

From the Chair's Chair

Greetings, Current Faculty and Students, Alumni, and Friends of UNL Communication Studies.

2008 and the first several months of 2009 have been very busy but also very productive for both our faculty and students, not to mention all our graduate and undergraduate alumni. As many of you know we are a small department with eight full-time faculty members, but, as many of you also know, what we have been able to accomplish has been truly amazing. In terms of our scholarship, from 2008 to 2009 the faculty has published or has in press a total of thirty-three journal articles, book chapters, or books and our graduate students have published or have in press a total of nineteen journal articles or book chapters during the same time. This school year we have had ten Top Paper awards at our national and regional conferences. The faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students have also received research, teaching, academic, and service awards, which further illustrates their dedication and hard work.

The faculty is very proud of the work that our undergraduate students are doing. Several of them have presented papers at our national and regional conferences and one of them won a Top Student paper award at the Central States Conference in Madison last April. Our graduates are getting good jobs and make a difference in their communities. Our undergraduate Communication Club is once again thriving. We now have over 200 majors, many of whom have received academic recognition as top academic students at the university.

Our Speech and Debate teams continue its success by winning many tournaments, placing 9th in the nation at the 2008 National Forensics Tournament, and it is their 13th



consecutive year of placing in the top 10. Jessica Clark placed 4th in Program Oral Interpretation and was a national champion in Prose Interpretation.

We hope you will enjoy our inaugural newsletter and that you are proud of our department and your association with us. We plan to have two newsletters each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. As with anything new it takes a creator and lots of hard work to accomplish---therefore I want to thank Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite and doctoral student Colleen Colaner, who has done all of the design and layout work for the newsletter, for their vision and work on this project.

It has indeed been a great period for the department, one in which all of us should be extremely proud of its collective accomplishments. We sincerely hope that you find this newsletter informative and that you will continue to support what we believe is a very good program that keeps on getting even better. We include information in this newsletter on how you can support the department financially, which is critical to our success. Keep us posted on your news. And please, if you should return to Lincoln, please make sure that you stop by and visit us.

- Bill Seiler, Professor and Chair

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Focus on Faculty: Jody Koenig Kellas

1) Where did you earn your doctoral degree? University of Washington, 2002

2) Were you a faculty member anywhere before joining the UNL faculty? If so, where (and when?)

I worked at San Francisco State University from 2002-2004 and joined UNL in 2004.

3) What classes do you teach at UNL? My *Undergraduate* Classes are: COMM 201- Introduction to research methods in communication studies; COMM 370-Family communication; COMM 470 - Interpersonal communication theory; COMM 498-The dark side of interpersonal communication.

My *Graduate* Classes include: COMM 870- Interpersonal communication; COMM 882- Introduction to quantitative methods in communication studies; COMM 970D- Narratives and Storytelling in and about personal relationships; COMM 970D-The Dark Side of interpersonal and family communication

4) What research projects are you working on?

- *Collaborative marital storytelling about stress*: We are examining the ways husbands and wives engage in communicated perspective-taking and how these behaviors distinguish individuals and couples on mental health, perceived stress, and marital satisfaction.
- *Lesbian family identity*: Beth Suter of the University of Denver and I are working on a project that examines the ways in which lesbian-headed families construct their identity through both remedial and storied accounts. This project was funded through an American Psychological Foundation Investigator Development Award.
- *The effects of storytelling and storylistening about trauma*: several of the graduate students and I are in the process of designing a study that extends Pennebaker's work on the benefits of expressively writing about trauma by investigating the benefits of telling a difficult story to a friend.
- *Stepfamily origin stories*: I am working with Leslie Baxter of U of Iowa, Dawn O. Braithwaite and several current and former students studying the stories



stepfamily members tell about how their stepfamily started.

5) What are some of your biggest recent accomplishments?

- It appears I have been awarded tenure and promotion!
- I won a College of Arts & Science Distinguished Teaching Award.
- I am pregnant with my second child.

6) What do you do when you are not working? I play with my three year old, Hannah, and my husband Jeremy. I like movies (not that I ever have time to go!), reading, taking walks with Murphy (our dog) and the family, and Jeremy and I are total foodies, so we're always looking for a great meal--most of the time we have to travel for that which we don't mind because we love to travel!!

7) What is a favorite memory(ies) of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?

- My first week here, I knew I had picked the right job! I was hospitalized with appendicitis on the Friday of my first week of work! I called Chuck Braithwaite to find out what hospital to go to. Not an hour later, Dawn was there to relieve Jeremy (who needed to go home to care for our new puppy). After one night in the hospital, I was back at home and we had meal delivered to us every night for a week. My classes were covered and I was taken good care of! I knew I had found a home in this warm and supportive department.

- Hooding Cassandra LeClair-Underberg (my first Ph.D. advisee)
- My first 882 Quantitative Methods class and I named ourselves the PP Devils (for post-positivist devils based on Katherine Miller's article that discusses how positivism was a "devil term.")
- My 970D Dark Side class members now refer to themselves sometimes as "citizens" because one of our goals is to balance between being critics (scholars) and citizens (practitioners: communicators in relationships and researchers). This word courtesy of Seth Colaner.
- Summer welcome back parties at Bill and Kathi's Seiler's home.
- Great meals at Dawn and Chuck Braithwaite's.
- Talking with my students in my office.
- Having Aliyah Soliz and Hannah Kellas born within 4 days of each other.

8) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? Continue to be the wonderful ambassadors that they are. Our alumni promote this department consistently. They are champions for us and help us to keep attracting the best and brightest students. We appreciate the support from alumni that allows us to bring in top-notch visiting scholars to campus and keep our NCA reception going.

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

Remember that you are both scholars of communication and practitioners. Study what's important to you. My favorite motto: The quality of your communication is linked to the quality of your life (Stewart).

Undergrads - get to know your professors in the department. They truly care about you and forming those relationships can be an important part of investing in your major and your college experience.

Graduate students - do your best to find the balance between work and life! Take at least one day a week off! Don't sacrifice personal and family relationships at the expense of having them. Again, study something that will make you feel like you are making a difference. Do "aha" research (Kelley, 2008).

Department Updates - Highlights from student groups



UNL Cornhusker Forensics Program 2008-2009

Another successful year for Husker Forensics

The Cornhusker forensics recently captured its 4th consecutive state speech champion in February. The team also placed second in the debate portion of the tournament and won the overall championship for the first time in seven years. The team is currently preparing for its upcoming national tournament at the University of Akron in April. This year's team heads to nationals with a total of 66 events qualified for the tournament, the most in school history and the maximum any team is allowed to bring to the tournament.

Comm Studies Club is back in business

The Communication Studies Club has had a successful revival during the 2008–2009 academic year. Highlights from the year included:

- We currently have 25 official members
- Guest speakers on internships and full-time jobs for Communication Studies majors
- Community service project with the Malone Community Center Halloween carnival
- A resume and cover letter workshop
- Graduate school and graduate student research presentation session
- We are currently looking forward to The Big Event, which will be held on April 26, 2009. The Big Event is a one-day event that brings UNL students, faculty and staff together to serve the needs of the Lincoln community.
- In other undergraduate news Eden Williams had his paper titled "Without a heading: Rewriting the frontier myth" accepted for presentation at the NCA Conference in Chicago.

The Communication Studies Club would like to thank the entire department for all their support, especially Angela M. Nunziata for her amazing sponsorship.

Carrie Roche, Comm Studies Club President

Angela M. Nunziata, Comm Studies Club Advisor

From the Desk of the Graduate Director

We have a great group of graduate students as always! This year, doctoral candidate Christy Rittenour was awarded one of four University of Nebraska (system-wide) Graduate Fellowships. Our students have had top paper awards at meetings of the National Communication Association, Central States Communication Association, and the Western States Communication Association. Students are publishing their work in top journals. There are faculty and student research and writing collaborations going on in all of the areas of the department and very productive projects are coming out of these partnerships.

With alumni support we are able to bring in top scholars to work with our students. This spring Dr. Valerie Manusov of the University of Washington came in to lecture and meet with those interested in nonverbal communication.

We are finishing up graduate recruiting for our new class to begin Fall 2009. All of the students to whom we made GTA offers in our first round chose to come and study with us at UNL. We have students coming to us from California, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Texas and students hailing from Ethiopia and Thailand.



Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite,
Director of Graduate Studies

\$20.09 in 2009: The Twenty-O-Nine Campaign

Here in 2009 your alumni department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln needs your help more than ever.

We are asking that you consider joining us as one of our supporters. While we certainly need and appreciate larger donations, we are asking that you consider a small donation of just \$20.09 today.

We rely on support from alumni to augment the educational experiences of our students and

support our alumni relations to:

- (1) Host our reception at NCA (we cannot use state funds for this).
- (2) Recruit top graduate students and bring them to visit Lincoln.
- (3) Invite top scholars to visit and work with our students.

To donate just click on the following link:
[Communication Studies Development Fund](#)

- (4) Aid graduate students in travel to research conferences.
- (5) Supplement our intercollegiate forensics program.

The department needs your help more than ever to meet the rising costs of providing these and other activities that are not state supported. We do need you. Thank you!

Bill Seiler, Professor and Chair

P.S. You can also directly support the Speech and Debate team by giving to the Olson Fund. Click on the link to support Husker Forensics:

[Olson Fund](#)

Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumni: An interview with Steve Taylor

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

I was originally a student from 1985-1989. After I finished playing football, I finished my degree and graduated with my bachelor's degree in 1992.

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

I wanted a career in Public Relations/Recruiting Coordinator in athletics (football) for a major University.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

First, I came to UNL for the football program and because they had one of the best journalism colleges and communication departments in the nation.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

I played professional football in the Canadian Football League (CFL) for eight years. I retired after the 1996 season and have been a realtor with *Home Real Estate* for the past 12 years.

[Editor's Note: Steve is a great realtor and has helped people in our department find their



homes! In addition, Steve has served as a member of our department's Advisory Board.]

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

My communication degree has been invaluable. It has given me the ability to effectively communicate and listen to provide a service to my clients of all backgrounds/classes with diligence, confidence, and enthusiasm. It helps me build and maintain relationships for life, applying techniques

and principles that I studied in my classes in the Department of Communication Studies.

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

Preparing for speeches and small group problem solving and thinking, "When will I ever need this stuff?" In the end, it has been a tremendous advantage in my field of choice.

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

- Financial support.
- Returning to campus and speaking to the students in regards to the importance of having communication personal skills to effectively communicate your thoughts/ideas in the corporate world or sales position.

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

To use your communication studies to enhance your field of choice and not to underestimate its value.

*Steve Taylor, CRS, GRI
Office: (402) 436-4663
<http://www.taylormadehomes4u.com/>*

Spotlight on Graduate Alumni: An interview with William Snavelly, PhD

1) During which years were you a student at UNL and what degree did you earn? I began my time in Lincoln starting August 20, 1974 (shortly after my wedding) and ending August 16, 1977 – the day I passed my oral defense of my Ph.D., and also, coincidentally, the day that Elvis died. As far as I know, there is no connection.

2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies? Short answer, it was my passion. Longer answer, my doctorate was my third communication degree, so I was already hooked by the time I got to Nebraska. But to me, the most interesting human behavior to study has always been human communication. It is at the center of all essential activity. Today I study and teach leadership, which I view as inherently being communication behavior.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL? As I was completing my masters at West Virginia, I asked my mentor, Brad Lashbrook, if he had any recommendations for my Ph.D. He thought for a moment, smiled, and said “Nebraska – that’s the perfect place for you.” I looked into it, applied to Nebraska and have never looked back. Two of my fellow students from West Virginia, Dan Sullivan and Virginia Eman (Wheeless), made the same decision and I think we all believe we made a great choice.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? I left Nebraska in 1977, having focused on interpersonal and organizational communication, including a concentration of courses in the Management Department (with Professors Luthans, Mowday, and others). After three great years in the Communication Department at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, I was recruited by the Business School to be the Communication person in Management. I thrived there for the next 27 years, including stints as Department Chair for Management and Associate Dean of the Farmer School of Business.

After 30 years at Miami, I really wanted to be back in a communication department where I began. Then a position at San Diego State



opened up and I couldn’t resist applying. My daughter lives in San Diego, as does my great friend and fellow Nebraska classmate Dan Sullivan; and my wife and I had always talked about living here. Today, I am the Director of the School of Communication at SDSU. We have a great terminal masters program with a truly outstanding faculty and an amazing group of masters students, and I have been pleased to recommend our best graduates to consider my alma mater for their doctorate.

6) What contributions has the study of communication brought to your life and career? Wherever I have gone, and in all the positions of leadership I have held, I have been told that I have good communication skills. For that, I have to credit my life-long journey in this field of study. My entire career has been focused in this field, even when I taught in the business school. The teaching awards I have won all can be attributed to my study and understanding of the principles of communication. My very best friends were fellow students of communication – many of them at UNL. So really, the study of communication has brought everything to my life and everything to my career. I wouldn’t change a thing.

7) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? There are so many. I guess my favorite memories revolve around my fellow students and the faculty. I remember Bob Powell sneaking Maalox into the sandwiches of Virginia Eman (Wheeless). Everyone in that wing of the building burst into laughter when she discovered them. I remember John Garrison starting the IPP – Interpersonal Plant Personnel – complete with potting

aprons so our offices in Burnett Hall would have live plants. Shuffle Board at happy hour. Camping trips. We worked hard and we played hard. I remember Dr. Patelle’s class where we were “in the barrel” and had to answer any question he might have. I remember Dr. Seiler’s seminars and presenting our case studies. And of course, I remember the football games where many of the grad students sat together – Go Big Red!

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

- Many alumni fail to realize that in today’s economy the only way for an academic program to keep pace is through alumni support. You don’t have to be a millionaire to help out. Even a check for \$100 or so every year adds up with those of other alumni to really make a difference.
- Alumni can help identify likely candidates for Nebraska’s programs in Communication, and they can make themselves available as needed for a guest lecture or hiring qualified Husker grads. I encourage all my fellow alums to stay connected and help make a difference for those who are following you at Nebraska.

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

- *Relish your time at Nebraska*--work hard, but also take time to enjoy life with your colleagues and professors. These are people who may well be your best friends for a lifetime.
- Undergrads should take every opportunity to not only study communication, but also *practice effective communication skills*--join the speech & debate team, volunteer to make presentations. You will never regret it.
- *Never sell yourself short.* There are plenty of jobs out there for Communication graduates who can demonstrate they understand communication – it is the #1 most important skill that employers look for in candidates.
- For graduate students, *be proud of being from Nebraska, get to know all the fantastic faculty at UNL, and go out there and make a difference* so Nebraska is also proud of you.

Alumni Updates: Details on personal and professional endeavors

Amy Sovereign ('08) currently works for Nationwide Insurance.

Megan Rolofson ('07) worked as an Administrative Assistant at Cline Williams law firm in Lincoln before she took a temporary position in the Office of Admissions at UNL in October. As of this January, she is a full time employee as a Recruitment Assistant. She loves being back on campus and working in a department that does so much towards recruiting the best quality student to UNL.

Jessica (Haggar) Hustad ('06) began working as a Recruiter for a local company in Lincoln immediately after graduation. One year later, she got married and moved to Seattle, WA for her husband to pursue his degree in Culinary Arts. After settling in Washington, she accepted a position with Seattle Pacific University within the Department of Clinical Psychology. As the Program Coordinator, she is responsible for the recruitment & admissions of new students, advising of current students, event planning, web design, & overall management & administration of the department. She says that she wears her Husker red in Washington.

Vanessa Samano ('03) is an attorney at *Linda G. Welch & Associates* in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Morgan Havermann ('03) is currently the Special Events Coordinator for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The Omaha-Council Bluffs Chapter of JDRF executes fundraising efforts throughout the entire year. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) is the world's largest charitable funder and advocate of type 1 diabetes research. The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research.

Becky Perrett ('99) traveled as an Educational Leadership Consultant for Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity for a year. After that, she was hired by Runza® and has been with the company for almost nine years. In 2004, she graduated with a MA in the Marketing, Communication, and Advertising masters program. She is also the past president of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Kiersten Hill ('97) has been the Executive Director for Community Services Fund of Nebraska since 2007. The Community Services Fund is a workplace giving federation allowing donors to designate to a variety of non-profit organizations that improve the quality of life in Nebraska. The office is in Lincoln, Nebraska. She is proud to say that UNL employees are the largest donor group! Since 2005, She has lived in Seward, Nebraska, with her husband Chad (College of Agriculture '96). On March 30, 2009, we celebrated the first birthday for their son, Cooper. Cooper is an only child if you don't count the cat and two dogs!

Rachelle (Krueger) Setsodi ('95) is married to Casey Setsodi (UNL 1990). They have two daughters, Christine and Cara. Rachelle has been working as an Assistant Director of Admission at Drake University for the past 5+ years. Prior to that she worked in UNL's Facilities Management and Planning Department as their Communication Manager for 7+ years. This was after she had experience in UNL's Career Services, Arts and Science Advising Center, and the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Offices. She says that she uses the skills I learned from UNL's Communication Studies Department daily

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE YOU LEFT UNL. DROP AN E-MAIL TO DONELLE (DEPARTMENT SECRETARY) AT DMOORMEIER1@UNL.EDU WITH ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL NEWS AND EVEN PHOTOS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE SHARE WITH OTHERS, AND WE WILL PUT IT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

as she converses with prospective Drake University students via email, phone calls, online chats, offsite recruiting visits, on campus group visit days, and individual appointments with me. She wrote, "There isn't a day that goes by I don't use something I learned from Introduction to Communication Studies, Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Conflict Resolution, and Interpersonal Theory courses. I cherish my memories of UNL!"

Keith Davy ('76) received his Masters of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1984. He is the National Director of Research & Development for Campus Crusade for Christ. He is a frequent speaker for retreats, conferences, and churches, both US and international. He is also an Adjunct Professor for Bethel Seminary's Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership.

Terry Baughan ('74) was a professional actress for 25 years (Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Broadway and Tours), and is currently working at Columbia University.

John Jessup ('68) is semi-retired from a career in radio and television. Based in Kansas City for nearly 35 years, John worked in talk radio and public television before going into freelance voice-over work full-time in 1981. He continues to do voice-over work from his home studio on the family homestead near Scottsbluff. He is in his 15th season as a cast member of Right Between The Ears, a radio comedy program which originated at Kansas Public Radio and is now an independent production which airs every Saturday night on Sirius and XM Satellite Radio. In August he'll complete almost 30 years of service representing Kansas City members of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists on its National Board. He has been a member of AFTRA for 40 years and a member of the Screen Actors Guild for 23 years.

Gary F. Pokorny (BA '64 and MA '65, N.U. debate team from 1960-'64) having failed retirement, is currently the City Manager of Walnut Creek California. Serving at the pleasure of a five-member City Council, he is responsible for leading the City organization and supporting the Council in setting and reaching their goal of delivering outstanding services to residents and visitors to Walnut Creek in a creative and fiscally responsible manner, which is no trivial task in the current economic environment. Prior to taking his position with Walnut Creek, Pokorny was a City Manager in three communities, El Cerrito, California; Corvallis, Oregon; and Sioux City, Iowa over a period of 25 years. Gary and his wife Jean are parents of one son, David, who is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science. Gary has been with the City of Walnut Creek for nearly

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nine years and is energized and excited about the high level of community involvement and support for Walnut Creek programs and the many creative partnerships the City has with individuals and organizations in the community.

Harold A. Melser, after a career in teaching, including eight years on the faculty of Concordia University-Nebraska and a 32-year career in fund development at a university, a national church and a hospital system in Saint Louis, MO, is now serving (since Sept. '07) as the Associate Vice President of Development at the Saint Louis Science Center. He says that communication is always been the heart of his work including major gift planning and annual giving.

Lenora Ingram is a Major in the US Army. Ingram returned to Nebraska to begin a tour of duty in the Fall of 2006, after returning from a second tour to Iraq. Ingram is in the process of completing the third year of duty at Offutt, Air Force Base, with plans of returning to the West Coast sometime in the Fall.

Allison L. Bitz has a 15-month old and a baby on the way, and is nearly finished with her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

Diana Carlin (PhD, '85) is a professor at the University of Kansas. She recently co-authored *The Third Agenda in U.S. Presidential Debates: DebateWatch and Viewer Reactions, 1996-2004*, published by Praeger and currently in press.

Reynaldo Anderson is a university professor, and Chair of the Black Caucus of the National Communication Association. Anderson has recently been working with Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), an organization dedicated to



Reynaldo Anderson, pictured fourth from the left, on his human rights visit to New Bell prison in Douala, Cameroon

seeking improvements in the criminal justice system in the United States and abroad. CURE recently established an international chapter in Douala, Cameroon, aiming to influence policy with regard to New Bell Prison, the local prison in Douala. Anderson visited New Bell prison with other CURE members to support these efforts.

RECENT FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AWARDS

Faculty

Dr. Dawn O. **Braithwaite**, Willa Cather Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; featured in the College of Arts & Sciences *Academic Star* for the month of February 2009

Dr. Jody **Koenig Kellas**, College of Arts and Sciences 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Kristen **Lucas**, Bruce Kendall Award for excellence in teaching, Communication Studies Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (2008); Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Research. Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Jordan **Soliz**, University of Nebraska Graduate Mentoring Award (Asst Professors); Central States Communication Association Outstanding New Teacher Award

Students

Arleen **Beherano**, Exceptional Student Award, College of Liberal Arts, California State University, Long Beach

Sarah **Dirks**, Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, School of Communication, Illinois State University

Colleen **Colaner**, Selected for a for Young Scholar's Master's Class in Interpersonal Communication, Central States Comm. Assoc.

Cassandra **LeClair-Underberg**, 2008 Outstanding GTA Award Honorable Mention, College of Arts & Sciences, UNL

Cassandra **LeClair-Underberg**, 2008 Cooper Award for Doctoral Graduate Teaching Assistant, CSCA

Christine **Rittenour**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Presidential Fellowship (one of four system-wide)

Sarah **Steimel**, Selected for a for Young Scholar's Master's Class in Org Communication, Central States Comm. Assoc.

Allison **Thorson**, 2008 Bruce Kendall Award for Excellence in Teaching, Communication Studies Department, UNL

Allison **Thorson**, Graduate Student Teaching Award,

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In memoriam - Dr. Kurt Billmeyer

Dr. Kurt Billmeyer, age 52, died after a long battle with prostate cancer on Friday, April 18, 2008. Kurt was an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. He had also taught at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and at Washburn University in Topeka, KS. Kurt received his doctorate from Nebraska in 2003. His dissertation explored the small-town myth in American presidential politics.

He and his family returned home in his final days to Pocatello, Idaho. His wife Cynthia and his young daughter Allison survive Kurt. Memorials may be sent to Angel on My Shoulder, 1611 Pine Tree Lane, P.O. Box 747 Street, St. Germaine, WI 54538 or The Fairy Godmother, 213 West Institute Place, Suite 509 Chicago, IL 60619, or at an account set up for Allison Marie Billmeyer @ Ireland Bank, c/o Jay Colonel 2715 Poleline Road, Pocatello, ID 83201.

International Communication Association
 Jill Talman, Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to
 Students Award, UNL Parents Association
 Erin Willer, National Communication Association Doctoral
 Honors Seminar, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Faculty

- Baxter, L. A., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Centering the social in interpersonal communication. In S. W. Smith & S. R. Wilson (Eds.), *New directions in interpersonal communication*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage.
- Baxter, L. A., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). A dialogic rethinking of (un)certainty, self-disclosure, and information regulation. In T. Afifi & W. Afifi (Eds.), *Handbook of uncertainty and information regulation*. NY: Routledge.
- Baxter, L. A., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Centering the social in interpersonal communication. In S. W. Smith & S. R. Wilson (Eds.), *New directions in interpersonal communication*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage.
- Baxter, L. A., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Reclaiming uncertainty: The formation of new meanings. In T. Afifi & W. Afifi (Eds.), *Handbook of uncertainty and information regulation*. NY: Routledge.
- Baxter, L. A., & Braithwaite, D. O. (2008). Relational dialectics theory: Discursive things that go bump in the night. In D. O. Braithwaite & L. A. Baxter (Eds.), *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication* (pp. 349-361). Thousand Oaks CA: Sage.
- Baxter, L. A., Braithwaite, D. O., Koenig Kellas, J., LeClair-Underberg, C., Normand, E. L., Routsong, T. R., & Thatcher, M. S. (in press). Empty ritual: Young-adult stepchildren's perceptions of the remarriage ceremony. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.
- Bergen, K. M., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Identity as constituted in communication. In W. F. Eadie (Ed.), *21st Century Communication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Braithwaite, D. O. & Braithwaite, C. A. (in press). Cultural communication of people with disabilities. In L. A. Samovar & R. Porter, (Eds.), *Intercultural communication: A reader*, 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Braithwaite, D. O., & Buzzanell, P. (in press). Understanding and applying for grants and funding for communication studies research. In S. Morreale & P. Arneson (Eds.), *Getting the most from your graduate education in communication: A student's handbook*. National Communication Association.
- Braithwaite, D. O., Toller, P., Daas, K., Durham, W. & Jones, A. (2008). Centered, but not caught in the middle: Stepchildren's perceptions of contradictions of communication of co-parents. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*. 36, 33-55.
- Braithwaite, D. O., & Soliz, J. S. (in press). Commentary: Evolving caregiving roles and relationships. In T. J. Socha & G. H. Stamp (Eds.), *Parents and children communicating with society*. New York: Routledge.
- Durham, W. T., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Communication privacy management within the family planning trajectories of voluntarily child-free couples. *Journal of Family Communication*.



- Toller, P., & Braithwaite, D. O. (in press). Grieving together and apart: Bereaved parents' contradictions of marital interaction. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*.
- Schrodt, P., Soliz, J., & Braithwaite, D. O. (2008). A social relations model of everyday talk and relational satisfaction in stepfamilies. *Communication Monographs*, 75, 190-217.
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Students:

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Current and former UNL students at the 2008 NCA

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- Maresh, M. M., & Williams, D. E. (in press). Oil industry crisis communication. In W. T. Coombs (Ed.). *Handbook of crisis communication*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Myers, S. M, Brann, M., & Rittenour, C. E. (in press). Interpersonal communication motives as a predictor of early and middle adulthood siblings' use of relational maintenance behaviors. *Communication Research Reports*.
- Ribarsky, E. N. (in press). "It's not all grins and giggles": Using narratives to reduce uncertainty in long-distance relationships. *Journal of the Wisconsin Communication Association*.
- Rittenour, C. E., & Martin, M.M. (in press). Convergent Validity of the Communication-Based Emotional Support Scale. *Comm. Studies*.
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- Rittenour, C. E., & Soliz, J. (in press). Communicative and relational dimensions of shared family identity and relational intentions in mother-in-law / daughter-in-law relationships: Developing a conceptual model for mother-in-law / daughter-in-law research. *Western Journal of Communication*.
- Starks, K. M. (2007). Bye bye love: Computer-mediated communication and relational dissolution. *Texas Journal of Speech Communication*.
- Thompson, J.J., (in press). I like it like that: College student-athletes' attitudes about tutors' teaching strategies. *Ohio Comm. Journal*.
- Thorson, A. R. (in press). Adult children's experiences with their parent's infidelity: Communicative protection and access rules in the absence of divorce, *Communication Studies*.
- Willer, E.K., & Cupach, W.R. (in press). When "sugar and spice" turn to "fire and ice": Factors affecting the adverse consequences of relational aggression among adolescent girls. *Communication Studies*.
- Yergensen, B. (in press). He-[scientist] and the masters of the [earth]: A Burkean examination of science as salvation in apocalyptic films. In K. Hart, & A. Holba (eds.), *Media and the apocalypse*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.
- Yergensen, B. (2007). The rhetorical interlude: Examining key film speeches in cultural/historical context. *Journal of the Communication, Speech & Theatre Association of North Dakota*, 20, 21-29.

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- Seiler, W. J., & Beall, M. L. (2008) *Communication Making Connections* (7th edition). Boston: Pearson Education.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Faculty

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite 1st Vice President for the National Communication Association (President 2010)

- Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas Chair of Family Communication Division, National Communication Association
- Dr. Kathy Krone Forum Editor for *Management Communication Quarterly*
- Dr. Jordan Soliz, Chair, Aging Communication Division, National Communication Association

Current Students

- Angela Nunziata (Ph.D. student) Student Representative for Training and Development Division, National Communication Association
- Christine Rittenour (Ph.D. student) Secretary of the Communication and Aging Division, National Communication Association

TOP PAPER AWARDS

- Koenig Kellas, J., Baxter, L., Braithwaite, D. O., LeClair-Underberg, C., Routsong, T., Thatcher, M., Normand, E. L. (2009, April). *Narratively (re)framing stepfamily beginnings: The relationship between adult stepchildren's stepfamily origin stories and their perceptions of the family*. Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division, presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Bejerano, A.R., & Kearney, P. (November, 2007). The genesis and evolution of online degree programs: Who are they for and what have we lost along the way? Top Panel Award, Training and Development Division, Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Colaner, C. W. (2008, April). *Exploring the Communication of Evangelical Families: The impact of Evangelical gender role ideology on family communication patterns*. Top Student Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division, presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.
- Dirks, S. E. & Asbury, B. E. (2009, April). *Interpersonal concept manual*. Top Three Paper, G.I.F.T.S., presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Dirks, S. E. & Metts, S. (2009), *An investigation of the*

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Faculty member Jody Koenig Kellas (left) and graduate Student Erin Willer (right) at the 2008 NCA Convention

- support process: Decision phase, support enactment and efficacy phase, and outcome phase. Top Four Paper, Interpersonal and Small Group Division, presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Altieri, M. S., & Dirks, S. E. (2007, November). *Examining the relationship between touch attitudes and relationship satisfaction in romantic partners and platonic dyads*. Top Student Paper, Interpersonal Division, presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ewalt, J. (2009, April). The messenger climbed atop the mountain: The universal audience, quasi-logic by transitivity, and the establishment of a messenger's identity in *Lost Mountain*. Top Student Paper, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group, presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Koenig Kellas, J., & Willer, E. K.** (2008, February). Intergenerationally transmitting relational world views: The relationship between mother-daughter memorable messages and adult daughters' relational schemata. Top Four Paper, Interpersonal Communication, presented at the meeting of the Western States Communication Assoc. Denver, CO.
- Kranstuber, H. A. (2009, April). She called me her adopted angel: Discovering 'connections' in adoptive families through a thematic analysis of adoptees' entrance narratives. Top Debut Paper, presented at the meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Maresh, M. M. (2008, April). *From graffiti and guns to blackboards and poetry: A Marxist-Feminist criticism of three popular inspirational films about education*. Top Past Officer Paper presented at Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.
- Schrodt, P., **Soliz, J., & Braithwaite, D. O.** (2008, February) A social relations model of everyday talk and relational satisfaction in stepfamilies. Top Paper, Interpersonal Communication, presented at Western States Communication Association, Denver CO.
- Soliz, J., Rittenour, C. E., & Thorson, A. R.** (2008, April) Communicative predictors of relational satisfaction, shared family identity, and ethnic group salience in multiethnic families. *Top Four Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.*
- Steimel, S. (2007, November). *In Good Faith: Exploring Academic Dishonesty with Undergraduates*. Top GIFT Paper. Presented at the Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Thorson, A. R. Rittenour, C., **Koenig Kellas, J., & Trees, A.** (2007, November). Utilizing Multilevel Modeling: Illuminating Family Communication Intricacies. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, *Top Four Paper*, Family Communication Division, Chicago, IL.
- Willer, E. K. (2007, November). Communication and Closeness in Mother-Adolescent Daughter Relationships: A Turning Point Analysis. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, *Top Four Student Paper*, Family Communication Division, Chicago, IL

Department of Communication Studies Faculty

Dr. William Seiler, Professor and Chair,
Instructional Communication

Dr. Charles Braithwaite, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite, Willa Cather Professor
and Director of Graduate Studies, Interpersonal and
Family Communication

Dr. Phyllis Japp, Associate Professor,
Contemporary Rhetorical Theory, Critical Research
Methods, Cultural Studies and Communication &
Gender

Dr. Jody Kellas, Assistant Professor, Interpersonal
& Family Communication

Dr. Kathleen Krone, Professor, Organizational
Communication

Dr. Karen Lee, Academic Advisor & Senior
Lecturer

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

Dr. Kristen Lucas, Assistant Professor,
Organizational Communication

Dr. Jordan Soliz, Assistant Professor, Interpersonal
& Family Communication

Dr. Dennis Bormann, Professor Emeritus,
Rhetorical Theory, Historical-Critical Study of
Public Discourse

Dr. Vince Di Salvo, Professor Emeritus,
Organizational Communication and Consulting &