



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

FROM THE ACTING CHAIR, DR. JODY KOENIG KELLAS



As the acting chair for the Spring 2016 semester, I get only a glimpse into what it is like to help run a department. But that glimpse has given me even further insight into what a tremendous department we have, including ground-breaking, nationally recognized research; award-winning, thoughtful, and committed teaching; an investment in service to the College of Arts & Sciences, the larger UNL campus community, and the discipline. I am truly grateful to be a part of Communication Studies at UNL.

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas Serving in the role of acting chair has also further illuminated the quality and sheer amount of hard work our current department chair, Dawn O. Braithwaite, has put in over the last five years. Communication Studies has enjoyed heroic commitment to department leadership, as exemplified by Bill Seiler's excellence during his 21-year tenure as chair. In this tradition, Dawn has just ended her first five-year term and has volunteered to serve another—no small gesture! Thus, I asked her and other members of the faculty to comment on what they see as her greatest accomplishments over her first five-year term. Of course, a chair's achievements are always a collaboration between members of the department and the larger academic community—as you will see reflected in Dawn's own comments below—but the faculty who responded credited her with the following achievements:

Fundraising: The creation of the [Phyllis Japp Fund](#) – a fund that both honors our late and wonderful colleague, Phyllis Japp, and helps to support graduate student travel. Faculty also noted Dawn's accomplishments in helping to further undergraduate and graduate alumni relations, which has resulted in important fundraising for the department's initiatives and future. See page 11 for ways you can contribute.

Departmental growth: Dawn helped to secure several new hires, including two professors of practice positions and one tenure-track faculty position in health communication.

Oversight of important initiatives: Faculty note Dawn's valiant role in helping to oversee a successful Academic Program Review (APR) and strategic planning process that resulted in our three cross-cutting strategic initiatives in Health and Well-Being, Civic Engagement, and Identity and Difference. During her tenure as chair, the department also engaged in undergraduate curricular reform, strengthening the major and helping to grow the major's size.

Issue 15, Spring 2016

Featured Articles

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Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Alivia Michalski and Jody Kellas

(Chair's column continued)

Connections across campus: Those of you who know Dawn know that she is a bridge builder, working purposefully over the last few years to create and sustain relationships across campus, the community, and in the (inter)disciplinary field.

Speech and Debate: Dawn has helped raise funds, secured a professor of practice position to oversee S&D, and provided institutional support. During her time as chair, the S&D team has won five straight conference challenge tournament titles and is currently ranked in the top 10 in the nation. Donating to the Donald Olson fund will help our S&D team: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-donald-o-olson-memorial-fund-for-forensics-01041680>)

In her own words, Dawn is most proud of the following departmental accomplishments as chair: from 2011-2016:

I am so proud of what the department has accomplished these past five years. The faculty and I developed and adopted a Strategic Plan that set goals and action steps for our undergraduate and graduate programs, scholarship, interdisciplinary connections, and administration. Together we have made significant progress on our goals and will review our Strategic Plan in 2017. In the department office we reviewed and updated many of our work processes, for example, how we build our class schedule and undertake other work for the department.

In the undergraduate program, our reconfigured major kicked off in 2014, featuring a new COMM 101 course, Communication in the 21st Century; three new foundational courses for our majors; and other courses that bring the vitality of communication to students. Our undergraduate major is experiencing steady growth. The college supported hiring two Professors of Practice who are central to undergraduate education: Dr. Aaron Duncan, our Director of Speech & Debate and Dr. Kathy Castle, our Director of Undergraduate Education and Major Advisor.

In the graduate program, the faculty developed shared scholarly emphases in Civic Engagement, Health and Well-being, and Identity and Difference, around which graduate students and faculty integrate our studies and research and connect to interdisciplinary initiatives on the campus. We have wonderful graduate students and one of the best student placement records on the campus.

I am especially proud to see how the scholarly work of the faculty continues to put the department on the map at UNL and in the discipline. We saw seven books published by our faculty members in the past two years, numerous research teams, and scholarly projects published by the faculty. I am so delighted with the addition of new assistant professors who joined our faculty during my first term as Chair. Our faculty have been very active and taken leadership in interdisciplinary initiatives on our campus, for example, the Minority Health Disparities Initiative; Humanities on the Edge scholar series; the U. S. Department of State funded Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) grant for three years to bring students from African universities to UNL and our involvement in the new Qualitative and Mixed Methods Interest Group on campus, to name just a few.

To Dawn: you are **valued** as a colleague and chair. Thank you, immensely for all the hard work – blood, sweat, and tears. Here's to another five years!

Keep in touch! Follow us on Twitter [@CommAtUNL](https://twitter.com/CommAtUNL), “like” the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies on Facebook, [University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofNebraskaLincolnCommunicationStudies) and check out our website: <http://comm.unl.edu/>

—Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas



Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite, PhD
Willa Cather Professor & Chair
Dept. of Communication Studies



Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas

**DISTINGUISHED
TEACHING
AWARD WINNERS,
DR. JODY KELLAS
AND
DR. JORDAN
SOLIZ**



Dr. Jordan Soliz

Communication Studies Drs. Jody Koenig Kellas and Jordan Soliz have each received the College Distinguished Teaching Award to be presented at the UNL Honors Convocation on April 24th (held before our departmental event, see page 8 for details about Communication Studies Awards reception.).

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES, COMM 970D
“FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE:
AN INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH”**



**WITH
VISITING SCHOLAR,
MICHELLE MILLER-DAY**

**Professor of Communication and Health and
Strategic Communication
Chapman University
Co-President of REAL Prevention**

THREE COMMUNICATION STUDIES TEACHERS HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

Communication Studies teachers, Jaclyn Marsh, Angela Palmer-Wackerly, and Damien Pfister were recognized on January 29, 2016, at an annual reception. The UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association presented each with a certificate for making a significant difference in an undergraduate student's life. Congratulations!



Pictured Jaclyn Marsh and Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly
Dr. Damien Pfister not pictured.

NOVEL BY GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, BLOOD, PUBLISHED.



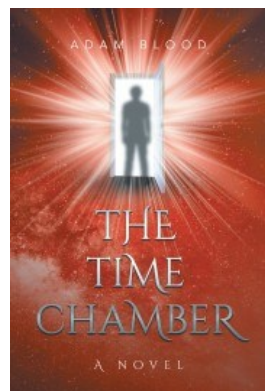
Adam Blood

his problems.

The Time Chamber: A Novel is a thrilling story by PhD candidate, Adam Blood. The story revolves around Eric McHayden a man who never has enough time—until he meets a curious stranger who seems to have the answer to

However the “answer” comes with dangerous repercussions, and he is soon running for his life.

The Time Chamber: A Novel is available at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes and Noble.



DR. DAMIEN PFISTER EXPLORES COMMUNICATIVE PRACTICES IN NETWORK MEDIA ENVIRONMENTS IN NEW PUBLICATION.

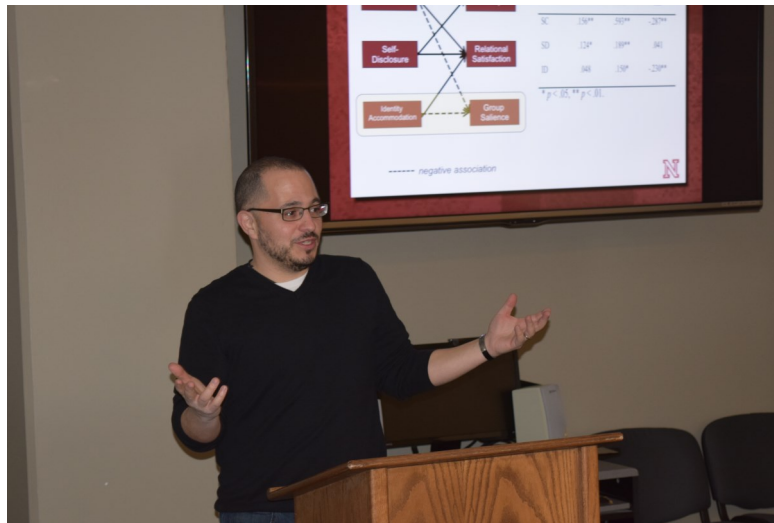


Adam Blood, Dr. Pfister, Dr. Woods and Jon Carter

In *Networked Media, Networked Rhetorics*, Dr. Pfister explains how blogs have evolved from inconsequential technology to powerful means of communication, reshaping attitudes and emotion and redefining expertise. He examines how the blogosphere, in particular, has changed public debate. Available at amazon.com.

DR. JORDAN SOLIZ

AWARDED MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES GRANT



Dr. Jordan Soliz

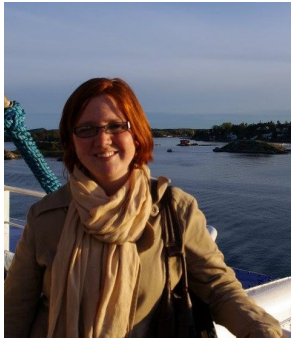
Dr. Jordan Soliz was awarded a Minority Health Disparities grant from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium for the study, *"Family Dynamics, Identity, and Psychological Well-being in Multiethnic-racial Individuals."* In collaboration with his co-PI, Dr. Lisa Crockett (Department of Psychology), the project focuses on the role of family in creating secure ethnic-racial identity and psychological well-being among multiethnic-racial individuals.

"There has been a great deal of research demonstrating the link between ethnic or racial identity and overall well-being," Dr. Soliz said. "However, individuals with mixed ethnic-racial backgrounds have traditionally not been included in these studies." Dr. Soliz argues that this is a significant omission given the exponential growth in individuals with parents from different ethnic or racial groups: "The experiences of individuals with a mixed heritage challenges the monoethnic or monoracial norms that exist in society and pervade much of our research. In this study, we are especially interested in family dynamics given the various cultural orientations that may exist in these families."

The study itself is a mixed methods design. Study 1 data collection involving in-depth interviews with multiracial-ethnic individuals is complete, and Dr. Soliz and his research team are at the exciting stage of analyzing those data. Results from Study 1 will inform Study 2 – a larger survey that will help establish the links between family dynamics and identity found in Study 1 and psychological well-being for multiracial-ethnic individuals. According to Dr. Soliz, "We were pleasantly surprised with the depth of experiences our participants shared with us in their interviews and I am looking forward to really delving into transcripts to learn about experiences with their families, as well as their communities, in general. We also asked our participants to offer insight into what aspect of the multiethnic-racial experience we should study, and I believe that will be extremely important in shaping our future inquiries. As a mixed method study, we won't know the specifics of Study 2 until we integrate the findings from the interviews. So, even as the primary researcher, I am very excited to see the specific focus of this second study."

To learn more about or contact Dr. Soliz, please visit his website at www.solizresearch.com or email him at jsoliz2@unl.edu.

2015-2016 JAPP SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED



JAMIE DOWNING

Jamie is a 4th Year PhD candidate from Normal, Illinois. She received both her BS and MS degrees from Illinois State University.

Within Rhetoric and Public Culture, Jamie focuses on religious rhetorical practices. Specifically, she seeks to understand the ways that members of minority religions engage non-Western rhetorical practices in order to preserve identity and build community.

Jamie's dissertation employs archival methods to focus on the rhetorical practices employed by Jewish homesteaders and community leaders on the American Great Plains. She hopes to shed light on vernacular Jewish rhetorical practices, particularly as they differ from those of the larger Christian majority, as these settlers attempted to construct a sense of Jewish communal life on the Plains.

She is honored to be named as a Japp Scholar, which commemorates such a fondly remembered scholar, colleague, and friend. She is grateful to have her research recognized as holding the potential that Dr. Japp encouraged in her own students.



ELIZABETH FLOOD-GRADY

Biz is a 4th year PhD candidate from Lombard, Illinois. She received her BA from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, and her MS from Illinois State University.

Primary area of research: Interpersonal, family and health communication.

Her dissertation is a mixed method design consisting of two empirical research studies focusing on communication within families surrounding mental illness. For Study One, she collected qualitative interviews to explore how families communicate about mental health and illness. Building on the results of her first study, Study Two is a quantitative survey design investigating how parents communicate with their children about depression and its impact on the health and health decisions of young adults with depression.

Elizabeth is honored to be named a Phyllis Japp Scholar and to be associated with Dr. Japp's vibrant legacy as a teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend. She is humbled that members of the department believe in the promise of her scholarship and that they are willing to support her in research endeavors.



KAITLIN PHILLIPS

Kaitlin is a 3rd year PhD candidate from Keller, Texas. She received her BS and MS from Texas Christian University.

Kaitlin's primary area of research is Family Communication.

The goal of her dissertation is to develop a measure of family identity. She explains, "Family is often the first social group we belong to and a primary socializing agent, thus it is important to be able to capture the dimensions of family identity and the impact of those dimensions on family functioning and long-term outcomes."

Kaitlin is honored to be named a Japp Scholar. Despite never having met Dr. Japp, Kaitlin continues to hear about Dr. Japp's mentoring and dedication to the field. Kaitlin asserts, "Dr. Japp continues to have an impact on this department and I'm honored to be part of that legacy."

THREE COMMUNICATION STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS



Christian Ivey

Congratulations to **Christina Ivey and Elizabeth Flood-Grady** who have been awarded Department of Communication Studies Teaching Awards for 2015-16.



Kaitlin Phillips

Congratulations to **Kaitlin Phillips** who has been awarded a Department of Communication Studies Research Award for 2015-16.



Elizabeth Flood- Grady



COMM CLUB HIGHLIGHTS JAMIE DOWNING, COMM CLUB ADVISOR

Comm Club wrapped up a successful semester last year. The Club concluded the semester by co-sponsoring a Career Conversation focused on preparing for graduate school with Comm Studies Undergraduate Advisor, Dr. Kathy Castle. This semester, the executive board has planned events focused on networking, preparing for the career fair, and interviewing techniques. In addition to these workshops, the Club renewed an emphasis on community involvement. President Katelyn Workman organized a volunteer opportunity with United Way, attended by several members.

These activities directly speak to the benefits Comm Club members gain from the club. Students say these opportunities are most valuable to their experiences as Communication Studies majors. Public Relations coordinator, Lorin Leifert notes that "In joining Comm Club, students of any major can meet other students, meet faculty, staff, advisors, and gain skills to network and learn how to showcase their degree."



Dr. Soliz speaks to the Comm Club

The Career Conversations, offered to Comm Club members, help students develop an understanding of the opportunities that their Communication degree opens to them and learn to articulate these skills to others.

Comm Club is planning for the 2016-2017 school year by brainstorming activities, planning events, and recruiting leadership. The club is grateful for the hard work and dedication of this year's executive board.

Senior Katelyn Workman (President) plans to work in a human resources department in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Megan McKenzie (Vice President/ Treasurer) hopes to seek a masters degree in counseling so that she can work with students. Mariah Gatson (Secretary) has an internship as marketing coach for National Property Inspections. Junior Lorin Lefeirt (Public Relations)

looks forward to completing her senior year next year. **Comm Club thanks them for all their hard work!**

We are always seeking new members. To be a part of Comm Club, email Jamie Downing at jdowning@huskers.unl.edu

—Jamie Downing



FROM DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION DR. KATHY CASTLE

I continue to be impressed with the talent, initiative, and engagement of our majors! Not only did 33 of you make the Dean's List in the fall 2015 semester, we have several majors actively working on research projects and several who are taking what they are learning in the classroom out to the community to make a difference. Given this, as a department, we want to honor all the important contributions you make that are exemplary of our departmental values: excellence in learning, excellence in research, and excellence in civic engagement. Thus, we plan to make some exciting changes to this year's Honors and Awards ceremony that will allow us to honor our undergraduates who excel in these areas. We are instituting an undergraduate research award as well as an award for undergraduates who have excelled in using the critical competencies of advocating, negotiating, and relating to make contributions to the community. Please join us at the reception. All majors are invited!

ANNUAL HONORS AND AWARDS RECEPTION SCHEDULED

Sunday, April 24, 2016

4:30-6:00 pm

In the Colonial Room

Nebraska Student Union, City Campus

This spring semester also finds us working steadily on several exciting initiatives aimed at highlighting the value of the Communication Studies major. We've spent the last several weeks recording interviews of faculty members, current students, and alumni of our department about how what we teach in this major translates to a real competitive advantage after graduation. I've spoken with alumni across career fields—higher education, human resources, financial services, recruitment, athletics, legal services, and arts administration, just to name a few—all of whom attribute their success to the competencies they learned in this major. It has been

a true joy to hear how much our students and alumni appreciate how well prepared they are to succeed across an impressive range of career paths. I am excited for you all to see the videos that are a result of these interviews and hope they serve to help you as you begin to envision your own career paths!

We are also working to help our students connect with one another and with faculty as we plan some exciting activities and events for this semester. First, our COMM Club will continue to sponsor our COMM Career Conversation series. Our first talk was held Tuesday, March 1 at 4pm in the City Union and focused on preparing for professional school—medical and law school—and featured advisors from the Explore Center.

You will want to mark your calendars for our annual De-COMMPress Day featuring “Cheese and Wiis” on Tuesday, April 27 following our Senior Capstone poster session. Come join faculty, graduate students, and your peers as we take a break from the end of semester stress! We'll have pizza (cheese) and play some video games (wiis) in Oldfather 438!

Remember to connect with us on LinkedIn—search for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies Students and Alumni Group and request to join!

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

Sincerely,
Dr. Kathy Castle

Communication Studies at the Majors Fair



INTERVIEW WITH UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNUS, LAUREN SCHAAL



1) During which years were you a student at UNL and when did you graduate? Which degree (s) did you earn at UNL?

2009-2013, I majored in Political Science and Communication Studies, with minors in Studio Art and Women and Gender Studies.

2) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

I am a 3rd year law student at Boston College Law, working on becoming a family law attorney for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

3) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies?

I chose a major in Communication Studies because Dr. Aaron Duncan told me I had to. Just kidding—Comm Studies was a good major to help me understand the fundamentals of rhetoric for my future in litigation. My arguments in court are better for it!

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 you with one or more of these in your life and career?

My career is all about being a zealous advocate for the less fortunate, and that has a lot of negotiating attached to it. My communication degree has given me the specific skills necessary to relate to my clients, who are often in dire situations, and to be their voice in court. From learning about rhetoric to persuasive skills, almost every upper level comm class I took affects what I do in court.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?

Other than all my amazing memories with the UNL speech team, I would have to say my favorite memories are of Dr. Ron Lee —getting distracted from his

lessons and spinning hilarious tales that often taught us more than the actual curriculum.

6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students?

Never forget the department! As an alum, I am always looking to reach out to students interning or spending some time in the Northeast so they have a connection when they are away from home. I also actively try to stay involved with my AWESOME speech team to give career advice and to help out whenever I am around. Keeping these connections, and helping new students grow is what continues to make the UNL Communication Studies department great.

7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department?

Explore tons of career options. Comm Studies rocks because it gives you the fundamentals needed for so many jobs. Use that to your advantage and play around with different choices for your future while you are in college with internships, research, and classes. Doing this while you are in the department is awesome because you have a wealth of information about tons of practice areas from the professors and other staff. You are never going to be pigeonholed!

Comm Studies was a good major to help me understand the fundamentals of rhetoric for my future in litigation.

My arguments in court are better for it!



UNL SPEECH & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS

DR. AARON DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF SPEECH & DEBATE

The Speech and Debate team has continued to thrive in 2016. In January, the Speech Team placed 4th at the University of Texas' Tournament in Austin out of more than 50 schools and picked up team victories at tournaments held by the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Kansas State University. They captured first place team awards at tournaments held by Kansas Wesleyan University and Cameron University. Nineteen students were qualified to the American Forensics Association's National Individual Events Tournament in 48 speech events and six debaters to the National Forensics Association's National Tournament.

On February 20th-21st the team headed to Evanston, Illinois, to defend their Big Ten Conference Tournament title on the campus of Northwestern University where their victory made them five-time champs. The UNL team captured nine of the 11 individual Big Ten tournament titles and scored a two-day total of 182.5 points. Northwestern finished in second place with 75 points.

Sophomores Erin Sheehan and Mattison Merritt, both of Omaha, led the UNL team at the tournament. Sheehan won individual titles in persuasive speaking, extemporaneous speaking and impromptu speaking. Merritt captured top honors in dramatic interpretation, program oral interpretation and duo interpretation, along with her partner, Jonathan Baker, a junior from Hickman. Sophomore Ryan Eichenauer of Blaine, Minnesota, and junior Linsey Armstrong of Scribner won informative speaking and communication analysis, respectively.

I am extremely proud of our students' performance, This victory is representative of the hard work these students have put in since they began preparing in June.

The students of both the speech and debate teams have been competing since September and are preparing for national tournaments, which are in April at the University of Florida and Ball State University.

—Dr. Aaron Duncan



Members of the UNL speech and debate team include (from left) Mattison Merritt, Ryan Eichenauer, Erin Sheehan, Linsey Armstrong, Christian Rush, Chloe Meier, Bryant Grimminger and Jonathan Baker.

CALLING ALL PAST SPEECH & DEBATE MEMBERS AND COACHES !

PLEASE COME TO UNL SPEECH & DEBATE'S UPCOMING REUNION

Date: June 11th, 2016,

Location: Wick Alumni Center on the UNL city campus.

For more information, please email Dr. Aaron Duncan,

Director of Speech & Debate, at aduncan3@unl.edu

FOCUS ON GRADUATE ALUMNUS, DR SHAWN WAHL



1) During which years were you a student at UNL? Which degree(s) did you earn at UNL? When did you graduate? I attended 1999 to 2003. I graduated in April 2003 (PhD Communication Studies). Focus areas: Rhetoric and Culture/Instructional Communication.

2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies? I considered going to law school, but loved my MA in Communication Studies at Texas Tech University. Teaching public speaking and business and professional communication in my MA program really inspired me to want to continue with my PhD studies and to be a professor.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL? Dr. Ron Lee informed me about the program at NCA in New York City in 1998, and I became interested in UNL.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? I am currently a professor of communication and head of the Department of Communication at Missouri State University (MSU). I have authored numerous books including *Nonverbal Communication for a Lifetime*, *The Communication Age: Connecting and Engaging*, *Business and Professional Communication: KEYS for Workplace Excellence*, and I have published articles in communication journals. I have worked across the nation as a corporate trainer, communication consultant, and leadership coach in a variety of industries. Recently, I was selected as a leadership fellow in the Harvard University Management Development Program (MDP).

I serve as an editorial board member of several national research journals. I am the 2016 President of the Central States Communication Association and a member of the National Communication Association.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? I loved working and playing hard. My favorite memories are having coffee with Phyllis Japp and lunch with Ron Lee. Ron would round up some of the graduate students—Chad McBride, Paul Schrodt and I became fond of a Philly steak place (I think they turned it into a Starbucks.). I also have a memory of going to eat wings with Dawn Braithwaite and the graduate students in her interpersonal communication seminar—the wings (and beer) were really good after class. A few more: I enjoyed singing karaoke at The Beacon (Leah Bryant and I killed it on a Sade tune one evening) and Monday night martinis with Chad McBride were also great fun!

6) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department? Do your best to do something social and fun several times a week. Finding balance is difficult, but we all have to do whatever it takes to survive the stress of graduate school. Your experiences now will definitely prepare you for faculty life. You are only getting started. **Go Big Red!**

7) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? I think it is important to stay connected with your Nebraska alumni family—part of staying connected is by giving back and helping current UNL students. I think it is critical for us to work together to give back to Nebraska.

GIVE TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Dr. Wahl encourages alumni to support the Phyllis Japp Development Fund: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>, saying “This fund is very special to me because it honors the legacy of Phyllis Japp and helps current PhD students attend conferences.”

Other giving options include:

Recurring gifts can be set up easily via the NU Foundation—**Department of Communication Studies Fund:** <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-department-of-communication-studies-fund-01035440>

Donald Olson fund for Speech and Debate: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-donald-o-olson-memorial-fund-for-forensics-01041680>

“Both small and large donations will help”—Dr. Shawn Wahl

Department of Communication Studies

Faculty Accomplishments

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Braithwaite, D. O., Allen, J., & Moore, J. (in press). Data conferencing. *International Encyclopedia of Communication; Sub-Disciplinary Encyclopedia of Communication (Communication Research Methods: Qualitative Research Methods)*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Braithwaite, D. O., & Braithwaite, C. A. (in press). "Which Is my good leg?": Cultural communication of persons with disabilities. In K. Verderber & E. MacGeorge (Eds), *Inter-Act* (14th ed.). New York NY: Oxford University Press.

Krok-Schoen, J. L., **Palmer-Wackerly, A. L.**, Dailey, P.M., Wojno, J. & Krieger, J. L. (in press). Age differences in cancer treatment decision making and social support. *Journal of Aging and Health*.

Krok-Schoen, J. L., **Palmer-Wackerly, A. L.**, Dailey, P. M., & Krieger, J. L. (2015). The conceptualization of self-identity among residents of Appalachia Ohio. *Journal of Appalachian Studies*.

AWARDS

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite has been named as the Scholar in Residence (2016). National Communication Association Institute for Faculty Development. Hope College, Holland MI.

She also received the James Ferris Award for Contributions to Communication and Disability Studies from the National Communication Association Disability Issues Caucus (2015).

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite and Diana Breshears (2014), University of Pretoria, South Africa were awarded the Monograph of the Year Award, National Communication Association, GLBTQ Division. for "Discursive Struggles Animating Individuals' Talk About Their Parents' Coming Out as Lesbian and Gay," published in the *Journal of Family Communication* (2015).



Dr. Aaron Duncan was awarded The Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensics Association Distinguished Service

Award at the state Speech & Debate tournament Feb. 13, 2016.



Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas, Associate Professor in Communication Studies, and colleagues Allison Thorson (PhD, 2009), Christy Rittenour (PhD, 2009) and A.R. Trees won the Western States Communication Association's Dr. Milton Dickens Award for Exemplary Empirical Research for their article, "Quality interactions and family storytelling." Their work was selected as the most outstanding article in the journal *Communication Reports* for the three-year term 2013-2016. Allison is pictured receiving the award in San Diego on February 29, 2016.

Dr. Damien Pfister, with colleagues Dr. Patrice McMahon (Political Science) and Linda Major (Center for Civic Engagement), hosted the 3rd Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) from January 10-February 14, 2016. Twenty students from universities in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe learned about the history of the United States, with an emphasis on civil rights. Eleven UNL undergraduates worked with the program as Peer Ambassadors, helping the SUSI Scholars acclimate to Nebraska's culture (and weather!) and organizing social events.

Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nominated by a student(s) and awarded to faculty/staff members who have made a significant contribution to students' lives while at UNL.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Drs. Angela Palmer-Wackerly and Jody Koenig Kellas received a Research Council Faculty Seed Grant in the amount of \$9,750 for their research project, "Infertility Perspective-Taking, Treatment Decision-Making, and Patient Well-Being."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Graduate Student Accomplishments

GRANTS

Nicole Allen received a \$500 grant from American Councils for International Education for Arabic Language and Cultural Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Moran, M.B., Everhart, K., Feb. 11, 2016, *Anti-Vax Websites, We're Onto You*. time.com

Phillips, K. E., & Schrod, P. (in press). Sibling antagonism and shared family identity as mediators of differential parental treatment and relational outcomes in the sibling relationship. *Western Journal of Communication*.

Schrod, P., & **Phillips, K. E.** (in press). Sibling self-disclosure and relational uncertainty as mediators of family communication patterns and relational

outcomes in the sibling relationship. *Communication Monographs*.

TOP PAPER AWARD

Allen, J and Allen, N: *Complicating and Critiquing the Classical Twin Methodology: Decentering Biogenetic Approaches to Twin Studies*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association, San Diego CA.

Allen, N: *Delivery as language difference: Making room for the Babelian challenge to networked rhetorics*. Awarded Rhetoric and Public Address' Top Paper award for 2016, Western States Communication Association.

Moore, J: *Where is the critical empirical interpersonal communication research? A roadmap for future inquiry*. Paper presented at Western States Communication

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEAN'S LIST

Jonathan Troy Baker
Catherine Paige Bergen
Cooper Clair Christiency
Jeffrey Alan Eggerss
Caroline Elizabeth Flynn
Alex Foutch
Michael Franken
Nicholas James Gilbert
Anna Lynn Graff
Maggie Elisabeth Grosshans

Claire Elizabeth Hawkins
Sydney Marie Henry
Regan Danielle Jones
Geoffrey Himal Ledbetter
Angela Faith Lorenz
EmiLeigh Gloria Maloof
Megan Elizabeth McKenzie
Laura Jo Olson
Kali Megan Patterson
Aleah Nicole Peters
Jonathan Axel Petersen
Margaret Suzanne Reynolds
Madelyn Josie Ryder

Erin M. Sheehan
Laura Elizabeth Springer
Cassidy Rae Taladay
Randy Keith Thomas
Bethany Ann Vinton
Haley Weakland
Katherine Kay Wilkins
Heather Wilson
Katelyn Mary Workman

FALL 2015

Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

Anderson, R (Ph. D. 2005) & Jones, C (Eds) (2002) *Afrofuturism 2.0: The rise of Astro-Blackness* was recently released by Lexington Books.

Dr. Leah Bryant (PhD, 2003) was honored as one of the recipients for the NCA Teachers on Teaching Programs at the November 2015 conference in Las Vegas.

Karen Daas (PhD, 2005), has been named the new Program Director of Multidisciplinary Studies at University of Texas San Antonio. She has been serving as the Chair of the Faculty Senate at UTSA.

Michelle M. Maresh-Fuehrer (PhD, 2009) received the University Educator of the Year Award from the Texas Speech Communication Association, as appointed Internship Coordinator for the Department of Communication and Media at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, co-authored (with Shawn Wahl, PhD 2003) a textbook titled *Public Relations Principles: Strategies for professional success* with Kendall Hunt Publishing and presented a paper titled, "Teacher Behavior and Misbehavior in the Online Classroom" at the National Communication Association conference in Las Vegas, NV.



Garden, R. L. (PhD, 2009) & Seiler, W., *Serious illness conversations with doctors: Patients using information from sources other than their doctors.* Doctoral dissertation "in press" *Health Communication*.

Dr. Laurie Haleta, (PhD, 1994) was honored as one of the recipients for the NCA Teachers on Teaching Programs at the November 2015 conference in Las Vegas.

Jackie (Allen) Heard (BA, 2007) obtained her Master's degree in Management and currently works as an HRIS Manager for Newell Rubbermaid. She is married with two children.

Matthew Heinz (PhD, 1998) was reappointed to a second five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Social and Applied Sciences and also assigned to a one-year term as Founding Dean of our College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Royal Roads University in Canada.

Dr. Amanda Holman, (PhD, 2014) Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Creighton University received a 2016 Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, for her project entitled, "Let's Change the Talk: Examining PSA Messages Aimed to Encourage Parents to Have Conversations with Their Children about Sexual Health and Relationships."

Dr. Chad McBride, (PhD, 2003) Professor of Communication Studies at Creighton University received a 2016 Summer Faculty Research Fellowships, for his project entitled, "Communication Within and About the Work Spouse Relationship." Dr. McBride has been promoted to Full Professor at Creighton University, and Dr. McBride was nominated to run for Central States Communication Association's First Vice President this spring.

Brooklynne Rosado, (BA, 2007) is celebrating her 8th year with Transportation Specialists, LTD. She is general manager of Customer Service.

Allison Thorson (PhD, 2009) along with colleagues Christy Rittenour (**PhD, 2009**), Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas, Associate Professor in Communication Studies at UNL, and A.R. Trees won the Western States Communication Association's Dickens award for Exemplary Empirical Research for their article, "Quality interactions and family storytelling."



Dr. Shawn Wahl, (PhD, 2003) was accepted to the Harvard Leadership Program. Shawn is the Department Head of Communication at Missouri State University.

Dr. Tiffany Wang, (PhD, 2012) was recognized as the Honors General Education Professor of the Year by the Honors Program at the University of Montevallo. This award is given by the Golson Seminar senior capstone class to the General Education honors professor who has most positively impacted honors students' education over their time at the University of Montevallo.

Department of Communication Studies

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

Dr. Kathy Castle
Director of COMM 286 and Distance Education
Director of Undergraduate Education
Major Advisor

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

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas
Associate Professor
Interpersonal, Family & Intergroup Communication
Interim Chair, Spring 2016

Dr. Kathleen Krone
Professor
Organizational Communication

Dr. Ronald Lee
Professor
Rhetoric and Public Culture

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

Dr. Damien Pfister
Assistant Professor
Rhetoric and Public Culture

Dr. William J. Seiler
Professor
Instructional Communication

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

Dr. Carly Woods
Assistant Professor
Rhetoric and Public Culture

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