



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

From the Chair's Chair

Greetings to
"CommHuskiers"
past and present!

Here we are just into March—it has been a very mild winter and my spring flowers are already peeking out of the ground. I hope they are right and that spring is around the corner.



While the winter was mild, our pace in Communication Studies in Oldfather Hall has been anything but! The faculty members have had a very busy year in the department. We had our Academic Program Review in the fall, which required us—and gave us the opportunity—to study all aspects of our teaching, research, and service. This review process is a regular part of academic life. These reviews include senior colleagues from peer institutions to come in and meet with us. All in all it was a good process and helps us solidify our objectives. To see what the department is producing, look at the "Faculty, Grad, and Undergrad Accomplishments" section on pages 9-11 of this newsletter.

I mentioned UNL's move to the Big Ten in the last newsletter. UNL has set hefty goals for growth of the student body, much-needed growth of the faculty, and growth in research. We do appreciate being in a growth mode when that is not the experience of most of our colleagues nationally. Communication Studies is hard at work on these goals and I am especially excited about our expanding undergraduate major and the research that is going on.

For those of you who are interested, we include in this newsletter a picture

on page 11 of the construction around Memorial Stadium. In addition to more seats and skyboxes, they are building a 25,000 sq. ft. research lab for the latest in brain imaging research (including concussions, hence the location). Our faculty members are looking for a way to connect with this and other initiatives.

We were also busy hiring in the fall and are so delighted to announce that Dr. Carly Woods (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh) will join us full time in the fall. Dr. Woods has been teaching in the department these last two years.

Our delight is tinged with some sadness, as Dr. Kristen Lucas will be leaving us for the University of Louisville. Dr. Lucas has been an incredibly valuable colleague and friend. She will be missed.

As this time of year comes around we watch with great interest to see where our graduates—both undergraduate and graduate—are going from here. We are proud of you all and hope that you will stay connected to us over the years, keeping us updated for the newsletter so that we can track your progress. We hope you'll stay connected to our current students as well and help us support their work.

As I write, our Graduate Committee is working on admissions for 2012-13. We are always looking for talented undergraduate majors and hope that you will direct new students to us. What could be more important than the study of communication?

We are all part of a hard working academic community. We appreciate the work you do and your support of the department. **GO BIG RED!**

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite
Willa Cather Professor and Chair

Issue 7, Spring 2012

Featured articles

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

Comm Club Eats, Meets, and Gives Back to Community

After a successful start to the year, the Communication Studies Club is in the midst of a spring semester filled with opportunities to keep our current members coming back and to encourage new ones to join. First, we'd like to thank Drs. Jody Koenig Kellas and Jordan Soliz, who were our guests of honor at our first "Comm Club Eat & Meet" event last fall. This semester's luncheon featured special guests Drs. Damien Pfister and Carly Woods who took Communication Studies majors on a tour of our new website before enjoying sandwiches provided by Brown Baggers.

In just a few short weeks, the Communication Studies Club will be traveling to Omaha's Century Link Center to represent the Communication Studies Department at the Big Red Road

Show. This event allows us to showcase all the wonderful perks of being a Communication Studies major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Comm Club Members and Advisors at the March 2012 Eat and Meet with Drs. Damien Pfister and Carly Woods

To close out the year, we will be teaming up with the members of Lambda Pi Eta to participate in this year's campus-wide volunteer day, The Big Event. We encourage others who are looking for a way to get involved with the Communication Studies Club to register with our group and end the year in the best way possible--by helping us serve and give back to our community! The Comm Club is open to any and all majors, and our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please e-

mail us at commclub.unl@gmail.com.

Antwane Collins, President, & Kristen Carr, Advisor, Communication Studies Club

From the Desk of the Graduate Director

This time of the semester offers a chance to reflect on the (soon-to-be) past, present and future of our graduate program and, specifically, graduate students. Spring time is graduate admissions time! As usual, we have a very

competitive applicant pool and we are hoping to have our 2012-2013 incoming class set in the next few weeks. We are excited about the energy new students bring and look forward to "introducing" the class to you in the Fall 2012 newsletter. Of course, we can't forget about the students that are already here.

Unfortunately, the space for this column does not allow for a comprehensive

summary of the achievements, scholarly activities, and department service of these students. Therefore, I encourage you to review the "Departmental Accomplishments" section of this newsletter (pp. 9-11). I hope you'll be as impressed as we are with their accomplishments. In anticipating the



arrival of future students and thinking about the current students, we also realize that many of the familiar faces in our department will soon be leaving us. We will be saying goodbye to some great scholars and individuals. Thinking

about these students becoming alumni gives me the opportunity to remind you to check out our alumni updates section in this newsletter (p. 12). Please continue to keep us updated on your personal and professional endeavors. Over the next year, we will be rolling out some new ways for you to stay up-to-date on our graduate program, graduate student accomplishments, and other important information (i.e., the success of our department volleyball team!). We will keep you updated on these new

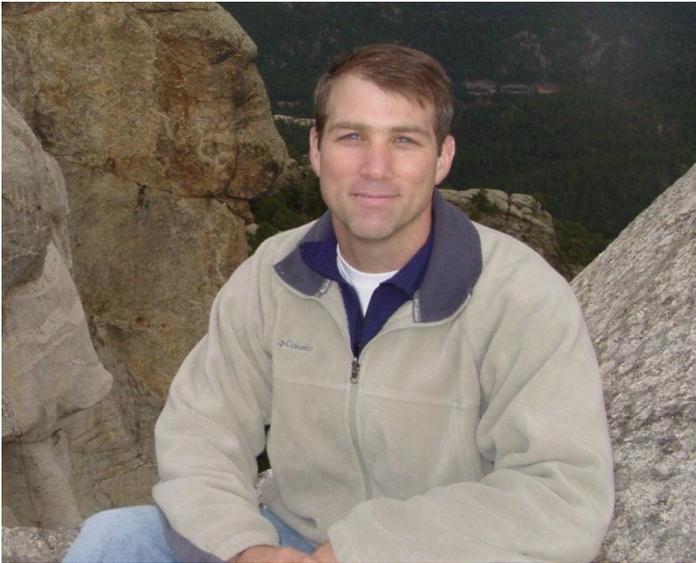
endeavors. Until then, have a great end of the semester and enjoy your summer. Oh... and please follow the graduate program on Twitter @UNLCommGrad for current news.

Dr. Jordan Soliz

Associate Professor & Graduate Director

Spotlight on Graduate Alumnus Dr. Paul Turman

South Dakota Regental System Vice President for Research and Economic Development



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

I began full time at UNL in Fall 1998 (having started part time) and finished in May 2000. I earned my Ph.D. with a primary emphasis in Interpersonal Communication and a secondary emphasis in Instructional Communication.

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

I found the field by accident having started out in Scenic Design. My undergraduate program had both Communication Studies and Theater and I happened to take a number of communication theory courses and I really enjoyed the faculty and the material. It seemed to be a logical area to pursue when I decided to go on to earn a master's degree.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

We had two faculty members at South Dakota State University who had recently earned their doctorates from UNL. They always spoke highly of the program and the faculty. My thesis advisor worked with Bill Seiler and she encouraged me to put UNL on my list of schools and meet with him. Of all the visits I made, I never felt more welcomed by the faculty and students than I did during my first trip to Oldfather Hall.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

I left UNL for a tenure track faculty position at the University of Northern Iowa. I left in 2006 to become the Director of

Academic Assessment for the South Dakota Board of Regents. The main office is located in my hometown and it provided an opportunity to pursue an administrative post and move closer to home. That position transitioned into the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and most recently I was appointed to be the System Vice President for Research and Economic Development for the South Dakota Regental system.

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

My twin sons were born during my final semester at UNL and the support I received from my classmates at the time is consistent with the collegiality that I think continues to be a fundamental part of the UNL experience. My officemates continue to be my closest friends in the discipline along with a number of UNL graduates who entered the program shortly after I left.

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

In addition to the outstanding faculty at UNL, I believe the pipeline of young talent that continues to emerge from the program is a function of the support that alumni provide to the program. Encouraging your best students to consider UNL as an option when they are selecting Ph.D. programs is an important way to contribute to ensuring the value of your degree. I also believe financial support to the institution aids in facilitating two critical functions by (1) demonstrating to the institution the value that alumni see in the program and (2) providing much needed assistance for supporting the important activities that make UNL graduates outstanding scholars in our discipline.

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

It's hard to imagine where your degree is going to take you once you leave UNL. I would have never imagined that I would find myself in a system office when I left UNL in 2000, but I know that my methodological background, management experience I received while running the Business & Professional Communication course, and the exposure I received in leadership positions at regional and national organizations all helped me be successful in the positions I have taken. Be willing to take on challenges and the unintended byproducts for such efforts are likely to emerge in the future.

Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumnus Dr. Kerk Kee Assistant Professor at Chapman University



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

I was an undergraduate at UNL from 1996-2000. I earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, with a minor in Communication Studies in May 2000.

2) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

In Fall 1996, I transferred from a small private college in Malaysia to UNL to study Mechanical Engineering. I chose UNL because there was an existing relationship between my college and UNL. At my Malaysian college, UNL was recognized as among the top 100 engineering programs in the U.S., and Lincoln was known as a safe and affordable college town. That was my limited view of UNL.

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

In Spring 1997, I took COMM 283 (Interpersonal Communication) because it was a required course for all mechanical engineering majors at the time, and I "discovered" the field of Communication Studies. As a naïve undergraduate back then, I thought taking more Communication Studies classes would help me become a socially savvy engineer in the future.

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

In Fall 1997, Communication Studies was not an approved minor for engineering students. On October 19, 1997, I submitted a petition to the Department of Mechanical Engineering in order to declare a minor in Communication Studies. The petition was not approved. It took more persuasion with Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering. However, a little over a year later, the petition

was finally approved by the Dean of Engineering, Dr. John Ballard, on November 4, 1998. I became the *first* engineering student at UNL to declare a minor in Communication Studies.

5) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

After graduating from UNL in 2000, I pursued an M.A. in Communication (2003) and an M.A. in Liberal Arts & Sciences (2006) at San Diego State University. Then I went on to the University of Texas at Austin and completed a Ph.D. in Organizational Communication (2010). In Fall 2010, I started a tenure track assistant professor position at Chapman University in Orange, California.

6) What has the communication minor brought to your career?

Despite winning second place in the E-Week (Engineering Week) Senior Design Project Competition with my team project in 2000, I decided to pursue graduate school in Communication and not an engineering career. Today, I explore the intersection of technologies and human communication, including working on a project that examines the ways in which scientists and engineering researchers use an NSF funded supercomputing network to engage in data-intensive distributed collaborations across 11 sites.

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

Stay connected and share information!

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

Believe in your dreams, follow your passions, and never be afraid to try something that has never been done before!



Emily Schlichting Named Academic Star

Emily Schlichting, a senior Communication Studies and Political Science double major, has been named a College of Arts & Sciences Academic Star. She is a 2011 recipient of the Truman Scholarship, an extraordinarily competitive national honor awarded to college juniors who have outstanding records of community and public service, exceptional leadership potential and communication skills, and are determined to pursue careers in public service. Drawing inspiration from her own diagnosis with a rare auto-immune disorder, Emily has excelled as an advocate for health care reform. She also has upheld several campus commitments, including membership in the College's Dean's Scholars Society and the Innocents Society, which is the Chancellor's senior honorary.

Show Your Support and Help UNL Students

The department does depend on the generosity of our alumni to directly support undergraduate and graduate students and we cannot do these activities without your support.

- Financial support for graduate and undergraduate students traveling to present at conferences
- Reception to recruit new students at the National Communication Association meeting (and where we get to host our wonderful alumni!)
- Bringing visiting scholars and speakers to campus
- Scholarships for Speech & Debate students

You may give to our general Communication Studies Fund or funds targeted toward specific purposes:

- **Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** All funds go directly to support graduate students across all our emphasis areas with conference and research expenses:

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

- **Communication Studies General Fund:**
<https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1286>
- **Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate:**
<https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=986>
- A gift of \$10 or \$20 a month can make a big difference and recurring gifts can be set up easily via the NU Foundation:
<http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=450>

Two immediate needs: (1) We have a special need to grow the Communication Studies General Fund right now. (2) We need to grow support for student travel via the Phyllis Japp Fund. Would you consider coming together with three other graduates from your era? If four of you donated \$10 a month you could support a student in 2012-2013

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

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

UNL Speech & Debate Students Claim State Title

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln's speech and debate team were named the state champions at the Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensic Association's State Tournament hosted February 18th at the University of Nebraska - Kearney. This accomplishment is especially meaningful as the state fielded four of the nation's top 20 teams in 2011.

UNL won the speech tournament with 123 points, the University of Nebraska-Omaha placed second with 109.5 points, and Hastings College placed third with 54.5 points.

In addition to the team awards, UNL students captured a total of three individual state championships. Sophomore Grace Kluck of Lincoln won Program Oral Interpretation, sophomore Josh Planos of Omaha won

Dramatic Interpretation and junior Patrick Sather of Bellevue won Prose Interpretation. In the pentathlon award, which recognizes individual students for a combined point total accrued throughout the tournament, junior Lauren Schaal of Omaha was third.



The UNL Speech & Debate Team celebrated their fourth consecutive victory at the Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensic Association's State Tournament.

The debate team is coming off a closeout victory in novice division at the Point Loma Nazarene University Tournament in San Diego, California.

The state championship marks the fourth consecutive victory for the UNL team this semester. The team is preparing to compete at the American Forensic Association -

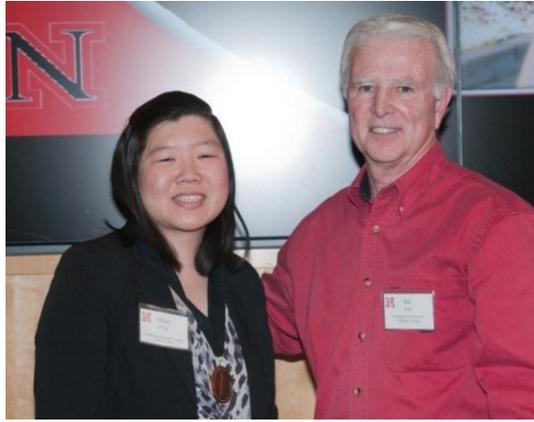
National Individual Events Tournament to be held at Texas State University - San Marcos, April 7th-9th. The debate team is preparing for the National Forensics Association's Tournament to be held at Ohio University, April 20th-23rd.

Tiffany Wang Receives UNL's Outstanding GTA Award

Doctoral Candidate Tiffany Wang was one of two students in the university to receive the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award this year. Her advisor, Dr. Bill Seiler, introduced Tiffany at the ceremony, exclaiming, "Tiffany Wang is one of the most dedicated and competent graduate students that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 39 years. Tiffany is an extremely talented and dedicated individual who through hard work and dedication has reached an extremely high level of teaching competency. There is no question in my mind that Tiffany is one of those rare exceptions who really cares about her teaching and her students.

When I was department chair I reviewed all teaching evaluations including faculty and instructors. Tiffany's

student evaluations were always among the very best of the best in the department. Her evaluations say it all--students have written that she is engaging, interesting, enthusiastic,



well prepared, knowledgeable and enjoyable as a teacher. Tiffany has been amazing in her dedication and in the high quality of her work. She has trained instructor assistants and has dealt with a variety of student issues in an extremely professional manner. Not only is Tiffany an excellent classroom teacher and administrator, but she is also establishing a very solid research record. She has several excellent publications and has had a number of top paper awards at regional and national conferences. There is no doubt in my mind that Tiffany Wang

is the kind of individual who epitomizes what an outstanding graduate teaching assistant and colleague is. I am confident that Tiffany will continue to make all of us proud that she is a graduate of our program and the University of Nebraska."

Introducing the 2011-2012 Phyllis Japp Scholars



KRISTEN CARR
Classification: 3rd
 Year Ph.D. Candidate
Hometown:
 Boston, MA
B.A.: Stonehill
 College
M.A.: Texas Christian
 University

Primary Area: Interpersonal & Family
Secondary Area: Quantitative
 Methods

Research Interests: communicative
 development of resilience after
 negative family events, influence of
 relational conflict on well-being,
 individual/interactional sense-making
 in the "dark side" of personal and
 family relationships

What This Meant for Me: Dr. Japp's
 legacy as a professor/scholar is both
 significant and inspiring. This fund has
 supported my travel to national and
 regional conferences and funded the
 purchase of a copyrighted measure for
 use in my dissertation. I am
 appreciative of the donations that
 make this scholarship possible!



SARAH JONES
Classification: 3rd
 Year Ph.D. Candidate
Hometown:
 Hoskins, NE
B.A.: Hastings College
M.A.: Minnesota State
 University, Mankato
Primary Area:

Rhetoric & Public Culture
Secondary Area: Organizational
Research Interests: gender, rhetorical
 theory and criticism, resistance,
 transnational feminism, globalization
 from below

What This Meant for Me: This
 scholarship has facilitated traveling to
 both national and regional conferences
 this year and allowed me to spend time
 focusing on developing research
 presentations and connecting with
 both peers and established scholars
 within the field. It has also enabled me
 to organize archival research for my
 dissertation. Without these monies, my
 ability to travel to the archive
 collections necessary for my
 dissertation project would be impeded.



RACHEL STOHR
Classification: 3rd
 Year Ph.D. Candidate
Hometown:
 Albuquerque, NM
B.A.: University of
 New Mexico
M.A.: University of
 New Mexico

Primary Area: Organizational
Secondary Area: Rhetoric & Public
 Culture

Research Interests: organizational
 rhetoric, feminist rhetorical theory and
 cosmopolitanism, globalization from
 below, dialogic communication

What This Meant for Me: The Phyllis
 Japp Scholarship Fund has lightened
 my financial burden immensely and
 has made attending national and
 regional conferences like NCA and
 WSCA much easier for me. It also
 means a lot to know that our faculty
 members think highly enough of the
 potential of my work to contribute
 meaningfully to the discipline to have
 chosen me as one of the 2011-2012
 Phyllis Japp Scholars.

Spotlight on Faculty Member Dr. Bill Seiler



1) Where did you earn your doctoral degree?

Purdue University. Over the years, Purdue teams have been called grangers, pumpkin-shuckers, railsplitters, cornfield sailors, blacksmiths, foundry hands and last but not least Boilermakers. I then started my career at Purdue University-Calumet campus for three years.

2) Why did you decide to join the faculty at UNL?

It was a terrific opportunity for me to move to a Ph.D. granting university and at the time the department was hiring several junior faculty members who were excellent researchers, teachers and colleagues. I really didn't initially seek out Nebraska—it was the Department Chair John Petelle who asked me several times if I was interested in coming to Nebraska. In hindsight, it was the best move I could have made both academically and personally. After 39 years it is home and the colleagues I have worked with over the years have been terrific. If I were given the opportunity do it over again with the present faculty, I would not hesitate one second. I am so fortunate to be working with some of the best in our discipline.

3) What research projects are you working on?

I am working on the 9th edition of my intro text and a new public speaking text with Pearson Publishing.

4) Tell us about some of your biggest recent accomplishments.

Stepping down as department chair after 21 years without totally destroying the department! Another accomplishment is hiring most all of the present faculty in the department including the departmental administrative secretary. I was pleased to obtain a very large donation for the Speech & Debate program from an extremely generous ex-debater, Jere McGaffey. Another is having an undergraduate

leadership award named after me—not sure I deserve this one, but a good leader can fool some of the people some of time and you know the rest of the story. Finally, all the past and present Ph.D. students that I have worked with over the years—I am so proud of each of them and their accomplishments.

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

Golf, golf, and golf some more. Kathi (my wife of 46 years) and I love to travel and spend time with our daughters, their husbands, and our five grandchildren.

6) What are your favorite memories of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?

Gosh, I have so many favorites that it is difficult to select just one. All of the wonderful undergraduate and graduate students that I have had the pleasure to work with over the years will always be a favorite. Another is having my picture taken with Tom Osborne as a faculty "coach of the day." Of course, all the wonderful holiday parties and fall picnics at our house with graduate students and faculty is something I will always remember. Being nominated for and receiving the "Floyd S. Oldt Boss of the Year" Award in 2003. Finally, getting tenured and promoted. What can I say—I have been one lucky guy to get to work in the UNL Communication Studies Department.

7) In what ways can alumni make a difference to our department and current students?

Your willingness to recommend students to our undergraduate or graduate program can make a huge difference in the department's success. Of course, the department and Speech & Debate program are always in need of your financial support. The donations the department receives from our alums helps us recruit the very best students, supports the undergraduate communication club, helps both undergraduate and graduate students attend conferences, allows us to bring in guest speakers, host our reception at the National Communication Association convention, and maintain our nationally recognized Speech & Debate program. Please give what you can—no amount is too small.

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

Probably the best piece of advice I can give is to not settle for average. Always do your best no matter what you are doing. In other words if you are going to do something, why not do it right? Of course, also recognize that you're not always going to be perfect or please everyone all of the time. Almost every successful comedian, actor, or business person will tell you that they were not always successful and that they had failed at one time or another—so don't be afraid to fail, but use that failure to help improve yourself.

Dr. Aaron Duncan Wins UNL's Griesen Award

UNL's Director of Speech & Debate, Dr. Aaron Duncan, has won the campus-wide James V. Griesen 2012 Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Service to Students. The award "acknowledges extraordinary and sustained performance by an individual who goes beyond their assigned responsibilities in serving UNL students." Aaron was nominated by his present and former Speech & Debate students.

All of us who work with Aaron day in and out know of his substantial contribution to Speech & Debate, a



co-curricular activity that serves students across our college and campus, high school students in the state, and contributes to UNL's reputation in the Big Ten and nationally. Aaron not only serves the undergraduate students, he also manages a graduate student staff and is a tremendous mentor for them.

Speech & Debate at Nebraska is over 140 years old and this proud tradition is thriving under Aaron's leadership. In addition, Aaron is an important member of our faculty as a teacher, scholar, and contributor to departmental initiatives. We could not be more proud of Aaron!

Students Form Gaming Research Group and Blog

In academia, we are behind the curve in incorporating videogame studies into our curriculum. Part of the problem is simply finding a home for this area of study. Communication Studies is the answer to this problem. Our existing body of rhetorical, cultural, organizational, and interpersonal research is a natural fit for the complex social and symbolic interactions that are inherent to gameplay.

With this in mind, UNL Ph.D. Candidate Kane Click started the Communication Studies Gaming Research Group in order to gauge student interest in this area of study

while simultaneously promoting its fit in our department. The group's focus includes all manners and modes of gaming, not just videogames. In framing the group in this fashion, it allows us to focus less on the technical aspects of a specific medium and more on the communicative and cultural aspects of gameplay.

Our pilot semester produced a dedicated group of highly motivated students. With their help, we have grown to a rotating base of 15-20 students. The additional peer feedback provided by this growth has greatly aided our students' collective productivity. In order to provide a

suitable showcase for work, we have started a blog, The Gaming Research Report. We have provided a link to our blog in the caption below.

Student response to this area of research has been overwhelmingly positive. We have a dedicated, class-sized group that produces high-level work for fun, not credit. In promoting Communication Studies as a department concerned with issues of gaming and gameplay, we have seen a number of our group members switch their majors to ours. This is extremely encouraging and we look forward to seeing this area of research develop in our department.



The night the gaming research group outgrew their original space. From L-R: Russell Troxel, Brett Yoshioka, Max Gade, Carrie Wencel, Rachael Schmidt, David Dropinski, Eddie Ryan, Sam Carey, Noah Smith, Seth Kutikoff, Camille Neemann, Leslie Kravitz, Jessie Stephenson, and Richard Ingraham. Check out their blog: <http://www.gamingresearchreport.com/>

The Gaming Research Report

Presented by the Communication Studies Department at the University of Nebraska

Recent Posts

[Realism & Licensing](#)
[The Gaming Research Group -- Cross-posted from the Departmental Newsletter](#)
[Plight of the Gaming Chick -- Part One](#)
[Welcome!](#)

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Realism & Licensing

One way to thinking about gaming is that it provides an escape from material reality. In this substitution, there is a growing demand to make gameplay more realistic, and has created pressure on developers to oblige the consumer. This quest for realism, however, has led to a rise in lawsuits from companies and athletes over the unauthorized use of their products and likenesses, respectively, in videogames. There has been a movement in videogame development to push for a more authentic gaming experience, and, as a result, companies are engaged in these suits pitting free speech rights versus authorized brand licensing (Roberts, 2012). These lawsuits between developers and corporations will certainly have an influence on future game design. The future changes in game development will be shaped by gamers' demands to increase the authenticity of gameplay. These demands will be appeased by additional product placement in game development. Simulation style gaming will become commonplace, deriving from these emerging expectations for one-to-one realism between the in-game and out-of-game worlds. In order to explore this issue, we will first look at a case involving Electronic Arts (EA) and the helicopter manufacturer Textron.

In May of 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that video games are considered protected speech under the First Amendment (Good, 2012). This ruling has given game developers a broad precedent in the way videogame cases will be ruled, effectively allotting electronic games expanded rights. EA has been one of the most high-profile developers to engage in these legal controversies. Recently, EA has announced Textron in a lawsuit regarding the use of many of their "Real" helicopters

Department of Communication Studies

Departmental Accomplishments

Academic Year 2011/2012

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Communication Studies Faculty published 7 refereed articles in journals, including:

- *Communication Monographs*
- *Communication Studies*
- *Journal of Family Communication*
- *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*
- *Personal Relationships*

Additionally, they published 6 books or book chapters in volumes, including:

- *Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication: Multiple Perspectives*
- *Family Storytelling: Negotiating Identity, Teaching Lessons and Making Meaning*
- *Food as Communication: Communication as Food*
- *Guns, Grenades and Grunts: First Person Shooter Games*
- *Handbook of Family Communication*
- *Reasoned Argument and Social Change, Proceedings of the 2011 Alta Conference*

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

- **Dawn O. Braithwaite**, Book Award (edited with L. A. Baxter), Family Communication Division, NCA
- **Aaron Duncan**, James V. Griesen Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Service to Students, UNL; Joe Black Distinguished Service Award, Kansas State University Tournament
- **Jody Koenig Kellas**, Article of the Year Award (with A. R. Trees, P. Schrodt, C. LeClair-Underberg, & E. Willer), *Journal of Family Communication*, 2011 Article Award (with A. R. Trees, P. Schrodt, C. LeClair-Underberg, & E. Willer), Family Communication Division, NCA
- **Jordan Soliz**, Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council; Top Paper (with H. Giles), Interpersonal Communication Division, ICA
- **Carly Woods**, Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Society for the History of Rhetoric

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

- **Dawn O. Braithwaite**, Program Committee, Council on Contemporary Families



Dr. Bill Seiler with Ph.D. advisees at the Basic Course Directors Conference: UNL Ph.D. Grads Adam C. Jones (2007), Angela M. Hosek (2011), Blair Thompson (2007) and Ph.D. Candidates Tiffany Wang and Rich Murphy.

- **Jody Koenig Kellas**, Nominating Committee, Publications Committee, WSCA, Peer Review of Teaching First Year Project Leader, UNL

GRAD STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Graduate Students published 14 refereed articles in journals, including:

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

Additionally, they published 4 book chapters in volumes, including:

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

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UNL Ph.D. Students Amanda Holman, Jenna Stephenson-Abetz, Tiffany Wang, and Zantel Nichols at the 2011 NCA Grad School Open House.

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

- **Sara Baker**, Top Five Papers, GLBTQ Communication Studies Division, NCA
- **Kristen Carr**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award Honorable Mention, UNL Office of Graduate Studies; Top Paper (with P. Schrodt & A. Ledbetter), Interpersonal Communication Division, NCA; Top Paper (with H. Kranstuber & A. Hosek), Instructional Development Division, NCA
- **Joshua Ewalt**, Othmer Fellowship, UNL Office of Graduate Studies; Top Five Papers, GLBTQ Communication Studies Division, NCA
- **Darrel Farmer**, Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council
- **Amanda Holman**, Top Four Student Papers, Human Communication and Technology Division, NCA
- **Sarah Jones**, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Paper, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus, CSCA; Top Student Paper, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group, CSCA
- **Haley Kranstuber**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Paper (with K. Carr & A. Hosek), Instructional Development Division, NCA
- **Audra Nuru**, Top Four Papers, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Caucus, CSCA
- **Jessy Ohl**, Karen Dunning Women's and Gender Studies Award for Graduate Students, UNL
- **Jenna Stephenson-Abetz**, Karen Dunning Women's and Gender Studies Award for Graduate Students, UNL; Top Four Student Papers, Human Communication and Technology Division, NCA

- **Rachel Stohr**, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Top Student Paper, Peace and Conflict Communication Division, NCA
- **Tiffany Wang**, Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council; Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, UNL Office of Graduate Studies

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

- **Kristen Carr**, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group Paper Reader, CSCA
- **Joshua Ewalt**, College of Arts & Sciences Committee on Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals, UNL
- **Darrel Farmer**, Vice Chair, Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group, CSCA
- **Audra Nuru**, Teaching Council, UNL
- **Tiffany Wang**, 21st Annual Fall Campuswide Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants Planning Committee, UNL; Teaching Council, UNL

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Undergraduate Students won 11 scholarships, including:

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



Dr. Chuck Braithwaite's COMM 211 students demonstrate pumpkin carving for students at Voronezh State University.

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They have been recognized for their academic excellence, including:

- Junior **Audrey Fox**, UCARE Grant
- Senior **Brittany Hunt**, Academic Excellence Award
- Junior **Lauren Huston**, Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity
- Senior **Leslie Nelson**, Certificate of High Scholarship; Golden Key International Honour Society; Outstanding Academic Sophomore, UNL Department of Communication Studies; Regents Top-Scholar; Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor's Fraternity; UCARE Grant
- Junior **Julie Sadofsky**, William H. Thompson Achievement Award
- Senior **Emily Schlichting**, Academic Star, UNL College of Arts & Sciences

UNL Undergraduate Students serve in leadership roles at UNL and in local organizations, including:

- Junior **Audrey Fox**, Intern, HUMANeX Ventures; Undergraduate Committee, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- Junior **Lauren Huston**, Gallery Intern, LUX Center for the Arts; Social Chair, Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity
- Senior **Leslie Nelson**, Advisory Board, NU Start; Student Ambassador, UNL College of Arts & Sciences
- Junior **Julie Sadofsky**, Civic Engagement Chair, UNL Service and Leadership Club; Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator, UNL Women's Ultimate; Intern, Costa Rica Study Abroad

33 UNL Undergraduate Students made the Fall 2011 UNL College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List:

Johnathan Edwin Avery	Adam Michael Musich
Melissa Jayne Bakewell	Leslie Rose Nelson
Antwane Terrell Collins	Cassie Rose Olson
Sophia Taylor Connot	Molly Therese Peck
Brittney Ann Ernesti	Seth Michael Peterson
Audrey Jane Fox	Arielle Jenay Raymond
Caitlyn Jesse Gardner	Sunny Caprice Russell
LaToyce Green	Julie J. Sadofsky
Taylor Kathleen Hough	Emily Anne Schlichting
Lauren Renee Jensen	Andrea Lynne Schroeder
Brandie Jo Kavalec	Mary Kathleen Scott
Lindsey M. Klug	Megan Leigh Shumaker
Kailas Mikal Ledbetter	Jessica Elise Sluyter
Alexis Nicole Lehman	Emily Louise Veys
Brittanie Nicole Lopez	Katharine Brooke Williamson
Leah Marie Marshall	Amanda Jo Winterstien
Sheila Marie McKay	

SPEECH & DEBATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Speech & Debate students:

- Qualified 37 events for the national tournament

- 2012 state speech team and overall team championships at the Nebraska State Speech Tournament
- Sophomore **Grace Kluck**, state championship in program oral interpretation
- Sophomore **Josh Planos**, state championship in dramatic interpretation
- Junior **Lauren Schaal**, state runner up in extemporaneous speaking, communication analysis, and after-dinner speaking
- 2012 Hutchinson College tournament championship
- Freshman **Jeff Garst**, 3rd place in Webster University tournament junior varsity debate division
- Junior **Bryn Walters**, 5th place in Webster University tournament varsity debate division
- Broke 16 events to outounds at University of Texas-Austin tournament
- Senior **Nick Herink**, 1st place in program oral interpretation at the University of Texas-Austin tournament
- 2012 Kansas State University tournament championship
- 8 first place finishers at Kansas State University tournament
- 6 first and second place finishers at Kansas State University tournament
- 2011 Big Ten team championship at the Conference Challenge Tournament at Northwestern University
- Senior **Eli Barts**, conference championship in informative speaking
- Senior **Nick Herink**, conference championship in prose interpretation, dramatic interpretation, and duo interpretation with partner sophomore **Grace Kluck**
- Sophomore **Josh Planos**, conference championship in program oral interpretation
- Junior **Lauren Schaal**, conference championship in after-dinner speaking
- Senior **Jimmy Simpson Jr.**, conference championship in persuasive speaking



Construction around Memorial Stadium outside Oldfather.

Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

2000's

Paul Bauer (B.A., 2011): Recruiter for Aureus Medical Group.

Eva Gautam (B.A., 2011): I am a Customer Relations Representative in the Customer Relations/Rapid Rewards Department of Southwest Airlines.

Angela M. Hosek (Ph.D., 2011): Doctoral degree earned August 2011. Daughter Lillie Marie turned one in August. Co-authored research appearing in *Communication Education* and *Communication Quarterly*.

Michelle M. Maresh (Ph.D., 2009): Received Young Alumnus Award, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2012; College Distinguished Alumnus Award – Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2012; and Corpus Christi Under 40 Award, Corpus Christi Under 40/Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2011. Was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi National Alumni Association; was re-elected to the position of Board Secretary for the Southside Corpus Christi Rotary Club; served as Interim Treasurer for the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TAMU-CC Chapter); and received instructor certification for Zumba Fitness.

Marcus Powers (J.D., 2008; B.A., 2005): After spending four years as an Assistant Attorney General working in water and natural resources law, I began on February 1, 2011 as the Chief of Operations and Head Brewer at Zipline Brewing Company in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Cassandra Seagren (B.A., 2007): After interning and working for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for 4.5 years, I accepted the Executive Director position with York County Development Corporation in York, Nebraska in October 2010. Since that time I have completed the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute which is 120 hours of extensive economic development training and will sit for my Certified Economic Developer (CED) designation in September in Houston at the International Economic Development Council's Annual Meeting.

Adam C. Jones (Ph.D., 2007): Adam is an Associate Professor and Director of the Speech Communication Center in the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Illinois College. He currently lives with his wife, Kristy, and daughter, Abby, in a small community outside of Jacksonville, Illinois.

Scott (Ph.D., 2001) and Linda Dickmeyer (Ph.D., 1998): Drs. Scott and Linda Dickmeyer were selected by the Department of Communication Studies at Minnesota State University-Mankato to be the 2011-2012 Nadine B. Andreas Visiting Scholars. They visited the Mankato campus on October 20-21, 2011, guest speaking in classes and visiting with graduate students. On Thursday evening they presented a public lecture entitled "It's complicated: The not-so-natural way to effective communication."



Drs. Scott (2001) and Linda Dickmeyer (1998) were selected as the 2011-2012 Nadine B. Andreas Visiting Scholars. They presented a public lecture at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

1990's

Linda B. Dickmeyer (Ph.D., 1998): Dr. Linda B. Dickmeyer received the 2011 Recognition of Excellence Award for Teaching in April 2011. This award was presented by the College of Liberal Studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where Linda is Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Studies Department.

Daniel Cronn-Mills (Ph.D., 1995): Daniel Cronn-Mills, professor in Communication Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato, is the recipient of the 2011 American Forensic Association Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes a history of service to the American forensics community, a positive impact on forensics in research, educational practices, community development, and a career as a model for forensic professionals. The award is one of the highest honors conferred by the forensic community.

Matt Pickering (B.A., 1994): Active duty Navy Chaplain currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, USMC Camp Pendleton, California.

Laura H-B Miller (Ph.D., 1993): Field Organizer, Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards.

Department of Communication Studies Faculty

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone, Professor, Organizational
Communication

Dr. Karen Lee, Professor of Practice

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

Dr. Kristen Lucas, Assistant Professor, Organizational
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 and Director of
Graduate Studies, Interpersonal & Family Communication

Dr. Charles Braithwaite, Research Professor

Dr. Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate

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

Kathy Castle, Director of COMM 286 and Distance Education

Dr. Dennis Bormann, Professor Emeritus, Rhetorical Theory

Dr. Vince Di Salvo, Professor Emeritus, Organizational
Consulting & Training

Dr. Phyllis Japp, Professor Emeritus, Contemporary
Rhetorical Theory

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