



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR'S CHAIR



Dear Communication Studies Students, Colleagues & Friends,

Fall in Lincoln brings the excitement of a new semester, new faculty and students, and the promise of a great year to come.

Our big news is that we start the year with **three new faculty members** for a total of 11. Three faculty hires in one year is a big deal for our department and within our college. Our growth is evidence of the excellent research and teaching the department is doing and the very good support we are getting from the College of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly completed her PhD at Ohio State University and has joined us as an Assistant Professor with a specialization in Health Communication. You will find an interview with her on page 8 of this newsletter.

Dr. Aaron Duncan, who has been our Director of Speech & Debate since 2005, was promoted to an Assistant Professor of Practice in January. Read his report about Speech & Debate on page 5. Aaron is also the Director for COMM 101, Communication in the 21st Century. This class has grown to over 550 students this year.

Dr. Kathy Castle finished her PhD in August and became an Assistant Professor of Practice. She is our new Director of Undergraduate Education and Major Advisor. Read

her report about our undergraduate program on page 7.

Kathy continues as Director of COMM 286, Business and Professional Communication (formerly COMM 311) and has served in that position since 2011. 286 serves over 1350 students per year.

We are very much looking forward to a **reunion of the UNL Speech & Debate program**, which will be held on **June 11, 2016**. We are hearing from many students, coaches, and directors who will be in attendance.

We have **two National Communication Association level awards** to celebrate, as you'll see on page 3. Congratulations to Drs. Kathy Krone (UNL) and Erika Kirby (Creighton U) who won the Woolbert Award for research that has stood the test of time and Dr. Bill Seiler, who won the Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award. We'll look forward to celebrating in Las Vegas at the NCA Awards Ceremony on Saturday and at our NCA reception.

Our **UNL reception at the National Communication Association** convention will be **Saturday evening November 21, 7:30-9:30 in Amazon M&N Rio Hotel**. We are reserving the first hour for alumni and friends, so if you can come early we hope for a bit calmer time to be able to visit.

I am truly honored to serve as Chairperson of the Department of Communication Studies. I am continually amazed at what our students and faculty accomplish every day. I am proud of all of them and of our

Issue 14, Fall 2015

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Dawn O. Braithwaite
Kathy Thorne

From the Chair's Chair (continued)

alumni who are making a difference in their communities, workplaces, and with the people in their lives. As much as I love being Chair, I am equally happy to report I will be on Faculty Developmental Leave (what most of us call "sabbatical") during Spring 2016. I am looking forward to an opportunity to work on my research and two of my book projects in a more concentrated way. I return May 15.

Keep in touch! Follow us on Twitter [@CommAtUNL](#), "like," [University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies](#) 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

COMM CLUB

Communication Studies Club has started the 2015-2016 school year with a full slate of activities. With a new leadership board in place, the Club has refocused its efforts on connecting classroom conversations with community experiences. This year's board consists of: President, Katie Workman; Vice President/Treasurer, Megan McKenzie; Secretary, Mariah Gatson; and Public Relations Officer, Lorin Leifert. The board has been hard at work.

According to Megan, the club is important to majors because it directly intersects with academic work and "provides several outlets for students to receive advice and training for future interviews and employment opportunities." Katie agrees, noting that the club helps students by providing one-on-one help with resumes and providing opportunities to network and stay involved on campus. She notes that the club has helped her understand the scope and benefits of the major more fully.

This year, Communication Studies Club plans to host several events that correspond to needs students have expressed. Planned meeting topics include how to talk about the Communication Studies Major to employers and family, preparing for interviews, and applying for jobs and internships.

In addition, the Communication Studies club is partnering with Director of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Kathy Castle, to host several COMM Career Conversations. A successful workshop that helped students update resumes followed the first conversation.



For those students who wish to go on to get a PhD, the club helped to plan a discussion led by Dr. Jordan Soliz concerning preparing for and applying to graduate school. —Jamie Downing

FACULTY HONORS

UNL COMMUNICATION STUDIES PROFESSORS WIN NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS!

Dr. Kathy Krone and her co-author Dr. Erika Kirby have won the National Communication Association's* Charles H. Woolbert Research Award.

The Charles H. Woolbert Research Award is named for one of the discipline's early founders. This is an association-level award whose winners are chosen by the NCA Research Board, celebrating research that has stood the test of time. The Woolbert Award is in recognition of their research:

Kirby, E., & Krone, K. (2002). "The policy exists but you can't really use it": Communication and the structuration of work-family policies. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 30, 50-77.



Drs. Kirby and Krone will receive the award at NCA's ceremony on Saturday, November 21, at the association's annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Erika Kirby is a Professor of Communication at Creighton University and earned her PhD in Communication Studies at UNL in 2000. Kathy Krone is a Professor of Communication Studies and been a member of our faculty since 1991.



Dr. Bill Seiler has won the National Communication Association's Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award. This is an association-level award whose winners are chosen by a committee of those specializing in instructional communication and former award winners.



Dr. Seiler will receive the award at NCA's ceremony on Saturday November 21, at the association's annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Dr. Bill Seiler is the embodiment of what is best about teacher-scholars in our discipline. His entrepreneurial spirit about teaching and his substantial contributions to basic course and instructional communication, his dedication to his undergraduate and graduate students, his generous mentoring across the discipline, his service contributions and collegiality make Bill the embodiment of what the Wallace Bacon Award is all about.

Dr. Seiler cares about teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. He has made many national contributions to instructional communication and important service contributions.

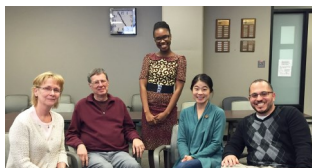
Dr. Bill Seiler is a Professor of Communication Studies and has been a member of our faculty since 1972. He was Chair of Communication Studies for 21 years.

*Based in Washington D. C. with 8,000 members, the National Communication Association is the discipline's largest and oldest national association.



Dr. Ray Blanton
Advisor: Dr. Ron Lee

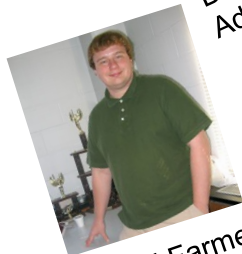
DOCTOR WHO?



Dr. Chigozirm Utah
Advisor: Dr. Kathy Krone



Dr. Kathy Castle
Advisor: Dr. Jody Kellas



Dr. Darrel Farmer
Advisor: Dr. Damien Pfister



Dr. Getachew Godana
Advisor: Dr. Ron Lee



Dr. Joshua Ewalt
Advisor: Dr. Carly Woods



Chase Aunsbach, MA
Advisor: Dr. Carly Woods

Six candidates successfully completed the PhD program and one student fulfilled requirements for an MA. All seven graduated in spring 2015.

The six PhD graduates embarked on careers at colleges or universities. MA graduate, Chase Aunsbach, is a current PhD student at UNL.

Communication Studies congratulates these students and their advisors.

NCA'S 101ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS FAST APPROACHING

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S RECEPTION AT NCA'S 101st CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 21, 2015

7:30-8:30 pm: UNL Alumni & Friends

8:30-9:30 pm: Welcome NCA Guests

Rio Hotel, Amazon M and N

Please join us for our reception.

Come celebrate with NCA Award Winners:

Dr. Bill Seiler, Dr. Kathy Krone and

Dr. Erika Kirby

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Communication Studies
National Communication Association Meeting



UNL SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM OFF TO A GREAT START



Welcome new members of the UNL Speech & Debate team.

The UNL Speech & Debate Team's season got off to great start with a win at the Hutchinson and Sterling College Swing Tournaments in Hutchinson, Kansas. The tournament was attended by a total of seventeen schools from across the Midwest. UNL placed 3rd in the team division of Lincoln Douglas Debate, 2nd in Speech, and 1st overall for the combined portion of the swing. The team's victory was highlighted by taking the top five places in Extemporaneous Speaking: 1st Senior Grace Solem-Pfiefer, 2nd Junior

Bryant Grimminger, 3rd Sophomore Bobby Larsen, 4th Sophomore Erin Sheehan, and 5th senior Shane Kraus. The debate team advanced two speakers to the quarter final round: Junior Jackson Slechta and Junior Alex Johnson. Jackson was also named the tournament 3rd overall speaker. In addition to a great freshmen class, the team is also joined by graduate student coaches Adam Blood, Allison Bonander, Jonathan Carter, and Jamie Downing. Director of Speech & Debate, Aaron Duncan, returns for his eleventh year with the team.

The team has announced plans for a **reunion** of all past members of UNL Speech & Debate to be held on **Saturday, June 11th 2016**, at the Wick Alumni Center. For more information about the reunion, please contact Aaron Duncan at aduncan3@unl.edu

—Aaron Duncan

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy B. Bausch
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Buessing
Dr. & Mrs. Robert W. Cherny
Dr. Richard and Mrs. Beverly Fellman
Jere D. McGaffey
Mr. Lloyd E. Goodson
Mr. Gary Hill
Dr. & Mrs. Harold E. Hoff
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne D. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Moyer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Homer B. Kenison
Mr. Robert W. Kimball
Mr. James J. Kimble
John J. and Dr. Stephanie F. Koraleski

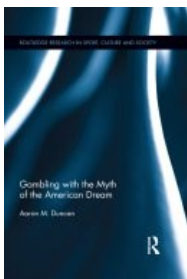
THANK YOU,

SPEECH & DEBATE DONORS

Mrs. Linda S. MacDonald
Mr. David C. Supp-Montgomerie
Mr. Jere D. McGaffey
Helen D. Nemzek
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas L. Olsen
Mr. & Mrs. Allen L. Overcash
Mr. and Mrs. Gary F. Pokorny
Mrs. Barbara L. Rosetti
Mr. Terry R. Schaaf
Paul E. Scheele, Ph.D.
Mr. Daniel M. & Mrs. Emily Cameron Shattil
Steven B. Shively, Ph.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Judy Weill
Mr. Todd and Jessica West

AARON DUNCAN PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

GAMBLING WITH THE MYTH OF THE AMERICAN DREAM



The American Dream is shifting. No longer just a vision of a house, a family and a good life earned from hard work, now the dream includes stocks, bonds, the latest gizmos and gadgets and building a wealth portfolio as quickly as possible.

R The prevalence of acquiring wealth rather than creating it has given rise to get-rich-quick schemes, housing bubbles that burst and the hedge fund industry.

In his new book, *Gambling with the Myth of the American Dream*, UNL scholar Aaron Duncan explores how changes in society have given way to a rise in gambling. He traces that rise to several societal developments. Duncan researches and draws connections to a concept by German sociologist Ulrich Beck that claims we now live in a "risk society," where globalization, technology and mass media have caused us to constantly perceive and analyze risk in everything. "This preoccupation with risk," Duncan said, "has allowed gambling to become normal. The evolution of the myth of the American Dream has also changed the way society thinks of gambling. I'm not saying these changes have caused a cultural shift, but rather they reflect a more accepting attitude of gambling; gambling is now seen as less immoral and less out-of-step with the American Dream," says Duncan.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

We are *grateful* for the many ways our alumni support us. Your financial support helps the students and department directly. Below we list donors to the department and Phyllis Japp Scholars funds over the last year. *Thank you!!!*

We greatly appreciate those supporting the **Department of Communication Studies Fund** to help undergraduate students work toward careers, bring in visiting scholars, and connect with alumni. We have a goal to endow several undergraduate student scholarships, as we have none at present.

Our exciting news involves endowments in the works for the **Phyllis Japp Scholars Fund** to support graduate student research and travel. This is just a first step to overcome budget loss for this critical need. One-time, monthly, yearly, and endowment support are *all* important. We need your help to continue our commitments to graduate students.

We appreciate our wonderful donors to our important Speech & Debate program. Their names are listed on Page 5. For first-hand information about the team and their accomplishments, check out the Speech & Debate website at <http://comm.unl.edu/speech-and-debate>

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

Department of Communication Studies Fund: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-department-of-communication-studies-fund-01035440>

Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>

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

Thank you, Communication Studies and Phyllis Japp Fund Donors

Mr. Richard W. Bailey
Dr. Karla Bergen
Ms. Joann H. Bradford
Dr. Charles Braithwaite
Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite
Dr. Nancy Brule
Dr. Ann Burnett
Dr. Diana Carlin
Dr. Mary Ann Danielson
Dr. Aaron Duncan
Dr. and Mrs. Bradley F. Emanuel
Dr. Mary Gill
Dr. Lynn Harter
Dr. Debra Japp and the Japp Family
Dr. Chad McBride
Ms. Marlyn L. McClain

Dr. Mark Meister
Dr. Robert Patterson
Dr. Donna Pawlowski
Dr. Damien Pfister
Dr. Jack Sargent
Dr. Bill Seiler
Dr. William B. Snavelly
Dr. Jordan Soliz
Dr. Suzanne Stangl-Erkens
Dr. Jason Thompson
Dr. Scott Titsworth
Dr. Paul Turman
Dr. Jay Verlinden
Dr. Shawn Wahl
Dr. Carly Woods
Dr. James Zeman

DR. KATHY CASTLE UNVEILS INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN HER ROLE AS UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR AND MAJOR ADVISOR



As the new Director of Undergraduate Education and Major Advisor for Communication Studies, it has been and continues to be my pleasure to get to know and work with our undergraduate students. Our majors are an incredible group of people with diverse interests and talents who are preparing for some pretty amazing career paths! Building from this, our focus this academic year is to embrace the College of Arts & Sciences' motto: **Academics + Experience = Opportunity** as we strive to develop and enhance career competencies within our majors.

We've established a **bi-weekly newsletter, COMM Connections**, highlighting resources for academic and professional development as well as opportunities for our majors to gain experience and make connections. We've also developed a **BlackBoard organization** for all Communication Studies majors that is loaded with information and resources to help you get the most out of your degree. If you're a current student, be sure to check it out!

In collaboration with the **COMM Club**, our student organization, we are hosting four **COMM Career Conversations** this academic year that will be focused on helping our undergraduate majors prepare for different career paths. Our first was held September 15 and 16 and was entitled *Building a Better Resume*. Attendees were provided with excellent advice and one-on-one time to work on their

resumes with Career Services representatives. Our next conversation in October focused on preparing for graduate/professional school. **COMM Club** is a great opportunity to get involved, meet other Communication Studies majors, and get some great experience to strengthen your resume and/or graduate school application! Check them out on Facebook (UNL Comm Club)!

Finally, we have established a **LinkedIn** group to help bring our current Communication Studies majors together with alumni of our department. If you are on LinkedIn, please join our group, **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies Students and Alumni**. This is a great opportunity to enhance your professional network and to connect up with some great students preparing for the job market—so check it out!

As you can see, **it's an exciting time to be a Communication Studies major** here at UNL—and I'm looking forward to a GREAT year!

—Dr. Castle

Communication Studies The Major That

- Teaches the #1 skill sought by employers.
- Helps solve societal problems.
- Allows you to practice what we teach.
- Extends beyond the classroom.
- Emphasizes faculty-student collaboration.
- Is applicable to your life.

DR ANGELA PALMER-WACKERLY JOINS COMMUNICATION STUDIES



We are delighted to have Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly join our faculty this Fall. She kindly answered these questions to introduce herself to our community.

1) Where did you grow up? What made you want to become a Communication professor? I was

born in Youngstown, Ohio but I lived in two other cities (in Pennsylvania and Ohio) by the time I graduated high school. I fell in love with Health Communication and saw its potential to increase overall well-being for patients and families. It's a career field that offers endless learning opportunities.

2) Where did you earn your degrees? BA & BS: Ohio State University; MA: Northeastern; MA: Ohio State University; PhD: Ohio State University.

3) What encouraged you to join the faculty at UNL? The department's reputation for high-quality relational research and a family-friendly, supportive environment.

4) What do you still need to know or learn about our city or state? Almost everything. The first time I visited Nebraska was during my interview.

5) What classes do you teach? This academic year undergraduate classes in Health Communication and Health Disparities.

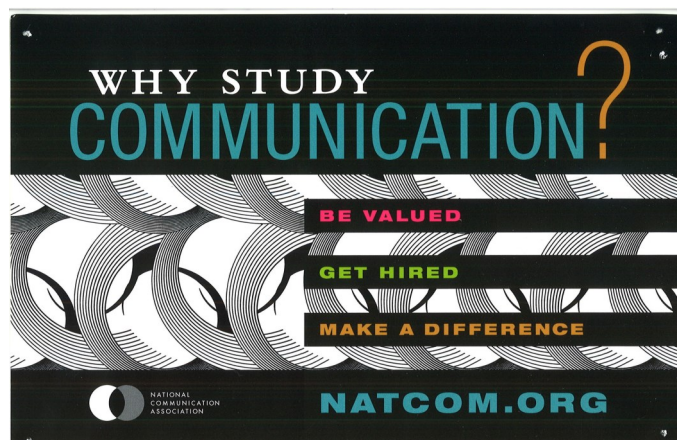
6) What is most important for undergraduate and graduate students to know about the communication degree? A communication degree is applicable to any career track/field of study. We often think high-quality communication is intuitive because

we practice it every day, but in reality, we're not very good at it--especially when giving others support. A communication degree highlights the complexities involved in creating and communicating high-quality messages, and allows us to educate others about its importance.

7) What research projects are you working on? Currently, I'm analyzing data in an effort to improve communication between health care providers and infertility patients. I'm also starting to look more closely at improving prenatal care communication in rural Nebraska.

8) What activities do you most enjoy? Running, yoga, watching HGTV, binge-watching Netflix, reading, and traveling.

9) What advice do you have for current undergraduate and graduate students in our department? To engage in life-long learning--both in school and after graduation--with a mix of humility and confidence. I like the quote: "*The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know.*"



SPOTLIGHT ON UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA, MACEY MORGAN, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Macey Morgan is a recent graduate of our program, earning her bachelor's degree in 2014. While a senior, she took advantage of an internship opportunity at C&A Industries in Omaha, a national leader in staffing and recruitment, and was hired.

1) Tell us about your education at UNL. I was a student at UNL between 2010-2014 and I graduated with my degree in Communication Studies and minors in Humanities in Medicine and Gerontology.

2) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? During my senior year at UNL, I was an intern in the training department at C&A Industries in Omaha. After graduating, I was lucky enough to be hired on full-time as a Learning and Development Specialist in the training department. In my role I train recruiters and account managers to staff hospitals. Each new employee goes through an eight-week training process where we set them up with the tools they need to be successful. Each week I meet with them one-on-one to set up focuses for the week to get them ramped up and ready to be knowledgeable and engaged employees when they are done with training.

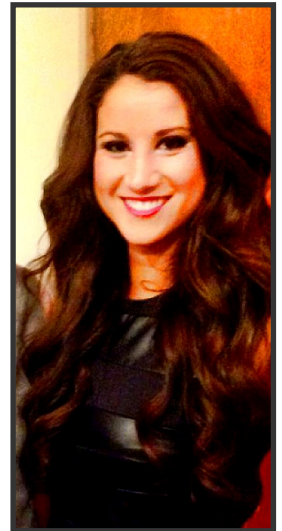
3) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies? I chose to major in Communication Studies because I wanted a degree where I could learn to relate and adapt to people and organizations.

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? I use all three capacities of the department's program on a daily basis. Each day I advocate our training process to our executives, managers, team leads, tenured employees, and new hires. Each of our employees is passionate about the company and our mission, therefore, there are instances where conflicting opinions occur and I collaborate with employees to find a common solution. Because I am in the business of people, I relate to others almost every minute of every day.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? My favorite times during my Communication Studies courses were in Jody Koenig Kellas' Health Communication course. I believe that my peers and I had in-depth discussions about issues that are relatable to all. I often think of the lessons I took away from that course.

6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? I believe that it's important to support the department that has provided students with the foundation for the rest of their lives. I believe the greatest way to impact future Communication Studies graduates is through career outreach. My company is always looking to hire people who can advocate, negotiate, and relate whether that be for an internship or for full-time employment. I'm often reaching out to my department connections for referrals.

7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department? My advice is to get an internship and gain some experiential knowledge. I was able to apply what I learned in the classroom immediately and ask organizational questions to both my boss and my professor. Both entities of my life mirrored each other quite well and I believe I advanced further in my career as a result.



A DIALOGUE WITH DR. REYNOLDO ANDERSON, COMMUNICATION STUDIES GRADUATE ALUMNUS



Dr. Reynaldo Anderson graduated from UNL in 2005 and is an Associate Professor of Communications at Harris-Stowe State University in Saint Louis, Missouri. He is currently one of curators of “Unveiling Visions: The Alchemy of the Black Imagination” at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, part of the New York Public Library: <http://www.nypl.org/events/exhibitions/unveiling-visions>

- 1) Which degree(s) did you earn at UNL? When did you graduate?** I was admitted to the Doctoral program in Communication Studies in the spring of 1996. I took classes and stayed in Lincoln until 2000 when I finished my comprehensive exams and worked as an instructor at Nebraska-Wesleyan for one year. I completed my degree while I was working in Saint Louis Public Schools as a Language Arts teacher and graduated in 2005.
- 2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies?** I had earned a degree in Mass Communications as an undergraduate. However, I decided to become a Communication Studies major after my involvement as a campaign manager in a local campaign in Jackson, Mississippi.
- 3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?** I chose to come to UNL for a visit after a personal call from Bill Seiler. I met with the faculty and felt that I would be comfortable in the department and I saw they had a concentration in Communication and Culture.
- 4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?** I have served as Chair of the Black Caucus for the National Communication Association, and I am currently Associate Professor of Communications at Harris-Stowe State University in Saint Louis, Missouri. I have been active in the community serving on the executive board of the Missouri Arts Council, as a community liaison for the governor, served on several boards, and am writing a lot. I have my first book coming out this December, working on starting a communication major at my school, and I am currently curating an artistic exhibition in New York City.
- 5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?** I got married and my first child was born while I was in Lincoln. Also, I miss Dennis Bormann's dry sense of humor and Ron Lee's laughter over certain ironic content we may cover in class. I also recall Ron's admonishment wishing I would write well for all my papers, as I was little more interested in being a social activist at the time than reading and writing all the time. Yet Ron's advice and Phyllis Japp's advice have served me well. I recall asking Dr. Japp, “How do you get better at writing?” Phyllis's response, “Write.” My response, “Oh.” She was right.
- 6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students?** Alumni can provide students with opportunities to pursue their interests that may be unrelated to Communication Studies.
- 7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department?** Write what you like. If you like writing about your particular passion and can connect it to the current changes in higher education, in particular around ideas like digital humanities, you will be marketable.



Department of Communication Studies

Faculty Accomplishments

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Carr, K., Holman, A., Abetz, J., **Koenig Kellas, J.** and colleague: "Giving voice to the silence of family estrangement: Comparing reasons of estranged parents and adult children in a nonmatched sample." *Journal of Family Communication*.

Tye-Williams, S. & **Krone, K. J.** (2015). Chaos, reports and quests: Narrative agency and co-workers in stories of workplace bullying. *Management Communication Quarterly*, 29, 3, 27.

Seiler, W. & Garden, R. (in press). Serious illness conversations with doctors: Patients using information obtained from sources other than their doctor. *Health Communication*.

AWARDS

Diana Breshears of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and **Dawn O. Braithwaite**, Willa Cather Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Studies have won the National Communication Association's GLBTQ Communication Studies division Monograph of the Year award for 2015. Their article, "Discursive Struggles Animating Individuals' Talk About Their Parents' Coming Out as Lesbian and Gay," was published in the *Journal of Family Communication* in 2014. Diana Breshears earned her PhD in 2011 from the Department of Communication Studies at UNL.

Dawn O Braithwaite will be awarded the James Ferris Award for Contributions to Communication and Disability Studies from the National Communication Association Disability Issues Caucus (2015). Dawn and co-honoree Teresa Thompson (University of Dayton) are two of the earliest disability communication researchers and published the *Handbook of communication and people with disabilities: Research and application* (2000, Erlbaum).

Kathy Castle was the recipient of the department's Bruce Kendall Faculty award in April 2015.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Braithwaite, D. O. & Schrod P. (Eds.). (2015). *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication: Multiple perspectives* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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

BOOK CHAPTERS 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.

Lee, R., & Blood, A. (in press). Ideographic criticism. In J. Kuypers (Ed.). *Art of Rhetorical Criticism* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. Accompanying new critical essay, "The conundrum of and the: The discourse surrounding LeBron James' leaving and returning home."

Ewalt, J., Ohl, J. & **Pfister, D. S.** (2016, in press) Rhetorical field methods in the tradition of imitatio. In R. Asen, K. Chávez, S. MacKinnon, and R.G. Howard (Eds.) *Text + Field*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.

FACULTY IN LEADERSHIP

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite has been elected to serve on the Dean's College of Arts & Sciences Executive Committee for 2015-17.

Dr. Aaron Duncan has been appointed to the Graduate Faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dr. Ron Lee was elected to the UNL Senate Executive Committee.

Dr. Jordan Soliz was chosen as one of the faculty mentors for the Minority Health Disparities Initiative summer program. The program brought top undergrads to campus to work on Research and was funded with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Jordan Soliz was also chosen as one of the faculty leaders for NCA's Doctoral Honors Seminar in July, 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Faculty Accomplishments Continued

FACULTY IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite was quoted in a June 28th article about family kinkeepers in the *Omaha World Herald*: http://www.omaha.com/eedition/sunrise/articles/rise-of-the-kinkeepers/article_b4ca1ab8-b8a1-5e7a-b248-463e8383cdd4.html?mode=iqm

Dr. Aaron Duncan wrote an article on the U.S. win of the World Cup and received a request to do an interview from a CBS affiliate in San Francisco. <https://theconversation.com/the-us-won-the-world-cup-not-the-womens-world-cup-44403>

Dr. Jody Kellas appeared on NET and facilitated a panel discussion with health care experts talking about the series, *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* <http://netnebraska.org/event/net-community-engagement/free-preview-cancer-emperor-all-maladies-panel-discussion-lincoln>

NPR ran a story about Dr. Kellas' ongoing research on hope and relational struggles in cancer in light of NET's three-part series <http://netnebraska.org/article/news/967102/research-points-importance-communication-living-cancer>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Jody Kellas received a College of Arts & Sciences Enhance Grant to support her research project.

Dr. Damien Pfsiter and UNL colleagues have received a third year of funding from the U.S. Department of State to fund the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement (SUSI) program that brings African Student leaders to UNL in spring.

Dr. Jordan Soliz was awarded one of three UNL

Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium's Minority Health Disparities Grants. His award is for \$22,870 to support his project, "Family Dynamics, Identity, and Psychological Well-Being in Multiethnic-racial Individuals."

Dr. Carly Woods received a Research Development Grant from the Organization for Research on Women and Communication to support "The Problem with Purple Penguins: Gender Trouble at a Site of Ordinary Democracy," 2015.

NEW FACULTY and NEW ROLES

Dr. Angela Palmer-Wackerly accepted a position in Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She began August 24, 2015.

TOP PAPER

Dr. Jody Kellas, Elizabeth Flood Grady and Jordan Allen, "Perspective Taking and Relational Conflict: The Impact of Writing on Communication and Relationships Over Time" was selected for presentation on the Top Four Panel for the Interpersonal Communication Division of NCA (2015).

SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Dr. Damien Pfister has been invited to respond to a plenary speech at the prestigious 2016 Public Address Conference hosted by Syracuse University. Pfister will be responding to Creighton's Samantha Senda-Cook (a Visiting Scholar at UNL in the Summer of 2014) on the theme of "Field/Place."

Dr. Carly Woods received a lecture invitation: (2015, September). The very idea of debating women: A feminist rhetorical history. Invited speaker in the Department of Communication Studies Colloquium Series, University of Kansas.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AMBASSADOR

Adam Blood was selected as a Graduate Ambassador for UNL for 2015-16: Ambassadors support prospective, new, and current students by assisting at graduate student events, providing campus tours, and interacting with students through email, blogs, and social media. Ambassadors also serve as liaisons between their departments and Graduate Studies. Throughout the year they'll be

writing about campus events, research, experiences, organizations, and general graduate life.

AWARDS

Amy Arellano won American Forensics Association's coveted New Coach Award this year: <http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/speech-and-debate-team-comes-up-with-big-wins/>

Graduate Student Accomplishments Continued

Allison Bonander won the department's Bruce Kendall Award for teaching.

Darcy Hahn won the ICA Outstanding Thesis Award from the Interpersonal Communication Division.

Jamie Downing, Elizabeth Flood Grady and Kaitlin Phillips were named Phyllis Japp Scholars.

Julia Moore was awarded one of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowships, one of just 40 nationwide.

Kaitlin Phillips, Inaugural Graduate Student Leadership Award; Phyllis Japp Scholar.

DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Kathy Castle defended her dissertation, "Illness narratives of women with systemic lupus erythematosus and family communication: A mixed methods study." Advisor, Dr. Jody Kellas.

Ray Blanton successfully defended his dissertation: "In(di)visible Dream: Rhetoric, Myth, and the Road in America." Advisor, Dr. Ron Lee.

Josh Ewalt defended his dissertation: "Rhetorical Constellations: On the Materiality and Mobility of Arrangement and Invention." Advisor, Dr. Carly Woods.

Darrel Farmer defended his dissertation: "The terms of engagement: Rhetorical constructions of citizenship in the networked public sphere." Advisor, Dr. Damien Pfister.

Chigozirim Utah defended her dissertation: "Beyond corruption: Assessing the organizational potential in alternative discourses of struggle in Nigeria." Advisor, Dr. Kathy Krone.

MASTERS THESIS DEFENSE

Chase Aunspach, "From the Gay Bar to the Search Bar: Promiscuity, Identity, and Queer Mobility on Grindr." Advisor, Dr. Carly Woods.

FELLOWSHIPS

Julia Moore won a national American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship (2015-2016). She also won Dean's Fellowship, UNL Office of Graduate Studies (2015-2016).

POSITIONS ACCEPTED

Dr. Ray Blanton (PhD, 2015) has taken a one-year appointment at Creighton U in Omaha.

Dr. Kathy Castle accepted a faculty position with UNL. She is our new Director of Undergraduate Education and Major Advisor.

Dr. Getachew Godana (PhD, 2014) returned to his native Ethiopia and is planning to rejoin the faculty at Addis Ababa University.

Jen Kienzle accepted a full-time lecturer position at University of San Francisco for 2015-16.

Dr. Chigozirim Utah accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Communication at Eastern Illinois University.

Alexis Waters Johnson accepted an Assistant Professor position at Arkansas Tech University.

PUBLICATIONS

Bonander, A. R., & Marsh, M. L. (2015) Modern mimicry and You Tube: How technology has influenced pedagogy and performance of poetry interpretation within competitive forensics. *Communication Studies*, 66 (4), 448-457.

Brockhage, K. & Phillips, K. (in press) (Re) Negotiating Our Relationship: How contradictions emerge in sibling privacy boundaries. *Journal of Communication*.

Ivey, C.L. (in press) Glossary (not) for non-ADHD partners: Negotiating relational terms after the diagnosis. Departures in *Critical Qualitative Research*.

Ivey, C.L. (2014) Qu(er)rying Christianity: Questions, answers, and more questions. Kaleidoscope: A graduate *Journal of Qualitative Communication Research*, 13.

Ivey, C.L. (in press) Combating epistemic violence with Islamic feminism: Qahera vs. FEMEN. *Women's Studies in Communication*.

Ivey, C.L. (2015) Debra Hawhee's Rhetorics, Bodies, and Everyday Life. Watershed: A critical thinking blog. Retrieved from: <http://www.watershedblog.com/#!Debra-Hawhee's-Rhetorics-Bodies-and-Everyday-Life/c16ee/55ef209a0cf20cc524a385f3>.

Moore, J., & Abetz, J. S. (forthcoming). "Uh oh. Cue the [new] mommy wars": The ideology of combative mothering in popular US newspapers articles about attachment parenting. *Southern Communication Journal*.

Moore, J., Kienzle, J., & Flood Grady, E. (2015). Discursive struggles of tradition and non-tradition in

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

the retrospective accounts of married couples who cohabited before engagement. *Journal of Family Communication*, 15, 95-112.

De Fazio, L., Sgarbi, C., **Moore, J.**, & Spitzberg, B. H. (forthcoming). The impact of criminalization of stalking on Italian students: Adherence to stalking myths. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*.

Phillips, K. & Schrod, P. "Sibling Confirmation as a Moderator of Rivalries and Relational Outcomes in Sibling Relationships." *Journal of Family Communication*.

TOP PAPER AWARD

Carter, J. Kenneth Burke Society, NCA 2015, "Good Metonyms Make Great Metaphors: Embracing

the Opportunities for Scientific Forms in Non-Scientific Contexts."

Downing, J. NCA 2015 Top Papers (Kenneth Burke Society: Escaping Entelechy: Exploring Intersections of Piety and Style Religious Communication Association: Keeping the Feast: Digitality, Counterpublics, and Conversations Surrounding Christian Seders.

Paul Schrod (Texas Christian University) and **Kaitlin Phillips** had the Top Paper in the Family Communication Division at NCA: "Self-Disclosure and Relational Uncertainty as Mediators of Family Communication Patterns and Relational Outcomes in Sibling Relationships."

NOTABLE ALUMNI NEWS

Karla Mason Bergen (PhD 2006) Presented a paper at the Carlow Roundtable in Dublin, Ireland, May 24-31, 2015 entitled, "Balancing Justice and Mercy in Problematic Student Situations." The Carlow Roundtable is a conference of Mercy Higher Education faculty and administrators. Karla has been awarded a research sabbatical by the College of Saint Mary for the spring semester of 2016. She will be conducting research on communication between individuals in commuter marriages and their children.

Scott Church (PhD 2013) was hired as an Assistant Professor in the School of Communications at Brigham Young University.

Dave Dunning, (PhD 1988) is serving as lead editor of a 2nd edition of *Wiley's Dental Practice Transition: A Practical Guide to Management*. Dave will be writing three chapters, including one on chair-side communication with patients. He was elected in 2015 to serve as the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Dentistry faculty representative on the Council of Faculties, American Dental Education Association. Dave also wrote an article on oral health/dentistry issues in *Sage's Encyclopedia of Health Communication*.

Shireen Ghorbani, (MA, 2009) has become the Associate Director of Organizational Development for Facilities at the University of Utah.

Laurie Haleta (PhD 1994) Received the Dr. Harold and Barbara Bailey Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership from South Dakota State University,

2015. Selected to participate on the Teachers on Teaching program at NCA, Las Vegas, NV, 2015.

Kerk Kee, Chapman University (BA, 2000) has been awarded National Science Foundation Career Award for his project "Organizational Capacity and Capacity Building for Cyberinfrastructure Diffusion." http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1453864&HistoricalAwards=false.

Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer (PhD 2009) Received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and became the Internship Coordinator at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She published "A real-world approach to academic crisis communication training" in NCA's *Communication Currents* and a guest blog for a PR firm in Denver, Colorado: 5 best practices for man-aging crises on social media. She also published "Service-learning in crisis communication education: Revisiting Coombs' objectives for the crisis communication course" in *Communication Teacher*. Along with her colleague R. Smith she published, "Social media mapping innovations for crisis prevention, response, and evaluation" in *Computers in Human Behavior* (Special Issue: Social Media and the Crisis Lifecycle). Dr. Maresh-Fuehrer facilitated a workshop on crisis communication and social media for University Presidents/Chancellors/System Heads at the American Association of State College and University's Summer Council of Presidents in Denver, CO. She was Nominated for Texas Speech Communication Association's 2015 Educator of the Year Award and was elected President of the Rotary

Alumni Accomplishments Continued

Club of Southside Corpus Christi. Michelle and her husband Kyle purchased a new home.

Chad McBride (PhD, 2003) McBride, M. C., & **Bergen, K. M. (PhD, 2005)** (in press). Work spouses: Describing and understanding a "new" relationship. *Communication Studies*.

Bergen, K. M., & McBride, M. C. (in press). Contrapuntal analysis: Examining the contradictions of discourse in commuter marriage. Sage Case Studies: Method in Action.

Chad McBride is currently the Vice President of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender, and will be President of OSCLG from 2016-18.

Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr. (MA, 2001) is an Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Performance at Washington University. He published his book, *Sexual discretion: Black masculinity and the politics of passing* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), Dr. McCune is the 2015 recipient of the National Communication Association GLBTQ Communication Studies Division Book the Year Award.

C. Thomas Preston, Jr. (PhD 1986) is Professor of Communication in the Communication, Media, and Journalism Department at the University of North Georgia, with main campuses at Dahlonega and Gainesville, GA. He currently serves as President of the Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association. During the past year, he has won three honors- Judge of the Year with the Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association, Volunteer of the Year with the Atlanta Urban Debate League, and Most Outstanding Advisor as Advisor of the Debate Team at UNG. As advisor to the Georgia Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, he has seen members of his team earn All-American honors with PKD over the past three consecutive biennial national conventions and tournaments, as well as win several first place sweepstakes awards in various categories of debate the past two years.

Sarah Steimel (PhD 2011) has been appointed the Director of Weber State University's Masters of Professional Communication Program.

Shawn Wahl (PhD 2003) is the First Vice President and program planner for the Central States Communication Association annual meeting in Grand Rapids MI, April 2016. Shawn becomes CSCA President at the 2016 meeting.

Undergraduate Accomplishments

DEAN'S LIST

Jonathan Baker
Jerica Burgess
Emily Dickson
Claire Hawkins
Regan Jones
Megan McKenzie
Erin Sheehan
Haley Weakland

Amanda Barnard
Hannah Coatney
Caroline Flynn
Tayce Hefner
Conner Kozisek
Veronica Morales
Laura Springer
Katherine Wilkins

Kelsi Boesiger
Emily Coffey
Nicholas Gilbert
Tayler Hough
Geoffrey Ledbetter
Laura Olson
Rachel Stiehm
Heather Wilson

Allison Burkert
Abigail Collins
Sally Hamnett
Garrett Johnson
Yukiko Moriyama
Kathryn Piper
Kevin Thor

SPRING 2015

Department of Communication Studies

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

Dr. Kathy Castle
Assistant Professor of Practice
Director of Undergraduate Education
Major Advisor
Director of COMM 286

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

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas
Associate Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Interpersonal, Family Communication

Dr. Kathleen Krone
Professor
Organizational Communication

Dr. Ronald Lee
Professor
Rhetorical Theory, Political Communication
Critical Study of Contemporary Public Discourse

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

Dr. Damien Pfister
Assistant Professor
Public Deliberation, Digital Media,
Network Culture, and Rhetorical Theory

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
Rhetorical History and Theory, Cultural Criticism,
Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Argumentation

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