The Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana plans to establish an Alumni Advisory Board in Fall 2006. The Advisory Board will help strengthen ties between the department and its accomplished alumni all over the United States.

Mission

The overall mission of the Advisory Board is to support the research, instructional, and public engagement missions of the Department of Speech Communication as it strives to maintain its top national ranking and reputation for excellence. More specifically, the Advisory Board will provide advice and counsel at the request of the Department in matters relating to the preparation of students to enter the communication field and profession. It will also serve as a potential liaison for the Department’s current students to the professional world. Finally, the Board will help generate the human and material resources necessary to attain the goals and objectives of the department.

Strategic Goals

To achieve its mission, the Advisory Board will:

- Meet annually to advise the Department on the changing nature of the professional world and issues related to student preparation
- Help advise students about career opportunities, and assist in securing internships and other professional opportunities for undergraduate and applied masters students
- Have the opportunity to serve as Executive Faculty in Residence at the UIUC campus
- Serve as ambassadors on behalf of the Department in arenas outside the University
- Promote alumni networking and connections between current and former students
- Encourage and generate funding to meet the Department’s research, teaching, and public engagement objectives

Membership

The Advisory Board will be comprised of a select group of 12-15 alumni. Individuals will be appointed to serve on the Board by invitation only. The Department Head, in consultation with the Faculty Advisory Committee, will select Board members that represent the diversity, breadth of occupational careers, and varied accomplishments of Speech Communication alumni. As part of the University of Illinois, the Department will not engage in discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or unfavorable discharge from the military.

Board members will typically serve a period of two years, with the possibility of an additional term at the request of the Department. The Board will meet once a year, typically in Chicago. A second annual meeting will be convened periodically on the UIUC campus. In line with the Board’s mission of assisting the Department in generating resources, members need to be donors to Speech Communication. It is expected that Board members will pledge a minimum of $1,000 annually (which can be paid in installments) in support of the Department’s instructional and research initiatives. Board members will also have the opportunity to spend time at the UIUC 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.