



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

From the Chair's Chair

Dear UNL Colleagues and Friends,

There is an excitement in the air here at UNL unlike anything I have seen in my years here. UNL has become part of the Big Ten! This move is very important for the “academic side” of the university. In our discipline especially, moving to the Big Ten brings us alongside some of the best communication programs in the world: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, and Wisconsin. With the Big Ten move, our chancellor has set ambitious five-year goals for growth in student population, student retention, graduation rates, research funding, and national awards.

Our department is making a very good contribution to UNL. We are undertaking initiatives on behalf of our undergraduate students and see our major growing. The faculty has contributed a significant uptick in research and publications and we are working with an outstanding group of graduate students.

One thing we have been concentrating on is bringing our research out into our communities. We developed a departmental media guide and are getting more calls to comment on news stories—in recent years our scholars have appeared in newspapers from Lincoln and Omaha to the *New York Times*.



Our graduate students have recently had their research projects publicized on Nebraska Public Radio, *The Huffington Post*, and *Sydney World Herald* (yes, Australia!). We are convinced that communication scholarship is relevant in today's world and want to see our work out there.

One splash we've made happened as our Speech & Debate team won the Big Ten tournament at Northwestern University (and by a large margin). This was the first Big Ten championship for the university. We wrote a press release and this became UNL's lead story and appeared in Lincoln and Omaha papers. Chancellor Harvey Perlman commented, "This confirms my view that in specific academic areas we will lead in the Big Ten and are certainly competitive with them." Senator Ben Nelson's office contacted the team and the senator Skyped in and congratulated the students:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVwQ5KFTy3E>. We are very proud of our Speech & Debate students and coaches as the team celebrates their 140th anniversary at UNL this year.

“CommHuskies” past and present are part of a vibrant academic community. We value your accomplishments and want to hear from you. We appreciate the work you do and your support of the department. **GO BIG RED!**

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite,
Willa Cather Professor & Chair

Issue 6, Fall 2011

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Newsletter Editors:
Tiffany R. Wang &
Dawn O. Braithwaite

New Team, New Year, Come Eat & Meet

Communication, Collaboration and Community, our departmental thematic, is truly being embraced by the Communication Studies Club to start the 2011-2012 academic year. With a new team of officers and a steady flow of members we are gearing up for what will be one of our best years yet! We are introducing a luncheon series this year called "Comm Club Eat & Meet" which will give students a chance to meet and interact with UNL faculty members in a casual setting. The special guests for our inaugural session will be Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas and Dr. Jordan Soliz of the Communication Studies

Department. This holiday season, we have decided to give back to the Lincoln community by sponsoring the Hope Holiday Drive, in which we will collect as many items as we can to donate to the people of the Voices of Hope



Big Red Road Show

Organization who have been victims of domestic abuse. In addition to these events, this fall semester played host to the Communication Studies Club t-shirt contest to come up with the newest edition of the club shirt. The winning design will be voted on and made available for purchase this spring semester. This school year brings about many new and exciting ventures with great people, thus, we encourage you to join us and make the experience that much better! Communication Studies Club is open to any and all majors, and our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please e-mail us at commclub.unl@gmail.com.

Antwane Collins, President
Kristen Carr, Advisor
Communication Studies Club

From the Desk of the Graduate Director

After over 12 years of service to our department as Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite has stepped out of this role to take on her new duties as Chair of our department. I believe I speak for everyone in thanking Dawn for her dedication and efforts in establishing UNL as a top doctoral program. In Summer 2011, I took over as Director of Graduate Studies and I look forward to working with our faculty and graduate students in the coming years. We are already off-and-running this semester. We welcomed seven new graduate students to our community, we have one of our largest groups ever completing comprehensive exams, and our 3rd and 4th year students are completing dissertations and busy on the job market. Faculty and graduate students are also gearing up for the upcoming NCA convention in New Orleans. As usual, our graduate students will be highly active at NCA



Dr. Jordan Soliz with son Elijah.

participating in various paper and discussion panels. We are extremely proud of our students who have been recognized for their scholarship with Top Paper awards in the GLBTQ Communication Studies, Interpersonal Communication, Instructional Development, and Peace and Conflict Communication Divisions. Soon after NCA, we will be in the heart of graduate admissions "season." If you have any students who are interested in our program, please encourage them to visit us at the Graduate Student Open House, attend our department reception (see pg. 5), visit our newly-designed website for information about the program (www.unl.edu/cs/), or contact me

with any questions. I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans. Laissez les bon temps roulez!

Dr. Jordan Soliz, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Spotlight on Graduate Alumna Dr. Mary Gill

Interim VP for Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Professor of Communication at Buena Vista University



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

From 1988 through 1991, completing my Ph.D. in May, 1991.

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

Speech/Communication Studies has always been my passion beginning as an 8th grader in a debate prep class. My fascination has always been with language, meaning, and message creation. From high school on, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

First and foremost was my passion for classroom communication. I have always had an “applied” focus to my thinking with communication studies and classroom communication seemed like the natural fit. The personalized

approach in dealing with prospective grad students, Dr. Seiler’s reputation and knowledge, and the location in the Midwest, made UNL a natural pick and my top choice.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

Since leaving UNL, I have made my career at a small private college in Iowa, Buena Vista University. Hired as an assistant professor, I earned tenure and promotion after three years and assumed the position of the Dean of the School of Communication and Arts. After 9 years as Dean, I became the Associate Dean of the Faculty for 7 years, working collaboratively with the Vice President for Academic Affairs in oversight of the academic programs. I currently serve as the Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students with the hope of returning to full-time teaching next year.

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

Some of my fondest memories are of spending Saturdays working on research with Diane Badzinski and just spending time in great conversation and mentee relationships over diet Coke, frozen yogurt, and/or lunch with her, Phyllis Japp, and Debra Japp. Bill Seiler’s laugh still makes me smile—it is contagious!

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

I believe strongly that we must give back. Our opportunities were created

on the passions, gifts and sacrifices, at times, of those who came before us; we owe it to the current and future generation of Huskers to do the same. One of the easiest ways for me to give back is monetarily. I choose a modest monthly gift and occasionally send larger gifts as I am able. I was fortunate to have financial backing when I attended UNL which allowed me to attend virtually any conference I wanted to without concern for costs; it is even more important in these tight economic times and weaker economy to assist those who come after me in the program. I also have assisted former and current graduate students with research efforts and professional connections and opportunities. My hope is that all alumni would reflect on and remember the growth they experienced through the dedication of the Comm Studies Program faculty and staff, keeping in mind words of thanks, of encouragement, building alumni bridges and networks, and monetary support are all essential components to ensuring those same gifts exist for today’s and future students.

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

Always take advantage of opportunities; risk failure because that is how success is achieved. Be open to new ideas, new areas of study, and new experiences. And, get connected—with your student colleagues, with your faculty, and with your alumni networks. Create and follow your passions.

We Do Need Your Support

When you see us ask for donations to the department, you may wonder how we use these funds. *Your funds go directly to supporting students:*

- Financial supplements for graduate and undergraduate students who travel to present at conferences
- Reception to recruit new students at the National Communication Association meeting (and where we get to host many of you!)
- Scholarships for Speech & Debate students
- Bringing visiting scholars and speakers to campus
- Building our research facilities

You may give to our general Communication Studies

Fund or funds targeted toward specific purposes:

- **Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** All funds go directly to support graduate students with conference

and research expenses:

<https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1617>

- **Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate:**

<https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=986>

- **Communication Studies General Fund:**

<https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1286>

A gift of \$10 or \$20 a month can make a big difference and recurring gifts can be set up easily via the NU

Foundation: <http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=450>

If you would like to talk about a larger gift or estate giving, contact Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite.

Your support is important and we are grateful to our alumni supporters.

Speech & Debate Wins First Big Ten Title

The UNL Speech & Debate team has traveled to three tournaments this semester and placed in the top three at every tournament, including becoming the first team from the University of Nebraska to win a Big Ten title. The victory occurred at the Conference Challenge Tournament, Oct. 8-9 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. UNL led the field with a two-day point total of 261 points, ahead of tournament host and second-place finisher Northwestern at 138 points. In addition to the team championship in a

conference that has a long tradition of academic excellence and excellence in speech and debate, UNL students captured seven individual Big Ten titles. Senior Nick Herink won conference championships in prose interpretation, dramatic interpretation, and duo interpretation with partner sophomore Grace Kluck. Other conference champions include senior Eli Barts in informative speaking, senior Jimmy Simpson in persuasive speaking, junior Lauren Schaal in after dinner speaking, and

sophomore Josh Planos in program oral interpretation. The team's Big Ten victory has received coverage from the *Omaha World-Herald*, *Lincoln Journal Star*, and *Forbes.com*. On Wednesday, October 19th, the team Skyped with Senator Ben Nelson to discuss their victory. So far the team has qualified six events to the national tournament and is looking forward to upcoming tournaments at Kansas State University, Truman State University, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Bradley University.



Grace Kluck and Nick Herink



Nick McCormick, Nick Herink, Eli Barts, Reece Ristau, & Patrick Sather

UNL Reception at NCA New Orleans

Those attending the National Communication Association meeting in New Orleans are cordially invited to join us for our annual reception:

Saturday, November 19th

7:30-9:30 pm

St. Charles Room

New Orleans Marriott

Visit with old friends and meet new ones! See you there!

Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumna Kristin Allan Brown



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

I was a student from 2005-2009. In May 2009, I earned a B.A. in Communication Studies.

2) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

My major at the time required me to take a Communication

Studies class. I loved it! I knew I had found my passion; I switched my major right away to Communication Studies.

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

I was excited about the opportunities both at UNL and after graduation that the degree would offer. The classes were so interesting and applicable to real-world experiences. I had fantastic, caring professors who fostered my interest in the discipline and prepared me for future opportunities. I enjoyed serving as a TA and being involved in a UCARE project with Dr. Kristen Lucas.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

After graduation, I interned in the communications department at Special Olympics in Washington, D.C. Since Fall 2009, I have worked in the DC office of U.S. Senator Mike

Johanns. I'm a staff assistant and deputy scheduler. In October 2010, I married Ted Brown.

5) What has the communication degree brought to your career?

My classes and related experiences developed my ability and my confidence in writing, in researching, in working with a small group, and in communicating both verbally and nonverbally with others. I find these skills to be very helpful in my career as I work with my colleagues and with the constituents whom we serve. The degree provided a great foundation for my professional development.

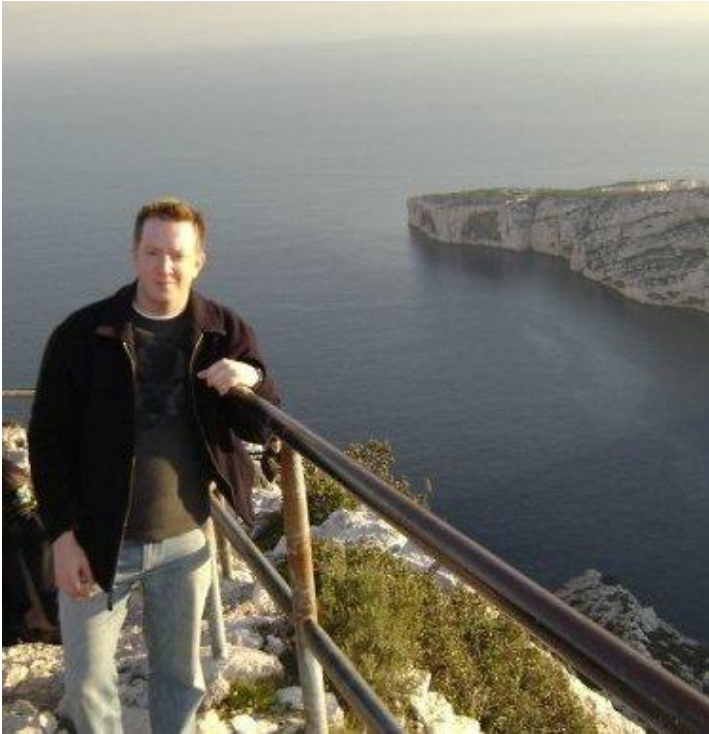
6) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?

I'll always be grateful for my UCARE project with Dr. Lucas. I learned so much from her and from our research project! It was an honor to be selected to present at the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference at the 2008 meeting of the Central States Communication Association.

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

It is important for alumni to express our gratitude to the department and to the professors who shaped our college years and beyond. Alumni can stay involved by encouraging students to pursue a communication studies degree and by mentoring current students as they seek a career path.

Spotlight on Faculty Member Dr. Aaron Duncan



In this edition of the newsletter we feature Dr. Aaron Duncan who is in his seventh year as Director of UNL Speech & Debate.

1) Where did you earn your doctoral degree? University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2) Were you a faculty member anywhere before joining the UNL faculty?
Nope

3) Why did you decide to join the faculty at UNL?
I wanted to come to a program that had a strong forensics tradition and institutional support. UNL had all of these qualities and offered me the chance to also pursue my Ph.D. while coaching.

4) What classes do you teach?
I am the Director of Speech & Debate but I also teach classes including theory of persuasion, directing forensics, the rhetoric of sports and games, popular culture, business and professional speaking, public speaking, and oral interp.

5) What research projects are you working on?
Currently I am working on publishing my dissertation which

focuses on the changing nature of the American Dream as reflected by the massive growth in gambling in the United States in the last 20 years.

6) Tell us about some of your biggest recent accomplishments?

My biggest recent accomplishment was finishing my dissertation and graduating last May. I am also proud of the Speech & Debate team's recent finishes at our national tournaments. UNL was one of only two teams to place in the top ten in both speech and debate. We finished 7th in speech and 5th in the nation in Lincoln Douglas Debate.

7) What do you do when you are not working?

I like to play golf, run, and play volleyball. I am currently training for a half marathon in October and I am a founding member of the department's volleyball team "The Commies."

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

The Commies' playoff victories in volleyball this summer. We were terrible during the regular season but really came together during the post season to make an improbable playoff run. It was like a combination of the movies *Rocky*, *Miracle*, and *Bad News Bears*. Our coach Damien Pfister inspired us with some amazing pre-game speeches that were unlike anything I have ever experienced before or since.

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

Our department and particularly our graduate students are always very appreciative of any financial contributions our alumni can give toward travel funds. Going to conferences is extremely beneficial for graduate students in terms of both their exposure to new ideas and for helping them get jobs. Alumni can also support us by sharing their experiences and letting us know how studying communication has helped them in their careers.

10) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department?

Enjoy your time here at the university and in the department. You are fortunate to find yourself in a supportive and nurturing environment. Remember the people who have helped you along the way and when you have the chance try to do the same for others.

Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

Nancy J. Brule (Ph.D., 2002): Nancy J. Brule won the 2012 Bethel University Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching, Nancy is a full professor of Communication Studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN.

Colleen Colaner (Ph.D., 2011): I started my position as Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia.



Colleen Colaner (Ph.D., 2011) with daughter Essie and husband Seth.

Daniel Cronn-Mills (Ph.D., 1995): Book published: Croucher, S. M., & Cronn-Mills, D. (2011). *Religious misperception: The case of Muslims and Christians in France and Britain*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press. Positions: Selection Committee (2011-2013) for National Communication Association's Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award, Past President of the American Forensics Association.

Mary Ann Danielson (Ph.D., 1998): I am serving as Secretary on the (Executive Leadership) Board of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Natalie Fech (B.A., 2011): I am in my first year of a Master's program in Communication Studies at Texas Christian University. I am enjoying my position as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Basic Speech Communication course and am tutoring TCU football players in my spare time. I love Fort Worth so far, and I'm looking forward to a warmer winter!

Eva Gautam (B.A., 2011): I have begun a career at Southwest Airlines!

Gregory T. Gifford (B.A., 2003; M.A., 2006; Ph.D., 2009): Gregory T. Gifford is a faculty member at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Federal Executive Institute--the nation's foremost institution for providing executive education and leadership development for executives in the public sector. Dr. Gifford specializes in work motivation, workplace diversity, team development and interpersonal leadership development.

Mary Gill (Ph.D., 2011): I recently assumed the role of the editor of the *Iowa Journal of Communication*. I have invited Donna Pawlowski (Ph.D., 1995) to be guest editor of an issue devoted to family communication and I will edit the general issue for 2012. A call for manuscripts will appear shortly via CRTNET.

Meredith Harrigan (Ph.D., 2006): Meredith received the Hurrell/McNaron Award for Scholarly Presentation from SUNY Geneseo for the research she presented at the International Adoption Summit in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. Also, Meredith is part of a team comprised of SUNY Geneseo and Moscow State University faculty and staff who received the designation of 'institutional fellow' by the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities. On a personal note, along with husband, Michael, and big brother, Samuel, Meredith joyfully welcomed Elijah Leo Owen Harrigan into their family on June 27th. Elijah weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 inches tall.

Dongjing Kang (M.A., 2011): Dongjing Kang is a Ph.D. Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University.



Dongjing Kang (M.A., 2011) with Dr. Ron Lee.

Kerk F. Kee (B.A., 2000): In 2010-2011, I received a subcontract (US \$18,000) from Kaiser Permanente's Institute for Health Research in Denver, Colorado, to conduct research to examine the readiness and capacity of intermediary organizations that deliver and distribute health innovations to developing countries. This Kaiser's project (PI: Jim Dearing, Ph.D.) is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. I will be concluding this work for them in October 2011.

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George M. Lawson, Jr. (Ph.D., 1988): George was selected to join the Academy for Teacher Education Excellence at University of Nebraska at Kearney. George was honored for his work with future teachers in the classroom and for his long-time work on the state speech tournament here on campus. George was recognized at a ceremony held by the College of Education and received a \$1,000 grant for support of professional development.

Zhou Li (M.A., 2011): Zhou Li is a Ph.D. Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University.

Ceeja Lowber-Malmkar (B.A., 2010): Just started as marketing director for a chain of "Jersey Mike's" stores and also have a beautiful 4 month old baby boy named Kacen Ridge Malmkar! :)

Karla Mason Bergen (M.A., 2002; Ph.D., 2006): Karla won the 2011 Inspiring Excellence award, given to one faculty member annually at Recognition Day. The award is given by the College of Saint Mary Academic Council



Karla Mason Bergen (M.A., 2002; Ph.D., 2006) with VP of Academic Affairs Dr. Christine Pharr

for "exemplifying our mission and inspiring us all to live it more deeply." The award came with an engraved plaque, my name engraved on a permanent plaque at the college, a huge pot of blooming pansies, and a \$500 check!!! :)

Mark Meister (Ph.D., 1997): Mark Meister is the Gerhts Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at North Dakota State University.

David Montgomerie (M.A., 2007): Currently writing his dissertation (rhetoric and public deliberation) at North Carolina-Chapel Hill and looking for jobs and fellowships.

Laura H-B Miller (Ph.D., 1993): Splitting time between New Orleans and Virginia working as Field Organizer for Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, a non-profit engaged in fighting the destructive practice of mountain top removal coal mining and creating sustainable communities.

Allen L. Overcash (B.S. and B.A., 1956): I am coaching the Law School's two teams for the ABA Arbitration Regional Competition in November.

Rob Patterson (Ph.D., 1997): I have a piece out in the most recent Special Issue of *Communication Studies*: Patterson, R. E. (2011). The "Beer Summit" and what's brewing: Narratives, networks, and metaphors as rhetorical confinement in the Age of Obama. *Communication Studies*, 62, 439-455. doi:10.1080/10510974.2011.588079
Personal Update: My wife Ellen and I just celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. Our oldest daughter entered middle school this year.

Jessica Rick (B.A., 2010): This fall I started my master's degree in Communication at North Dakota State University.

Cynthia L. Robinson (Ph.D., 2005): Have been teaching at University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) School of Communication for past 10 years. May 2012 is my tenure date. Currently, Interim Chair of the Department of Black Studies at UNO. Latest publication: "Hair as Race: Why 'Good Hair' May be Bad for Black Females" to be published in the *Howard Journal of Communications*, November 2011 issue.

Paul Schrodt (Ph.D., 2003): Paul Schrodt won the 2011 Early Career Award from the National Communication Association Interpersonal Communication Division.

Jennifer Thomas (B.A., 2011): Since graduation from UNL, I have started a new phase of life, pursuing a Master's of Counseling at Doane College in Lincoln. This program is perfect for my life since I work a full time job at AT Thomas Jewelers. I enjoy my job there where I am involved with buying merchandise, advertising/marketing, and sales. I am pursuing the MAC program because I would like to utilize the degree for my volunteer endeavors in the community. I currently volunteer at the Child Advocacy Center and feel that many organizations could use the services of a counselor and it would be highly beneficial for all parties involved if I could do much of the work on a volunteer basis. I feel that my academic successes at UNL prepared me for my current course work. Communication is vital in the lives of the people I will be working with. I am gearing my studies toward counseling with couples and families.

Brent Yergensen (Ph.D., 2010): In May 2011 I was appointed the Department Chair of the Communication Department at Dixie State College of Utah.

Department of Communication Studies

Departmental Accomplishments

Academic Year 2011/2012



Bruce Kendall Award Winners

Ph. D. Student Zantel Nichols and Dr. Damien Pfister.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Communication Studies Faculty published 14 refereed articles in journals, including:

- *Argumentation and Advocacy*
- *Communication Monographs*
- *Communication Quarterly*
- *Communication Studies*
- *Communication Teacher*
- *Journal of Family Communication*
- *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*
- *Management Communication Quarterly*
- *Personal Relationships*
- *Social Epistemology*
- *Western Journal of Communication*

Additionally, they published 7 books or book chapters in volumes, including:

- *Family Storytelling: Negotiating Identity, Teaching Lessons and Making Meaning*
- *Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication: Multiple Perspectives*
- *Food as Communication: Communication as Food*
- *Handbook of Family Communication*
- *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*
- *Reasoned Argument and Social Change, Proceedings of the 2011 Alta Conference*

They have been recognized for their research and teaching excellence, including:

- **Charles A. Braithwaite**, Best Anthology (with B. Glasrud), The Nebraska Center for the Book
- **Kathleen J. Krone** (with S. Steimel), Top Four Papers, Peace and Conflict Communication Division, NCA
- **Damien Pfister** (with D. Griffin), \$10,000 Grant-in-Aid for Nebraska Political Campaign Project, UNL; Bruce Kendall Award for Outstanding Teaching, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- **Carly Woods**, American Society for the History of Rhetoric Outstanding Dissertation Award

UNL Faculty serve in leadership roles at UNL and in our professional associations, including:

- **Dawn O. Braithwaite**, Immediate Past President, NCA; Program Committee, Council on Contemporary Families
- **Jody Koenig Kellas**, Immediate Past Chair, Family Communication Division, NCA; Nominating Committee, WSCA; Publications Committee, WSCA, Peer Review of Teaching First Year Project Leader, UNL
- **Jordan Soliz**, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Chair, CSCA

GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Graduate Students published 13 refereed articles in journals, including:

- *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography*
- *Australian Journal of Communication*
- *Communication, Culture, and Critique*
- *Communication Currents*
- *Communication Education*
- *Communication Quarterly*
- *Communication Research Reports*
- *Health Communication*
- *Journal of Advertising Research*
- *Journal of Family Communication*
- *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*
- *Western Journal of Communication*

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Additionally, they published 3 book chapters in volumes, including:

- *Communicative Understandings of Women's Leadership Development: From Ceilings of Glass to Labyrinth Paths*
- *Family Storytelling: Negotiating Identity, Teaching Lessons and Making Meaning*
- *Reasoned Argument and Social Change, Proceedings of the 2011 Alta Conference*

They have been recognized for their research and teaching excellence, including:

- **Kristen Carr**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Paper (with P. Schrodtt & A. Ledbetter), Interpersonal Communication Division, NCA
- **Kathy Castle**, Certification of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council
- **Joshua Ewalt**, Othmer Fellowship, UNL Office of Graduate Studies
- **Joshua Ewalt** and **Sara Baker**, Top Five Papers, GLBTQ Communication Studies Division, NCA
- **Amanda Holman** and **Jenna Stephenson-Abetz**, Top Four Student Papers, Human Communication and Technology Division, NCA

- **Sarah Jones**, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Student Paper, Communication and Research Theory Division, WSCA; Top Four Papers, Organizational Communication Research Division, WSCA; Top Four Papers, Organization for Research on Women and Communication Division, WSCA
- **Haley Kranstuber**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award Honorable Mention, UNL Office of Graduate Studies; Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- **Haley Kranstuber** and **Kristen Carr**, Top Paper (with A. Hosek), Instructional Development Division, NCA
- **Zantel Nichols**, Bruce Kendall Award for Outstanding Teaching, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- **Jessy Ohl**, Top Four Papers, Media Studies Interest Group, CSCA
- **Rachel Stohr**, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Four Papers, Peace and Conflict Communication Division, NCA
- **Tiffany Wang**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Preferred Faculty, UNL Kappa Alpha Theta



UNL Graduate Students enjoyed a summer of great books during Dr. Braithwaite's Influential Books class.

UNL Graduate Students serve in leadership roles at UNL and in our professional associations, including:

- **Kristen Carr**, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Paper Reader, CSCA
- **Joshua Ewalt**, College of Arts & Sciences Committee on Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals, UNL
- **Darrel Farmer**, Vice Chair, Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group, CSCA
- **Haley Kranstuber**, Graduate Student Reviewer, *Journal of Family Communication*; Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Paper Reader, CSCA
- **Tiffany Wang**, 21st Annual Fall Campuswide Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants Planning Committee, UNL; Basic Course Interest Group, Communication Education Interest Group, GIFT Interest Group, and Graduate Student Caucus Reviewer, CSCA; Student Section Reviewer, NCA; Membership Working Committee, NCA; Teaching Council, UNL

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Some of our top undergraduate Communication Studies majors were inducted into the UNL Lambda Pi Eta Chapter.

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

30 UNL Undergraduate Students made the Spring 2011 UNL College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List:

Melanie Lee Allen	Adam Michael Musich
Michael Steven Boal	Leslie Rose Nelson
Sara Anna Brew	Cassie Rose Olson
David Joseph Carrig	Molly Therese Peck
Antwane Terrell Collins	Seth Michael Peterson
Brittney Ann Ernesti	Rachael Christine Rasmussen
Natalie Kae Fech	Arielle Jenay Raymond
Audrey Jane Fox	Sunny Caprice Russell
John Anthony Goodwin	Lauren Nicole Schaal
Lauren Renee Jensen	Emily Anne Schlichting
Jordyn Lee Kaarre	Sara Marie Steinkruger
Evan Andre Keelan-White	Lexie Thorell
Elizabeth Lucille Kinnel	Emily Louise Veys
Brittanie Nicole Lopez	Dylan Eugene Vogt
Isaac James Moore	Melissa Jo West



Senior Emily Schlichting won the William J. Seiler Leadership Award.

UNL Undergraduate Students won 11 scholarships, including:

- Junior **Lauren Huston**, Regents Scholarship, UNL; Nick Olson Memorial Scholarship for the Arts, UNL
- Senior **Cassie Olson**, Arts and Sciences Scholarship, UNL; Kiffin Scholarship, UNL
- Sophomore **Julie Sadofsky**, W.A. & M.K. DeBord Memorial Scholarship, UNL; Susan Buffett Scholarship, UNL; Jewish Federation of Omaha Scholarship, The Center for Jewish Education
- Senior **Emily Schlichting**, Carrie M. Stetler Scholarship, UNL; Truman Scholarship, The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation; Shuler-Mills Scholarship, UNL; Theodore C. Sorensen Public Services Scholar, UNL



2011 Speech & Debate American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament Team

SPEECH & DEBATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Speech & Debate added many wins to its list of accomplishments, including:

- 2011 Big Ten team championship at the Conference Challenge Tournament at Northwestern University
- Senior **Nick Herink**, conference championship in prose interpretation, dramatic interpretation, and duo interpretation with partner sophomore **Grace Kluck**
- Senior **Jimmy Simpson Jr.**, conference championship in persuasive speaking
- Senior **Eli Barts**, conference championship in informative speaking
- Junior **Lauren Schaal**, conference championship in after-dinner speaking
- Sophomore **Josh Planos**, conference championship in program oral interpretation

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Interpersonal & Family Communication

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas, Associate Professor and Director of
Undergraduate Studies, Interpersonal & Family
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Dr. Karen Lee, Professor of Practice

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Dr. Damien Pfister, Assistant Professor, Public Deliberation,
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Dr. William J. Seiler, Professor, Instructional
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Dr. Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate

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Kathy Castle, Director of COMM 286 and Distance Education

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