



# The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

## From the Chair's Chair

Dear UNL Colleagues and Friends,

Perhaps it is the construction cranes towering over Lincoln as the Stadium remodel and the Haymarket arena building projects are in full swing. I can tell you that building is on my mind.\*\*



Here in year two of our membership in the Big Ten, UNL is focused on building the number of students at UNL by 5,000, building research funding, and building the stature of the faculty. In fact, the Memorial Stadium remodel includes a 20,000 square foot brain imaging lab research facility we hope some of our faculty will be working with. UNL is building "Innovation Campus" at the former state fairgrounds—a public/private research enterprise.

Here in Communication Studies we are also part of the forward momentum as well. We are actively working to build our undergraduate major. The faculty will be putting forward-thinking changes to the undergraduate major into place starting Fall 2014.

The Speech & Debate team, after finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation and producing a national champion in 2012, is building toward what we believe will be a stellar season of student success.

They won UNL's first Big Ten Championship in October 2012 and repeated the win again this year.

We continue to build the graduate program by recruiting excellent students—this fall we brought in eight great women. Our students won the highest campus teaching award last year, swept the research awards in Women's and Gender Studies, and won prestigious travel fellowships to research collections. We are helping our current students build on their successes.

The faculty members are actively building our research profile as individual faculty and for the department. Our program review last year supported the ambitious goals we've set for ourselves. Perhaps more than ever before, we are becoming more involved in significant interdisciplinary research projects on campus. We are connecting our research talents to important scholarly endeavors that seek to translate scholarship into practice. And we are so pleased to be building our faculty and extend a welcome to Dr. Carly Woods.

And if all this building was not enough, members of our departmental community are building their lives and families—two babies are expected to join our Husker family in the next months!

Please consider supporting the department and students with your donation—offer to mentor a student, share your room at a convention, provide an internship, or donate and help our current students financially.

We hope to see some of you at the NCA convention in Orlando. Please stop by our Friday evening reception (details enclosed). Come and visit us. Stay in touch and **GO BIG RED!**

Dawn O. Braithwaite  
Willa Cather Professor of Communication and Chair

\*\* see the building projects underway:  
<http://www.haymarketnow.com>  
<http://www.expandtheirexperience.com>  
<http://innovate.unl.edu>

## Issue 8, Fall 2012

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*Newsletter Editors:*  
*Kathy Thorne, Zeth Schlenker & Dawn O. Braithwaite*

## We are the “Social” in Social Media!

You can find the Department of Communication Studies across the social media universe! Like us on **Facebook** (search for Nebraska Communication Studies), follow our Departmental **Twitter** account at @COMMatUNL, get

updates on our graduate program by following @UNLCommGrad, make UNL Communication a part of your **Google+ Circles**, and read interviews and commentary on our **blog, COMMPosts**. Follow the links below to our pages!



## Undergraduate Students New Team, New Year Come Eat & Meet

The Communication Studies Club has kicked off another successful year!

In August the club hosted an Ice Cream Social at Ivanna Cone and a “Meet & Eat” in Oldfather Hall. During these events former members helped recruit and welcome incoming freshmen who are excited to get involved with the Communication Studies Department.

This year Comm Club will continue its focus on networking and career development. Through a number of social outings, members will become well-acquainted with each other as well as staff members in the department. Some of these events include cosmic bowling, movies, and gingerbread house making.

We are also very excited to continue the tradition of Meet & Eat. A Meet & Eat is where members are invited to a

free lunch while a professor from the department gives an informal presentation and answers questions.



Additionally, Comm Club is working to enhance its focus on professional development. Two new additions currently in development are a job-shadowing program and a mentoring program. We are working with local professionals, grad students, and professors who can show students some real-world opportunities available after graduation via shadowing. The mentoring program will invite students to meet with a professor one-on-one every

month. This will allow students to build a strong relationship with their mentor and develop a resource they can rely on throughout their undergraduate career.

We are excited to see where the year takes us as the Communication Studies Club continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of our talented members!

Audra Nuru, Assistant Undergraduate Advisor

## From the Desk of the Graduate Director

It is hard to believe it is already November and we are 12 weeks into the semester. It seems like just yesterday we were in the midst of the orientation activities for our department and welcoming our incoming class. Now, we are only a few weeks away from NCA! We brought in eight new graduate students this year—one of the largest classes in recent history. Already, these students have impressed us with their scholarly endeavors and some have contributed to UNL's successful start to the Speech & Debate team's tournament performance.

With fall comes the annual rite of passage for our more senior doctoral students as they are completing comprehensive exams or busy sending out job materials. Never a dull moment in academia! As usual, we are extremely impressed with the accomplishments of our



graduate students over the last few months. Please take a moment to review the "Departmental Accomplishments" section of this newsletter (pp. [11-14](#)) to learn more about our graduate students' activities since last spring.

In my last newsletter column, I mentioned that we would be rolling out new ways to keep updated about the graduate program and our graduate students. In addition to following our Twitter account ([@UNLCommGrad](#)) which will highlight accomplishments and activities of our graduate program, I also encourage you to follow our department's blog ([commatunl.blogspot.com](#)) which will profile graduate students throughout the year. Please contact me ([jsoliz2@unl.edu](mailto:jsoliz2@unl.edu)) with any questions you have about our graduate program. I hope to see many of you at our NCA department reception (details following) and/or the Graduate Student Open House.

Jordon Soliz, Director of Graduate Studies

### UNL Reception at NCA Orlando, Florida

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

**Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30-9:00 pm**  
**Parrot Room**  
**Swan Hotel**

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

# GRADUATE ALUMUS DR. THOMAS WORKMAN, Principal Communication Researcher and Evaluator, Health Program, American Institutes for Research

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



I was a Ph.D. student from 1997 to 2001 and graduated in May, 2001. My area of concentration was Rhetoric and Culture with a focus on Health and a minor in Medical Sociology.

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

I'm a lifelong fan of the field since undergraduate days – I love thinking about how messages and meanings yield lifestyles and cultures, from mass rhetoric and media to interpersonal interactions. I'm always curious about what shapes our beliefs and attitudes and how these produce social and cultural practices. I adore narratives as well. I think a lot of what is studied in this field yields important answers to many of my questions, particularly in the field of health.

## 3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

I was invited to teach a summer course in forensics and help run the Summer Forensics Institute and decided to take a classics course from Ron Lee. Of course, I was hooked from then on! After taking class from Phyllis Japp, I was convinced there was nowhere else to study on the planet! I also decided to focus in Health Communication and saw the UNL program as more aligned to my interests in that field (critical/cultural, rhetoric, and semiotic analysis).

## 4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

I stayed at UNL after my degree to serve as Communications Coordinator/Associate Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant on high risk drinking until 2007. I then was an Assistant Professor at the University of Houston-Downtown before moving to the same position at Baylor College of Medicine, where I was the Translation/Production Section Lead for the John M. Eisenberg Center for Clinical Decisions and Communications Science, a program run through a contract with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). I just recently moved to Washington DC to be the Principal Communication Researcher and Evaluator for the Health Program for the American Institutes for Research, where I work on a variety of contracts in health communication and policy, patient engagement, shared decision-making, and healthcare reform. I love being in DC as it feels like the center of the healthcare reform universe.

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

Sitting in a seminar with Phyllis Japp talking about Kenneth Burke with four other students in the middle of the Nebraska Union. My favorite evenings EVER.

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

Well, as we grow successful, we need to give back financially what we can when we can; but for me it's also an opportunity to mentor. I invite interested students to come intern with me at AIR in DC, and I think more of us need to take a graduate student or undergraduate as an alumni mentor if we are doing the things a student is interested in doing. I'm always happy to start those relationships with my younger Huskers!

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

Find your passion. You'll know it when you see it. Remember that learning is a massive conversation with many, many voices, including your own. As Burke said, it was going on before you and will continue after you leave. Your unique contribution to that conversation will change it forever, and bring knowledge to places it has not been before.

# Alumni Perspective on Supporting the Department

**Dawn O. Braithwaite, Department Chair talks with Jack Sargent, Ph.D.**

Everyone has their own reasons for donating to their alma mater. Jack Sargent (Ph.D. 2000) is an Associate Professor of Communication at Kean University in New Jersey. Jack has been one of the most consistent and generous donors to the department's general fund.

I asked Jack why he donates and he indicated, *"The department has done so much for me. I would not be where I am at today without my education at Nebraska. Giving back is a way to recognize that and help current students like other alumni helped me."*

That was so good to hear and it means so much to the faculty and me to hear it.

We certainly do put donations to very good use. In addition, Jack also points out the very practical benefit that donating has when he goes to do his taxes.

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



- **Communication Studies General Fund:** <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1286>
- **Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** All funds go directly to support graduate students across all our emphasis areas with travel and research expenses: <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1617>
- **Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate:** <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=986>

A small monthly gift can make a big difference. Recurring gifts can be set up easily via the UN Foundation: <http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=450>

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

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

## Spotlight on Donelle Moormeier and the 450-mile Tractor Adventure



If you know me at all, you know I like to talk about restoring our antique Farmall tractors...well this summer I added a new twist. Let me tell you about our summer vacation...

Ron, my husband, and I participated in the Nebraska Antique Farming Association's First Annual "Tractor Relay Across Nebraska," June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. The ride was based on the idea of the Pony Express and the route was divided into nine one-day segments. The parade of antique tractors celebrated Nebraska's agricultural legacy and consisted of a total of about 200 antique tractors throughout the nine days.

The journey started at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where a caravan of 35 tractors headed westward carrying a letter from the Mayor of Plattsmouth to be delivered to the Mayor of Lyman. We traveled across Nebraska staying at Waverly, York, Grand Island, Kearney, Cozad, North Platte, Ogallala, Lisco and ending the trip at the Lyman Nebraska/Wyoming border. You may ask, "why would anyone want to drive their tractors almost 500 miles at 10-12 mph across Nebraska when instead you could make a quicker trip on the Interstate at 75 miles per hour in a vehicle with air conditioning and your favorite music on the radio?"

Well, don't knock it till you've tried it!

I drove a 1966 Farmall 706 which when we got it had not run for 10 years. Ron spent a year, and more money than we would like to admit, getting it to run and then he

gave her a face-lift (paint)! Ron drove a Farmall 806 that his dad had given to him brand new as a Christmas present in 1966. We farmed with this tractor up until January of 2009 when we retired the ole girl and restored it in memory of his dad who had passed away suddenly in 1972, at the age of 46. Ron made a carry-all that was mounted on the 806 in which we carried our luggage, coolers, tools, tow straps etc. (you must be prepared for anything you know)! We did stay in motels along the way, but others stayed in campers or beautiful RV's.

On our trip we saw the countryside up close and personal, met dozens of people that we now call our friends, had communities greet us with open arms and delicious food, learned a lot about this great State of Nebraska, were hounded by the paparazzi (like the *Grand Island Independent* newspaper) and just had an overall wonderful time!

Along the way we were asked numerous times, "would you do it again?"; we answered with a resounding, "in a heart beat!" In fact we have started planning next year's trip which will start in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, travel the Lincoln Memorial Highway (Hwy 30) and end at Missouri Valley, Iowa. See ya on the flip flop!!



## Staff Addition to Communication Studies

Kathy Thorne joined the Communication Studies Department on April 27, 2012, as our staff secretary. She felt right at home from the first moment she met Dawn (in the bathroom before her job interview!) and Donelle.

Kathy would describe her job as “an unexpected pleasure.” She expected the learning curve to be stressful and assumed she would have

some sleepless nights adjusting to all the new information she was assimilating each day. But that was not true. “Yes, there has been a lot to learn. However, Donelle is great to work with and everyone has been helpful. You all have made the learning curve so much less stressful than it could have been.”

When Kathy finishes her day in the office, she goes home to her husband, Dan; her 20-year-old niece and the family dog. Dan and Kathy

have 2 grown children and four grandsons. She comes to the University of Nebraska after 10 years working at Back to the Bible where she wrote, edited and served as secretary to Dr. Kroll, who is the President of the organization, Kathy graduated from Southeast Community College in 2001 with a degree in Office Technology.

To relax, she likes to see friends, read, walk the dog, and watch British television series like *Larkrise to Candleford* and *Downton Abbey*.

## Speech & Debate Anticipates Stellar Season

The UNL Speech & Debate Team’s season got off to great start with a win at the Hutchinson and Sterling College Swing Tournaments in Hutchinson, Kansas. Hutchinson is the host site of this year’s national American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament.

The tournament was attended by a total of 20 schools from across the Midwest and the nation. UNL placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall for the combined portion of the swing. The team’s victory was highlighted by individual wins by senior Lauren Schaal (persuasive speaking), senior Marc Otero (dramatic interpretation), and sophomore Reece Ristau (after-dinner

speaking). The debate team compiled an overall record of 15-10 for the weekend and three students placed in the top five: sophomore Jeff Garst (2<sup>nd</sup> place), sophomore Derrick Stevens (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and senior Bryn Walters (5<sup>th</sup> place).

In addition, to a great freshmen class, the team is also joined by new graduate student coaches Amy Arellano, Jamie Downing, Christina Ivey, and Allison Ronnau. The new coaches are joined by third-year graduate Assistant Debate Coach Darrel Farmer and Director of Speech & Debate Aaron Duncan, who is returning for his eighth year with the team.

Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate



## Speech and Debate Wins Second Big Ten Title

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Speech & Debate Team won a second Big Ten Title October 13, 2012, at the Conference Challenge Tournament at Northwestern University.

Congratulations to seniors: Lauren Schaal for taking home the persuasive speaking title and Marc Otero for winning oral interpretation. Juniors Amanda Stoffel, Josh Planos, and Grace Kluck topped the competition in after-dinner speaking, poetry interpretation, and dramatic interpretation. Sophomores Reece Ristau and Josiah BeDunnah took the field in prose interpretation.

UNL finished with a two-day point total of 190. Second-place Illinois had 56 points and third-place Northwestern, 53 points.

As last year, the Big Ten win resulted in a lot of press for the Team, proud UNL administrators, and a proud department.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work and effort our students and coaches put in to prepare for this competition. None of the students on our team receive full-ride scholarships, none of them will be drafted into the professional ranks. They compete because of their love for this university and this activity." The team is part of UNL's Department of Communication Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. "The department is delighted at the success of these dedicated and talented student competitors," said Department Chairperson Dawn O. Braithwaite, "We congratulate our excellent Director, Aaron Duncan, and all the coaches for their excellent work."

Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate



# Spotlight on Undergraduate Alumna Jenna Catlett

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

I started at UNL in August 2002, receiving my BA in Communication Studies, with a Minor in Spanish, in May 2006 and my MA in Communication Studies in May 2008.

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

Truthfully, I began researching the department based on a recommendation from my high school speech coach. I've always had a passion for public speaking and better understanding how to communicate more effectively within both personal and professional relationships.



## 3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL?

My dad was a UNL graduate, from the College of Architecture, and always spoke highly of the university. Then, in the spring of 2002, I took a campus tour and it just felt like home.

## 4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL?

Since leaving UNL, I've been working for the National Research Corporation in Lincoln. I celebrated four years with NRC back in August. Currently, I lead the Onboarding Team for our Patient Experience products. Essentially, my team implements surveys on behalf of new hospitals, medical groups and home health agencies.

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

As an Onboarding Manager at NRC, I'm constantly reflecting on what I've learned throughout my undergraduate and master's programs. My team provides our newest clients with their first NRC service experience. Building relationships through proactive communication, active listening, constructive client feedback, and collaboration is key to an exceptional experience.

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

My time as a Graduate Teaching Assistant was definitely what I enjoyed most. Helping my students better understand what will make them successful in a professional environment was very rewarding. As an undergraduate, I tended to gravitate toward Interpersonal, Family and Gender Communication courses (which ended up being my Master's focus). The openness and willingness to share brought about by those group discussions was always exciting to me!

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

In addition to donating to the department financially, which I know goes to help students directly; I believe we can best support our department through community involvement, and serving as a point of reference for students looking to research career opportunities post-graduation.

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

You have no idea how valuable the skills are that you're crafting right now. Enjoy your time in the department, and network with your professors, graduate teaching instructors and peers. These relationships are definitely important. I've found that my degree made me marketable for so many different reasons. Never underestimate the power of effective communication, efficient problem-solving and an organized delivery.

## Welcome to Faculty Member Dr. Carly Woods



We welcome Dr. Carly Woods to our faculty this fall and happily she has been a part of our community for a couple of years.

### 1) Where did you earn your doctoral degree?

University of Pittsburgh in 2010

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

I had always wanted to work at a research university with a personal feel, and strongly preferred to work in a department that valued interdisciplinary ties. A joint appointment in Communication Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at UNL was an ideal position for me. And of course, the people here are a big draw!

### 3) What classes do you teach?

In Communication Studies, I teach Gender and Communication at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I am also developing courses on rhetorical history, social movements, public advocacy and civic engagement, and Kenneth Burke.

### 4) What research projects are you working on?

My main focus is on my book manuscript, *Women Debating Society: Gender, Argumentation, and Social Change, 1840-1960*. I also have a number of article-length research projects in progress, including co-authored pieces on critical regionalism and gender identity at the Nebraska History Museum (with UNL doctoral students Josh Ewalt and Sara Baker) and the rhetorical iconology of *Rhetorica* and *Peitho* (with Penn State colleague Michele Kennerly).

### 5) Tell us about some of your biggest recent accomplishments.

I received the 2011 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Society for the History of Rhetoric and was named a Frederick B. Artz Summer Scholar (to support research in the Oberlin College Archives).

### 6) What do you do when you are not working?

I enjoy watching films, traveling, and sampling vegetarian culinary delights. Recently, most of my time has been spent preparing for a new addition to our family (baby Woodsmith is expected in December).

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

I appreciate the sense of intellectual community that is cultivated when department members attend events together (colloquia, interdisciplinary lectures, etc.) and then take time to talk about ideas.

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

One way is to make sure you are in contact! It is helpful to understand the diverse experiences and careers of our alumni when we talk to current students about where Communication Studies could take them. I am also impressed by the efforts of alumni to support current graduate students (Phyllis Japp Scholars) and the co-curricular Speech & Debate team.

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

As Marie Hochmuth Nichols says, "we must believe what we do will make a difference." Don't waste your time on projects that put you to sleep. The key to a healthy, happy, and sustainable career is to find work that you really believe in and are passionate about.

# Department of Communication Studies

## Departmental Accomplishments

Academic Year 2012/2013

### Faculty Accomplishments

#### UNL Communication Studies Faculty published several articles, books or book chapters, including:

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*, 63, 54-76.

**Braithwaite, C.A., (2013)**: Navajo culture explored through ethnography. In A. Kurylo, (Ed.): *Inter/Cultural Communication: Representation and Construction of Culture in Everyday Interaction* (351-360). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publishing.

**Braithwaite, C.A., (2012)**: Intercultural Communication and the Global Classroom. In L. A. Samovar, R. Porter, E. Daniels (Eds.). *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*, 13th ed. (413-421). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

**Braithwaite, D. O., & Schrodtt, P. (in press)**: Communication in stepfamilies. In A. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of Family Communication* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.

**Braithwaite, D. O., Galvin, K., Chiles, B., Liu, E. (2012)**: Family Communication, Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO).

Dempsey, S.E., Parker, P.S., & **Krone, K. J. (in press)**: Navigating socio-spatial difference, constructing counter-space: Insights from transnational feminist praxis. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*.

**Koenig Kellas, J., & Trees, A. (in press)**: Family stories and storytelling: Windows into the Family Soul. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.) *Handbook of Family Communication*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

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

**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.

**Pfister, D.S. and Getachew Godana (2012)**: Deliberation Technology. *Journal of Public Deliberation* 8 (1): <http://services.bepress.com/jpd/vol8/iss1/art10/>. Edited Forum with four contributions, available at <http://services.bepress.com/jpd/vol8/iss1/#symposium>.

**Soliz, J., & Rittenour, C. E. (2012)**: Family as an intergroup arena. *The Handbook of Intergroup Communication*. New York: Routledge.

**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*. Albany: SUNY Press.

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

**Dawn O. Braithwaite**, Co-Chair, Centennial Committee, National Communication Association; Member of Distinguished Professorship Committee, UNL College of Arts & Sciences; Member of UNL Bookstore Advisory Committee.

**Haley Kranstuber**, Secretary (2012-2013): Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division. Central States Communication Association; *Reader* (2012). Family Communication Division. National Communication Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

**Carly Woods**, Committee Member, Committee on International Discussion and Debate and Steering Committee, American Society for the History of Rhetoric.

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

**Aaron Duncan**, James V. Griesen 2012 Chancellor's Award for Exemplarily Service to Students.

**Carly Woods**, Frederick B. Artz Summer Research Grant, Oberlin College Archives.

**Congratulations to members of our Faculty and Staff** who have achieved amazing milestones in their contribution to our department and university: 40 years: Dr. Bill Seiler; 20 years: Dr. Karen Lee & Donelle Moormeier.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**UNL Graduate Students published several papers, articles in journals and book chapters in volumes, and won Top Papers, including:**

**Jones, S. L. (2012, March):** *A place of our own: Quaring small town gay bars*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, OH. **Top Paper, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Interest Group.**

**Jones, S. L. (2012, March):** *Counterpublicity, materiality, and visual rhetoric: Making connections and extending arguments*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, OH. **Top Student Paper, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group.**

**Nuru, A. K. (2012, March):** *Between layers: Understanding the communicative negotiation of conflicting identities by transgender individuals*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, OH. **Top Four Papers, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Interest Group.**

**Ohl, J., & Duncan, A. (in press):** Taking aim at sexual harassment: Feminized performances of hegemonic masculinity in the first-person shooter *Hey Baby*. In G. Voorhees, J. Call, & K. Whitlock (Eds.) *Guns, grenades and grunts: First person shooter games*. New York: Continuum Press.

**Stohr, R.A. (2012):** Asserting contested power: Exploring the control-resistance dialectic in the World Trade Organization's discourse of globalization. In J. Servaes (Ed.), *Sustainability, participation, and culture in communication: Theory and praxis*. Bristol, U.K.: Intellect Books.

White, J., Willis, M., and **Stohr, R. (in press, 2012):** Legislators' Reliance on Mass Media as Information Sources: Implications for Symmetrical Communication between Public Information Officers, Public Relations Practitioners and Policymakers. *Prism*.



New Graduate Students Fall 2012

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

**Jenna Abetz**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, 2012-2013; the Karen Dunning Women's and Gender Studies Award for Graduate Students for her paper "Everyday Activism as a Dialogic Practice: Narratives of Feminist Daughters."

**Josua Ewalt**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award 2012-2013.

**Amanda Holman**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award 2012-2013; Phyllis Japp Scholar.

**Sarah Jones**, Friends of the Smith College Libraries Scholar-in-Residence fellowship for 2012-2013 to collect data for her project, "Rhetorical Peace-building Strategies: Organizing the Global and Local through the International Women's Tribune Centre."

**Audra Nuru**, Communication Studies Nominee for the International Communication Association Graduate Teaching Award.

**Jessy Ohl**, Communication Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, 2012-2013; Phyllis Japp Scholar; Karen Dunning Women's and Gender Studies Award for Graduate Students for his paper "The Vice Presidential Gender Paradox as Represented in U.S. News Media Discourse of Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin."

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### UNL Undergraduate Students won four scholarships including:

- **Sara Arneson**, Wilson Fund for the Humanities in Medicine, UNL
- **Leah Marshall**, Morley and Charlotte Zipursky Scholarship Fund, UNL
- **Cassie Olson**, Charles D. and Betty J. McKinsey Scholarship Fund, UNL; Arts & Sciences Scholarship; Martina McMenamin Memorial Scholarship Fund, UNL
- **Seth Peterson**, Sallie W. Nixon Educational Fund, UNL

## Department of Communication Studies Alumni Accomplishments AY 2012/2013

### New Position

On June 25, Tom Workman began a new position as Principal Communication Researcher and Evaluator at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in Washington D.C. The position involves coordinating and guiding formative and evaluative research related to communication efforts for AIR's many grants and contracts in the Health Communication/Social Marketing and Health Policy areas. Tom will also be actively involved in the preparation of future project proposals and grant submissions, and the publication of findings in various academic and trade journals.

### Graduate Alumni Student Updates

**Diana Breshears (Ph.D., 2011)** has been awarded a competitive post-doc at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) Department of Educational Psychology; won the

Family Communication Division's Petronio Dissertation Award to be given at the Orlando NCA meeting.

**Lisa Schreiber (in press)**: Social constructivist teaching strategies in the small group classroom. *Small Group Research*. Expected publication date of Spring 2013.

**Schreiber, L., (Ph.D., 2002)**: Paul, G. & Shibley, L. R. (2012). The development and test of the Public Speaking Competence Rubric. *Communication Education*, 61 (3), 205 – 233.

Project Director for an open source website: *The Public Speaking Project* ([www.publicspeakingproject.org](http://www.publicspeakingproject.org)) which features a free online public speaking textbook and other resources for faculty and students.

**Royal Rarick (B. A., 2005)**: Organizational Surveys & Insights Consultant for Towers Watson in Chicago.

**Mark Zmarzly (Masters, 2005, B.A., 1998)**: April keynote speaker at the J.D. Power & Associates Financial Services Social Media Roundtable in New York; promoted to Senior Vice President of Financial Services at ACTON Marketing in Lincoln, NE as well as reappointed to the American Bankers Association Bank Marketing Conference Advisory Board.

**Leah (Cooksley) Peterson (B.A., 2001)**: Published children's book titled *An Apple for Dapple*; can be found on Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com; available for book readings/signings in Nebraska: [www.facebook.com/dapplesadventures](http://www.facebook.com/dapplesadventures).

**Travis Bartosh (Masters, 2010)**: Pursuing Ph.D. in spring of 2013 at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand.

**Loreen N. Olson (Ph.D., 2000)**: Faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; new book just out in 2012: Olson, L. N., Baoicchi-Wagner, E., Wilson Kratzer, J., & Symonds, S. (2012). *The dark side of family communication*. Polity Press.; became Editor of the *Journal of Family Communication*.

**Cynthia L. Robinson (Ph.D., 2005)**: Tenured at UNO's School of Communication (May 2012); 2011-2012 Interim Chair of the Department of Black Studies.

**Paige W. Toller (Ph.D., 2006)**: Tenured at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in Spring 2012.

**Jessica Henry (Ph.D., 2003)**: Teaching at Hastings College; recently appointed Chair of the Department of Communication Studies.

**Elizabeth Ribarsky (Ph.D., 2009):** Won the Lambda Pi Eta Rookie Advisor of the Year from the National Communication Association in November 2011.

**Michelle M. Maresh-Fuehrer (Ph.D., 2009):** Married May 26, 2012; received the Texas A&M System Student Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence Spring 2011, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012; received the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 2012 Young Alumnus Award; received the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 2012 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumnus Award; Received the Corpus Christi Under 40 Award; authored two chapters ("Public relations and persuasive campaigns" and "New media, new persuasion") in S. T. Wahl's textbook *Persuasion in Your Life* (2012); re-elected Board Secretary of the Southside Corpus Christi Rotary Club; elected to the Board of Directors for the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi National Alumni Association.

**Aimee (Miller) Ott (Ph.D., 2007):** Aimee (Miller) Ott and her husband, Chris, welcomed their first child, Brandon, on July 22, 2012.

**Brittany Hunt (B.A., 2012):** Graduate student in the Department of Educational Administration Higher Education.

**Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D., 2012):** Tiffany defended her dissertation (Advisor: Dr. Bill Seiler) and graduated from UNL in May 2012. She is now Assistant Professor of Communication Studies in the Department of Communication at the University of Montevallo in Alabama; 2012 recipient of the International Communication Association's Instructional and Developmental Communication Division GTA Award; has a forthcoming piece in *Communication Education*. Wang, T. R. (2012). Understanding the memorable messages first-generation college students receive from on-campus mentors. *Communication Education*, 61, 335-357. doi:10.1080/03634523.2012.691978

**Meredith Harrigan (Ph.D., 2006):** Along with fellow Alumna, Aimee Miller-Ott, Meredith had a paper titled "The Multivocality of Meaning Making: An Exploration of the Discourses College Aged Daughters Voice in Talk About Their Mothers" accepted for publication by the *Journal of Family Communication*; granted a continuing appointment and

promoted to Associate Professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

**Shawn T Wahl (Ph.D., 2003):** Department Head and Professor of Communication at Missouri State University. Shawn has also published two new textbooks--*The Communication Age: Connecting and Engaging* (Sage) and *Persuasion In Your Life* (Pearson).

### Transitions

We were saddened to hear of the death of Dr. LaVonne Wahl (Ph.D., 1994). Dr. Wahl taught at New Mexico Technical and Vocational Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

# 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, Chief Undergraduate Advisor

Dr. Ronald Lee, Professor, Rhetorical Theory, Political Communication, and 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 and 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. Charles Braithwaite, Research Professor of Practice

Dr. Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate

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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