

The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR DR. DAWN O. BRAITHWAITE

Dear Communication Studies Students, Colleagues & Friends,

It is great to be back on campus here in Lincoln. I appreciated the opportunity to take a spring sabbatical and concentrate on my research. Thanks to Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas for stepping in as Acting Chair through May 15th. Speaking of Jody, we were delighted to celebrate her promotion to Full Professor.

Our Speech & Debate Reunion was held in June. Ninety attended, four from 1950s teams. We heard great stories and what a difference S&D has made in the lives of these students and coaches. We kicked off the Jack Kay fund to honor Jack and develop a scholarship. We appreciate alumni who came and all who generously support the program financially. We definitely need you.

We are delighted that two alumni, Jere McGaffey (1957, member of the debate team) and Kelly Luethje (2000) are members of Dean Francisco's inaugural College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board. We are grateful for their service and commitment. We also congratulate Jere on his **UNL Alumni Achievement Award**.



Dean Joseph Francisco, Karla Bergen, and Dr. Dawn Braithwaite at Las Vegas NCA

There is much new leadership at Nebraska. Actually, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Joseph Francisco is starting his 3rd year. He is a world class Chemist and member of the National Academy of Sciences. Some of you met Dean Joe at the NCA convention in Las Vegas. He loved meeting everyone and hearing what alumni and colleagues in the discipline said about the department and faculty. He was impressed with the respect the department has in our field. As you can imagine, that has been a great benefit to us.

We have a new Chancellor—Dr. Ronnie Green started in May. He is a real gogetter and has ambitious goals for smart growth at Nebraska: http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/green-emphasizes-smart-growth-in-address/ You may have read about the passing of Dr. Prem Paul, our Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, who moved us ahead by leaps and bounds. We will have a new Executive VP and Provost (candidates coming in soon) and a new Executive VP for Research (and a split off position for Economic Development). Certainly Nebraska's move to the Big Ten has brought positive changes and growth.

Lots of awards to report! Look for announcements in this newsletter about *two* Distinguished Teaching Awards from the College of Arts & Sciences (Jody Kellas & Jordan Soliz), University of Nebraska system-wide Presidential Graduate Fellowship (Kaitlin Phillips), NCA Kibler Award (Bill Seiler), *Management Communication* Quarterly Article of the Year Award (Stacy Tye-Williams & Kathy Krone), NCA Interpersonal Communication Division Dissertation Award (Angela Palmer-Wackerly), CSCA Federation Prize (Kaitlin Phillips & Jordan Soliz), Folsom Distinguished Master's Thesis Award (Chase Aunspach).

Issue 16 Fall 2016

Featured Articles
Click on the story below to go
directly to that page

From the Chair of Communication Studies 1 & 2

Notable News 2 & 3

From the Director of Under-

5

6

8

NCA, Electoral Process

graduate Education

Interview with Under graduate Alumna,

Joslyn Dalton Ammar

Comm Club

Interview with <u>Graduate Alumna,</u> Ruth Kay

Speech & Debate

We appreciate your support 10

<u>Departmental</u>

Accomplishments 11, 12 &13

Alumni Updates 13 & 14

Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Alivia Michalski and Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite (Chair's column continued)

Our UNL reception at the NCA convention is Saturday November 12, 7:30-9:30 PM, Grand Salon B, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. We'll reserve the first hour for alumni and friends.

Keep in touch! Follow us on Twitter @CommAtUNL, "like" the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies on Facebook, and check out our website: http://comm.unl.edu/ We appreciate your support. "CommHuskers" past and present, you are always part of us and we are proud of you. GO BIG RED!

Ja Buildwete

Dawn O. Braithwaite, Willa Cather Professor and Chair dbraithwaite@unl.edu, 402 472-2069



Kaitlin Phillips

NU Presidential Fellow, Kaitlin Phillips

We congratulate Doctoral Candidate, **Kaitlin Phillips**, on receiving one of the select University of Nebraska system-wide Presidential Graduate Fellowships for 2016-17. Kaitlin is an outstanding scholar, teacher, and contributor to our program. She has been a Phyllis Japp Scholar and was the inaugural recipient of the department's Graduate Leadership Award, chosen by her peers. Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite, Communication Studies Department Chair observed, "Kaitlin is incredibly deserving of this honor and we are delighted that her work has been recognized with this award. The fellowship will allow Kaitlin to pursue her dissertation work full-time this academic year." https://nebraska.edu/president/newsandpress/president-hank-bounds-announces-prestigious-graduate-fellowship-recipients-16.html



Jordan Allen Receives Doctoral Honor

PhD Candidate, **Jordan Allen**, was selected to participate in the National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar held at Ohio University. Thirty-four top students representing 26 programs were chosen to participate. Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas was one of the faculty facilitators for the conference. https://www.natcom.org/Secondary.aspx?id=7321

Bill Seiler Wins National Communication Association's Robert J. Kibler Memorial Award

Created in 1978 to honor Robert J. Kibler, this award recognizes those qualities epitomized by Professor Kibler's professional and personal life, including dedication to excellence, commitment to the profession, concern for others, vision of what could be, acceptance of diversity, and forthrightness. The award announcement noted **Dr. Seiler's** commitment to the same qualities Robert Kibler demonstrated. NCA summarized:

"Over the course of his 45-year career in higher education, Dr. Seiler has demonstrated excellence in each of these areas. His greatest contributions in dedication to excellence, commitment to the profession, and concern for others is his dedication to student learning. Dr. Seiler has earned a well-deserved national reputation as an expert in the field of instructional communication. He is regarded as a pioneer and senior scholar to whom others turn for guidance and mentorship. Dr. Seiler inspires students to learn more about communication and pushes them to become better communicators. In addition, Dr. Seiler embodies the criteria of having a vision of what could be. His innovation in the classroom has resulted in a multitude of publications including several textbooks. Dr. Seiler's dedication to the profession and concern for others is also evidenced by his leadership roles."

Jordan Soliz and Kaitlin Phillips Win CSCA Federation Prize



Kaitlin Phillips

Kaitlin E. Phillips, a doctoral candidate in Communication Studies and Dr. Jordan Soliz, associate professor of Communication Studies, were awarded a Central States Communication Federation Research Prize to fund their research project, "Assessing Recruitment Strategies for Obtaining Ethnically and Racially Diverse Samples in Family Communication Research." Kaitlin accepted the award, which is the association's top research prize, at the annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 15.



Jordan Soliz



Jody Kellas



Jordan Soliz

Distinguished Teachers

Two Communication Studies faculty members Dr. Jody Kellas and Dr. Jordan Soliz, won one of just six Distinguished Teaching Awards from the College of Arts & Sciences this spring.

Castle Winner of ABC's Teaching with Technology Award

Dr. Kathy Castle, Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Communication Studies, has received the Pearson Award for Innovation in Teaching with Technology from the Association for Business Communication (ABC). The award recognizes innovative uses of technology to enhance learning and engagement in business communication classrooms. ABC will present the award at the annual international conference in Albuquerque, NM in October 2016 and Dr. Castle is invited to make a presentation of her work at the Association's 82nd conference in 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. http://www.businesscommunication.org/ Dr. Kathy Castle page/pearson-award?source=5



Jennifer Rome and Organization on **Women and Communication**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Jennifer Rome, was one of eight accepted to participate in the ORWAC-Organization on Women and Communication—Scholars' Retreat at the University of Colorado Denver directed by Sonja Foss and William Waters, June 1-3.



Jennifer Rome



Aleah Peters

Miss Nebraska's Communication Studies Connection

Recent Communication Studies graduate, Aleah Peters, has been named Miss Nebraska. Aleah will travel across the state to share her platform entitled, "Cyberbullying Prevention: Make Kindness Viral." Aleah expressed her appreciation for her education in Communication Studies this way, "I really enjoyed majoring in Communication Studies and learning how to communicate, advocate, negotiate, and educate. Public speaking is a major component of my job, and I look forward to using all of the skills I've learned at UNL."

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTRIBUTES TO 2016 ELECTORAL PROCESS



Diana Carlin speaking to the audience at *DebateWatch* 2016.

"The 2016 Presidential Race: Voter Anger, History Making, the Debates, and What it All Means--Well, Maybe"

That was the theme for September 19th's *DebateWatch* with **Dr. Diana Carlin**—an engaging event designed to help attendees get ready to think critically as they viewed the first Clinton-Trump Presidential debate. Dr. Carlin, emeritus professor of communication and associate vice president for graduate education at Saint Louis University, is the creator of *DebateWatch*. She is a PhD graduate of Communication Studies at UNI

Duncan Eyes Trump Supporters' TV Habits

Dr. Aaron Duncan wrote a fascinating essay that has appeared in the *New Republic* and been cited in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *U.S. News and World Report* among others. Check it out at https://newrepublic.com/article/135816/favorite-tv-shows-trump-supporters-can-tell-us-appeal



Dr. Aaron Dunca

Nebraska Today Interviews Dr. Aaron Duncan

Nebraska Today featured an interview with **Dr. Aaron Duncan** on the first Presidential Debate. See his comments at http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/husker-debate-coach-clinton-scores-higher-in-personality-contest/



NCA 2016

NOVEMBER 10-13 PHILADELPHIA, PA.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA RECEPTION SATURDAY, NOV. 12

7:30-8:30 pm: UNL Alumni & Friends 8:30-9:30 pm: Welcome Students & NCA Guests

GRAND SALON B
PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN



FROM DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

DR. KATHY CASTLE

Fall is by far my favorite time of year, due in large For those of you considering graduate school, part to the excitement that surrounds the start of a new academic year! It's always such a pleasure to see all of our students return to campus in the fall. We welcome all of you returning Communication Studies majors back to campus and are so excited to welcome many new, talented students into the fold!

As our community continues to grow, so too does our commitment to preparing our students for long-term success. It is with this in mind that I encourage you all to really focus this year on preparation for life post-graduation. The courses you take in this major are an essential part of this preparation, and the successes you work hard toward achieving in the classroom translate beautifully to preparing you for professional success post-graduation. We've created an interactive chart that can help offer guidance on choosing courses that can best prepare you for particular career paths: http://comm.unl.edu/ possible-pathways Scroll over the career path on the left side of the chart and you will see courses highlighted that can help prepare you for careers in Government/Political Career/Law School; Nonprofit/Advocacy; Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations; Entrepreneur/Small Business Owner and others.

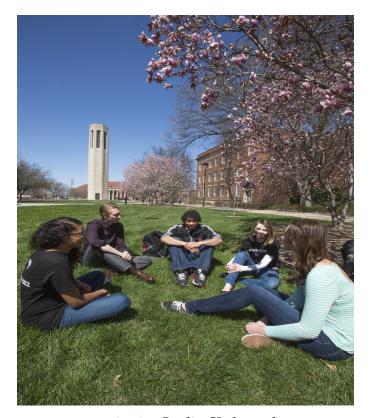
As well, there are many important elements of preparing for professional success that you can and should initiate outside the classroom, so, be thinking about creating meaningful experiences that can complement your academic success.

For those of you planning to enter the workforce after you graduate, it's never too early for you to develop a resume (for help with a resume: http:// careers.unl.edu/resumes Be thinking about securing meaningful internships (https://unl-csm.symplicity.com/students/ jobboard/2d42fdf9f0e1812dfe6d07434df89831e) volunteering your time, getting involved in campus organizations and activities, and considering study abroad opportunities (http://educationabroad.unl.edu/)

you should be actively seeking ways to gain research experience. You can do this by taking advantage of opportunities in your classes to propose and conduct research projects, talk with faculty members about your interest in pursuing graduate school, and seek out opportunities to work on faculty-led research projects.

One key part of being able to get the most out of your time here at UNL is to connect with your advisors. Please schedule an appointment with me or with Gretchen Bergquist, your Assistant Undergraduate Advisor, to talk over courses, develop a graduation plan, identify resources available to you on campus, and to begin or continue preparing for life post-graduation. We take appointments via MyPlan and look forward to talking with you.

> Sincerely, Dr. Castle



Communication Studies Undergraduates

COMM CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

GRETCHEN BERGQUIST, COMM CLUB ADVISOR



The Communication Studies Club started the 2016-2017 school year off excited for a new executive team that is focused on building a strong, sustainable infrastructure that will continue to provide majors and minors opportunities to connect classroom conversations with community experiences. This year's executive team consists of: President, Ana Perez-Senic; Vice President/Treasurer, Caitlin Gehner; and Program Planning Officer, Randy Thomas.

As a freshman this year, Ana joined the executive team to help bolster the club's commitment to social justice issues and community service. Ana is excited to strengthen the club's visibility within the community by developing opportunities for members to become involved with community service projects. This year,

the club will hold at least one community service activity in both the fall and spring semesters.

Caitlin Gehner is a junior and joined the executive team to gain leadership and event planning experience; specifically, Caitlin is committed to developing activities that focus on career development. Therefore, the club is creating a series of workshops focused on helping members explore career paths for Communication Studies majors and minors, as well as opportunities to connect with alumni.

Randy Thomas is a sophomore and joined the executive team because he would like to see the club established as a continued



Comm Club's first fall 2016 meeting.

resource for Communication Studies majors and minors to connect with other students and faculty members while gaining career experience and connecting with community organizations.

The team began the year by participating in the Registered Student Organization fair where they visited with other UNL students about becoming part of the club. The team has been hard at work planning a full slate of activities for the semester. Their first meeting was September 28th.

Sincerely, Gretchen Bergquist

Interested in joining Comm Club?

Find information on Facebook at UNL Comm Club or contact Gretchen Bergquist at gbergquist@huskers.unl.edu



Comm Club Recruiting

INTERVIEW WITH UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA, JOSLYN (DALTON) AMMAR



Joslyn (Dalton)
Ammar earned her degree at Nebraska in 2009. It is exciting to see how she built on her Communication major working at ESPN and founded her own company.

1) During which years were you a

student at Nebraska? I attended UNL from 2004-2009, taking a 5th year due to red-shirting as a track and cross country student-athlete.

2) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? Upon graduation, I pursued my MBA and Master's in Sports Business Management from the DeVos Sports Business Management Program at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Although my focus was on working for a sports marketing agency, while a graduate student, I met one of the original founders of ESPN's SportsCenter who was visiting our program as a guest speaker. Nine months later I moved to the East Coast to help launch espnW, ESPN's first business focused on female athletes and fans!

After my first year at ESPN's world headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut, I took an exciting new role as the chief of staff to ESPN.com's senior vice president of content. With about five years of experience at the media company, I decided to grow my corporate leadership experience and became the vice president of digital marketing for a small video content company. Within a year, I was able to branch out and start my own company, JMar&Co, which is a branding boutique for start-ups and transitioning businesses.

3) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies? My father was a professor at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, so I naturally started freshman year intending to pursue the pre-med path. However, my father lost his battle with cancer during my first week on UNL's campus. The circumstances mixed with being a scholarship studentathlete expected to perform well on the track and in the classroom were extremely challenging for me. In an effort to adjust my major to something that came more natural for my skill set, I discovered Communication Studies. Writing was becoming a meaningful outlet for me during the grieving process and this particular major provided space for me to write, read and speak through my thoughts.

- 4) We have a focus in the undergraduate program to teach students about three capacities: Advocate, Negotiate, and Relate. How has your communication degree helped your life and career? Being a Communication Studies student cultivated my passion for creating and marketing compelling content that moves people to action. I remain fond of instrumental professors at UNL who forever changed my life by introducing me to the concept of advocacy, negotiation and relation. For example, Dr. Jordan Soliz's classes helped me explore issues of race, gender and socio-economic division as well as assimilation and familial dynamics. All these aspects funneled into my first job at ESPN where my responsibility was to help create a business that advocates for female influencers, athletes and fans. Furthermore, since life is one negotiation after another, my communication degree equipped me with scholastic tools that continue to anchor my negotiation style to this day!
- 5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? My favorite memory is spending time during office hours with professors who took the time and energy to analytically process and dig into my writings. I had so much to say between my heart and my mind, and it's as if these teachers helped me navigate through my thoughts.
- 6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? Expanding the pool of financial and career opportunities for hard-working, dedicated students experiencing unique circumstances during college life is near and dear to me. I also think a mentorship program where seniors are linked with specific alumni for weekly 1:1 and perhaps face-to-face job shadowing could be a helpful idea (this may already exist!). Last, inviting alumni to be distinguished speakers for classrooms is always something I suggest because this had the biggest impact on setting my course to ESPN!
- 7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department? Your professors are the boss, your peers are your colleagues, and your assignments are your tasks and responsibilities. Carry yourself in such a way that you're training your mind to gain "real-world" work experience while in the classroom. This will help you internally build your professional narrative while developing soft skills reflective of how well you work with others. Your personal dynamics/tact/charisma with others will more often than not determine the limit for your success regardless of how smart you are. Try to get the kinks out while in college instead of your first few jobs!

INTERVIEW WITH GRADUATE ALUMNA, RUTH KAY

The Department of Communication Studies is proud to hear from **Ruth Kay** (MA, 1987) who is a top-notch teacher and speech & debate coach in Michigan and an accomplished contributor to our professional associations.

1) During which years were you a student at UNL and which degree(s) did you earn? I was an undergraduate student from 1980-1981, Masters degree from 1982-1987. I was a graduate teaching assistant in the department for the first few years of my masters work and then I became a full time public school teacher.

2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies?

Communication was a natural outgrowth of my interest in competitive speech and debate. Having competed in high school and college, it became a skill I wanted to learn more about and pass on to others.

3) What brought you to study
Communication at UNL? I came to
the department at UNL in an
unconventional way. My husband,
Jack Kay, was hired as the Director
of Forensics, so I finished up my
undergraduate degree at UNL. When
it came to my masters degree, UNL
was the logical choice. The quality
and accessibility of the faculty was a

big asset of the Communication Department. So despite the unconventional start to my educational career at UNL, it was a good fit and it served me very well.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? While I was working on my masters degree, I moved from graduate student to full-time public school teacher. I have taught middle school and high school, starting in Lincoln and continuing in the Detroit area. I teach communication classes along with coaching competitive speech and debate at a private college prep high school. As a part of the UNL Communication Department, I got involved with the professional associations. The faculty of the Communication Department at UNL valued service to the professional community, and they encouraged me as a grad student, to get involved early in my career. I have stayed active in the Central States Communication Association and the National Com-

munication Association.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? Academically, I enjoyed the intellectual challenge of graduate seminars with fellow grad students and professors like Dennis Bormann, Bill Seiler, and Vince DiSalvo. I also had a lot of fun playing on the department softball team. Graduate students to full professors played in a city co-ed softball league. It was great to get people together outside of the classroom.

6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? Alumni can help sup-

port the department and students through mentorships, assistance in research, and other discipline related activities. In addition, there is no substitute for donations. University funding is never enough to serve the creative, academic endeavors of students and faculty. There is a fund for every interest. I am proud to be a part of and to lend my husband's name to a new fund, "The Jack Kay Scholarship Fund for Speech and Debate." Jack's tenure at UNL was a labor of love for him—to allow people to give back to the department in his name is very important. In addition, you can donate to the **Department of Communication Stud**ies Fund or the Phyllis Japp Schol-

ars Fund. Donations to funds such as these allow the Department to go beyond the nuts and bolts of basic funding to allow research and participation in programs for students and faculty that would not otherwise be available.

7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department? Take advantage of opportunities to interact with, and build relationships with, the faculty and other students in your program. These individuals cannot only be important professional contacts now and in the future, but they can become life-long friends. Also, explore the vast array of opportunities a communication degree (at any level) can open for you. The importance of your expertise in communication can be applicable to so many fields. Never underestimate the value of that training.

UNL SPEECH & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS

DR. AARON DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF SPEECH & DEBATE

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Speech & Debate Program

Speech & Debate held a reunion June 10 and 11, 2016. Alumni from all over the country were on hand to celebrate Speech & Debate in its 146th year at Nebraska. The reunion kicked off with a Friday reception. Saturday's highlights included campus tours for the 90 alumni in attendance.

Aaron Duncan, Allison Bonander, Adam Blood, Bill Seiler, and Dawn O. Braithwaite represented the department along with some current team members.



receiving his award

The Department of Communication Studies congratulates Mr. Jere McGaffey on his UNL Alumni Achievement Award. Mr. McGaffey is a 1957 graduate and member of the debate team. His support for our program is unparalleled. We are so proud to celebrate his outstanding achievements.

The UNL Speech & Debate Team's season got off to great start with a strong showing at Northwest Missouri State's Tournament held September 24th—25th. UNL placed 3rd in the team division, despite having a limited entry due to scheduling conflicts with campus events.

Junior **Erin Sheehan** won the top overall individual sweepstakes award—just one highlight of the weekend. Sheehan also claimed championships in persuasive speaking, impromptu speaking, and extemporaneous speaking. She went straight ones in all her rounds in both extemporaneous and impromptu speaking.

Senior **Jonathan Baker** claimed first place in communication analysis and sophomore **Sam Baue** took top honors in informative speaking while first year student **Madison Morrissette** won after dinner speaking.

A large group of Huskers was out the first weekend in October as the debate team headed to Southwest Baptist College and the speech team to Kansas State University.

In addition, to a great first year class, the team is also joined by Associate Director, **Dr. Allison Bonander**; assistant coach, **Dr. Amy Martinelli**; and graduate student coaches, **Adam Blood** and **Jon Carter**; and Director of Speech & Debate **Dr. Aaron Duncan**, who is returning for his twelfth year with the team.



Speech & Debate team celebrate at Northwest Missouri State.

For more information about the team, please contact Aaron Duncan at aduncan3@unl.edu or follow us on twitter at UNLSpeechDebate.

We Thank Our Speech & Debate Donors!

Roger C. Aden Ivan R. Ashleman II Mr. & Mrs. Timothy B. Bausch Dawn O. & Charles A. Braithwaite Melissa Buessing Dr. & Mrs. Robert W. Cherny Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. Doerr Aaron M. Duncan Richard M. & Beverly B. Fellman Lloyd E. Goodson Mr. & Mrs. Terry F. Hall Carmen Heider John R. Heineman Garv Hill Mr. & Mrs. Ernest E. Hines Dr. & Mrs. Harold E. Hoff Ruth E. Kay James J. Kimble Robert W. Kimball Jack & Stephanie Koraleski

Jere D. and Ruth McGaffey Linda S. MacDonald Mark A. Meister & Ann Burnett Mr. & Mrs. George H. Moyer Jr. Helen D. Nemzek Mr. & Mrs Douglas L. Olsen Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Overing Mr. & Mrs. Gary F. Pokorny C. Thomas Preston Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Gary W. Radil Jack B. & Sharon M. Rogers Terry R. Schaaf Joanna A. Sazama Steven B. Shively Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Sutherland Carl L. Wangsvick & Carol L. Johnson Richard & Judy Weill Todd A. & Jessica Clark West

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

We are incredibly *grateful* for the many ways our alumni support us. Your financial support helps the students, department, and Speech & Debate program directly. Below we list donors to the Department of Communication Studies Fund and the Phyllis Japp Scholars fund over the last year. Speech and Debate donors are listed on page 9. One-time, monthly, yearly, and endowment support are *all* important. *Thank you*!!!

The **Department of Communication Studies Fund** helps us assist undergraduate students work toward careers, bring in visiting scholars, and connect with alumni. We have a special goal to endow some undergraduate student scholarships: https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-department-of-communication-studies-fund-01035440

The **Phyllis Japp Scholars Fund** supports graduate student research and travel. We need your help to continue our commitments to grad students and we have some exciting developments in the works: https://

nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710





Jack Kay

We are honored to announce the **Jack Kay Scholarship Fund for Speech & Debate**. Dr. Kay was the Director of Forensics (1979-1988) and Department Chair (1986-1990). He exemplified a commitment to education inside and outside of the classroom and a love for all his students. The funds will be awarded to a member of the Speech & Debate Team. Ruth Kay and some of our faculty have kicked the fund off and we appreciate those who have donated already. We want to build and endow this fund as quickly as we can to honor Jack: https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-and-sciences-jack-kay-fund-for-speech-and-debate-

01139230

The Donald Olson Fund for Speech and Debate supports travel for the team and scholarships. We have an immediate need and goal to build support for an Associate Director for the program, as the team has grown: https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-donald-o-olson-memorial-fund-for-forensics-01041680

Visit the NU Foundation page to set up one-time or recurring gifts. To discuss endowing gifts or estate giving, contact Victor Martinez vmartinez@nufoundation.org or Dawn O. Braithwaite: dbraithwaite@unl.edu; 402 472-2069. Victor and Dawn will be at NCA Philadelphia.

We Thank Our Communication Studies and Phyllis Japp Fund Donors

Richard W. Bailey

Dawn O. & Charles A. Braithwaite

Nancy Brule

Ann Burnett Diana Carlin

Mary Ann Danielson

Aaron Duncan David Dunning

Dr. & Mrs. Bradley F. Emanuel

Mary Gill Lvnn Harter

John Heineman Debra Japp & Japp Family

Chad McBride
Mark Meister

Allen & Ginny Overcash

Donna Pawlowski

Damien Pfister

Diana Rehling

Jack Sargent Bill Seiler

William B. Snavely

Jordan Soliz

Suzanne Stangl-Erkens

Jason Thompson Scott Titsworth

Paul Turman

Jay Verlinden Shawn Wahl

Carly Woods

James Zeman

Thanks to our Speech & Debate Donors listed on page 9.

Department of Communication Studies Faculty Accomplishments

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Ron Lee has been appointed to UNL's Senate Executive Committee.

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Braithwaite, D. O. Allen, J., & Moore, J. (in press, 2017). Data conferencing. In J. Matthes, R. Potter, & C. Davis (Eds.). *International Encyclopedia of Communication: Qualitative Research Methods*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Metts, S., Schrodt, P., & **Braithwaite**, **D. O**. (in press). Stepchildren's communicative and emotional journey from divorce to remarriage: predictors of stepfamily satisfaction. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*.

Lee, R., & Blood A., (2016). Ideographic criticism. In J. A. Kuypers (Ed.). *Art of rhetorical criticism: Perspectives in action* (2nd ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Accompanying new critical essay, "The conundrum of <loyalty> and the <market>: The discourse surrounding LeBron James' leaving and returning home."

Lee, R., & Click, K. (2015). William Jefferson Clinton. Video entry Sage encyclopedia of political communication.

Lee, R. & Morin, A. (in press). Barack Obama's response to the "angry black man" race card: A critical analysis of "A more perfect union." In R. Denton (Ed.), *Political campaign communication: Theory, method and practice*. Lanham, MD: Lexington.

AWARDS

Dr. Stacy Tye-Williams (PhD, 2012) and **Dr. Kathleen J. Krone**, "Chaos, Reports, and Quests: Narrative Agency and Co-Workers in Stories of Workplace Bullying" won the 2015 *Management Communication Quarterly* Article of the Year!

Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly has won the 2016 Outstanding Dissertation Award from NCA's Interpersonal Communication Division for her 2015 dissertation out of Ohio State University.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly was awarded Layman Seed Grant from UNL with colleague Dr. Virginia Chaidez, UNL Dept. of Nutrition and Health Sciences. The project is entitled, Community Health Workers: Building a Workforce to Address Health Disparities.

Dr. Jordan Soliz and Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly are part of a team from UNL's Minority Health Disparities Initiative (MHDI) awarded a Rural Futures Institute (RFI) Research & Engagement competitive grant, "Identifying the Interrelationships Between Social Determinants, Self-Identity, and Public Health in Minority Rural Communities: Photovoice + Random Spatial Sampling Survey" to study health in minority rural communities.

HONORED SCHOLARS

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite was the Cowperthwaite Lecturer and Visiting Scholar at Kent State University for a week in July and the Scholar in Residence for the Hope Conference for Faculty Development for NCA at Hope College in Michigan.

Dr. Jody Kellas was one of the faculty scholars at NCA's Doctoral Honors Seminar at Ohio University.

MEDIA

Dawn O. Braithwaite published an essay on her research on voluntary kin in the family Travel Association publication: http://familytravel.org/traveling-voluntary-kin-shes-like-sister/

Dr. Aaron Duncan was interviewed in an *Omaha World Herald* article about language in Nebraska's death penalty referendum: http://www.omaha.com/news/politics/read-it-carefully-ballot-language-for-death-penalty-referendum-is/article_4bfcf695-94a2-55d0-ac2d-7ecc935b9d50.html

NEW LECTURER

Communication Studies welcomes **Amanda Irions** who is finishing her PhD at U of Maryland.

PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSOR

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas, pictured with husband, Jeremy, was promoted to Full Professor in April.

TOP PAPER

Braithwaite, D. O., Waldron, V. R., Allen, J., Bergquist, G., Brockhage, K., Marsh, J., Oliver, B., Swords N., & Tschampl-Diesing, C. (2016, November). Turning points of adult stepchildren in a positive relationship with a stepparent. Presented to the Family Communication Division, National Communication Association for the 2016 Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

(Faculty Accomplishments continued)

Tye-Williams, S., & Krone, K. (2016, November). The paradox of workplace bullying advice: Re-imagining

advice through the lens of critical emotional agency. Presented to the Organizational Communication Division, National Communication Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

AWARDS

Chase Aunspach received UNL's Lowe R. and Mavis M. Folsom Distinguished Master's Thesis Award (one award for the whole campus).

Carol Tschampl-Diesing received the AMVETS Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Service for her work as the State Commander of AMVETS Department of NE, 2015-2016.



DEGREES

PhD: **Dr. Allison Bonander**, Advisor, Dr. Jordan Soliz; **Dr. Elizabeth Flood-Grady**, Advisor, Dr. Jody Kellas; **Dr. Christina Ivey**, Advisor, Dr. Damien Pfister; **Dr. Jennifer Kienzle**, Advisor, Dr. Jordan Soliz

MA: Chase Aunspach, Advisor, Carly Woods

HONORS

Jordan Allen was one of 34 students chosen to attend NCA's Doctoral Honors Seminar at Ohio University in July.

Ashley Garcia and Jennifer Rome were accepted and participated in the Teaching Institute for Graduate Teaching Assistants with focus on Communication Education and/as Social Justice at the University of Maine, August 2016.

PAPERS

Chase Aunspach, doctoral student in the Department of Communication Studies, will receive the *Top Student Paper Award* for his work, "Not simply as a Textbook or Clinical Case": A Critical Microhistory of the University of Nebraska's 1970 "Homosexual Problem" from the GLBTQ Division of the National Communication Association. His award will be presented at the GLBTQ at NCA's Philadelphia convention.

Jonathan Carter Top Paper Panel, (Kenneth Burke Society), Barelivesmatter: Identifying as Homo Sacer in the Wake of Ferguson. (NCA 2016)

Braithwaite, D.O., Waldron, V.R., Allen, J., Berquist, G., Brockhage, K., Marsh, J., Oliver, B., Swords, N., Tschampl-Diesing, C., Top Paper (see p. 11).

Braithwaite, D.O., Marsh, J., **Tschampl-Diesing, C.**, Leach, M. (2016, November). A diary study of the interaction and enactment of the family kinkeeper role.

Paper to be presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Walther, J.C. (2016, September). Tell me a science story: Transforming engagement with science through creative nonfiction. Paper presented at the SciCOMM conference in Lincoln, NE.

PUBLICATIONS

Jordan Allen and Dr. Julia Moore, "Troubling the Functional/Dysfunctional Family Binary through the Articulation of Functional Family Estrangement. Accepted to *Western Journal of Communication*.

Blood, A. (April 5, 2016) "Going Up: The Elevator Speech": featured on UNL's graduate student blog. Retrieved from: http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/news/going-elevator-speech The article was recently featured on Tomorrow's Professor, an eNewsletter that is circulated to over 60,000 subscribers at over 950 institutions and organizations in the US and around the world.

Carter, J.S. (2017, in press). Modal Ethos: Scumbag Steve and the Establishing of Ethos in Memetic Agents. In M. Folk and S. Apostel (Eds.) *Establishing and Evaluating Digital Ethos and Online Credibility*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Duncan, A. M. & Carter, J.S. (2017, in press). The Comedic Prince: The Organic Intellectualism of Bill Hicks. In M.R. Meier and C.R. Schmitt (Eds.) Standing Up, Speaking Out: Stand-Up Comedy and the Rhetoric of Social Change. New York, NY: Routledge.

Tschampl-Diesing, C. L. (2016, Fall). A communication perspective on the military: Interactions, messages, and discourses. [Review of the book *A communication perspective on the military: Interactions, messages, and discourses*, edited by E. Salhstein Parcell & L. M. Webb]. *Iowa Journal of Communication*, 48(2).

Walther, J.C. (2016). Engaging jurors with technical information: Building trust and cognition without overload. American Bar Association Expert Witness Newsletter, 11:2.

Walther, J.C. (2016). Technically Speaking: Sharing complex information with juries. *American Bar Association Expert Witness Newsletter*, 11:1.

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPRING 2016

Taylor Jane Anderson
Jonathan Troy Baker
Danielle Leigh Bischoff
Lindsey Bremer
Jerica M Burgess
Daniel Allen Casburn
Cooper Clair Christiancy
Hannah Cecilia Coatney
Emily Melissa Coffey
Anthony Keaden Domico
Caitlin Ashley Gehner

Michael Franken
Paige Katherine Garber
Nicholas James Gilbert
Nathaniel John Goltz
Maggie Elisabeth Grosshans
Claire Elizabeth Hawkins
Tayce Michelle Hefner
Sydney Marie Henry
Regan Danielle Jones
Bailea Shae Kerr
Alexandria Gerard Lang

Brandon Thomas Lepard
Angela Faith Lorenz
Megan Elizabeth McKenzie
Taylyn Allisandra Odermann
Kali Megan Patterson
Ana Laura Pecina
Tonathan Axel Petersen
Sarah Nicole Pogue
Carson Post
Toshua Carter Randazzo
Nicholas Teffrey Rock

Laura Elizabeth Springer Madelyn Tosie Ryder Randy Keith Thomas Kylie Patricia Tucker Haley Weakland Mia Rose Wilken Mia Rose Wilken Heather Wilson Katelyn Mary Workman

DEAN'S LIST

ALUMNI UPDATES: PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

Jenna Abetz (PhD 2013) In recognition of her outstanding department citizenship, Jenna won the Department of Communication Chair's Award at the College of Charleston in Spring 2016.

Elissa Arterburn Adame (BA 2005, MA 2008) was promoted to Assistant Research Professor at Arizona State University.

Sara R. Aswegan (BA 1997) is now Senior Vice President, Ultragenyx Switzerland.

Caleb Bailey (B.S. 2010) is in his second year as Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. Completed the inaugural Emerging Leaders Program sponsored by the League of American Orchestras. Appointed to the board of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition.

Sara Baker (PhD 2014) Started fall 2016 as an Assistant Professor with the Communication Department at Southern Connecticut State University.

Melissa Beall (PhD 1982), Professor, University of Northern Iowa, will be the recipient of the National Communication Association's Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education.

Joseph E. Brooks (BA 2000) is President of the Young Professionals of Albuquerque, Vice President of

the New Mexicans for Nebraska Albuquerque Business, First Top 40 under 40 Award winner.

Leah Bryant (PhD 2003) won the Excellence in Public Service Award at DePaul University. The purpose of this award is to honor the meaningful and significant contributions of faculty.

Carrie Calkins (MA 2006) is currently Director of Operations at The Lab Creative Arts Studio in West Covina, CA and Development Director for Leadership California in Pasadena, CA.

Tricia Clasen (PhD 2003) is Professor of Communication, UW-Rock County. Tricia Clasen & Holly Hassel (Eds), *Gendered Identities: Critical Readings of Gender in Children's and YA Literature*, Routledge, released August 2016. Her debut novel, *The Haunted House Project*, will publish October 2016 by Sky Pony Press.

Colleen Colaner (PhD 2011) won the Advisor of the Year Award in Spring 2016 for the Department of Communication at University of Missouri Columbia.

Olga Idriss Davis (PhD and Master's 1993) Promoted to Full Professor, May 2016, The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. Taught Chinese students business communication and public speaking in Chengdu, China, Summer, 2016.

(Alumni Updates continued)

Maggie Dolezal (BA 2012) was engaged in July of 2016 and is planning a 2017 wedding (during the Husker bye week weekend). She currently works at the Nebraska Department of Insurance in the Health Policy Division as a Federal Aid Administrator. In addition to keeping up with Federal regulation regarding the Affordable Care Act, she works with Insurance companies making sure they are correctly denying health care claims according to consumer's policies with the External Review Act.

Matthew Heinz (PhD 1998) was appointed Founding Dean of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Royal Roads University in April 2016.

Kelly Luethje (BA 2000) and Jere D.
McGaffey (BA/BS 1957 and member of the debate team) are two of thirteen members of Dean Joseph Francisco's inaugural College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board. We are delighted to have Communication Studies so well represented on this board.

Frank Edward London Jr. (BA 1999) Obtained his Masters in Information Technology.

Ceeja Lowber Malmkar (BA 2010) is currently pursuing Master's in Theology and an event coordinator in Oklahoma City.

Christie McCoy (BA 1999) is owner of Premiere Softball Academy Belmont, CA.

William McPhee (BA 2013) is now living in Denver, CO working as a Product Manager, Semi Conductors Division, at Arrow Electronics.

Julia Moore (PhD 2016) won the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender (ORWAC) Dissertation Award. To presented in October.

Christina Ivey (PhD 2016) received an Honorable Mention for the UNL Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award in April 2016.

Loreen Olson (PhD) 1999 Edited and published a book with husband, Mark Fine: Olson, L. N. & Fine, M. A. (Eds.) (2016). The darker side of family communication: The harmful, the morally suspect, and the socially inappropriate. Peter Lang.



Donna Pawlowski (PhD 1995) received Tenure and promotion to Professor of Speech Communication at Bemidji State University.

Lia Poppe [Ciardi] (BA 2012) was married in July 2014 to Nathan Poppe (UNL college of Mechanical Engineering). Currently working as a human resources coordinator.

C.Thomas Preston, Jr. (PhD 1986) received the Award of Coaching Excellence, Southeast Regional Debate Tournament; 2016, Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association Judge of the Year; 2016 Atlanta Urban Debate League Outstanding Volunteer; 2015 and 2016 Still Professor of Communication, Department of Communication, Media, and Journalism, University of North Georgia.

Royal Allan Raric (BA 2015) has accepted a position with the PricewaterhouseCoopers People Analytics team in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Kristi Gerding Scholten (PhD 2006) Most recently: Proud mother of twins. Book chapter (in print) entitled "Don't Misunderestimate the Power of Debates: How the 2004 Presidential Debates Established George W. Bush as the Moral Choice," with fellow UNL alum, Nichelle McNabb. Chair person of the Political Engagement Project at Ferris State University, Director of Speech and Debate (same place), and Assistant Professor of Communication.

Emily Schlichting (BA 2012) was recently promoted to Chief of Staff in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC.

Jenna Catlett Thomson (MA 2008) has taken a new position as Director of Training and Technical Assistance for the Health Center Association of Nebraska (HCAN). Jenna is overseeing training of seven federally qualified health centers across the state, including People's Health Center in Lincoln. Jenna earned her BA and MA degrees in our program.

Brent Yergensen (PhD 2011) won Dixie State University's Communication Division's Faculty Member of the Year for 2015-16. Brent is the Associate Dean of the Communication Division.

Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D. 2012) was recognized with the Honors Faculty Award by the Honors Program at the University of Montevallo. She was also recognized with the Distinguished Teacher Award by the College of Fine Arts at the University of Montevallo and the Advisor of the Year Award by the Office of Student Life at the University of Montevallo.

Amanda Winterstien (BA 2014) is currently working as medical staffing account manager at C&A Industries in Omaha, NE.

Department of Communication Studies Faculty



Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite Willa Cather Professor and Chair Interpersonal, Family & Intergroup Communication



Dr. William J. Seiler Professor Instructional Communication



Dr. Kathy Castle Assistant Professor of Practice Director of Undergraduate Education & Major Advisor



Dr. Jordan Soliz
Associate Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
Interpersonal, Family &
Intergroup Communication



Dr. Aaron Duncan Assistant Professor of Practice Director of Speech & Debate Rhetoric and Public Culture



Dr. Charles Braithwaite Research Professor, Center for Great Plains Studies Cultural Communication



Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas Professor Interpersonal, Family & Intergroup Communication



Dr. Allison Bonander Lecturer Speech & Debate Assistant Coach



Dr. Kathleen Krone Professor Organizational Communication



Dr. Brigit Talkington Lecturer



Dr. Ronald Lee Professor Rhetoric and Public Culture



Amanda Irions Lecturer



Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly Assistant Professor Interpersonal, Family & Intergroup Communication



Dr. Amy Martinelli Lecturer