



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

From the Chair's Chair

Dear UNL Colleagues and Friends, We've had a good year here in Lincoln. The department completed an ambitious three-year strategic plan that will guide our research and teaching efforts. We



are focusing on interdisciplinary connections at UNL, such as the Center for Civic Engagement and the new Social and Behavioral Sciences Initiative. Faculty members are engaged in innovative research projects and have several book projects in process. We've adopted changes in the undergraduate major and curriculum. For example, Fall 2013 begins an innovative new blended/hybrid design for COMM 286 (what some alums know as COMM 311).

Our graduate program continues to thrive—made up of hard-working students, researchers and teachers....and a volleyball team. You'll read about teaching and research awards they've won in this newsletter. I am endlessly inspired by them.

The department has been developing new opportunities for our undergraduate students, for example, hosting Communication Careers Week in the Fall, our fun deCOMMpress Week in Spring, and sponsoring the COMM Club and our chapter of the NCA honorary society Lambda Pi Eta. Our Speech & Debate students and coaches are having a great season and are preparing for the national tournaments

in April. We are very committed to the successful experience of our undergraduate students, inside and outside of the classroom. I invite students to stop in and talk with me about experiences and goals.

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Bill Seiler will be inducted into the Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place at the luncheon on Friday, April 5th in Kansas City. I am sure you'll join me in congratulating Bill on this accomplishment.

On top of everything else, babies were born in December and January to Drs. Carly Woods and Damien Pfister and graduate student Jenna Stephenson Abetz and husband Chris. Talk about productivity!

If you would like more information about us, follow us on twitter, "like" the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies on Facebook, and of course check out our website: <http://comm.unl.edu/>. I want to hear your ideas for the department. Stop by, call, or email me. I will also be at the CSCA convention in April.

"CommHuskies," stay in touch and keep us abreast of your activities and accomplishments. You are always part of us and we are proud of you. We appreciate your support of the department. **GO BIG RED!**

Dawn O. Braithwaite

Willa Cather Professor and Chair

Issue 9, Spring 2013

Featured Articles

Click on the story below to go directly to that page



[Undergraduate Highlights](#)

Pages 2 & 3



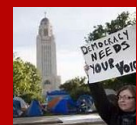
[Interview with Graduate Alumnus Titsworth](#), Page 4



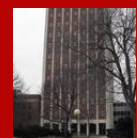
[Interview with Undergraduate Alum, Emily Schlichting](#), Page 6



[CSCA Hall of Fame Inductee](#), Page 7



[Research in Action, Occupy Lincoln](#), Page 10



[Departmental Accomplishments](#), Page 11

Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Zeth Schlenker,
and Dawn O. Braithwaite

Comm Club



The Communication Studies Club is back with an exciting new name! We now call our organization “**commconnect**” to reflect the commitment to bridging new connections with the community, fellow students, and potential employers. More so, **commconnect** has a renewed focus of producing powerful, ethical leaders of tomorrow.

With these goals in mind, this semester **commconnect** has worked to develop professional contacts with local businesses in the Lincoln area. Through projects such as “COMM connects

COMMunity,” our organization has contacted potential employers in an effort to host professional development seminars to help students get one-on-one access to hiring managers and HR specialists in the area! Additionally, through projects such as “COMM connects Students,” **commconnect** has created avenues for students to study together through hosted study



sessions as well as apply these theories and course concepts by volunteering with local non-profit community agencies. The goals of “COMM connects

Students” is to provide members a deeper understanding of communication theories, as well as producing avenues for which members may apply them to our departmental themes of advocate, negotiate, and relate.

Additionally, **commconnect** is excited to continue the traditions of “Meet & Eat” as well as the “Mentor-Mentee program.” These programs allow members to gain insight about the research of our faculty members through hosted coffee hours or lunches. These programs provide students the opportunity to build relationships with faculty and discuss future research and career goals.

In all, **commconnect** is excited about the new semester, our organization’s new name, and our renewed commitment to connect our members to the community! We are excited about our upcoming projects and can’t wait to see where the year takes us!

From the Director of Undergraduate Studies

2012 has been an exciting time for the undergraduate program!! In the fall, we held our first ever COMM Careers Week—a week designed to help Communication Studies majors better understand and articulate what they can do with a COMM major after graduation.

For Day 1, we partnered with Career Services to show resources available to COMM majors and give students the opportunity to take advantage of those very services including mock interviews, 30-second speeches about the major, resumé editing, and searching Husker Hire Link and our own COMM-specific widgets created for COMM students to search jobs

(<http://unl-csm.symlicity.com/students/jobboard/8961b4857c2d0fec9a40a79d63ae2a9a>) and internships
(<http://unl-csm.symlicity.com/students/jobboard/2d42fdf9f0e1812dfe6d07434df89831>) that would be best suited for graduates of our major.

Day 2 of COMM Careers Week included presentations and networking opportunities with five local and regional employers, including representatives from Gallup, C&A Industries,

(continued on next page)

National Research Corporation, Cerner Corporation, and Continuum Financial. Employers from these companies talked about why they need and want to hire COMM graduates, about potential career opportunities/paths and gave advice on best practices for giving students an edge in the application/interview process. Finally, on Day 3, we welcomed our alumni back to campus to talk in rotating small groups with current majors about the alumni's jobs and how their COMM major prepared them for career success. In all, the week was a great success!! Employers were thoroughly impressed with our majors:

"I was very impressed with every single student I had the opportunity to speak with after the panel"...
(Lindsey Eastwood—Gallup)



One major, Sophie Connot summarized it well when she said,

"I really liked that I could see so many different alumni in all different walks of life but they all came from the same major.

I'm really excited to see where COMM takes me!"

We are excited to see where COMM takes all of our majors! We're also looking forward to our second annual DeCOMMpress Week, scheduled for April 4-12! If you have any questions about where a COMM degree can take you or any of our undergraduate events/COMM Weeks, please email me at jkellas2@unl.edu.

—Jody Koenig Kellas



"I would consider your first panel event a success. You have a great group of students that have a bright future ahead of themselves."
(Greg Hackbart, NRC)

A total of 101 students attended the three events and said the events were "amazing, informative, important, and helpful."



Spotlight on Graduate Alumnus



Dr. Scott Titsworth earned his Ph.D. in 1999 and is the new Dean of the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University.

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

Starting in high school, I was naturally drawn to issues related to communica-

tion. Early on that meant working at a local radio station as a broadcast journalist and announcer while also competing on my high school debate team. In the undergraduate program I learned about the communication field and during my graduate program, I gained a much deeper appreciation for the explanatory potential for communication theory. To this day, I remain fascinated at that potential, and am convinced our field will continue to expand as we grapple with new communication challenges brought about by new technologies and digital media.

2) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

I was initially drawn to UNL because of its national reputation as a premiere graduate program in the field. It was touted as innovative, committed to student development, and holistic in its orientation to the field. Once I visited campus, those impressions were further confirmed. I was immediately struck by the genuine excitement of the faculty to work with students. The sense of community was noticeable on my visit and was a tremendously positive aspect of my time in Oldfather Hall.

3) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? Lynn Harter (my spouse and also a UNL Communication Studies Ph.D.) and I taught for three years at Minnesota State

University Moorhead and then took jobs in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University. We have been here for 11 years. I am now Dean of the Scripps College of Communication, and Lynn is the Steven and Barbara Schoonover Professor of Health Communication. Our daughter, Emma, is now 12 and a vibrant supporter of the Big Red (made easier now that we get Husker coverage on the Big Ten Network!)

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

Academically, my favorite memory is of graduate seminars held in Oldfather 438. The discussions were so important and afforded an opportunity to learn how to talk the language of a teacher-scholar. Our dialogue framed my understanding and challenged me to consider communication from various vantage points. That breadth of perspective has served me so well as a faculty member. Socially, I still miss playing foosball and watching Husker games at BW3. More than a few graduate seminar discussions continued there after class!

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

Find a way to be engaged with the department once you leave. I like to think about it in terms of time, talent, and treasure. Finding *time* to visit campus and volunteer to speak to a class or have lunch with a select group of students can literally be life changing. Both you and the students will grow from the experience. Your *talent* can be helpful in many ways to the department. Perhaps your professional skills could be useful for one of their projects or use your professional network to help a UNL student obtain an internship. Of course, your ability to *donate* money to the department can be very helpful. We donate to the Phyllis Japp Scholars fund to help current

(continued on next page)

graduate students as they engage in research-related travel. Find an approach that fits you and embrace it!

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

I would advise any communication student, undergrad or grad, to not place arbitrary limits on yourselves. You may not think you are a "theory person" or a "qualitative

person," etc., but you will grow in unexpected ways by learning divergent perspectives.

I am a much better qualitative researcher because of rhetoric classes I took from Ron Lee and Phyllis Japp. When you graduate you really *are* done with classes. Thus, learn to stretch your mind now!

Help the Students and the Department

In this *CommHusker* issue Dr. Scott Titsworth encourages alumni to *donate their time, talents and treasures*. We so appreciate those who lecture to our students, speak at career week events, judge at speech tournaments, provide a conference hotel room to a graduate student, or donate funds to the department.

Annual and monthly donations make a big difference in what we can do for students.

Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite has listed the donation opportunities below. Stop by, call, or visit with her at the CSCA or NCA conferences. Director of Speech & Debate Aaron Duncan can talk with you about donating to the team.



We have seen some uptick in donations and we are especially grateful for those who started donating this year.



Your support is important

and we are incredibly grateful!!

- **Communication Studies General Fund.** Funds are used to bring experts to campus, recruit new students, host our NCA reception for alumni, and help under graduate students attend events: <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1286>
- **Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** Funds help graduate students across areas with conference and research expenses: <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1617>
- **Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate.** Funds go for team travel and scholarships: <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=986>
- Recurring gifts can be set up easily via the UN Foundation: <http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=450> (a number of alumni and faculty donate monthly). We can provide information on estate giving.

Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumna Emily Schlichting



1) During which years were you a student at UNL? I graduated in May 2012 with majors in Communication Studies and Political Science and a minor in Latin.

2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies? Communication Studies is a truly interdisciplinary field. I was able to study the roots of Western philosophy in the capstone course and through classes I took in the department I was able to delve deep in postmodern critiques of gender and social structures, trace the art of rhetoric from ancient Greece to modern politics, and understand modern political paradigms.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL? As a veteran of the UNL Speech & Debate Team, majoring in Communication Studies was a logical complement to competing for the University. However, after I stopped competing, I found that my Communication Studies classes were often my favorite courses.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? Since graduating, I have been working at the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Primarily, I write policy briefs from the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. I also work a lot in Medicaid policy.

5) We have a focus in the undergraduate program to teach students about three capacities: *Advocate, Negotiate, and Relate*. How has your communication degree helped you with one or more of these in your life and career? My communication degree has been a critical component of each capacity. Crafting policy, whether on the Hill, in the Administration, or from a think tank requires the ability to convince others of the merit of your proposal (advocate), compromise to reach a realistic middle ground (negotiate), and do all of this while not alienating the people you're bargaining with (relate).

6) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? I loved writing my senior thesis, which examined the willingness to disclose one's sexual orientation to a primary care physician. Conducting original research alongside Dr. Soliz was not only an exceptional learning experience in the difficulty of research, but it was a great way for me to explore an area of policy from a more personal, qualitative angle.

7) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? Connecting students to internship opportunities and careers is the single best way that UNL alumni can help current students, particularly in a

(continued on next page)

major like Communication Studies where the career opportunities are much more flexible but also more overwhelming due to that flexibility.

8) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department? Use your summers wisely. My time at UNL certainly prepared me well for the work I do now, but I

would not have even known about this position had I not spent two summers interning in Washington, DC. I encourage students to use the summers to explore the "real world" side of the profession they believe they are interested in pursuing. It will either confirm that interest or send them in another direction both of which are extremely helpful to know before you take a job!

CSCA Hall of Fame

UNL's Communication Studies Professor, Dr. William Seiler will be inducted into the Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame at their April meeting in Kansas City.

Dr. Seiler has given the highest level of service to the association.

He's done that by:

- mentoring fellow members
- fulfilling the responsibilities of



Dr. Bill Seiler

various offices

- regular participation on conference panels as a presenter or respondent
- and/or advancing the mission of the association through other means

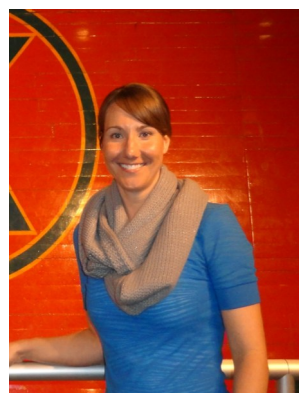
Inductees must have shown a strong pattern of dedicated and continued service to the association over time.

Comm Studies is truly privileged to have such a fine educator in our midst!

GTAs Win Teaching Awards



Audra Nuru (MA, University of Central Florida) has won the International Communication Association Instructional and Developmental Communication Division Graduate Assistant Teaching Award. Her award will be presented at ICA's upcoming London convention.



Amanda Holman (MA University of Montana) has won the Central States Communication Association Cooper Award for a Doctoral Teaching Assistant. Her award will be presented at the CSCA luncheon in Kansas City April 5th.

Both of these are prestigious teaching awards. The department is committed to excellent instruction and we are so proud of Amanda and Audra!

UNL Speech & Debate Students

UNL Speech & Debate Team Wins 4th Straight State Championship



The Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensic Association named the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Speech & Debate team state champions at a State Tournament, February 16 hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This accomplishment is especially meaningful because the State of Nebraska had four of the nation's top 20 teams in 2012.

UNL won the speech tournament with 145 points, the University of Nebraska-Omaha placed second with 97 points, and Hastings College placed third with 41.5 points.



In addition to the team awards, UNL students captured a total of four individual championships. Senior Patrick Sather of Bellevue won Poetry Interpretation, junior Josh Planos of Omaha won Dramatic Interpretation, freshmen Grace Solem-Pfiefer of Omaha won After Dinner Speaking, and sophomore Reece Ristau of Omaha won Oratory. By virtue of finishing as the top orator in the state, Ristau also qualified to represent the state of Nebraska at the National Interstate Oratory Tournament to be held on April 26-27 in Shreveport, Louisiana. In addition to winning the overall championship, UNL also won the quality award.

The state championship marks the fourth straight overall state championship for the team. The team has also placed first in individual events for 7 of the past 8 years. The Speech team is preparing to compete at the American Forensic Association's National Individual Events Tournament to be held on the campus of Hutchinson, Kansas, April 6-8. The Debate team is preparing to compete at the National Forensics Association's National Tournament to be held on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia April 18th-22nd.

Introducing the 2012-2013 Phyllis Japp Scholars



Amanda Holman

Classification:

3rd year Ph.D.
Candidate

Hometown:

Lake Park, Minnesota

BA: Concordia College,
Moorhead, Minnesota

MA: University of
Montana

Primary Area: Inter-
personal and Family
Communication.

We asked Amanda about her dissertation research:

Amanda: My dissertation examines the parent-adolescent “sex talk” and how content, process, perception, and satisfaction in the messages play a role in an adolescent’s future attitudes and behaviors toward risky sexual behavior. My dissertation focuses on young adolescents’ perceptions of their parents’ communication about sex and what they view as effective/ineffective in reducing their risky attitudes and behaviors towards sex.

Amanda told us what being named a Phyllis Japp Scholar means to her:

Amanda: Dr. Phyllis Japp is an inspiration as a teacher and scholar. With this scholarship, I was able to attend national and regional conferences and purchase copyrighted quantitative measures that will be used in my dissertation. I am extremely grateful for the donations that make this scholarship possible!



Jessy Ohl

Classification: 3rd
year Ph.D. Candi-
date

Hometown:

Dennison, Iowa

BA: Kansas State

MA: University of
Alabama

Primary Area:

Rhetoric and
Public Culture.

Jessy told us about his research.

Jessy: My dissertation explores the rhetoric of war in the digital age. I am particularly interested in the ways that drone warfare, cyber-terrorism, and social media have impacted our traditional conceptions of warfare. My project will focus on the historical development and rhetorical implications of what I describe as “light war” through the use of insights offered by Kenneth Burke and Michel Foucault.

Jessy told us how being named a Phyllis Japp Scholar has helped him this year.

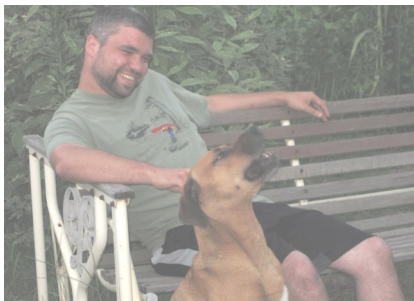
Jessy: I am very grateful for the generous donations that have made the Phyllis Japp scholarship possible. I plan on using the extra travel funds to attend the Central States Communication Association Conference and the Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute.

These scholarships are funded through alumni donations and we want to continue and grow this honor: <http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?>

Research In Action

Editor's Note: We are starting a new COMM Husker feature on research projects in the department. Our first installment is a project by doctoral students Josh Ewalt, Jessy Ohl and Dr. Damien Pfister that Josh wrote up for us:

This project started in Dr. Damien Pfister's "Public Deliberation" course. For weeks, Damien, Jessy Ohl and I were working tirelessly to develop a



Josh Ewalt and friend

sustainable project idea for the course. At the same time, the Occupy Movement hit Lincoln, Nebraska. The three of us were active participants in the initial protest on October 15th,

2011. That night, it hit us: We need to write a play, one that begins by exploring the tensions between rhetorical activism and public deliberation as they arise in this local iteration of the Occupy Moment.

The result is a two-part article in press at *Cultural Studies* <=> *Critical Methodologies*. The first part of the article creates "rhetorical scenes," or dramatic vignettes which utilize a combination of fictional and non-fictional dialogue, protest observation, and autoethnographic reflection to highlight theoretical tensions inherent in real-life /scenes of rhetorical activity.



Jessy Ohl

The "play" uses three main characters: Anda (an advocate of historical modes of activism), John (an advocate of rational debate and consensus), and Dejuan (an undergraduate Occupy organizer who attempts to

mediate the binary represented by the other two characters). The play includes five scenes; each scene takes up a different tension present in

the rhetorical activity of the Occupy moment.

Part 2 is a "footnote essay," which gives the reader interpretive cues for, and a theoretical contextualization of, Part 1 of the play. We locate the tensions inherent in Occupy and dramatized in the play within the appropriate scholarly literature. In doing so, we also highlight our academic contribution to rhetorical and media scholarship:

- First, we introduce the concept of "Networked Public Screens" as a way of thinking through the contemporary interconnectedness of screens—from mobile phones, to laptops, pads, etc., and how they interplay with the production and circulation of activist images.
- Second, we suggest that, while Occupy opened a moment for rethinking movement politics, the characters/participants in the movement—perhaps constrained by terminology unable to attend to the uniqueness of the moment – tended to reposition it within traditional movement oppositions (e.g., material vs. online place, activism vs. deliberation, and so on) .
- Last, but not least, we outline the process of "constructing rhetorical scenes" as a novel rhetorical methodology.



The articles will be available soon: Ewalt, J.P., Ohl, J.J., & Pfister, D.S. (in press). Activism, deliberation, and networked public screens: Rhetorical scenes from the Occupy Moment in Lincoln, Nebraska (Parts 1 and 2). Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies.



Damien Pfister

Department of Communication Studies Departmental Accomplishments

Faculty Accomplishments

UNL Communication Studies

Faculty published these articles:

Kellas, J., Baxter, L. A., LeClair-Underberg, C., **Braithwaite, D. O.**, Lamb Normand, E., Routsong, T., Thatcher, M. (in press). Telling the story of stepfamily beginnings: The relationship between young-adult stepchildren's stepfamily origin stories and their satisfaction with the stepfamily. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.

Braithwaite, D. O., & Schrod, P. (2012). Communication in stepfamilies. In A. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (2nd ed.) New York: Routledge.

Thompson, J., Petronio S., & **Braithwaite, D. O.** (2012). An examination of privacy rules for academic advisors and college student-athletes: A communication privacy management perspective. *Communication Studies*.

Kellas, J., & Suter, E., "Accounting for lesbian-headed families: Lesbian mothers' responses to discursive challenges." *Communication Monographs*.

Soliz, J., & **Koenig Kellas, J.** (in press). Communicative correlates of family satisfaction. In *Encyclopedia of Life Satisfaction*.

UNL Communications Studies

Faculty published book chapters including:

Schrod, P., & **Braithwaite, D. O.** (in press). No longer understudied, but still misunderstood: Expanding communication scholarship on stepfamily relationships." Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

In K. Floyd & M. T. Morman (Eds.), *Widening the family circle: New research on family communication* (2nd edition).

Soliz, J., & Lin, M.-C. (in press). Friends and allies: Communication in grandparent-grandchild relationships. In K. Floyd & M. Morman (Eds.) *Widening the family circle: New research on family communication* (2nd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Woods, C.S. (2012). (Im)mobile metaphors: Toward an intersectional rhetorical history. In Karma Chávez and Cindy Griffin (Eds.), *Standing in the intersection: Feminist voices, feminist practices in Communication Studies*. SUNY Press.

Top Paper Award

Metts, S., **Braithwaite, D. O.**, Schrod, P., Wang, T., **Holman A. J.**, **Nuru A. K.**, & **Stephenson Abetz, J.** (2013, April). An exploratory study of experience and expression of emotions of stepchildren at critical events in stepfamily life. Paper presented to the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division Central States Communication Association, Kansas City. **Top Paper*

UNL Communications Studies

Faculty published books including:

Seiler, W. J., Beall, M. L., & Mazer, J. P. (2014) *Communication Making Connections* (9th edition). Boston: Pearson.

Grad Student Accomplishments

Publications

Burnham, J., & Ewalt, J.P. (in press). "Mystery Science Theater 3000 and the Restricted Universe of Popular Culture Production," in S. Rees). *Reading Mystery Science Theater 3000: Critical approaches*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

Ewalt, J.P., Ohl, J.J., & Pfister, D.S. (in press). Activism, deliberation, and networked public screens: Rhetorical scenes from the Occupy moment in Lincoln, Nebraska (Parts 1 and 2). *Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies*.

Ohl, J. (2013, April). In search of "the multitude": A bio-political alternative to McGee's "people." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, MI. * Top Four Paper in Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Division.

Ohl, J., & Potter, J. (in press). United we lynch: The (re)membering of racial violence in *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*. *Southern Journal of Communication*. Scarecrow Press.

Kranstuber Horstman, H. (2012). "Love stories aren't always like the movies": The positive and negative relational implications of inherited parental courtship stories. In J. Koenig Kellas (Ed.) *Family storytelling: Negotiating identity, teaching lessons and making meaning*. Routledge: New York, NY.

Ndiaye, K., Silk, K., Anderson, J., Hurley, A. L., Carpenter, A., Kranstuber Horstman, H., & Proulx, J. (in press). Using an ecological framework to understand parent-child communication about nutritional decision-making and behavior. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*.

Holman, A., & Sillars, A. (2011). Talk about "Hooking Up": The influence of college student social networks on non-relationship sex. *Health Communication*, 27(2), 205-216. DOI:

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

Raymond Blanton, Popular Culture and Media Studies Interest Group Paper Reader, CSCA; William H. Thompson Scholar Instructor; Tutor/Mentor Nebraska Athletics.

Undergraduate Accomplishments

Rebekah Land, member of the UNL Swimming and Diving team, This year the team set a record for a winning season 12-1 and headed to Minneapolis for Big Ten Conference meet on February 19th. As Rebekah shared, "Often times swimming and diving are not recognized but we have been working harder than ever regardless and it is paying off! **GO BIG RED!**"

UNL Undergraduate Students serving in Leadership Positions:

Carla Talmadge, Junior: Rising Leaders Fellowship with Teach for America.



Laura Ohnoutka, Communication Studies' own work/study student won UNL's Ovation award for February 2013. Assistant Dean for Finance Alecia Kimbrough presented her with a check and cookies to share with the department.

UNL's FALL 2012 College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List

COMMUNICATION MAJORS ON DEAN'S LIST FALL 2012

Sara Elizabeth Arneson
Melissa Jayne Bakewell
Stephanie Elizabeth Banks
Angela N Berry
Hannah Marie Brenden
Joy Anna Carey
Hannah Cecilia Coatney
Jacob Alvin Erb
Sally Kay Hamnett
Lisa Anne Havermann
Hannah Marie Kelley
Kailas Mikal Ledbetter
Sheila Marie McKay
Hillary Ruth Naumann
Cassie Rose Olson
Tomoko Otake
Erin Michelle Pagenkemper
Megan May Personett
Seth Michael Peterson
Rachael Louise Rogers

Brooke Danielle Roth
Julie J Sadofsky
Jessica Emily Stephenson
Carla Jo Helen Talmadge
Emily Louise Veys
Amanda Jo Winterstien

COMMUNICATION 2ND MAJORS AND MINORS ON DEAN'S LIST FALL 2012

Andrew Michael Brey
Jesse Thomas Elkjer
Leah Jo Fitzgerald
Maritza Christine Hayes
Ashley LeAnn Hick
Caroline Marie Johnson
Callie Lynn Johnson
Brianna Elizabeth Leif
Bonnie Leah Martin
Delaney Reed Morgan
Arielle Jenay Raymond
Patrick Thomas Sather
Megan Leigh Shumaker

Alumni Updates:

Kristen Carr (Ph.D., 2012) has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX.

Haley Kranstuber Horstman (Ph.D., 2013). Haley got married this summer (May 2012) in Lincoln and became Haley Kranstuber Horstman. She is also pleased to announce that she accepted a job as an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri for Fall 2013.

Kerk F. Kee (2000) recently published 2 articles: Kee, K. F., Sparks, L., Struppa, D. C., & Mannucci, M. (2013). Social groups, social media, and higher dimensional social structures:

Towards a simplicial model of social aggregation for computational communication research. *Communication Quarterly*, 61(1), 35-58.
Rakovski, C., Sparks, L., Robinson, J. D., Kee, K. F., Bevan, J. L., & Agne, R. (2012). A regression-based study using jackknife replicates of HINTS III data: Predictors of the efficacy of health information seeking. *Journal of Communication In Healthcare*, 5(3), 163-170.

Dr. Beth Ribarsky (Ph.D., 2009) will take over as Chair of the Communication Education Division at CSCA.

Sarah Steimel (Ph.D., 2011) assistant professor at Weber State University has been named the Engaged Learning Series coordinator in the Community Involvement Center. In this role, she will help develop an annual campus-wide theme and corresponding events, speakers and exhibits that provide relevant engaged learning opportunities for students in all academic colleges and all departments in Student Affairs. The theme will revolve around a public concern that the university will help to implement to improve the issue over time.

David Supp-Montgomerie (formerly David Montgomerie) (Masters, 2007) will begin teaching Rhetoric and Humanities at Quest University Canada in the Fall.

Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D., 2012) was recently awarded a \$2000 University of Montevallo Faculty Development & Collaboration course development grant for the redesign of her department's general education course COMS 101 Foundations of Oral Communication. This course development grant is intended to stimulate the redesign of existing courses through the implementation of innovative approaches to general education. She was also elected NCA Instructional Development Division Secretary and NCA Basic Course Division Vice Chair Elect last November.

Blair Thompson (Ph.D., 2007) received tenure at Western Kentucky University. My colleagues and I

at Western Kentucky are developing an App tentatively titled, Communication Theory: The Interactive Experience. The App which is being pilot tested in Fall 2013 will be launched for use by those teaching Introduction to Communication and Communication Theory courses at the undergraduate level in the Spring of 2014. The App, which is web interactive (meaning it will be accessible from any device where a student can access the Internet including phones, ipads, laptops, desktops etc), will contain a full length textbook, interactive activities built into the chapters, and powerpoints. Faculty adopting the App for their classes will be able to customize the App for their individual courses, and it can be updated on a semesterly basis to include individualized content. We are very excited for people to "experience" how this digital technology will enable faculty and students to engage in theory in unique ways that are more difficult to accomplish with the traditional textbook format.

Tom Workman (Ph.D., 2001). Principal Communication Researcher and Evaluator for the Health Program for the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC, is the lead author on a new article coming out in the *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research*, "Unresolved tensions in consumer engagement in CER: A US research perspective." Their new Center for Patient and Consumer Engagement also launched in February and Tom is the Managing Director.

Steady Progress Being Made on the Stadium Renovation



Many of the windows here in the Communication Studies Department open onto these views of the Memorial Stadium construction. We see every day the progress being made on the east side of the stadium.

In no time at all, UNL fans will be cheering the Huskers on to victory in this newly renovated space and scholars will study concussions and the brain in a new a 20,000 square foot lab.



Department of Communication Studies Faculty

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone
Professor
Organizational Communication

Dr. Karen Lee
Professor of Practice
Rhetoric and Public Culture

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

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 Communication

Dr. Carly Woods
Assistant Professor
Rhetorical History and Theory, Cultural Criticism,
Gender and Sexuality Studies,
and Argumentation

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

Dr. Charles Braithwaite
Research Professor
Cultural Communication

Professor Kathy Castle
Director of COMM 286 and
Distance Education

Professors Emeritus

Dr. Dennis Bormann
Professor Emeritus
Rhetorical Theory

Dr. Vince Di Salvo
Professor Emeritus
Organizational Consulting & Training

Dr. Phyllis Japp
Professor Emeritus
Contemporary Rhetorical Theory