eating among girls, and that reading video gaming magazines, which feature excessively muscular images of men, increases boys' drive for muscularity. Professor Harrison also experienced two major life events in 2006: promotion to associate professor with tenure, and the birth of her first child. She hopes to spend much of 2007 catching up on sleep.

Stephen John Hartnett published his fourth book, *Globalization and Empire: The U.S. Invasion of Iraq, Free Markets, and The Twilight of Democracy* in May 2006, and then spent the summer promoting the book. He also completed another book of poems, entitled *America, When Will You Be Angelic? Investigative Poems for An Age of Terror*. Hartnett continues to program speakers for the University YMCA's "Friday Forum" speaker series as well as his work with the "Social Justice Radio Project," which can be heard every Tuesday from 5:30-6:00 p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM. Hartnett also teaches a poetry workshop in the Champaign County Jail. He reports that his little Anya (now 4 years old) grew 6" and his little Melia (now 2) issued her first 10-word, compound sentence.

faculty news (continued)

Debra Hawhee returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005 with a joint appointment in English and speech communication. Her recent book, *Bodily Arts: Rhetoric and Athletic 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.

James Hay edited and contributed to "Homeland Insecurities," a special issue of the journal *Cultural Studies* and is expanding this collection into a book. He also completed a book, *Better Living Through Television* (forthcoming, Blackwell Publishing), an account of contemporary "reality" TV and its relation to the policies and programs of government over the last 10 years.

Kay Holley teaches SPCM 101 full-time for the department, including two sections for students in the LAS Bridge/Transition Program. In addition to her teaching, she is a director and actor, having directed such recent local productions as *Copenhagen*, *An Almost Holy Picture*, *Wit*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. She also performed in her first major movie role in the film *Welcome to Tolono*, which is due for release in early 2007.

Bob Husband still continues to combine teaching and consulting in some strange over-the-top mix. He teaches one day a week and consults three. Consulting this past fall has taken him to both coasts and involved him with some high-tech firms like Microsoft and IBM. This spring semester he will be teaching an undergraduate honors seminar on leadership communication and has the privilege of having four distinguished speech communication alumni back on campus to present in the seminar. Because all alumni are distinguished, he would love to hear from former students and to explore possibilities of returning to U of I for a visit sometime in the future.

Leanne Knobloch received a Humanities Release Time Award to complete a study of conversations between married couples. Initial findings show that spouses experiencing uncertainty about their marriage have strong negative reactions to conversations that seem ordinary to outside observers. She has also

teamed up with Professor Ruth Anne Clark to create and advise the Speech Communication Leaders organization, which is a group of outstanding undergraduate students who are selected to act as ambassadors for the department.

Michele Koven has continued her work on the experiences and expressions of identity for bilinguals. Her book, *Selves in Two Languages*, will be published in 2007 with John Benjamins Publishing Co. Despite some ongoing health challenges, Michele tries to stay active. She has become a Pilates fanatic! She always enjoys getting news from former students.

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. Recently, he and Joshua Barbour, a 2006 PhD graduate, published "An Institutional Theory of Organizational Communication" in the journal *Communication Theory*.

Maria Mastronardi was elected vice-chair of the Critical Cultural Studies division of NCA, the largest division. Her book, *After Ophelia: Popular Culture and Adolescence in Crisis*, will be published by University of Illinois Press this year. Mastronardi has given talks about her research at the University of Southern California, Annenberg School, and Purdue University, with upcoming invited talks at Haifa University and Hebrew University in June. Her new research on public discourse about brain imaging and eating disorders was awarded a Madden Fellowship for Technology, Arts, and Culture at the University of Illinois.

Peggy Miller is spending her sabbatical year at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University where she is a Helen Putnam Fellow. She is working on a book project that examines self-esteem as a cultural ideal and childrearing goal embedded in a discourse that circulates widely in contemporary American society. She is co-author of a chapter on the cultural psychology of development that was recently published in the latest edition of *The Handbook of Child Psychology*.

Lisa Nakamura's second single-authored book, *Visual Cultures of the Internet*, will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2007. Nakamura is also publishing essays this year

that explore the visual culture of race and the Internet. These articles focus on mixed-race celebrity outing websites, representations of biometrics technologies, digital interfaces, and race in contemporary film, as well as theories of new media audiences and identity. She holds a joint faculty appointment in the Asian American Studies Program at U of I, where she teaches courses on Asian Americans and film and media.

Ned O'Gorman recently published an essay in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* on "sublime" experiences in global politics, including events like September 11. His book project, *Catastrophic Vistas*, which looks at Cold War rhetoric in the 1950s, is in process.

Scott Poole has been conducting a study on group research funded by the National Science Foundation. The study's goal is to gather ideas about future directions for group research as an interdisciplinary field from a large number of small group researchers from a variety of fields, including communication, psychology, sociology, and political science. Poole has also completed several co-authored studies on how aspects of webpage design affect users. These studies focus on how the aesthetic quality of webpages, personalization of websites, and context awareness of Web and other information technology applications affect user response and willingness to use and return to the sites. Poole has also been working with the National Communication Association to develop a grants and fellowships database that catalogs the funding received by communication scholars.

Christian Sandvig studies communication technology and public policy. This year he received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award for his program of research as an assistant professor. He was also appointed as a Faculty Fellow to the Center for Advanced Study for 2006-2007. Sandvig is currently studying the development of new wireless Internet technology (such as "Wi-Fi") and was recently asked to write a review of what is known about the development of new media technologies for the MacArthur Foundation.

Michelle Shumate's research focuses on non-governmental nonprofit (NGO) organizing. Presently, Shumate is studying the types of NGOs with which corporations commonly report partnering and how NGOs network with one another using the Internet. Shumate's previous

work included a network study of HIV/AIDS NGOs over 20 years and a qualitative study of the life of one federated Internet-based NGO.

Tracy Sulkin's research focuses on the linkages between political campaigns and governing. Her first book, *Issue Politics in Congress* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), which examined the idea of "issue uptake"—how winning representatives and senators respond to their previous challengers' critiques—was awarded the American Political Science Association's Fenno Prize for the best book on legislative studies published in 2005. Presently, Sulkin is at work on a new book project focusing on how elected officials make and keep campaign promises.

David Tewksbury is the department's new director of graduate study. His research looks at how news audiences select and interpret stories and news sources. A study he is currently conducting with graduate students in the department focuses on the categories of news stories that appear after a major disaster or similar event. The goal of the project is to determine whether news audiences receive story options that match their desires and needs in these situations.

Dmitri Williams' research on games and the Internet was recently featured in *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times*, among other media outlets. Williams also testified as an expert witness before the U.S. Senate on games. Back on campus, he has been conducting research on online gaming as part of a National Science Foundation grant, as well as directing the revamp of the department's website.

Barbara Wilson's research focuses on youth and media. In the past year, she has worked on projects with graduate students that examine the amount of sassy talk and disrespect that is portrayed in TV programs popular with children, how health information is presented in magazines that are popular with preteen and teen girls, and how parents talk to children about frightening stories in the news. She and Sandra Calvert (Georgetown University) are finalizing their work as co-editors of the *Handbook of Child Development and the Media* (Blackwell Publishing). In her spare time, she is department head and mother of two growing girls who love to watch TV and talk about the media for their mom's research purposes.

Trina Wright studies the intersections between gender, race, and class in organizational communication. She seeks to understand the behaviors and challenges of non-traditional roles/careers. Her interests include areas of resistance experienced in organizations as well as communication, with an emphasis on organizational socialization. Recent projects include explorations of work and the negotiation of administrative support roles among women of color, organizational roles, and feminist constructions of work ethics ascribed in the workplace. In addition, she has recently undertaken research funded by the William T. Grant Foundation to explore the communication factors that influence high school students in career decision-making. This work will shed light on the work ethic development among people of various race and class backgrounds.

Homecoming 2006

Alumni and friends of the department gathered for the fifth annual Homecoming Reception on October 7. Guests were treated to a delicious brunch of eggs, sausage, assorted pastries, and fruit as they were greeted by faculty and friends. The Speech Communication Leaders, the newly formed undergraduate group, were also present to meet and greet alumni of the department. The Lincoln Hall foyer was decorated with orange and blue and the event occurred under the watchful eye of the Lincoln bust. Alumni from as far back as 1952 and as recent as 2006 were in attendance. **Next year's reception will be held on October 27, 2007. Please save the date!**



Rosanne Brighton (AB '91) was one of the first to arrive

Amy Marske, (AB '02, MA '04) Jennifer (Edwards) Whitman, (AB '02) stopped by with friends of the department, Josh Whitman and Joel Denis



Lindsey Dunn and Jackie Lipow (both AB '04) renewed an old friendship

Phyllis and Del Wilkens of Champaign stopped by



GRADUATION

The University of Illinois speech communication class of 2006 enjoyed its graduation last spring! 120 speech communication graduates and department faculty experienced a more intimate graduation ceremony than in the past. The ceremony included a student speaker, Monica Natarajan, and alumni speaker, Paul Lisnek (AB '80, MA '81, PhD '86), who is now a professional speaker and trial consultant in Chicago. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the atrium of the Foreign Languages Building.



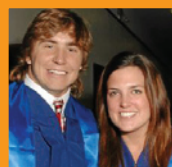
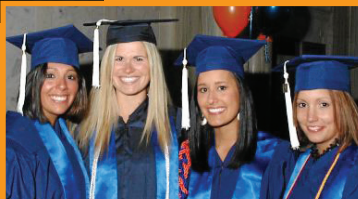
Student Speaker Monica Natarajan and Barb Wilson



Marina Romero, Heidi Fromm, Katie Schad, and Jolyn Heun pause for the camera before the ceremony



Paul Lisnek, distinguished alumni speaker, and Barb Wilson



J. Leman and Erin Miller



Undergraduate Michelle Hemphill ('07) and member of the 2006 Homecoming Court, Barb Wilson, and Jerome Jenkins (AB '89)

Introducing the Speech Communication Alumni Advisory Board

For the first time in its history, the Department of Speech Communication has formed an Alumni Advisory Board. "We needed a way to make stronger connections to our alums and, thankfully, many of them wanted to be more involved in helping our department," says Barbara Wilson, professor and head of the Department of Speech Communication. The advisory board will work to support the department's research, instructional, and public engagement missions. Board members will: help advise students about career opportunities, and assist in securing internships and other professional opportunities for undergraduate and applied masters students; serve as ambassadors on behalf of the department in arenas outside the University; promote alumni networking and connections between current and former students; and encourage and generate funding to meet the department's objectives.

Board members will also have the opportunity to spend time at the U of I campus to serve as executive faculty. As Executive Faculty in Residence, they will share career and leadership experiences with students as part of an undergraduate course in speech communication.

The newly formed 2006-07 Alumni Advisory Board consists of 14 distinguished alumni representing a range of communication professions. They are:

Norm Bilsbury, field sales trainer, United States Surgical/Tyco Healthcare

Michael Brandwein, professional speaker and trainer

Al Brennan, chief executive officer, Young Innovations, Inc.

Ben Haglund, attorney and partner, Day Pitney, LLC

Jerome Jenkins, senior vice president, C. Jenkins Necktie & Chemical Co.

Brad Kolar, vice president, University of Chicago Hospitals

Paul Lisnek, professional speaker, attorney, and trial consultant

JD Miller, regional sales manager, Lexis Nexis

Michael Novy, division vice president, Centerra Wine Company

Deborah Parker, director of communications, McDonalds Corporation

Cindy Raymond, president, Raymond Promotions Inc.

Lloyd G. Richards, Jr., director of football operations, Houston Texans

David Rittorf, executive vice president, Modern Management, Inc.

John Wright, managing partner, Goodwin Wright Agency

Alumni who are interested in participating in the Alumni Advisory Board should contact Professor Barbara Wilson (bjwilson@uiuc.edu).

class notes

1950s

Arthur Williams (AB '56, MA '57) is a writer and psychotherapist-entrepreneur. He is also an active member of the Stage Directors, Choreographers and Dramatists Guild.

Lee Sarton Chaverin (AB '52) worked as an entertainment director for the Army Special Services. Lee then moved on to teaching modeling and acting. Since retiring as a promotions specialist and make-up artist for Clinique Cosmetics, she has been serving as the chair of the Sarasota Opera Speakers Bureau. Lee estimates that she has used her speech communication training a total of 263 times before 11,741 people to promote the Sarasota Opera Speakers Bureau.

1960s

Mary Sue Divan Murray (AB '61) taught drama, speech and English at the secondary level in Northern California high schools for 21 years. She then utilized her drama background to create and present staff development opportunities for teachers and administrators in 20 Bay Area high school districts as the director of staff development for Hayward, Calif. After 35 years of working in education, she now works part-time in events production for the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce. For the past six years, Sue has produced and staged the "Legends and Leaders" event, which has featured Arnold Schwarzenegger on the eve of his inauguration, Bob Dole, Magic Johnson, Barbara Bush, Colin Powell, and Walter Cronkite.

1970s

Jennifer Hubbard Cyr (AB '70, MA '71, MD '86) is a psychiatrist in Omaha, Neb. Prior to going to medical school, Jennifer worked in audiology at the Boys Town National Research Hospital for Communication Disorders in Children. She completed her residency at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and became an associate professor in psychiatry at Creighton University and at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is now in private practice. Her spouse David G. Cyr (MA '71) passed away in 2000.

William (Bill) L. Devore (MA '71) is the executive director of College of Lake County Foundation. He has been re-elected to a four-year term as the Benton Township Trustee, is the co-chair of Immanuel Church of Gurnee Capital Campaign, and recently narrated the Illinois Brass Band holiday concert.

1980s

Mary Bozik (PhD '82) is a professor of communication studies at the University of Northern Iowa. She has been working with the College Board and National Communication Association to develop academic content standards for grades 6-12 in speaking, listening and media literacy. Mary is one of three NCA members serving as a consultant on this project, which will also complement standards being developed in critical reading and writing. The purpose of these standards is to define a progressive developmental framework of expectations in the English language and arts that prepares students for college. These standards will be distributed nationally this fall as the *College Board Standards for College Success in English Language Arts*.

Shari Cartwright Schmidt (AB '85) works as a marketing communications consultant. Shari says her University of Illinois connections have kept her business growing for the past 10 years.

Mark Richter (AB '86, MA '89) is currently a middle school reading and language arts teacher at Lake Zurich Middle School in Lake Zurich, Ill. Mark recently received his Type 75 General Administrative Certificate, which means he can now become a middle school principal.

Catherine Flatley Grezlak (AB '86) is the vice president director of customization and editorial services at McDougal Littell, a secondary education division of Houghton Mifflin Company. She specializes in educational text and materials for grades 6-12.

Felicia Wilson (AB '88) works as a fingerprint technician for the Chicago Police Department and is currently pursuing her MBA at St. Xavier University.

Shimon Kahan Hayne (AB '88) works as an attorney for Studnicka, Kahan, O'Neill and Miller, LLC in Chicago.

1990s

Joel Hoffman (AB '91) is a rabbi in New Haven, Conn., and is married with three children.

Jean Driscoll (AB '90) is the associate director of development for the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois. Prior to this appointment, Jean worked as a biofeedback clinician in Indianapolis. Jean continues to do motivational speaking on a monthly basis.

Collette (Copper) Boylo (AB '93) is vice president of Fifth Third Bank in Ohio.

Steven Behm (AB '94) spent eight years on Capitol Hill and then landed a public affairs position with Dittus Communications for a number of years. He recently joined Edelman Public Relations to head up its crisis management team.

Robin (Lyons) McNatt (AB '94) is the associate director of corporate outreach at The Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine. She and her husband Matt have a 2-year-old daughter named Emma Grace.

Laura A. Mundt (MA '94) works as a women's and children's health educator for Providence Health System. Laura teaches prenatal classes (childbirth, newborn care, and breastfeeding) at the Providence Hospitals in Portland, Ore. She is also serving a third term as secretary to the board of the Northwest Childbirth Educator's Forum, a non-profit volunteer organization that advocates for families and promotes current issues in maternal-child health.

Jennifer Lewandowski (AB '95) lives in the Upper West Side of New York City and works for Playboy Enterprises, Inc. as a marketing manager for the e-commerce division.

Nick Kalgeris (AB '97) is a human performance consultant for Accenture in Chicago. His work addresses change management, communication strategy, planning and implementation, organizational design, training, coaching, human performance metrics, and global workforce alignment.

Todd Medland (AB '97) works as a news anchor and sports reporter at Lakeshore's public radio station WYIN-TV.

Jill (Einfeldt) Kissack (AB '98) is a manager at Accenture, focusing on workforce transportation and learning outsourcing. Jill and her husband recently opened a wine store called In Fine Spirits in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood and just gave birth to their first child.

Carrie Copeland (AB '99) worked for Harris Bank in Oregon for a year in a management training program and then participated in AmeriCorp VISTA in Columbia, Mo. Since then, she has earned her MA in counseling at the University of Missouri and is pursuing a PhD in counseling psychology, while working fulltime as a career counselor at Oregon State.

Heidi M. Schultz (AB '99) is a commercial real estate broker with Arthur J. Rogers and Company, serving the city of Chicago, Cook County, and Lake County since 2005. Heidi works with businesses in Chicago and suburbia to resolve real estate issues.

Alyson Pond (AB '99) received her MA ('01) in communication and BA ('06) in engineering both from Texas A&M and is a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in San Antonio, Texas.

2000s

Kathryn A. Rouker (AB '00, MA '01) works as a technical assistant for International Lease Finance Corporation and plans to go to UCLA for an education degree.

Michael Layman (AB '01) is the legislative director for Representative Tim Murphy of the United States House of Representatives and works as a Deputy Parliamentarian on the House Government Reform Committee. He spends many a waking moment following Illini men's basketball team.

Katherine Petty (AB '01) earned her master's degree in corporate communications from DePaul University in June 2004. She now works as a marketing coordinator for Walgreen's Corporate Offices. Katherine, her husband Scott, and their daughter Bernadette welcomed Nora Clare Petty to their family on March 23, 2006.

Jennifer (Davidson) Wagner (AB '01) is a store manager for Yankee Candle in Algonquin, Ill. She gave birth to her first child, William Davidson Wagner, in January 2006. Although busy with family and work, she still follows the Illini and hopes her new little guy will wear orange and blue someday.

Kenneth Corioso (MA '02) is the owner of Inland Empire Finance, a company with 20 employees.

Kristin Klonowski (AB '04) works at AT&T for its business development project, Lightspeed, which delivers television to homes via the Internet.

Sarah E. (Wilson) Clabaugh (MA '04) is a consultant for BearingPoint.

Tiasha Stevenson (AB '04) works for Weber Sandwick Worldwide as an assistant account executive.

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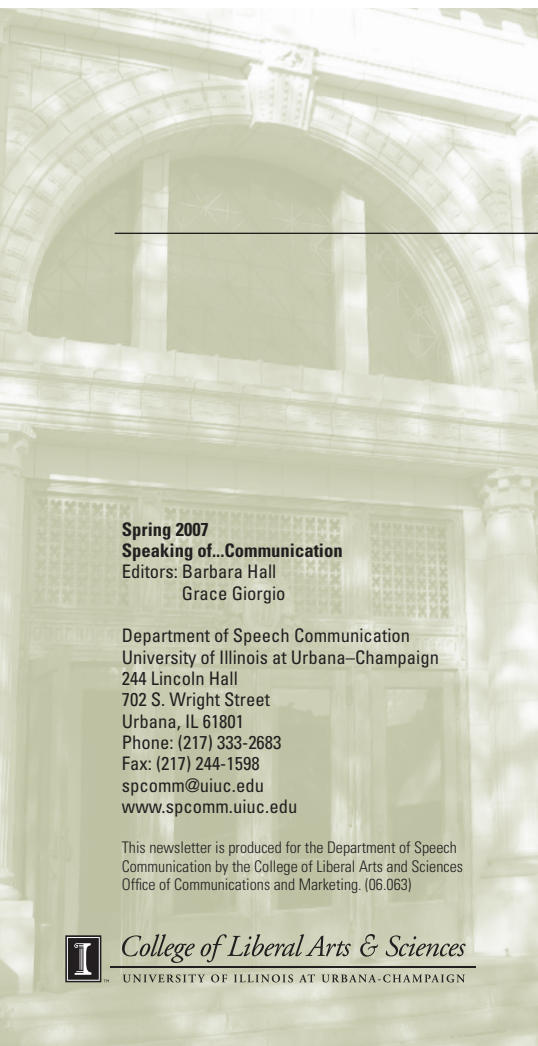
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