



# The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

## FROM THE CHAIR'S CHAIR, DR. DAWN O. BRAITHWAITE



Dear Communication Studies Students, Colleagues & Friends,

We are on the move as always and now...literally! We are moving to the old CBA Building by the library sometime this summer. We'll have photos in the Fall newsletter.

We have had a very good year and especially appreciate the contributions of our three new rhetoric faculty members. Our faculty and graduate students are doing great teaching and research and are contributing significantly to the campus, community, and discipline.

Faculty members won several important awards at the National Communication Association convention in November. Dr. Jody Kellas will be awarded a Hazel R. McClymont Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Arts & Sciences this spring. Speaking of awards, Dr. Diana Carlin (PhD 1986) has won an UNL Alumni Achievement award from the Alumni Association. Congrats!

We are adding our first Courtesy Faculty members this month. Drs. Marco Abel and Roland Végső of the Department of English. We appreciate their collegiality and long contributions to our students.

We are delighted to announce Tim Turnquist is joining us as undergraduate advisor. The College of Arts & Sciences created this new position and Tim will work with CS and Global Studies. Dr. Kathy Castle will remain our Director of Undergraduate Education and work closely with Tim. We appreciate the support of the college in this new endeavor.

The Speech & Debate team is having another good year and are in preparation for their national tournaments coming up soon. They won their 7<sup>th</sup> straight Big Ten Tournament and we are working on some exciting developments.

Communication Studies is growing at the same time NU is facing severe budget cuts from the state. We have another mid-year reversion and the proposed cuts for next year would change the university forever. Yet, student enrollments are growing and our work at NU is more important than ever. CS is positioned to weather the storm the best we can. I can say without hesitation that our generous supporters have never been more important.

Please keep sending us news on your accomplishments. Follow us on Twitter @CommAtUNL, "like" Department of Communication Studies UNL on Facebook, and check out our website: comm.unl.edu.

We appreciate your support. "CommHuskies" past and present, you are always part of us and we are proud of you. **GO BIG RED!**

Dawn O. Braithwaite,

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

## Issue 19, Spring 2018

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### Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Carson Post,  
Samantha Funk and  
Dawn O. Braithwaite

# NOTABLE NEWS

## MULTIETHNIC RESEARCH STUDY BY DR. JORDAN SOLIZ



The number of people with multiple ethnic or racial backgrounds is growing rapidly, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and Pew Research Institute, surpassing the population growth of individuals with only one ethnic background.

Yet scientific understanding of multiethnic and multiracial life experiences and outcomes remains limited. A new study by University of Nebraska-Lincoln communication scholar Jordan Soliz provides research-based insights on how a diverse background shapes a person's identity and interactions with other people.

Dr. Jordan Soliz “There are a lot of misconceptions with very little empirical work to guide practitioners, teachers, counselors, scholars on this population,” Soliz said. Soliz, associate professor of Communication Studies, identified several benefits and challenges associated with multiethnic-racial backgrounds in interviews he and his colleagues conducted with 29 adults, whose ages ranged from 18 to 52.

“There’s still this idea out there that if you have a mixed background, you’re automatically destined to have problems with understanding who you are and being marginalized from groups,” Soliz said. “But that’s not what we found.”

Many multiethnic-racial individuals have a strong sense of self, the researchers found. Because of their connections to different races and ethnicities, participants also have an awareness and enhanced understanding of others’ experiences.

“It expands your vision and your perception about the human race as a whole,” Valeria, a 52-year-old study participant, said. “You have a deeper understanding of the behavior that is discriminatory and also that of the people who are discriminated against.”

Soliz said this pluralistic view of the world was the most frequently occurring benefit found in the study. In addition, participants reported that they benefit from their physical appearance and their ability to shift identity among different groups.

However, identity also was described as a challenge. Study participants discussed feeling disconnected in some situations because of how others perceive them. For example, Olivia, a 23-year-old participant talked about feeling a need to alter her speech style based on the people she was with.

“It’s all about shifting your communication styles to fit with the group with whom you are,” she said. “So when I’m with my mom I may be the dark person in the room but I don’t sound like it and my speech style changes when I’m with my dad and my aunt.”

The study also found society itself adds a layer of difficulty for multiethnic-racial individuals because of misconceptions and lack of knowledge regarding diverse backgrounds and an absence of recognition for people with mixed backgrounds.

“I’d say for the most part the biggest challenges have been paperwork ones... because it was frustrating not to be allowed to be me,” Britney, a 20-year-old, said.

This absence of recognition also means there is a dearth of role models, according to the study. Soliz said the research is important for helping those who work with diverse groups of people to understand better the distinct experiences of being multiethnic.

“The research shows this is a unique experience and that we can’t assume that what we know about the general population really applies to individuals with mixed heritage because they’re navigating a variety of different worlds,” he said.



<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/study-provides-empirical-answers-about-multiethnic-experiences/>

## MORE NOTABLE NEWS

### Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite Honored with New Award Creation

The Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association has created the Dawn O. Braithwaite Award for Qualitative Research in honor of Dr. Braithwaite's long leadership in this area of research. The inaugural award will given at the association's meeting in Milwaukee in April 2018.

COMING SOON IN 2018:  
DAWN O. BRAITHWAITE AWARD  
FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH  
FOR THE INTERPERSONAL AND  
SMALL GROUP  
COMMUNICATION INTEREST  
GROUP



Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite  
and Colleague



Dr. Jody Kellas

### Dr. Jody Kellas Won the Hazel R. McClymont Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award Honoring Exemplary Teaching

#### Criteria for this award included:

1. Promoting students' critical and creative thinking, active learning, and reflection—exposing students to a wide range of knowledge and to the processes by which new knowledge is acquired.
2. Teaching in a manner that enables students to become active and continuous learners and tolerant and responsible members of a global society.
3. Holding high standards for student performance and demonstrating effective teaching practices that help all students to meet these standards.
4. Supporting a community of teacher-scholars (at UNL or the state/region) in the areas of student learning, course design, assessment, and/or instructional practices.

The award will be presented at the College of Arts and Sciences Celebration of Excellence on April 27.



Timothy Turnquist

### COMMUNICATION STUDIES WELCOMES TIMOTHY TURNQUIST

Timothy will be a staff member and undergraduate major advisor for Communication Studies and Global Studies. His addition to our department means Communication Studies will have advising capabilities 12 months a year.

### MALDONADO, FEATURED IN DAILY NEBRASKAN

Dr. José Ángel Maldonado, one of our newest faculty members, was featured in the *Daily Nebraskan*: [http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/new-professors-lend-expertise-to-unl-this-year/article\\_37e75186-fa6b-11e7-923b-fb8f24a1cd2a.html](http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/new-professors-lend-expertise-to-unl-this-year/article_37e75186-fa6b-11e7-923b-fb8f24a1cd2a.html)



José Ángel Maldonado

### CAPSTONE CLASS COMM 495 CO-TAUGHT BY

#### DR. RONALD LEE AND TONI MORGAN

COMM 495 is the Senior Capstone in Communication Studies. The course satisfies the ACE Outcome 10: "Generate a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection." Course activities are designed to facilitate the development and completion of individual semester projects that integrate theories, concepts, and skills introduced in previous courses. Course readings, reflection activities, and discussions will explore and synthesize students' understanding of the department commitment to communication, collaboration, and community.



Carson Post, our own work/study  
student shows his capstone poster.

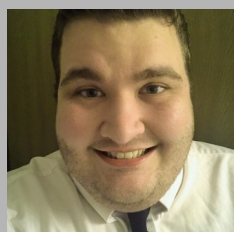
## COMMUNICATION STUDIES IMPRESSIVE GRADUATE STUDENTS



Carol Tschampl-Diesing

**Carol Tschampl-Diesing** is receiving several awards for her paper to be presented at the April meeting of the Central States Communication Association meeting, "Exploring difference in family: Communication and privacy management for female veterans between their military voluntary kin and their biological families.":

Top Four Paper and Nancy Burrell Top Student Paper Award, and CSCA Past Officers Top Graduate Debut Paper Award.



Robert Hall

**Hall, R. D.** (2018). We are family, or are we?: A lesson on identifying differences in family communication patterns and attachment styles through music media. Presented as an activity for the G.I.F.T. interest group at the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI. Top Overall GIFT Activity.

**Hall, R. D.** (2017). The relevance of the communication graduate student association. Presented as a discussion panel for the Student Section at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX. Top Panel Award.



Gretchen Bergquist

**Gretchen Bergquist:** I was honored to be among thirty doctoral students who were competitively selected to attend the National Communication Association's Doctoral Honors Seminar hosted by the School of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. The seminar is an annual summer event that brings together doctoral students and distinguished faculty from across the nation to discuss current topics within the field of communication. This year, the theme of the seminar centered on communication in a post-truth age. In addition, we also had the opportunity to engage in discussions with faculty mentors about our dissertation projects. NCA's Doctoral Honors Seminar connects graduate students with insight and is an excellent opportunity to actively engage in dialogue with others from across the discipline. I was delighted to be selected to participate in the seminar and the feedback I received was extremely beneficial in moving forward with my dissertation.

**Adam Blood Named Phyllis Japp Scholar:** Adam is a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD candidate from Joplin, Missouri. He received his B.S./B.A in Accounting from the University of Central Missouri and his MA in Mass Communication from the University of Central Missouri. His research interests are ideograph and myth, the rhetoric of loyalty, religious rhetoric and argumentation. Adam is a graduate assistant and debate coach and a member of the National Communication Association and the Rhetoric Society of America.

The goal of Adam's dissertation is to study the ideological and mythic elements of loyalty rhetoric. His work in this line of research has analyzed loyalty discourse in a variety of contexts including soldier biographies in American cinema, professional sports free agency, the trial of Socrates, the loyalty investigations under Joseph McCarthy, and the politics of counterterrorism.

He is honored to be named a Phyllis Japp Scholar and to be mentioned in such distinguished company as Dr. Japp, who was a renowned teacher, mentor and scholar.



Adam Blood



## FROM DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

### DR. KATHY CASTLE

It's an exciting time to be a Communication Studies major! We are growing as a major; we have added three new faculty members to our department; we are seeing an increase in students taking advantage of Education Abroad opportunities, internship opportunities, and research opportunities. We have several students involved in research teams with faculty members in our department and several completing undergraduate theses. To top it off, 31 students in our major made the Fall 2017 Dean's List!

I've spent quite a bit of time talking with several of our undergraduates as they prepare for the job market, and invariably we end up highlighting the fact that as Communication Studies majors, our students are learning how to better advocate, negotiate, and relate—three skills that set them apart from their peers in professional life.

Our students learn how to better **advocate** for themselves, for others, and for their organizations in their communities and other public contexts as well as in their personal and professional relationships.

They learn how to better **negotiate** differences in opinion, perspective, background, beliefs, cultures, and ideologies and bring viewpoints together across these differences and through challenges in their communities, organizations, and relationships.

They learn how to better **relate** to others, establish effective partnerships, how to manage relational difficulty and challenges, and how to build strong professional networks.

I've spoken with alumni and professionals across career fields—higher education, human resources, education and training, financial services, insurance organizations, recruitment, athletics, non-profit organizations, health and healthcare, government, lobbyists, international business and marketing, communication coordinator, public health and health marketing, sales and marketing, legal services, just to name a few—all of whom attribute their success to the competencies they learned in this major. Our majors are preparing for some amazing next steps, and we look forward to seeing where they go!

You will also want to mark your calendars for our annual DeCOMMPress Day featuring a department end of semester party on Friday, April 27 following our Senior Capstone poster session (see page 4 for more about Capstone.) Come join faculty, graduate students, and your peers as we take a break from the end of semester stress! Details to follow!

All in all another exciting semester here in the Department of Communication Studies at UNL!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Castle



DeCOMPress  
Day  
Fun!  
Coming

Friday, April 27th.  
10:30-11:30 am



## INTERVIEW WITH UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA DR. JESSICA RICK

We feature a conversation with Dr. Jessica Rick, Assistant Professor of Communication at University of Southern Indiana. She attended UNL 2006-2010, earning her B.A. in Communication Studies, International Studies, and Spanish.



Dr. Jessica Rick

**1) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?** Following graduation, I went to Spain and taught English to elementary children. Moving on to Fargo, ND, I worked for Microsoft as a billing specialist. I quickly learned that I wanted more than copying and pasting 40 hours a week, so I signed up to take a few master's degree classes. I earned my MA from North Dakota State in Speech Communication in 2013 and my PhD from the University of Missouri in Organizational Communication in 2017. I love passing on my knowledge and passion for communication to the next generation of students!

**2) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies?** My first major was International (now Global) Studies. I had no idea what I wanted to do, except live abroad. I signed up for Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite's Intro to Communication class as an

elective and never looked back! I loved seeing the world from a communication perspective and saw how language and culture in my other majors influences our world. Everything just seemed to fit together and was a "ta-da" moment.

*I love passing on my knowledge and passion for communication to the next generation of students!*

**3) We have a focus in the undergraduate program on communication capacities of Advocate, Negotiate, and Relate. How have these influenced your career?** Everything I do revolves around communication as I teach organizational and interpersonal communication. I kept class notes from UNL and use some of those activities in my classes (thanks Dr. Jordan Soliz!). I also learned that everyone has a unique story and experience. Maybe they are juggling a full-time job, family commitments, and their own well-being. Understanding communication has made me a more compassionate person and I use that knowledge as a professor.

**4) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?** Attending the Undergraduate Honors Conference at Central States Communication Association with Amanda (Villegas) Norton. We presented our paper from Allison Thorson's research methods class. That trip is probably what convinced me to go to graduate school, but at the time I just loved being with a good friend.

**5) In what ways can alumni support our department and students?** I have been involved with the Nebraska Women's Leadership Network (formerly Cather Circle) since my UNL days. I mentor undergraduate students as they navigate college and seek their first "real job." Whether you volunteer to visit classes or student clubs, or provide financial resources, your experiences and support matter to the students.

**6) What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department?** Go and visit your faculty members! So many of my best memories were visiting my faculty members in their office hours. Through those conversations, I applied for a UCARE grant and worked with Dr. Kristen Lucas in research for two years. Your instructors also have great community connections. You never know what could come out of those conversations and impact your future.



## Alumni, Connor Hula, Speaks Out About His Communication Studies Degree

*I attribute much of my success to my degree in Communication Studies. It not only helps you relate to all walks of life, but helps immensely with non-verbals in sales. If I could do it all over again, I would without a doubt pick Communication Studies as my major again... When he interviews potential candidates, the Communication Studies majors always go to the top of my stack due to the fact I know their wide range of abilities will be extremely valuable in any field (see his accomplishments on page 15).*

## 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. One-time, monthly, yearly, and endowment support are *all* important. *With our move to a new building this summer we have special needs as we outfit spaces and labs. There are opportunities to make a real difference.*



Via **Department of Communication Studies Fund** we help 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. With budget cuts, helping grad student professional travel is challenging and we are committed to supporting them. If you can help: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>



There are several funds to support our **Speech & Debate team**. We are honoring Jack Kay with the *Jack Kay Fund* and working to endow his fund. The *Olson Fund* is incredibly important to support travel and students. The new *Suit Fund* supports professional clothing needed for team members. Please check the Speech & Debate page for options: <https://nufoundation.org/unl/college-of-arts-sciences/programs/speech-and-debate-program>

Visit the NU Foundation page to set up one-time or recurring support. To discuss endowing gifts or estate giving, contact Victor Martinez [vmartinez@nufoundation.org](mailto:vmartinez@nufoundation.org) or Dawn O. Braithwaite: [dbraithwaite@unl.edu](mailto:dbraithwaite@unl.edu); 402 472-2069. Dawn will be at the Central States Communication Association conference in Milwaukee in April if you'd like to get together. Thanks for all your help!

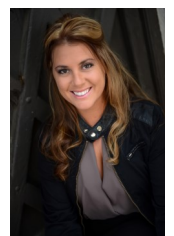
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### DIANA CARLIN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP WINNERS



Gretchen Bergquist

PhD students, **Gretchen Bergquist** and **Kristen Everhart** were awarded the first ever scholarships from the newly begun Carlin Fund. Diana Carlin is an alumna of the graduate program in Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her work focusing on debate communication, specifically political debates, has made her a well-respected speaker and author.



Kristen Everhart



## UNL SPEECH & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS

### DR. AARON DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF SPEECH & DEBATE

#### Speech & Debate Team

#### Seven Time Big Ten Conference Champs Preparing for Nationals

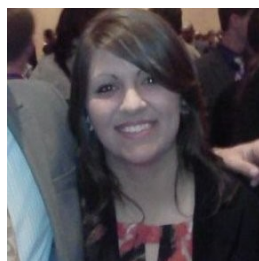
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Speech & Debate Team became seven time champions of the Big Ten with its victory at the Conference Challenge Tournament. UNL led the field with a point total of 145 points, ahead of second-place finisher Northwestern University with 117 points. UNL students captured nine of twelve individual Big Ten Tournament titles. The team's victory was led by senior co-captain Mattison Merritt, who was named top individual speaker at the tournament.

The debate team had a strong showing at the Gorlock Gala Tournament at Webster University. The highlight of the tournament was junior Colten White's victory in the varsity division of Lincoln Douglas Debate. Over 100 Lincoln Douglas Debaters competed at the tournament. First year student Addisson Stugart was the runner up in junior varsity division. The team has now qualified nine students to nationals in Lincoln Douglas Debate.

The speech team is preparing for American Forensics Association's National Individual Events Tournament which takes place in Colorado Springs, Colorado on April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The debate team is preparing to compete in the National Forensics Association's National Tournament held April 19-23<sup>rd</sup> on the campus of the University of Oshkosh Wisconsin, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



Adam Blood  
and Colten White at Gorlock 2018



Mallory Marsh

#### MARSH NAMED OUTSTANDING NEW COACH

**Mallory Marsh** will receive the American Forensics Association Outstanding New Coach Award at the national tournament in April, 2018.



Big Ten 2018

## BRITISH DEBATE HELD NOV 7, 2017, 1179 IN ATTENDANCE

A hugely successful debate.

*a bunch of cool people from the community attended!*

A number of valued alumni were there.

*The chancellor and dean were there!*

*A Wonderful evening*

"What can I say? Debaters were brilliant and Aaron Duncan was tremendous. Everything that Allison Bonander, Adam Blood, and the other coaches did to prepare the students and do such a wonderful job with this program merits our attention and thanks."

*Congrats to Debaters  
Erin Sheehan and  
Colten White.*



## FOCUS ON GRADUATE ALUMNI, Interview with Graduate Alumnus Dr. Jack Sargent

We are pleased to feature an interview with Dr. Jack Sargent (PhD, 2000), founding Executive Director of the School of Communication, Media & Journalism at Kean University in New Jersey. Dr. Sargent attended UNL 1995-1999 (during two national football championships he points out!), graduating in 2000, emphasizing interpersonal communication and concentrations in organizational communication, and statistics. The department is deeply grateful to Jack's generous financial support to the Communication Studies Fund.



Dr. Jack Sargent

**1) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies?** I have my BA in Journalism and my MA in Communication. While I had always known the importance of communication, it wasn't until I started legal consulting that I realized how powerful it could be. I traveled the country conducting trial simulations and working with attorneys on communication skills. Many of the attorneys didn't understand persuasion or how to connect with jurors. Working as a trial consultant opened my eyes as to how communication can create our realities, influence people, and impact decisions.

**2) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?** Quite simply, it was the great faculty and the variety of courses the department offered. I was looking at a number of different programs with the intention of returning to consulting after earning my doctorate. When I saw that there were faculty

at Nebraska who were studying the nonverbal behavior of judges, I knew that I had found the program for me. Instead of returning to consulting, I fell in love with teaching and impacting students' lives.

**3) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?** I started a tenure track position at Kean University in the fall of 1999. I was tenured in 2006 and was promoted to associate professor in 2008 (at Kean, promotion does not come automatically with tenure). Before we became a school, I was Department Chair. We now have over 600 students, 18 full-time faculty, and 60+ adjunct instructors, with one in China at Wenzhou-Kean University. I oversee daily operations of the school—curriculum, assessment, budget, scheduling and hiring. I am also responsible for the TV Studio, radio station, and campus newspaper. I developed our master's degree emphasizing Organizational Communication.

I am very proud to be an alum of the department. If it wasn't for the quality of the education I received, I truly believe I wouldn't be in my position today.

**4) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?** I have so many good memories of my time at UNL, especially the collegiality of my fellow classmates. After our seminars, we would head over to Yia Yia's for pizza and continue debating some issue for hours and hours. It was a lot of fun! Another fond memory was attending conferences with classmates. I recall once having six of us in a hotel room. One person slept at the foot of each of the two beds. Another memory was spending time with Dr. Sandra Petronio, who taught a summer course. We would have dinner every night and discuss approaches to her Communication Privacy Management theory.

**5) In what ways can alumni support our department and students?** I am very proud to be an alum of the department. If it wasn't for the quality of the education I received, I truly believe I wouldn't be in my position today, I recall how foundational and important attending conferences and networking was to my development as a graduate student. Through financial contributions to the Communication Studies Fund or the Phyllis Japp Scholar's Fund, alumni can help current graduate students defray some of their costs.

# Department of Communication Studies

## Faculty Accomplishments

### AWARDS

**Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite** was awarded the Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award from the National Communication Association to recognize a lifetime of outstanding service to the association and to the profession in research, teaching, and/or service.

**Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite** and Paul Schrodtt (PhD 2002) won the Gerald R. Miller Book Award from the National Communication Association's Interpersonal Communication Division of NCA for their book *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication: Multiple perspectives* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Sage, 2017).

**Dr. Casey Kelly** was awarded the Early Career Award, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division at National Communication Association in Nov. 2017.

**Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly**, Caitlyn Wayment, Anthony Adams, and Dr. Virginia Chaidez were awarded a Top Three Paper from the Intergroup Communication Interest Group at ICA (Prague, Czech Republic) for *Addressing intergroup communication barriers through the voice of community health workers* to be presented in May 2018.

**Dr. Bill Seiler** received a Parents' Association Recognition Award.

### BOOKS

Galvin, K., **Braithwaite, D. O.**, Schrodtt, P., & Bylund, C. (in press). *Family communication: Cohesion and change* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.

**Kelly, C.R.** and Black, J.E. (2018) (Eds.). *Decolonizing Native American rhetoric: Communicating self-determination*. New York: Peter Lang.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Braithwaite, C.A.**, & Fegali, E. (2018). Arab Modes of Communication. In Young Yun Kim (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Intercultural Communication* (IE-ICC). Wiley-Blackwell: Indianapolis, IN.

**Braithwaite, D. O.**, Storck, K., & Galvin, K. M. (in press, 2018). Communicating and triangulating voluntary kin. *Family Focus* (National Council on Family Relations).

**Braithwaite, D. O.**, Foster, E., & Bergen, K. (2018). Social construction. In Braithwaite, D., O., Suter, E. A., & Floyd, K. (Eds.). *Engaging theories in family communication*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 267-278). New York, NY: Routledge.

**Braithwaite, D. O.**, Waldron, V. R., Allen, J., Bergquist, G., Marsh, J., Oliver, B., Storck, K., Swords, N., & Tschampl-Diesing, C. (2018). "Feeling warmth and close to her": Communication and resilience reflected in turning points in positive adult stepchild-stepparent relationships. *Journal of Family Communication*.

**Braithwaite, D. O.**, Allen, J., & Moore, J. (2017). Data conferencing. In J. P. Matthes, C. S. Davis, & R. F. Potter (Eds.), *The international encyclopedia of communication research methods*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Horel, K.** (in press). How Selective Amnesia brought us the First Black Socialist President of the United States," In R. Terrill (Ed.), *Reconsidering Obama: Reflections on Rhetoric*, New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.

**Kelly, C.R.** (2018). Food pornography. D. Conley & J. Eckstein (Eds.) *Cookery: On rhetorical and culinary production*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.

Carr, K., & **Koenig Kellas, J.** (in press). The role of family and marital communication in developing resilience to family-of-origin adversity. *Journal of Family Communication*.

Holman, A., & **Koenig Kellas, J.** (in press). "Say something instead of nothing": Adolescents' perceptions of memorable conversations about sex-related topics with their parents. *Communication Monographs*.

Flood-Grady, E., & **Koenig Kellas, J.** (in press). Sense-making, socialization, and stigma: Exploring narratives told in families about mental illness. *Health Communication*.

(Faculty accomplishments continued)

**Koenig Kellas, J., Castle, K.M.**, Johnson, A., & Cohen, M.Z. (2017). Communicatively constructing the bright and dark sides of hope: Family caregivers' experiences during end of life cancer care. *Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 7, 1-12.

**Koenig Kellas, J.** (2018). Communicated Narrative Sense-Making Theory: Linking storytelling and health. In D. O. Braithwaite, E. Suter, & K. Floyd (Eds.) *Engaging theories in family communication*, 2nd ed. (pp. 62-74). New York: Routledge.

**Maldonado, J.A.** (in press, 2018). Rhetorical rumors: Hauntology in international feminicidio discourse. *Proceedings of the Alta Argumentation Conference*.

**Palmer-Wackerly, A. L.**, Dailey, P. M., Krok-Schoen, J. L., Rhodes, N. D., & Krieger, J. L. (2017). Patient perceptions of illness identity in cancer clinical trial decision-making. *Health Communication* (early online edition).

**Palmer-Wackerly, A. L.**, Krieger, J. L., & Rhodes, N. D. (2017). The role of health care provider and partner decisional support in patients' cancer treatment decision-making satisfaction. *Journal of Health Communication*, 22, 10-19.

**Soliz J.**, & Phillips K. (2017): Toward a More Expansive Understanding of Family Communication: Considerations for Inclusion of Ethnic-Racial and Global Diversity, *Journal of Family Communication*.

### EDITORS

**Dr. Kristen Hoerl's** editorship of *Women's Studies in Communication* was recognized at the Organization for Research on Women and Communication's annual business meeting during the Western States Communication Association Conference in Santa Clara, CA.

**Dr. Kristen Hoerl** completed the first full volume of *Women's Studies in Communication* under her editorship, Volume 40, issue 4, which was published in fall 2017 and can be found on Taylor and Francis's page for the journal at [http://](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uwsc20/40/4?nav=tocList)

[www.tandfonline.com/toc/uwsc20/40/4?nav=tocList](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uwsc20/40/4?nav=tocList). Volume 41(1), also published under Hoerl's editorship, is expected to appear online early this spring.

**Dr. Jordan Soliz's** editorship of *Journal of Family Communication* was recognized at the Family Communication Division meeting of the National Communication Association.

### LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Casey Kelly** is the Vice Chair and 2017 Conference Program Planner for the Critical/Culture Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

**Dr. Casey Ryan Kelly** was invited to lead a workshop on research about race, gender, and sexuality at the 2018 Midwestern Winter Workshop sponsored by the Rhetorical Association of America in Indiana.

**Dr. Kristen Hoerl** was the chair of the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division of the National Communication Association and ran the association's business meeting in Dallas, TX in 2017.

**Dr. Kristen Hoerl** was invited to lead a workshop on academic publishing at the 2018 Midwestern Winter Workshop sponsored by the Rhetorical Association of America in Bloomington, IN.

**Dr. Ronald Lee** is a member of UNL's Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

**Dr. Angel Maldonado** was elected Secretary of the La Raza Caucus at the National Communication Association meeting in Dallas.

**Dr. Angel Maldonado** was elected as member of the National Communication Association Nominating Committee.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Koenig Kellas, J.** (September 2017). Collaborative Communication for Health Care. Physician Leadership Academy. Bryan Health and University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business.

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

## Graduate Student Accomplishments

### PUBLICATIONS

Braithwaite, D. O., **Allen, J.**, & Moore, J. (2017). Data conferencing. In J. P. Matthes, C. S. Davis, & R. F. Potter (Eds.), *The international encyclopedia of communication research methods*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Horan, S.M., **Morgan, T.M.**, & Burke, T.J. (2018). Sex and risk: Parental messages and associated safety/risk behavior of adult children. *Communication Quarterly*, 1-20.

Braithwaite, D. O., **Storck, K.**, & Galvin, K. M. (in press, 2018). Communicating and triangulating voluntary kin Family Focus (National Council on Family Relations).

Braithwaite, D. O., Waldron, V. R., **Allen, J.**, **Bergquist, G.**, **Marsh, J.**, Oliver, B., Swords, N., **Storck, K.**, & **Tschampl-Diesing, C.** (2018). "Feeling warmth and close to her": Communication and resilience reflected in turning points in positive adult stepchild-stepparent relationships. *Journal of Family Communication*.

### TOP PAPERS

**William Cooney**, had a Top Four paper award for his paper, "The Haecceity of Things: Toward a Coming Community of Immanent Obligations." The award was presented by the Philosophy of Communication Division, National Communication Association's annual meeting in Dallas, Texas.

**Chase Aunspagh** and alum John Carter (PhD 2017), were awarded a Top Paper for the Kenneth Burke Society of the National Communication Association, "Act as if the Apocalypse Has Already Happened!": Comic Fatalism as a Necessary Intensification of the Comic Frame."

**Ashley Garcia** was awarded a Top Four Paper for the Communication Ethics, Activism and Social Justice Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, for her work: "Negligent Nipples: FEMEN's Self-Objectifying Protests as Global Media Events" to be presented in Milwaukee in April, 2018.

**Toni Morgan** and colleagues will receive the Top Paper Award from the Interpersonal Communication Division at the Eastern Communication Association meeting in April 2018: Horan, S.M., **Morgan, T.M.**, Bennett, C., Cobb, T., & Booth-Butterfield, M., "Sex matters: Exploring affection exchange theory and relational qualities."

### CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

**Robert Hall** appeared on the Top Panel for the Central States Communication Association conference 2017 Student Section, "The Relevance of the Communication Graduate Student Association."

**Heather Voorhees'** proposal for her research, "I don't want people to be resentful': Exploring patients' disclosure decisions when seeking recurring social support," has been accepted for presentation at the 2018 Kentucky Conference on Health Communication as a poster.

**Walther, J.C.**, PytlikZillig, L.M., Houston, A.L., Detweiler, C., & Kawamoto, J. (2018). Using public & stakeholder perceptions of drone technology to influence design and implementation of drones for atmospheric data collection. Paper presented at American Meteorological Society 98th Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 2018. PytlikZillig, L.M., Houston, A.L., Walther, J.C., Kawamoto, J., & Detweiler, C., (2018).

**Walther, J.C.**, Understanding the role of trust in public support for weather (and other) drones: Results of a nationally representative U.S. survey Paper presented at American Meteorological Society 98th Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 2018.

**Walther, J.C.**, & PytlikZillig, L.M. (2017, April). Taking Charge: Nine years of engaging the public in municipal budgeting priorities. Paper presented at Consortium of University Public Service Organizations Annual Conference in Newark, Delaware.

### GRANTS

**Carol Tschampl-Diesing** won a \$400 UNL Graduate Travel Awards Program (GTAP) Grant. She was one of only eight UNL students to be awarded this grant this semester.

### LEADERSHIP

**Jennifer Rome** was named the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus at Central States Communication Association.

**Kristen Everhart** was elected Secretary of the Western States Communication Association Health Communication Division at the Association's annual meeting in Santa Clara CA.

# UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## DEAN'S LIST

Taylor Anderson	Brianna Cassidy	Todd Honas	Laura Springer
Fredrick Baskin	Cooper Christiancy	Tate Kollar	Randy Thomas
Samuel Baue	Justice Forte	Erin McCready	Minh Vu
Catherine Bergen	Alex Foutch	Michaela Minton	Xinyue Wang
Danielle Bischoff	Michael Franken	Madison Morrissette	
Jerrica Burgess	Francesca Giganti	Aidan Pauley	
Annie Burmeister	Haley Hanson	Julia Smith	
Ronaldo Carcamo	Kylie Hanson	Rachel Stiehm	
Claire Carlson	Taylor Holzfaster	Jasmine Paulson	

## FALL 2017

**Cooper Christiancy's** paper has been accepted for presentation at the 44th annual DePauw Undergraduate Honors conference. This paper was his capstone project.

**Angie Lorenz** (double major in Communication Studies and Psychology) graduated with distinction in December 2017. She completed an Undergraduate Honors Thesis (Dr. Jordan Soliz, Advisor).

**Kenzie Maloney**, Communication Studies major was named an Academic All-Big Ten honoree and part of the Husker Volleyball team to win the 2018 National Championship!

The Husker Volleyball team: National Champions! [http://www.huskers.com/ViewArticle.dbml?ATCLID=211688725&DB\\_OEM\\_ID=100](http://www.huskers.com/ViewArticle.dbml?ATCLID=211688725&DB_OEM_ID=100)



# Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

**Jordan Allen** (finishing her PhD) will be joining the faculty of Utah Valley State University as an Assistant Professor.

**Nicole Allen** (PhD, 2017) will be joining the faculty of Utah State University as an Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Diana Breshears** (PhD 2011) has been a Post-doctoral Fellow in Sociology at the University of the Free State in South Africa. Diana reports that "The communication studies department at the main campus of our university is extending the program to the University of the Free State, Qwaqwa campus where Aliza and I work, and I will be a tenure-track senior lectureship (that's what we call assistant professorship here).. I'll be the only Communication person there at first, but they're hoping to expand the program rapidly." Diana lives with her wife, Dr. Aliza LaRoux, zoologist from South Africa. They have a son and live in Clarens.

**Dr. Diana Carlin** (PhD 1985) will be inducted into the CSCA Hall of Fame in April 2018. She was also elected to the University of Nebraska Foundation Board of Trustees and will receive an Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Nebraska Alumni Association. Dr. Carlin is teaching and advising in the University of Kansas Honors Program. Completing a conference paper and book chapter on Martha Washington for a conference at SMU on Southern First Ladies in March 2018.

**Becky DiVerniero** (PhD 2005) accepted a position in the Honors College at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

**Christina Foust** (MA 2000) (with Kate Drazner Hoyt) published 'Social Movement 2.0' in the January, 2018 *Review of Communication*.

**Dr. Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer** (PhD 2009) Published a textbook: Adler, R. B., Maresh-Fuehrer, M. M., Elmhorst, J., & Lucas, K. *Communicating at work: Strategies for Success in Business and the Professions* (12th ed., McGraw-Hill). Presented a webinar: Crisis Communication Lessons for Today's Business Environment. Sponsored by McGraw-Hill. Panel accepted for presentation: Communication and media relations training in risk and crises. Panel accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Washington, D.C.: August 2018.

**Shireen Ghorbani For Congress** (MA 2009) Shireen is running for the United States House of Representatives in Utah's Second District. She is so very grateful for the education she received, especially from Dr. Kathy Krone on Organizational Communication and



Shireen Ghorbani

Globalization. Shireen enthuses, Conversations and readings in her (Dr. Krone's) classroom are something I carry with me today."

After earning her MA in Communication Studies at UNL, Shireen went to the University of Utah, earned a second MA, and is associate director in organizational development and communication in the Facilities Management department at the University of Utah. Check out her website: <https://www.shireenforcongress.com> <https://www.utahpoliticohub.com/meet-shireen-ghorbani-half-iranian-utah-transplant-running-congress/>

**Connor Hula** (BA 2017) In September Connor was promoted to the OMA airport where his communication skills helped him place in the top two salesmen out of 1800 people in his group for 5 months in a row. After only four months of being at the OMA airport, he was promoted to assistant manager of the largest in town Omaha location. He attributes much of his success to his degree in Communication Studies. It not only helps him relate to all walks of life, but helps immensely with non-verbals in sales.

**Jeff Philpott** (MA 1983) PhD in Speech Communication from University of Washington. Faculty at Seattle University since 1992.

**Dr. Kaitlin Phillips** (PhD, 2017) will be joining the faculty of Utah State University as an Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Cynthia Robinson**, (PhD 2005) has been awarded tenure in Communication and is the Chair of Black Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

**Dr. Tiffany R. Wang** (PhD, 2012) received the 2017 CSCA Outstanding New Teacher Award, elected to the 2017-2019 NCA Lambda Pi Eta Faculty Advisory Board, and accepted the 2017 NCA Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award. She also co-authored four articles last year: Ozley, R. R., Wang, T. R., Ford, S. G., & Hardig, S. B. (2017). COMS day as a communication senior capstone project. *Communication Teacher*, 31, 177-186. Abetz, J., & Wang, T. R. (2017). "Were they ever really happy the way that I remember?": Exploring sources of uncertainty for adult children of divorce. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 58, 194-211. Nuru, A. K., & Wang, T. R. (2017). "He's my dad because he just is!": Cohabiting (step)children's responses to discursive challenges. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 58, 227-243. Wang, T. R., & Nuru, A. K. (2017). "He wanted me to achieve that for our family and I did too": Exploring first-generation students' experiences of turning points during the transition to college. *Journal of Family Communication*, 17, 153-168.

## Department of Communication Studies

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

Dr. Kathy Castle  
Assistant Professor of Practice  
Director of Undergraduate Education  
Director of Business and Professional Communication  
Interpersonal, Family and Health Communication

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

Dr. Kristen Hoerl  
Associate Professor  
Rhetoric and Public Culture

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas  
Associate Professor  
Interpersonal, Family & Health Communication

Dr. Casey Kelly  
Associate Professor  
Rhetoric and Public Culture

Dr. Kathleen Krone  
Professor  
Organizational Communication

Dr. Ronald Lee  
Professor  
Rhetoric and Public Culture

Dr. José Angel Maldonado  
Assistant Professor  
Rhetoric and Public Culture

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

Dr. William J. Seiler  
Professor  
Instructional Communication

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

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

Dr. Allison Bonander  
Associate Director of Speech & Debate  
Interpersonal, Family and Health Communication

Dr. Marco Abel  
Courtesy Faculty  
Department of English

Dr. Roland Végső  
Courtesy Faculty  
Department of English

Mr. Timothy Turnquist  
Undergraduate Major Advisor  
Communication Studies  
& Global Studies