



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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## IN THE CLASSROOM

### O’Gorman Leads “Lincoln’s Legacies” During Bicentennial Year

In celebration of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth, rhetoric professor Ned O’Gorman embarked upon an in-depth exploration called “Lincoln’s Legacies.” Limited to 20 students, the class developed a “collective method for understanding Lincoln—one that would carve out a portrait of the person and the politician,” O’Gorman said.

Organized into three parts, the course first studied Lincoln’s life as a politician by looking at his papers, reading books about his political career, and studying his speeches. “We examined how Lincoln thought about the issues of the day, such as slavery and the Mexican War,” O’Gorman noted.

“We learned how strongly pragmatic he was. His attitude towards the South was more in line with reconciliation and not punitive,” O’Gorman reflected.

“Lincoln was a paradoxical figure who was quick to reconcile with enemies, but was no softy. He prosecuted the war aggressively.”

O’Gorman and his students also explored the legacy dimension of the 16th president by viewing official monuments, museums, and buildings named in honor of him. Such work involved going to Springfield’s Lincoln Museum, his home, and burial place, as well as conducting archival research.

“There are so many ways to look at what happened back then,” Tejumola Salami, a senior in the department, said. “I’ve learned that there will always be speculation about the different debates and challenges Lincoln faced. For instance, you were considered a coward if you did not accept the challenge of a debate even if it was set up against you.”

The course wrapped up with an examination of Lincoln’s influence on American political culture, including how President Obama invoked from Lincoln’s legacy by announcing his candidacy in front of Springfield’s Old State Capital Building where Lincoln worked as a legislator. He also used the Lincoln Bible to take the oath of office on Inauguration Day.

“For so many and in every era, Lincoln embodies presidential perfection,” O’Gorman observed.

In the spirit of continuing Lincoln’s legacies, the course aimed to “give something back to the campus and to the broader community,” O’Gorman stated. A series of guest lectures were open to the campus community. Rhetorician David Zarefsky of North-



*Professor Ned O’Gorman*

western University visited the class to elaborate on his “House Divided” talk, and to present a rhetorical analysis of the famed speech.

Graduating senior Kimberly Solari said, “Dr. Zarefsky broke down the argument and made it believable that there was a conspiracy to expand slavery that Lincoln challenged in that speech.” Reflecting on her experience in the class, she added, “I’ve learned that you can make any argument believable based on how you present it.”

As for his experience in the classroom, O’Gorman said, “I’m a student of Lincoln and I’m still learning about this great man.”

## headlines . . .

**DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AND PROSPER**

Dale Brashers, Department Head

In last year's newsletter, Barbara Wilson wrote that change was the one thing we can count on in large organizations. She was right, of course, and we've seen many more changes this year. Our department continues to grow and prosper—and we have many exciting new things to tell you about.

One big change involves Barb herself. This year she became vice provost of Academic Affairs, a high-level administrative position that makes use of her many talents as a leader and scholar. Barb also was selected to be a fellow of the International Communication Association, along with faculty member and Associate Chancellor Jesse Delia. Barb and Jesse became two of only 54 living ICA fellows worldwide, including Scott Poole, another of our faculty members.

Barb's promotion left open the director position in the Department of Communication. I assumed the position on January 1, 2009—as only the 6<sup>th</sup> head in the 62-year history of this amazing department. I'm humbled to follow in the footsteps of such great leaders as Karl Wallace, Roger Nebergall, Jesse Delia, David Swanson, and Barbara Wilson.

Our department name change (from Speech Communication to Communication) has been officially approved at all levels and we're already feeling the interest and excitement generated by this change—we are up to nearly 800 majors, from about 400 just five years ago, and we had a 60 percent increase in applications for our graduate program this year.

We're also developing an online master's degree program in health communication. We'll have more information about this program in the coming months.

We have had three additions to the faculty—Mardia Bishop, Marian Huhman, and John

Murphy. You can read more about them in the faculty news and notes.

Another big change that influenced the department was the retirement of Ruth Anne Clark. Ruth Anne is one of the leading scholars in the communication discipline in developmental communication, and her work with Professor Jesse Delia on communication goals is among the most widely cited research on communication. To recognize her contributions to research, teaching, and service, we've started the "Ruth Anne Clark Student Research Award" fund, to enable undergraduate and graduate students to apply for funds to complete research projects. You'll find more information on how you can contribute to the fund in the following pages.

So things keep changing—but in many happy ways. We just graduated another class of bright and talented students. We had excellent speakers (graduating senior Mark Pradun and alum Stephen Bardo) who challenged our graduates to make the most of their education and experiences at the University. Join us in welcoming them to the Illinois alumni family!



*Dale Brashers, head of the Department of Communication*

**COMMUNICATION LEADERS' EVENTS HELP INCREASE NUMBER OF MAJORS**

Year three has been a busy one for the department's Communication Leaders. The 30 department ambassadors were advised by Professors Ruth Anne Clark and John Lammers, who contributed to the decision-making, planning process, and overall success of the group.

The Leaders hosted two large projects this year: the Communication Fair in October and the Internship and Career Information Night in the spring. Both were well attended, by eager and enthusiastic students seeking more information about the major and what it has to offer. The Communication Fair gave students more information about the major, classes, and paths to take after graduation.

The Internship and Career Information Night showcased various internship opportunities and actual student internship experiences. Panels included representatives from State Farm, Aerotek, and Teach For America. Several Leaders discussed their own internship experiences. There was also a session about graduate school options. Professor Dave Tewksbury and a few graduate students discussed graduate school and the value of advanced degrees. All of these events will now be held annually.

The Communication Leaders ended the year with the Communication Major Social, which was held in April, on the Chi Omega Patio. Students met informally with the Communication Leaders, faculty, and graduate students.

In their short history, the Communication Leaders have definitely made their mark on the department, helping to increase the number of majors to over 800. Kudos to everyone who worked to make these events successful!

## LAMBDA PI ETA: CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Excellence does have its rewards—especially for University of Illinois communication students who are invited to join Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association’s undergraduate honorary society. Lambda Pi Eta originated in 1985, when University of Arkansas communication students recognized the need for an undergraduate honors society in the field of communication and created the first chapter. In 1995, the National Communication Association established Lambda Pi Eta as its official honor society for undergraduates. A year later, Lambda Pi Eta was inducted into the Association of College Honor Societies.

Under the direction of Professor Brian Quick, the Department of Communication adopted our own chapter in 2008, joining the over 400 Lambda Pi Eta chapters worldwide. Pleased with how many of our students quali-

fied, Quick noted that the department “inducted 93 students in our inaugural ceremony last spring.”

“I really enjoyed the way the induction ceremony honored our knowledge of communication studies,” inductee Jacquelyn Grimes remarked. “Barbara Wilson, head of the Department of Communication and Lambda Pi Eta director, Brian Quick, spoke of the importance of the field of communication. It is great to know that our studies are not only beneficial to ourselves but also to society.”

As an honor society, Lambda Pi Eta recognizes, fosters, and rewards outstanding scholastic achievement. It aims to stimulate interest in the field of communication by providing an opportunity for students to exchange ideas with faculty. Lambda Pi Eta also promotes communication students’ pro-

fessional development through faculty/student mentoring.

Lambda Pi Eta’s title is derived from Aristotle’s three rhetorical proofs: Logos (logic), Pathos (emotion), and Ethos (character and credibility), which all communication students learn about in their argumentation courses.

“Students who are high achievers, not only in their major but in all of their coursework, are honored with a certificate suitable for framing, a lapel pin, and honor cords,” said Quick, who adds the cords are “golden for golden students.”

Reflecting on his own experience, inductee Jonathan Fritz said, “It is very nice to reward students by recognizing their accomplishments in a ceremony. It was a really great opportunity to be proud of our work!”



## STUDENT RESEARCHERS FIND UNCERTAINTY HAS ITS REWARDS

Most of us know that feeling—not knowing what the future holds. Uncertainty. Few of us like it, and yet communication graduate students Summer Carnett and Anne Stone found funding to research it.

As students in health communication, both Carnett and Stone study uncertainty’s productive effects on those whose loved ones, or they themselves, are coping with a diagnosis of a debilitating disease. Carnett examines the communication practices of those experiencing Parkinson’s disease, while Stone researches adult children whose parents have Alzheimer’s disease.

Both students received a \$5,000 grant from the Educational Center for Healthy Minds to support their studies of how uncertainty affects diagnosed individuals and their social support systems.

“The exciting thing is that the grant allowed me to conduct a pilot test of my questions for my dissertation,” Stone said, who presented her findings at the National Communication Association (NCA) conference in November 2008.

Carnett, who also presented her research at NCA last fall, describes how she and Stone learned about the grant. “In Dr. Brashers’ class, we wrote a grant proposal and in a community

health class, Dr. Shaneen mentioned two grants for the study of aging populations.”

“The grant really helped me sharpen my ideas for my dissertation,” Carnett said.

The grant provided funds to purchase digital recorders, transcribing machines, and money to recruit subjects and to pay transcribers.

Understanding how uncertainty works in the medical diagnosis and social networking stages of managing chronic illness can have “a positive component,” Carnett said.

Both students are continuing their research, which now includes the experience of managing a grant, “which,” Stone adds, “was truly a lesson in itself.”

*“I would not be on my path, pursuing this passion, without the expert influence and guidance of Ruth Anne Clark.”*

—Michael Brandwein (BA '75), legal expert and chair of the Department of Communication Alumni Advisory Board

## Honoring Professor Ruth Anne Clark

On April 26, 2008, the Department of Communication hosted a reception at the Illini Union to honor Professor Ruth Anne Clark on the occasion of her retirement. Over 100 faculty, alumni, students, and guests gathered to celebrate her teaching, research, and service to the University of Illinois.

It is no exaggeration to say that Ruth Anne Clark has touched the lives of every graduate student and countless undergraduates who have passed through the Department of Communication in the last 40 years. She has done that by exemplifying a life of scientific inquiry, by inspiring students, and by being a lifelong advocate and mentor for her advisees.

In 1967, Karl Wallace, then head of the department, wrote to offer Clark a position on the faculty:

*Dear Miss Clark: I have the pleasure of inviting you to join us as an assistant professor of Speech at the salary of \$10,000 on a nine-month basis. You know, of course, how pleased we all are at the prospect of your coming. I trust you will telephone me very soon, saying that you will be with us. We shall do everything we can to make you feel comfortable and happy with us.*

It seems that Clark found a professional home that would make her name synonymous with the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois. She epitomizes the professoriate as an exemplary scholar, advisor, mentor, and teacher.

An exceptional and influential scholar, Clark's contributions to the field include founding a major area of research; the study of message production. Prior to her research, communication scholars studied a variety of different kinds of messages (e.g., different strategies for persuading others). Her research led to a systematic way of understanding why people produce different kinds of messages. She also has conducted studies on the development of communication abilities in children, showing links between cognitive development in children and important communication skills, such as the ability to take the other person's perspective in conversations. Perspective-taking, as a research concept in interpersonal communication, owes its evolution to Ruth Anne Clark.



Alumnus Todd Rendleman

John Caughlin, professor of communication and an interpersonal communication scholar, had this to say about Ruth Anne Clark's work:

*It is impossible to overstate the importance of Ruth Anne Clark's influence on the field of*

*communication. She has provided insights into communication that are now taken for granted. For example, Ruth Anne's articulation of the various objectives that are relevant to communication has become so widespread that scholars often write about these without knowing where they came from. But it was Ruth Anne Clark who gave the field these insights, and they continue to be important, even in research areas that could not have been imagined when Ruth Anne first wrote about these concepts.*

Clark has served as advisor to more than 100 graduate students during

her career. She inspires her advisees to work hard, to think outside the box, and to have confidence in their ideas. Sally Jackson, associate provost and chief information officer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, writes, “She taught me how to think about methods, shaping the core of one important strand of my published work, and she taught me how to think about messages, shaping the core of the other strand. But mainly she taught me how to think...”

Naomi Sugimoto says she owes “Professor Clark more than words in any language can possibly express.” In 1986, when she first came to the University of Illinois as a non-degree Rotary scholar, Sugimoto intended to stay in Urbana-Champaign for only a year. “In the very first semester, however, I took a research methods

course from Ruth Anne and quickly made up my mind to return to Illinois after completing my undergraduate degree in Japan for graduate training in Speech Communication under her supervision. Ruth Anne chaired committees for both my master's and doctoral degrees in the seven years that followed and has been my life-long mentor for the past 20 years.”

In addition to her own advisees, she has shaped the research careers of countless other students in her role as the core instructor of our graduate level introductory research methods course. She has taught that course nearly every year since she came to Illinois. She has supervised the basic public speaking course, training nearly 30 teaching assistants each year. Two current PhD students write, “One could imagine someone in a course director position becoming complacent and even jaded about working on the same course for so long—especially a course that, frankly, many students take reluctantly. Ruth Anne, however, has endless enthusiasm for helping young people to become effective speakers and helping graduate students become effective teachers.”

Clark is a generous mentor who is able to discern the particular needs and circumstances of each student she encounters. And her influence



Professor Ruth Anne Clark

*“If it were not for Ruth Anne, I would never have considered an academic career, and to this day, I feel that I can never begin to pay her back for what she has done for me in both the professional and personal aspects of my life.”*

—Naomi Sugimoto (MA '90; PhD '94), Keio University, Japan

persists over time. Dr. Shirley Willihnganz, a former student who is now executive vice president and university provost of the University of Louisville, writes, “There’s not a day when I’m not aware that much of who I am, she taught me to be.”

Clark’s contributions to the field and to the department reach deeply into the hearts and minds of her students who recall how supportive she was and how she continues, even today, to be interested in their professional and personal lives. Michael Brandwein describes his first class with Professor Clark in the early '70s as “a stunner.”

*The deep respect she showed for students made the classroom atmosphere safe to have helpful discussions. Students were teaching and supporting each other, creating a learning environment from which one can only wish other teachers would learn. It was hardly surprising that her classes had such high attendance.*

Brandwein describes going to Clark’s office at the end of the semester to suggest additional ways to help students learn some of the techniques that had been taught in class. “Her response was astounding. Right there, instantly, she said: ‘Would you be willing to help me teach the course next semester?’ From that moment, I became an unofficial undergraduate teaching assistant, unofficial because such a position did not exist. She just made it up! In doing so, she gave me my first full opportunity to prepare and present my own lessons under the supervision of a master teacher.” Such responsive and innovative teaching grew into the department’s Undergraduate Teaching Internship Program. Many students have benefitted from this experience in the years since.

Two undergraduates remembered Professor Clark with these comments:



Former department head Barbara Wilson

*she’d feel like she hadn’t taught it to us.... We can’t let her down.’ So we re-opened our books and studied some more.*

*We had just concluded that we had studied enough to get at least a B on the exam and that with our other already high grades throughout the semester, we were virtually guaranteed an A as a final grade. With other exams to study for, we were eager to close the books on the Clark class and move on. But not one of us could bring ourselves to do it. Why? ‘If we didn’t know one of the answers,*



Alumna and former student of Ruth Anne Clark, Sally Jackson is now associate provost and chief information officer at U of I.

*It is one thing to look back on a teacher and remember her excellence. It is quite another to say that over 20 years later, the opportunities to learn and grow, which she graciously and skillfully provided, allowed me to change professions and continue to affect me, and others through me, every day of my life.*

As we celebrate Ruth Anne Clark’s contributions to the field, we in the Department of Communication know that her influence has helped define and shape the department into what it is today. A former doctoral student summarizes Clark’s remarkable legacy in the following way: “Her fine mind, graceful spirit, endless enthusiasm and optimism, and willingness to work with students in whatever capacity they need has made her the rock of the department at Illinois.”

To honor Ruth Anne Clark, a fund has been established in her name: the Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Award Fund. This fund recognizes Ruth Anne’s longstanding commitment to student engagement in scholarly pursuits.

The award will assist our most promising students who are interested in pursuing independent research and scholarship. These will be merit-based awards that will help defray the costs associated with different types of research projects. Our goal is to make this a permanently endowed fund with a meaningful annual disbursement. Consequently, we have set a goal of raising a minimum of \$150,000. To demonstrate their appreciation and dedication to the endowment, the faculty members of the department have pledged over \$20,000 to start the fund. We would be most grateful if you could join us in honoring Ruth Anne.

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Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You can contribute or pledge online: [www.communication.illinois.edu/alumni/giving](http://www.communication.illinois.edu/alumni/giving). The online plan is flexible; you can make immediate contributions or set up payments on a recurring basis. If you prefer, you can use the giving form on page 9 of this newsletter, or you may call the Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Advancement: (217) 333-7108 or (877) 265-4910 (toll-free). If you contribute by phone, please be sure to refer to the Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Award Fund (772891).

## MCCHESNEY RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARD

Whether as a publisher of a Seattle weekly music magazine or as a co-founder of Free Press (the nation's largest media reform organization), media scholar and communication Professor Robert McChesney has made his mark on the media world. His groundbreaking book *Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times* (New Press, 1998) received the International Communication Association's (ICA) Fellows Book Award in May 2008. The award recognizes books that have made substantial contributions to the field of communication and whose arguments have stood the test of time.

*Rich Media, Poor Democracy* has had multiple printings and continues to be widely read by media scholars, activists, students, and those simply interested in media matters. The book posits that corporate media have become an anti-democratic force in the United States and across the globe. It also examines what McChesney calls a paradox of current media ownership and the decrepit state of journalism in the United States. "The title says it all," McChesney said. In *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*, McChesney identifies "the big lie" about our media structures: that the free market compels corporate media to "give the people what they want."

"*Rich Media, Poor Democracy* is an important volume that has made a major difference in the way scholars and public officials frame important regulatory/ownership issues," wrote the ICA Fellows Nominating Committee. "It has exerted great influence and is still cited regularly by scholars both inside and outside communication. *Rich Media, Poor Democracy* is the epitome of public scholarship in communication."

Reflecting on the book's impact over the past decade, McChesney said, "After eight years of the Bush administration, the world seemed innocent then." The media landscape "has changed for the worse. There's been a disintegration of journalism and when journalism is gutted, people will stop consuming the product. Something had

to give (as) our constitutional system of government requires an informed electorate."

In *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*, McChesney argues that citizens must organize to restructure the media in order to affirm their and the media's connection to democratic ideals. In the coming years, McChesney hopes for "more balance in the media, network neutrality, and an increase in public funding for community media."

As a side note, McChesney proudly acknowledges that Illinois faculty claimed half of the 2008 ICA awards.

## COMMUNICATION AT WORK: CASEY MEYER (BA, 2008)

Recent communication graduate Casey Meyer always had her eyes on the prize. "I always thought I'd work somewhere big," she said. And that's exactly what she's found in her position at the international firm Caterpillar, Inc. "I can't think of a better place to be doing what I'm doing and the Department of Communication enabled me to be here."

After graduating in 2008, Meyer began working as an assistant communication representative in Caterpillar's professional development program, a program modeled after corporate business vocational programs. "It's two 18-month stints in a business unit. I'm in North Carolina for 18 months and will go back to Peoria at the main campus for 18 months," Meyer stated. After three years of training, Meyer will be placed in another professional development unit where she will build upon her communication skills.

As an assistant communication representative, Meyer consults with departments on communicating equipment efficiency and quality as well as controlling costs. Meyer stands on the communication side of this process. "My customers are the internal employees," she noted. She writes a newsletter, crafts customer surveys,

and assists with focus groups. "It's really fun, but it's also tough because it isn't always happy data we get. Still, I'm using skills I learned in school and having the freedom to try them out."

Meyer believes her communication classes prepared her well for her professional role. "My writing classes taught me to construct concise arguments, something I do every single day. Also, I'm in at least two meetings a day and my interpersonal and small group classes taught me how to work in a group. Understanding group dynamics makes my life so much easier," she said.

Communication classes also taught Meyer how to research and write questions for her surveys. "At CAT, we do internal surveys of our communication processes, because we want to know how effective our communication tools have been over the year. I use the skills I learned way more than I thought I would," Meyer said.

Meyer is making a great impression at Caterpillar as she recently secured a company grant for the Communication Leaders, an undergraduate professional development and service group for Communication majors. "CAT is always looking for groups that support students' career enhancement," she said, noting that Caterpillar's support is not limited to engineers and business majors. "We're open to student organizations in needed fields like communication. When I told my managers about the Leaders, they were impressed by its mission."

Caterpillar wants to hire "the best and the brightest," Meyer said, "and believes Illinois offers this in all of its programs, especially the field of communication."

For Meyer, life at Caterpillar is not all that different from university life. "Working here is sort of like school. You go up the levels just like we did in our 100- to 400-level classes."

## MURPHY ADDRESSES PRESIDENTIAL RHETORIC

Election years are exciting times for rhetoricians, especially for John Murphy, who has devoted his career to the study of presidential rhetoric. Mur-



Alumna Casey Meyer

# faculty news

phy joined the faculty this fall just in time for the general election.

“Presidential rhetoric helps to shape and constrain our choices,” Murphy notes. “The way presidents talk and the agendas they set shape our choices and our own public talk.”



Professor John Murphy

This fall, Murphy taught two presidential rhetoric courses that helped students place the 2008 general election in larger rhetorical context. “The premise of my classes is that presidency is an institution that is scripted through the genre of speeches. For example, in all State of the Union addresses there are recurring genres of messages. In my classes, we see how institutions reshape themselves through these speeches.”

Such understanding, according to Murphy, helps students become good citizens. “I want my students to know how these things work, so that when they watch an Obama speech, they can assess the way he positions himself in regards to history, his references to Lincoln, to economic policy, even to the Hamilton and Jefferson debates.”

In his classes and scholarly writings, Murphy suggests that President Obama self-consciously uses history and sees himself in the flow of history. “For instance,” Murphy observes, “We see this in Obama’s Joshua Generation speech in Selma and then in the March 18, 2008, speech on race in America.”

Murphy admits his interest in presidential rhetoric began in high school where he was a “debate geek, who had to read newspapers and come up with a 30-minute speech.” From studying the policy positions of presidents past to becoming a debate coach at Bradley University after graduating from college, Murphy’s work continues to grow with the social and political circumstances. “I’ve written about Kennedy’s post-war central liberalism, Clinton’s cunning genius, and Bush’s rebirth of religious rhetoric,” he says. “It’s been Obama, lately.”

**Scott Althaus** is continuing his work on two book projects addressing public support for war and media coverage of war. This past fall he accidentally stumbled across evidence that the Bush Administration had been deleting and revising documents archived as part of the public record in the White House webpages. He and collaborator Kalev Leetaru produced a report, *Airbrushing History, American Style*, that details the deletion and revision history to five documents containing lists of countries supporting the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Stay tuned for more findings to come, as Althaus and Leetaru are working with a group of Illinois undergraduate students to provide a broader analysis of changes to White House webpages.

**Mardia Bishop** joined the department to direct CMN 101, our core public speaking course. Bishop’s research focuses on beauty ideals, body image issues, and the cultural practices associated with manipulating the body in 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century America. She also works on contemporary theatre and American pop culture. She is co-editor of *Pop-Porn: Pornography in American Culture and Mommy Angst: Motherhood in American Culture*. In addition, she is a director and playwright of children’s theatre.

**Dale Brashers’** research on communication in chronic illness includes an ongoing study of uncertainty and organ transplantation (with graduate students Allison Scott, Summer Carnett, and Anne Stone), a study of communication and the management of diabetes (with graduate students Ashley Middleton, Laura Brown, Nicole LaVoie, Melinda Flegel, and Siobahn White, and Professor John Caughlin) and a meta-analysis of the HIV and social support literature (with former Illinois faculty members Daena Goldsmith and Daniel O’Keefe). Brashers also became the department head in January 2009.

**John Caughlin** (AB ’91) is the department’s director of Graduate Studies and associate editor for the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. He was recently elected vice-chair of the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association.

**Tom Conley’s** new book, *Toward a Rhetoric of Insult*, will be published by the University of Chicago Press next spring.

**Tom Costello** has been with our department for nearly 36 years. He has the opportunity each year to welcome freshman to college life as he teaches the Discovery section of CMN

101. Costello helps students close out their college career and launch their professional career as an instructor of CMN 211 “Business Communication.” Costello is a board member and serves as secretary of the Illini Media Corporation, the parent company of the Daily Illini and WPGU. Costello has served as the television host of the Champaign County Fourth of July Parade for over 20 years. He is also a past chair and board member of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation. Costello was recently appointed chair of the Urbana Civilian Police Review Board. He has been the assistant managing director of the award-winning Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District for the past 32 years and serves on the national Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association as the vice-chair of Marketing and Communications.

**Susan Davis** received an Arnold O. Beckman research award from the University of Illinois in Spring 2009. Davis’ article on Benjamin Botkin, one of the United States’ premiere folklore scholars and the first editor of the *Federal Writers Project Slave Narratives Collection*, is appearing in the *Journal of American Folklore* sometime in 2009. The article explores Botkin’s previously unexamined FBI file, and discusses why Botkin (among other folklorists) was the subject of federal surveillance and investigation from the late 1930s into the 1950s. Along with communication faculty Peggy Miller and Cara Finnegan and anthropology professor Nancy Abelman, Davis is working on an article about the “StoryCorps” phenomenon, a National Public Radio-sponsored project to collect and archive Americans’ personal narratives.

**Travis Dixon’s** work is dedicated to investigating the portrayal and effects of stereotypical representations in the news. Much of this work has historically examined stereotypes on television. Professor Dixon, however, is now beginning to work on projects that assess stereotyping in new media contexts such as the Internet. In addition, he is now spending more time examining significant news events such as television coverage regarding Hurricane Katrina. Professor Dixon also serves as the incoming chair of the Mass Communication Division of the National Communication Association.

**Shirley Faughn** joined the department to direct the internship program and teach CMN 411: Assessing Communication Problems in Organizations. As a member

## faculty news (continued)

of the C-U community since 1978, she has worked at the University in Student Affairs, taught in the College of Business, and owns the management consulting firm The Aslan Group with her business partner Bob Husband (CMN faculty '81-'08). She enjoys teaching ballroom dance, participating in half-marathons, and dabbling in watercolor. Her most challenging project recently was to design and build a new home which was completed Fall 2008. She is delighted to be a part of such a supportive and dynamic faculty and also to be back in the classroom.

**Cara Finnegan** headed up the Lincoln's Rhetorical Worlds speaker series (co-sponsored by the Department of Communication and the campus Lincoln Bicentennial Committee), which brought five top scholars of rhetoric to campus to give public lectures about Lincoln's communication. She also delivered a keynote address at the Visible Memories conference at Syracuse University, an interdisciplinary conference featuring an international lineup of communication scholars, art historians, and practicing artists. Teaching highlights this year included undergraduate courses in rhetorical criticism (always fun to teach during an election season) and visual politics. Finnegan regularly moderates online, real-time discussions of visual politics for the BAGnewsSalon, an offshoot of the popular political blog, BAGnewsNotes.

**Pat Gill** is a member of both the Department of Communication and Gender and Women's Studies. She is continuing her work on *Men Behaving Sadly: Anguished Male Cinema*, a critical and cultural exploration of films of the 1990s and first decade of the new millennium in which the profoundly disconsolate protagonists are in despair at what they feel and suspect about themselves, prompting them to agonized and often violent attempts at some sort of redemption. Gill is also working on a project tentatively named *Passionate Representations: Rhetoric, Self-Possession, and the Art of Composure in Eighteenth-Century English Fiction*, an endeavor to address the question of the verbal power and autonomy of women and their fictional counterparts in 18th-century England. This spring she taught CMN 396 "Popular Media and Culture: The Media and the War on Drugs" and another course entitled "Girls and Popular Culture."

**Grace Giorgio** (PhD '01) has developed an advanced version of CMN 220 "Communication and Controversies in Public Policy

(CCPP)."With the research and performance work of seven undergraduates who have taken the course, CCPP will be featured in the Fifth Congress of Qualitative Inquiry this spring. Giorgio also teaches CMN 432 "Gender and Language," advises undergraduate students, and assists with CMN 111/112. She covered the Obama inauguration for Piatt County's newspaper, *The Journal Republican*, and writes fiction, autoethnography, and news features for local papers, magazines, and academic journals. She continues to practice the art and teach yoga, which helps her manage all of her activities!

**Barbara Hall** celebrated 20 years of service to the Department of Communication this year as academic advisor. As she describes it, "I have the best job in the world: helping some of the best students ever achieve academic goals in a great department at a world-class institution!" Also, as part of a new MTD (Mass Transit District) campaign, Hall found herself pictured on the side and/or back of a bus giving "her best advice to students: use public transit," as she has also been an MTD passenger for 20 years. Next time you are in Champaign-Urbana, keep an eye out for "Barbara's bus."

**Kristen Harrison** spent the past year conducting experimental research investigating the effects of exposure to digitally retouched photos on adolescents' willingness to accept physical flaws in themselves and others. In January 2009, she began collecting data for a multidisciplinary research initiative called the STRONG Kids Project (STRONG standing for the Synergistic Theory and Research on Nutrition Group) to study media effects on childhood obesity and disordered eating within family and community contexts. The project investigates the health and weight status of two- to three-year-olds in daycares in central Illinois via biometric measurements of the toddlers themselves as well as surveys completed by their parents. Professor Harrison has been on sabbatical during the Spring 2009 semester.

**Kay Holley** teaches CMN 101 full-time for the department, including two sections for students in the LAS Bridge/Transition Program. In addition to her teaching, she appeared in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* by Martin McDonagh in January 2009 at the Station Theatre, Urbana.

**Marian Huhman** joined the Department of Communication in January 2009 after seven years as a researcher and evaluator of health campaigns at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. She is teaching a new course this

semester in social marketing in health contexts. Huhman's most recent paper on a summative evaluation of the VERB campaign was accepted for spring publication in the *American Journal of Public Health*. A 2008 book entitled *Public Health Branding: Applying Marketing for Social Change* included a chapter she wrote with co-authors, entitled "Branding play for children: VERB. It's what you do." Public health communication using social marketing approaches and evaluation of health communication efforts are her key interests.

**Bob Husband's** last year of teaching in the department held fond memories of wonderful students and experiences spanning nearly three decades. Husband continues to do practical research and reading in the areas of leadership and organizational communication. His consulting will increase this summer and will take him from one end of the country to the other. A real joy in this work is the wonderful opportunity it affords Bob to visit and work with several past communication majors who are making their mark on corporate America and society as a whole. On a personal note, his family is doing well and his one and only grandson lives less than an hour away—a strange sensation being that close to the center of the universe.

**Leanne Knobloch** is honored to have received the Gerald R. Miller Award for Early Career Achievement from the International Association for Relationship Research and the Early Career Award from the Interpersonal Communication Division of the National Communication Association. After spending the Fall 2008 semester conducting research on communication among maritally distressed couples, teaching a new graduate seminar on uncertainty in relationships, and working closely with the Communication Leaders undergraduate organization (whew!), she looked forward to her sabbatical during the Spring 2009 semester.

**Michele Koven** is on sabbatical this year in Washington, D.C., affiliated with Georgetown University. She is working on a number of projects that continue her interests in language and identity among bilinguals. In her free time, she is enjoying seeing nearby family, D.C. sights, tastes, and other happenings. It was quite something to be in D.C. during Obama's inauguration!

**John Lammers** continues to develop and apply institutional theory to communication in and between organizations, that means studying the way wider social forces like laws,



contracts, and professionalism influence what happens to organizations internally. Recently he and PhD candidate Mattea Garcia completed a two-year study of professionals working at a veterinary hotline. Their article, "Exploring the Concept of 'Profession' For Organizational Communication Research: Institutional Influences in a Veterinary Organization," was published in the February 2009 issue of *Management Communication Quarterly*. In addition, Lammers and master's student Dan Willbrandt recently completed a paper using institutional theory to explain leadership failure. This year Lammers and a new group of graduate students are studying professionalism and organizational change in a large information technology organization. He will also serve as an advisor to the Communication Leaders.

**Robert McChesney** wrote a new book, *The Political Economy of Media*, which was published in Spring 2008. McChesney also gave several guest lectures and conference presentations. He also hosts "Media Matters," a weekly program on WILL-AM radio.

**Ned O'Gorman** is finishing a book on national security discourse during the early Cold War. The book looks at the rhetoric of George F. Kennan, John Foster Dulles, Dwight Eisenhower, and Charles Douglas Jackson in their debates about the best way to combat the Soviets, and argues that at its heart their debate was as much about what kind of nation America's world image should develop as what would work best in combating the Soviets.

**Scott Poole** was awarded the Steven H. Chaffee Career Productivity Award by the International Communication Association in May 2008. The award honors a scholar for sustained work on a communication research problem over an extended period. Poole was also honored as a David and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar by the College of Liberal Arts, which runs for a three-year term. Poole and former Communication colleagues Noshir Contractor and Dmitri Williams have been working on a multi-university project, "Virtual Worlds: An Exploratorium for Theorizing and Modeling the Dynamics of Group Behavior." This project investigates groups and networks of participants in the online game Everquest2. Poole also saw the publication of the 6th edition of his textbook, *Working Through Conflict: Strategies for Relationships, Groups, and Organizations* during 2008. Poole taught SPCM 413 "Advanced Group Communication" in Spring 2008, and offered a newly designed large lecture plus

discussion version of CMN 212 "Introduction to Organizational Communication" in Fall 2008. He also offered a graduate seminar on "Communication and Change."

**Brian Quick** has spent the past year examining the role of psychological reactance in processing advertisements and public service announcements across a variety of contexts. His work has also examined news coverage of steroids in sports as well as the role of framing organ donation messages from the vantage point of organ donors, donor recipients, and individuals on the national waiting list. On a personal note, Professor Quick and his wife, Cindi, gave birth to their second child, Gehrig, in July 2008.

**Tracy Sulkin's** research focuses on the linkages between election campaigns and democratic governance. This year she is completing a book on campaign promise-making and promise-keeping by members of Congress that examines whether legislators pursue in office those issues they prioritize in their campaigns (they do!) and how the language they use when talking about those issues sends signals about their future activity.

**Christian Sandvig** was promoted to associate professor and continues his research and focus in teaching on technology and public policy. Last spring break, in partnership with the Informatics Institute, he took members of his CMN 496 class on a very long field trip: they spent nine days in rural California researching an advanced wireless Internet system that serves Indian Reservations. In 2008-2009 he serves as a fellow of the iFoundry, an initiative to promote curriculum development on technical topics at Illinois. He spent last summer as a visiting professor at Intel Research in Portland, Ore., where he launched a collaborative research project to investigate communication infrastructure in non-Western countries. A student-led research collaboration (with Eric Gilbert and Karrie Karahalios) about rural users of social networking sites won best paper at the premier conference on Computer-Human Interaction 2008. In the last year, he gave a variety of invited lectures on communication technology and policy, including talks at the Wharton School of Business and to the government of Singapore. He recently developed a new graduate course titled "Unorthodox Research Methods" that includes an accompanying website about controversial research methods in social science: [www.mismethodology.org](http://www.mismethodology.org) (new submissions welcome).

## INVEST IN OUR DEPARTMENT'S FUTURE

**Your support for the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will ensure continued excellence in teaching, research, and public engagement.**

**YES! I would like to support the Department of Communication with a gift of:**

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**I wish to designate my gift this year to:**

- Communication Annual Fund, which supports an array of activities (334873)
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## faculty news (continued)

**Dan Schiller** is a historian of communication and information. After receiving his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1978, he worked successively at the Centre for Mass Communication Research at the University of Leicester; Temple University; UCLA; and UCSD before coming to the University of Illinois in 2001. He is the author of many research articles and several books: *Objectivity and the News* (1981); *Telematics and Government* (1982); *Theorizing Communication* (1996); *Digital Capitalism* (1999); and *How to Think about Information* (2007). Presently, he is continuing research and writing on a long-standing book project, provisionally titled *The Hidden History of U.S. Telecommunications*. Schiller's appointment is split between Communication and the Graduate School of Library & Information Science.

**Michelle Shumate's** research focuses on the formation of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations over time. She is working on a study of what motivates and enables individuals to form nonprofit organizations. In addition, she is completing work on a two-year project investigating the various ways in which HIV/AIDS, Infectious Disease, Third World Development, and Sustainable Development nongovernmental organizations have networked over the past 50 years.

**Inger L. Stole's** research and teaching reflect her interest in the historical and contemporary aspects of the advertising and public relations industries. She is also interested in the history of consumer activism and contemporary aspects of consumer resistance to advertising and commercialization. Her first book, *Advertising on Trial: Consumer Activism and Corporate Public Relations in the 1930s*, was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2006. Her present work explores political and economic aspects of advertising during the Second World War and beyond. To share her knowledge, Stole is teaching CMN 396 "Propaganda: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives" during the Spring 2009 semester.

**David Tewksbury**, the department's new associate head, focuses on mass communication. He and two graduate students are working on the psychological processes behind audience exposure to Internet-based political information. One project is designed to determine the role of partisan predispositions in the selection and processing of political news. The primary research question in this project asks how predispositions filter audience perceptions of the meaning of news headlines and

stories. A parallel project examines how political partisans scan information on political campaign websites. The goal of this project is the observation of how people select information on campaign sites and how the consumption of campaign information influences the direction and strength of judgments about candidates.

**Barbara Wilson** was appointed vice provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois on January 1, 2009. For the past seven years, she served as head of the Department of Communication. In her new role, she will assist the provost in all matters related to academic affairs on campus, including oversight of faculty promotion and tenure processes and strategic hiring programs. She will also work closely with the provost on campus-level research initiatives, strategic directions for the campus, and resource management. She can already see that her days will be full of meetings as she works to learn about the multitude of units and activities at this complex institution. In the meantime, she is still working with graduate students on a number of research projects related to youth and media. She recently traveled to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to present findings related to her study on the quality of educational TV programming targeted toward children. With any spare time in her day, she relishes quiet moments with her daughters, Isabel and Grace, who are not very quiet and would prefer to be at the dance studio or in front of a computer screen.

**Trina Wright** studies the intersections between gender, race, and class in organizations. Her interests include areas of resistance experienced in organizations as well as communication with an emphasis on organizational socialization. She is working on advancing several articles that address the life and work experiences of non-managerial women of color.



Michael Brandwein was the alum speaker at graduation 2008.

## class notes

## 1950s

**Arthur Williams** (AB '56, MA '57) received a doctorate from Columbia University in 1968. He continues working as a writer and entrepreneur in Tampa, Fla.

## 1960s

**Carol Benson** (AB '63) is a speech teacher and adjunct lecturer for the Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Department of the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York City.

**Michael Prosser** (PhD '64) has published many works on cross-cultural communication studies. He has also been a lecturer and presenter at many distinguished conferences in China and is a member of the editorial board and English "polisher" of *Middle East and Islamic Studies Journal* and *Communication Quarterly*. Michael is currently a Distinguished Professor of the College of Journalism and Communication, chair of the International Advisory Board at the Shanghai International Studies University Intercultural Institute, and co-senior editor of the SISU Intercultural Institute Intercultural Research Series of the Shanghai International Studies University.

**Madeline Keaveney** (MA '69, PhD '72) has recently retired as an emeritus faculty member from California State University, Chico. She currently volunteers her time substituting in primary grades and at the local elementary school. She is still a fanatic Red Sox fan and enjoys spending time with her daughter and three-year-old granddaughter.

## 1970s

**Jennifer Hubbard Cyr** (AB '70) became a medical doctor in 1986. She now practices psychiatry privately in Omaha, Neb., and has four children.

**Joyce (Klowden) Porter** (AB '71) is a professor emeritus of Moraine Valley Community College. Also an actor, she played a role in several independent films including *Chicago Overcoat*, *Crimefiction*, and *The Art of Pain*.

**Gay Greenwood Kirkton** (AB '79) is the chair of the English Department at DeKalb High School in Auburn, Ind., where she teaches English and speech. She has two children, a daughter who recently graduated from the University of Indianapolis and a son who is in his sophomore year at Purdue. Her husband, Rick, teaches at Angola High School. She will teach a high school speech class for college credit this fall and will also serve as a literacy coach for fellow high school teachers.

## 1980s

**Paul M. Lisnek** (AB '80, MA '80, PhD '85) is now the political analyst for WGN-TV appearing on the morning and noon news

programs discussing national politics. Paul's 13th book, *The Art of Lawyering*, will be published by Sourcebooks in spring 2009. He is currently working on his first legal fiction novel, where the hero's communication background is critical to solving the crime!

**Alicia Banks** (AB '84) is a scholar, educator, public intellectual, radio producer, talk show host, DJ, columnist, singer, and was featured in *Who's Who of American Women 2008-2009*.

**Shari Cartwright Schmidt** (AB '85) completed her master's degree at UIC in '94 and is currently running her own consulting firm. Prior to owning Communications Consulting, Shari was a part of the dinner dance committee of the Crisis Center of South Suburbia, a women and children's shelter. She also contracted with a leading international consulting firm to provide marketing communications services. Presently she resides in Palos Hills, Ill., with her husband of 10 years and their twin four-year-old daughters.

**Scott Chantos** (AB '86) is currently director of sales at the Timberland Company and was awarded the John Lewis Leadership Award for 2007-2008.

**1990s**

**Karen Epstein Huneke** (AB '98) is a second grade Montessori teacher at Stephens Elementary. She was recently married and has been nominated for the Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

**Sean Kelly** (AB '98) was married in November 2007 and is a graduate student at DePaul University working toward a master's degree in instructional technology. He is currently assistant dean of information technology at the City Colleges of Chicago—Olive Harvey College.

**2000s**

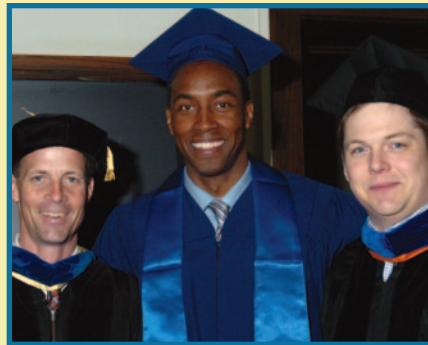
**Thone Phan** (AB '03) is currently working for Mayer Brown LLP, a global law firm in Chicago. He works as a business development coordinator and has been in the position for over a year.

**Emily (McElwain) Snyder** (AB '04) is currently pursuing a master's degree in education from DePaul University and works part-time as a nanny. She most recently worked at MARC USA, an advertising agency in Chicago. After she completes her master's in June 2009, she plans to teach social studies at the secondary level.

**Gregory Bailey** (AB '07) has been working for the Harrington College of Design in Chicago. His position as admissions advisor enables him to not only utilize the communication skills he learned as an undergraduate, but also allows him to help make a difference in a prospective student's life. On a day-to-day basis he meets with students and helps them achieve their educational and professional goals.

**Cali Loria** (AB '07) is currently the youth counselor at the McCrossan Boys Ranch in North Dakota where she has directed poetry groups. She is now the proud mother of her first son, Kingsley James Seguro Green.

**Rebecca Murrow** (AB '07) is a program coordinator for Creative Group, Inc., where she specializes in meeting and incentive planning. She enjoys traveling to San Diego, Calgary, and Dallas regularly for work and is excited to be going to Monaco this March. She has successfully recovered from open heart surgery and enjoys spending time with her puppy, Toby.



Faculty members Dave Tewksbury, left, and John Caughlin, right, with Stephen Bardo, alum speaker at graduation 2009.



Students are marshalled out of Lincoln Hall to Foelinger Auditorium prior to the graduation ceremony.

## CONNECT WITH COMMUNICATION

Working with the Department of Communication this past year has been so rewarding. As part of my work, I had the unique opportunity to meet with alumni who have become attorneys, teachers, public relations professionals, reporters, human resource managers, and trainers. The range of professions our department produces is truly amazing. That's what makes communication such a great major. Every alumnus I have met values having a communication background.

Our alumni remain interested in the department and want to hear about what our faculty members are doing. They love to share their unique Illinois experiences. Everyone has a story that stands out.

Hearing from alumni is important to us, and there are so many ways to become more connected. Some of our alumni have joined the Communication Alumni Advisory Board, which we introduced in the last newsletter. Others have shown their support with a contribution to our general fund, to a scholarship, or endowed fund for a favorite instructor (such as the one established this year in honor of Professor Ruth Anne Clark). Our website makes it easy to do. You can also connect with the next generation of students through mentorships, internships, or recruitment opportunities. If you would like to get more involved, do not hesitate to contact me at [andralee@illinois.edu](mailto:andralee@illinois.edu).

—Andra Lee

Assistant Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Summer 2009  
Speaking of...Communication  
Editors: Barbara Hall  
Grace Giorgio

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## WE'VE MOVED

Because of Lincoln Hall's renovation, the Department of Communication is now located at 1207 W. Oregon St., Urbana, IL, 61801. Our phone number remains (217) 333-2683.

## GOT INTERSHIPS?

Communication students are eager for real-world experience. We offer our students class credit for interning with organizations that put them to work in a supervised learning setting.

Employers who partner with us report that they benefit from our students' communication skills and gain from evaluating the on-the-job performance of potential employees. Communication interns are skilled, enthusiastic, and recognize the value of a realistic preview of practical work experience.

If you have internship opportunities to offer or would like more information, please contact Dr. Shirley Faughn or Amy Holland via email: [comm-internships@illinois.edu](mailto:comm-internships@illinois.edu).

## Communication Alums: Let Us Know What You Are Doing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate all U of I degrees:

AB year \_\_\_\_\_ MA year \_\_\_\_\_ PhD year \_\_\_\_\_

Current position and employer (if retired, indicate last position prior to retirement):  
\_\_\_\_\_

List accomplishments/publications/personal news for the past year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Department of Communication  
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