



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

From the Chair's Chair

Dear Communication Studies Students, Colleagues & Friends,

Fall has come to Lincoln and UNL Comm Studies! We have new graduate and undergraduate students in our department, UNL Speech & Debate has started competing and winning trophies, and we have already had dissertation defenses with more to come this fall.

We have a new Dean—Dr. Joseph Francisco. He is a renown chemist, energetic, and raring to go. He spent 90 minutes with the faculty recently and is full of ideas. He loves baseball caps and was delighted when we delivered our last remaining Communication Studies cap to his office. We look forward to working with him.

UNL is happy to report healthy growth—we have the largest freshman class in 35 years and are at 25,006 students in fall 2014, which is the second-highest enrollment in the university's history. Overall growth is up 15.2% since 2005. Our major is experiencing steady growth too. And we are delighted to report that our COMM Club is active. They had 25 students at their first meeting!

The department is in the midst of two faculty searches—a Professor of Practice and an Assistant Professor of Health Communication. I'll have more news on this in the spring newsletter. We are excited to be adding to the faculty and these hires show the excellent support we are getting from our college.

We are hosting the British National Debate Team's return to Lincoln on November 17th at 7 PM in the Lied Center for Performing Arts. They are debating two of our Speech & Debate coaches on the topic of "Are Social Media a Threat to Human Creativity?" This is one of the se-

lect E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues events. Please come if you are in Lincoln—875 tickets (free) are already spoken for: <http://enthompson.unl.edu/ticket.shtml> Dr. Carly Woods of our faculty is the Chair of the international Committee on Discussion and Debate and is coordinating the U.S. tour for the debaters.

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas has been named an Administrative Fellow in the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for 2014-15. She is also an Academic Leadership Fellow with the Big Ten's Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) for 2014-15.



It has been a season of books coming out! Dr. Damien Pfister's book, *Networked Media, Networked Rhetorics: Attention and Deliberation in the Early Blogosphere* is due out any day.

Former doctoral student Rachel Friedman and our own Dr. Ron Lee published their book, *The Style and Rhetoric of Elizabeth Dole: Public Persona and Political Discourse*. Bill Seiler, alumnae Melissa Beall and Joe Mazer had the 9th edition of *Communication: Making Connections*, come out. Former doctoral student Paul Schrodtt and I had our book, *Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication* come out and I joined Kathleen Galvin and Carma Bylund on the 9th edition of *Family Communication: Cohesion & Change*.

We'll be in full force at NCA's 100th Anniversary conference in Chicago. Join us for our Saturday evening reception (invitation on p. 2 of this newsletter).

"CommHuskers," do stay in touch. Stop by, call, or email me. You are always part of us and we are proud of you.

Issue 12, Fall 2014

Featured Articles

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Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Zeth Schlenker, and Dawn O. Braithwaite

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Welcome New Doctoral Students



Left to right:
 Nate Swords, Western Michigan University
 Will Cooney, Gonzaga University
 Adam Blood, University of Central Missouri
 Kristen Everhart, San Diego State University
 Gretchen Bergquist, Texas Christian University
 (not pictured) Janell Walther, University of
 Nebraska-Lincoln (Spring 2014)

Congratulations Communication Studies Graduate Award Winners!

Communication Studies
 Outstanding Graduate Student
 Research Award

Julia Moore

Communication Studies
 Outstanding Graduate Student
 Teaching Award

Amy Arellano
Chigozirim Utah

Phyllis Japp Scholars Award

Ray Blanton
Kathy Castle
Julia Moore

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

**DONT MISS UNL'S
 RECEPTION**

DURING

**NATIONAL
 COMMUNICATION
 ASSOCIATION'S**

**100TH
 ANNUAL
 CONVENTION**



**100th Annual
 NCA
 Convention**



Please join us for our annual reception!

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 Department of Communication Studies
 National Communication Association Meeting
 Chicago, IL

Saturday, November 22nd, 2014

7:30-9:30 pm

Joliet Room, 3rd Floor, Chicago Hilton



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
 Lincoln

SPOTLIGHT ON GRADUATE ALUMNUS

DR. MARK MEISTER

Dr. Mark Meister graduated with his doctoral degree in 1997 and went to North Dakota State University where he is currently a Full Professor and Head of the Department of Communication since 2011.



1) How did you come to study Communication at UNL? I enrolled as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication Studies in August 1993 and defended my dissertation in October 1997. I chose UNL because the Department faculty initially did not offer me an assistantship. I was an

alternate acceptance to UNL and my master's degree advisor at NDSU, John Murphy, begged me to accept one of the two assistantship offers I did have; either from the University of Iowa or the University of Washington. Eventually, I got an offer from UNL from then Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Phyllis Japp. I accepted it mainly out of spite and set forth with great intent to impress Dr. Japp.

I had made no living arrangements prior to moving to Lincoln in August 1993. So for the first four weeks of the fall 1993 semester, I camped at Mahoney State Park, "on the banks of the mighty Platte," in the Little Creek Campground, campsite #18. Eventually, I moved from the \$20/week "tent-camping only" campsite to a \$185/month furnished basement apartment on 44th and Vine in Lincoln. Many nights while lying awake inhaling the musty smell of cigarette smoke and "incense" from the homeowners living on the main floor, I dreamt of the comfort of my Coleman tent and the serenity of campsite #18.

2) What are favorite memories of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? Everything about the program provided me greater understanding of our discipline and my role as an academic contributor to it.

The coursework, the debates, the writing-editing-revising, the collegiality, and the humanity I experienced while a student in UNL's Communication

Studies department provided the foundational experience about which I've come to understand our discipline. I invited (and was invited) to argue, to critique, to collaborate, to study, to debate, to alter, and to accept. And in doing so, I learned the importance of solidifying sound argumentation with grace, authenticity, and empathy. It is the foundational idea of credibility that I believe so wonderfully encapsulates all the teaching, research, and service we do as Communication Studies academics that was profoundly exhibited to me by the leadership and faculty of UNL's Department of Communication Studies. To this end, I am *most* grateful for Phyllis' wisdom and mentorship.

3) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? I'm

fairly certain all reading this are proud of their own UNL experience. So why not engage the pride you have for UNL and the Department of Communication Studies with the credibility that comes from sharing, contributing, and donating to the Department's Phyllis Japp Scholars Fund? Minus the campsites and the cigarette smoke special to my UNL experience, I'm certain your UNL graduate school experience was exceedingly positive.

There is no place like Nebraska for learning how to create and extend our knowledge.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? I brought to the Department of Communication at North Dakota State University (NDSU) the unique and authentic UNL perspective; first as an assistant professor in 1997 and now as Professor and Chair. Between then and now, my academic career initially focused on research and teaching and most recently as a Fulbright scholar and administrator—President of the NDSU Faculty Senate 2009-2011; Department Chair, 2011-present.



And you've all done the same. Where we come from and the experiences we share make us credible... and *there is no place like Nebraska* for learning how to create and extend our knowledge.

Interview with Undergraduate Alumna Amanda Bergeron Bauer

Amanda Bergeron Bauer attended UNL from 1998-2003 and graduated with a B.A. in Communication Studies and a French minor. She went on later to get an M.A. in Educational Psychology.

1) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? After graduation I spent a few years working at a job I didn't particularly enjoy, which was mostly the result of not taking advantage of internship opportunities as an undergraduate. I decided to start working on my master's degree but wanted to do it while I worked full time. So I began working for the UNL Office of Graduate Studies as an office associate and, over time, the recruitment and retention coordinator position was created for me. While working for the Office of Graduate Studies, I earned my masters degree in Educational Psychology.

Now I am the recruitment coordinator and student services manager for the UNL School of Natural Resources.

I also serve on the Board of Directors for Outlinc, an LGBT community group in Lincoln. I coordinate activities for LGBT-headed families and educational workshops. I live in Lincoln with my wife and our five-year-old son. Emmett started kindergarten this year, and he has the makings of a standup comedian. There's never a dull moment in our house!

2) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies? As a senior in high school, I was trying to decide between a few majors and thought about coming to UNL undeclared when a friend mentioned Communication Studies. Corporate training and public speaking really appealed to me at the time. Training and development are still a professional interest, and I take advantage of any opportunities at UNL that involve student retention and development. My degree in Communication Studies has served me well professionally.

3) How has your communication degree helped you in your life and career? The capacity to relate is an important part of my life and career. My work with Outlinc, working with students at the university and being successful



in a university setting all require the ability to form good relationships. Relating to the students and people I'm working with is at the heart of what I do, and it's what I enjoy the most about my job and volunteer work.

4) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? I'm not sure "favorite" is the best way to describe this memory, but it certainly sticks out clearly when I remember my time as a student. I was in Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite's interpersonal communication class in the fall of 2001. I had three classes on 9/11 and Dr. Braithwaite's was the last. Both of my other instructors tried to hold class without much success. Then I got to Dr. Braithwaite's class and after about five minutes she told us to go home, take care of ourselves, spend time with our loved ones, and try not to let ourselves spend too much time watching the coverage of 9/11. I remembered her advice when I watched the news over the next few weeks, and I remembered it was okay to turn off the TV when it was all too much. She made it okay to be overwhelmed and to need a break.

5) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? In the School of Natural Resources we invite alumni back to speak on different panels. For example, on the last day of our freshman orientation class we bring in alumni to talk about their work experiences and give advice to students just starting out.

There's a wildlife program in Georgia that asks alumni to purchase a compass for the incoming freshman class for their courses. (continued)

Interview with Amanda Bergeron Bauer (continued)

The symbolism of alumni guiding new students works really well. That's an easy way for recent graduates to donate a small amount of money and still feel like they made a big difference. It also gets the new students thinking how they can give back to the program from the very start.

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

Be sure to complete an internship experience. I

didn't have any career-relevant experience when I graduated; and, for a few years, I struggled to find employment opportunities beyond general office work.

Get involved on campus. There are opportunities to be involved on campus. Not only does it look great on your resume, but you network with students across campus and make connections that will be beneficial after graduation.

UNL Speech & Debate Team Highlights



The UNL Speech & Debate Team's season got off to a great start with a win at the Hutchinson and Sterling College Swing Tournaments in Hutchinson, Kansas. The tournament was attended by a total of sixteen schools from across the Midwest. UNL placed 1st in the team division of Lincoln Douglas Debate, 2nd in Speech, and 1st overall for the combined portion of the swing. The team's victory was highlighted by individual wins by senior Reece Ristua in Impromptu and Persuasive Speaking. The debate team compiled an overall record of 45-34 for the weekend, broke five students to outrounds at the tournament, and advanced two students to the semi-final round. UNL placed three speakers in the top

five in debate: senior Derrick Stevens (2nd place), sophomore Jackson Schlecta (4th place), and sophomore Alex Johnson (5th place). In addition to a great freshmen class, the team is also joined by new graduate student and debate coach Adam Blood. Coaching along with Adam are third year graduate assistant coaches Amy Arellano, and Allison Bonander, second year coach, Jonathan Carter as well as Director of Speech & Debate Aaron Duncan, who is returning for his tenth year with the team. The team recently filmed a segment for HuskerVision and it will be broadcast at an upcoming home football game this season. The exact date and game are still to be determined.

RESULT FROM THE APRIL 5-7 BIG TEN AMERICAN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT IN TEMPE, AZ.

UNL Speech students placed 7th in the nation and first in the Big Ten.

UNL TO HOST BRITISH DEBATE TEAM

The British Debate team is returning to UNL! They will debate two of UNL's debate coaches on the topic, "Are Social Media a Threat to Human Creativity." Sponsors: Communication Studies, E.N. Thompson Forum on World Events.



November 17

7 PM

Lied Center for the Performing Arts

Free tickets at: <http://enthompson.unl.edu/ticket.shtml>
or call 402-472- 4747

FIND YOUR VOICE IN COMMCONNECT



Communication Club is off to a fantastic start in the new school year, having held its first meeting at the beginning of October. The Comm Club's enthusiastic co- presidents, Kat Piper (senior) and David Bond (senior), have sought to increase membership by visiting classes, attending the university Club Fair, and maintaining an active Facebook page. Their efforts paid off—25 students attended the first meeting.

The executive board has carefully focused the club's mission and planned activities to fill the needs of its members. This year, the club will focus on scholarly and professional development that allows students to engage with the department, university, and community. For example, in November, a representative from Career Services will be talking to the club about résumés before facilitating a workshop to help students polish their own résumés. Other meetings will focus on interviewing, leadership, networking, and internships. Students hope that the skills they gain will help them feel confident and prepared for the internship and job fairs this spring. In all, the club's leadership hopes that the full slate of activities will help draw in new members and serve as a valuable resource to help students get the most of their communication degrees at UNL.

RESEARCH IN ACTION: The Benefits and Risks of Telling and Listening to Stories of Difficulty Over Time

When we experience a difficult or traumatic situation, we might think about whether it would be more helpful to write about it privately or talk about it over with a friend?

This was the central question in a study in the journal *Health Communication* by Jody Koenig Kellas, Department of Communication Studies University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Haley Kranstuber Horstman, Department of Communication University of Missouri, Erin K. Willer, Department of Communication Studies University of Denver and Kristen Carr, Department of Communication Studies Texas Christian University.

For Kellas and her co-researchers, all graduates of our program, the one overarching goal of their study was to understand the impact of talking interpersonally over time on young adults' individual and relational health. Previous research from the Expressive Writing Paradigm (EWP) has shown that people who write about something difficult or traumatic for consecutive days have long-lasting health benefits (see Frattaroli, 2006).

We asked Dr. Kellas to tell us about the study and she explained: We were interested in how introducing interpersonal communication into the EWP would affect the well-being of friends discussing difficulty. Therefore, we assessed the degree to which psychological health improved over time for college students who told and listened to stories about friends' current difficulties in comparison with tellers in control conditions. We also investigated the effects on tellers' and listeners' perceptions of each other's communication competence, communicated perspective-taking, and the degree to which each threatened the other's face during the interaction over time to better understand the interpersonal communication complexities associated with talking about difficulty over time.

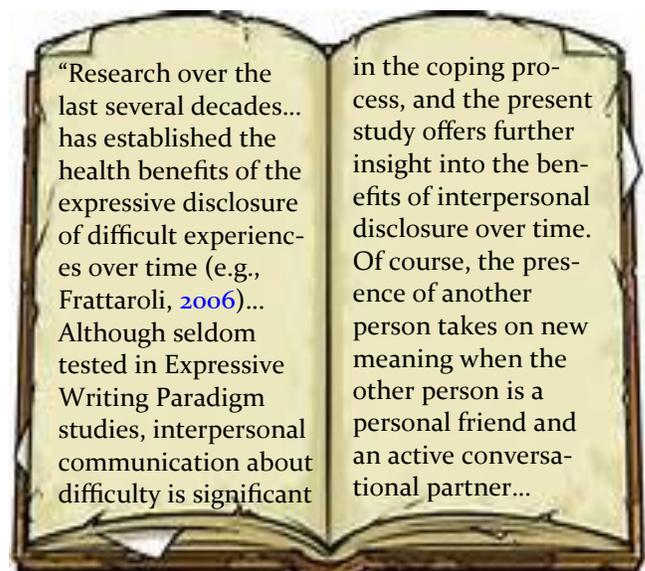
After completing pre-study questionnaires, 49 friend pairs engaged in three interpersonal interactions over the course of one week wherein one talked about and one listened to a story of difficulty (treatment) or daily events (control). All participants completed a post-study questionnaire three weeks

later. Among several findings, as expected, the friend that told the difficult story also experienced decreases in their negative affect (emotions) over time. Despite the mental health benefits, tellers' perceptions of their friends' (i.e., the listeners') communication abilities decreased significantly over time, such that as time went on, storytellers thought their friends became less competent, took their perspective less, and were more threatening to their face needs. The current study suggests that the benefits people receive from privately writing about their problems may be experienced when talking to friends but that talking over time may introduce complexities into interpersonal perceptions between friends.

Read the Study:

Koenig Kellas, J., Kranstuber, H., Willer, E. K., & Carr, K. (2014). The benefits and risks of storytelling and storylistening over time: Experimentally testing the expressive writing paradigm in the context of interpersonal communication. *Health Communication*, 29, 1-16.

Following is an excerpt from
**The Benefits and Risks of
Telling and Listening
to Stories of Difficulty Over Time.**



HELP THE DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS SUPPORT COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The department's faculty and students are incredibly grateful for those who have donated to us over the years. We thank those who have supported us by donating to the department's general fund, the Phyllis Japp Scholars fund, or in kind donations to help students. We also appreciate those who have made donations to the department's Speech & Debate program and that program will be featuring donors in their spring newsletter. All donations make a tangible difference! In addition to ongoing initiatives, we hope to start some scholarships for Communication undergraduate students as we currently have none. We want to support our students. If you have an interest in establishing scholarships or other initiatives, talk with Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite.

Communication Studies General Fund helps build scholarships, bring experts to campus, recruit new students, host our NCA reception, help undergraduate students attend workshops and events.

Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund helps graduate students across areas with conference and research expenses. Many have contributed to the fund in Phyllis' memory and Phyllis herself donated to support our students.

We have a critical need to raise additional support for the Speech Debate program for travel. We also need to establish scholarships for these deserving students. If you have an interest in establishing scholarships or other initiatives, talk with Director Aaron Duncan.

Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate. Funds go for the team travel and scholarships.

Link to the Communication Studies, Phyllis Japp and Speech & Debate Funds (scroll to bottom of page):
<https://nufoundation.org/unl/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/department-of-communication-studies>

Recurring gifts can be set up easily via the UN Foundation (a number of alumni and faculty donate monthly). We can provide information on estate giving. Feel free to talk with Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite: dbraithwaite@unl.edu; 402 472-2069.

Thank You Communication Studies and Phyllis Japp Fund Donors 2011-2014

Karla J. and Terry Bergen
Jeff Bineham
Wendy L. Bjorklund
Dawn O. and Charles Braithwaite
Nancy J. Brule
Leah Bryant
Diana Prentice Carlin
Communication Studies Sunshine
Fund
Mary Ann and Craig Danielson
Aaron Duncan
David G. Dunning
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Erkens
Mary Gill

Tiffanie Glaser
Great Plains Energy Inc.
Robert L. Haag
Lynn Harter and Scott Titsworth
Debra K. Japp
Phyllis Japp
Jack and Ruth Kay
Jody Koenig Kellas
Gary and Phyllis Larsen
Charles A. Lubbers and Brenda S.
Fergen
Jennifer McGee
Mark A. Meister and Ann Burnett
Allen and Ginny Overcash

Donna and Joseph Pawlowski
Damien Pfister and Carly Woods
Diana L. Rehling
Christine Rittenour
Jack E. Sargent
William Seiler
Jordan Soliz
St. Anthony Foundation
Jason Thompson
Allison Thorson
Paul D. Turman
Erin K. Willer
James V. Zeman

YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND THE
FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE VALUE YOU.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

DR. CHARLES BRAITHWAITE BROADENS HORIZONS FOR UNL COMM 211 STUDENTS



In these photos, COMM 211 Global Classroom students at UNL are meeting Russian students at Tyumen State University in western Siberia. You can see the Russian students interacting with our UNL students and their presentations on the monitors. Chuck Braithwaite took the photos in the Russian classroom. As part of a Fulbright Scholarship, Chuck visited Tyumen and spoke with numerous classes and faculty groups in the Russian Federation.



English-as-a-2nd-Language class at Tyumen State University, Russian Federation.



Guest lecture in an International Economics Class at Tyumen State University, Russian Federation

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
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FACEBOOK
AND CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [HTTP://COMM.UNL.EDU/](http://comm.unl.edu/)

COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR FAIR



Communication Studies faculty and students took part in UNL's fall 2014 major's fair. The goal: to help more undergraduate students discover what Communication Studies has to offer.

In the picture to the left, an undergraduate student reads a brochure after talking with faculty member, Damien Pfister.

Growth of Communication Studies

Excerpts from an article in the *Huff Post Blog* on October 22, 2014 attest to the growth of Communication Studies classes and majors on U. S. campuses. Excerpts from the article by Jason Schmitt follows:

At a college near you, at this very moment, a student is switching their major to Communication Studies. As an academic discipline, Communication Studies is posting strong growth in relation to undergraduate majors, undergraduate degrees awarded, student popularity, and number of institutions offering the degree according to a newly released American Academy of Arts & Sciences [Humanities Indicator](#) assessment. From this Humanities Indicator data it appears Communication Studies may be outperforming its humanity based peers on several measures. Perhaps equally important is that the discipline seems well positioned to maintain strong future growth potential.

"In terms of numbers, Communication Studies stood out regarding the amount of students majoring in the field. It was quite striking when we were crunching the numbers--how different it seemed in the sheer volume of students. It was much higher than the other disciplines and was certainly the largest of the disciplines we looked at," says Robert Townsend, Director of the Washington Office of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, who led the Humanities Indicators assessment. In many ways Communication Studies is the right offering at the right time. The discipline is extremely well positioned as the digital economy, social networking and the move toward media creation rises to prominence. Concepts that may have been more abstract for students fifteen years ago such as relationship networks, group communication, and media theory are becoming vitally relevant knowledge that a wide ranging student body want to obtain. In addition, the broad nature and breadth of coursework in the discipline seems to be another attribute of academic attraction..."Students across the board are realizing how important our classes are. We might pick a student up from business who realizes 'I will probably still be in business'; but they want to come through the door differently," says Dawn O. Braithwaite, Professor and Chair of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Ethan Scott, a Senior at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Michigan, switched his major from Pre-Dental to Communication Studies. Scott says, "I have had a lot of opportunities, and I get contacted all the time from job prospects and they say: 'I see you are a Communication Studies Major, I see all the different experiences you have and we would like to have you in for an interview or send us your full resume.' I really do think a lot of it is the Communication Studies major--it allows me to project the best version of myself, knowing what people are looking for and knowing how people communicate effectively."

Read the entire blog at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jason-schmitt/communication-studies-ris_b_6025038.html.



Department of Communication Studies

Faculty Accomplishments

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Braithwaite, C.A. (2014). Environmental perspectives by some American Indians. In Soromotin, A.V., and Tolstikov, A.V. (Eds.) *Environment and Natural Resource Management*. Tyumen, Russian Federation: TyumSU Publishing House. ISBN 978-5-400-01031-6.

Braithwaite, C.A. (2014). Environmental concerns of American Indian tribal colleges. In Soromotin, A.V., and Tolstikov, A.V. (Eds.) *Environment and Natural Resource Management*. Tyumen, Russian Federation: TyumSU Publishing House. ISBN 978-5-400-01031-6. (16-17).

Braithwaite, D. O. (2014). "Opening the door": The history and future of qualitative scholarship in interpersonal communication. *Communication Studies*, 65, 441-445.

Braithwaite D. O., Moore, J., & Stephenson Abetz, J. (2014). "I need numbers before I will buy it": Reading and writing qualitative scholarships on personal relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 31, 490-496.

Braithwaite, D. O., Baxter, L. A. & Schrod, P. (2015). Becoming a "real family": Turning points and competing discourses in stepfamilies. In D. O. Braithwaite & J. T. Wood (Eds.). *Casing interpersonal communication: Case Studies in personal and social relationships* (2nd ed.) (pp. 61-66). Dubuque IA: Kendall/Hunt.

Koenig Kellas, J., Kranstuber, H., Willer, E. K. & Carr, K. (2014). The benefits and risks of storytelling and story listening over time: Experimentally testing the expressive writing paradigm in the context of interpersonal communication. *Health Communication*, 29, 1-16.

Koenig Kellas, J. (2015) Narrative theories: Making sense of interpersonal communication. In D.O. Braithwaite, & P. Schrod (Eds.) *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication* (2nd ed., pp. 253-266). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Gallant, L. M., & **Krone, K. J.** (2014). Tensions in talk-diversity. *Communication Reports*, 27, 39-52.

Walker, K., Malkowski, J., & **Pfister, D. S.** (2014). Choreographing living texts: Selections from the Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology Oral History Project. *Rhetoric Review*, 33, 262-280.

Pfister, D. S. (2014). "A short burst of inconsequential information:" Networked rhetorics, avian consciousness, and bioegalitarianism. *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*.

Pfister, D. S. (2014). The timeliness of the new (networked) rhetoric: On critical distance, sentiment analysis, and public feeling polls. In C. Palczewski (Ed.), *Disturbing Argument: Selected papers from the 2013 NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.

Colaner, C. W., **Soliz, J.**, & Nelson, L. R. (2014). Communicatively managing religious identity difference in parent-child relationships: The role of accommodative and nonaccommodative communication. *Journal of Family Communication*, 14, 310-327.

AWARDS

Aaron Duncan received the American Forensics Association District IV Larry Schnoor Award for Outstanding Coaching and Service. Dr. Duncan accepted his award at Arizona State University in April 2014.

Carly Woods won the Communication Studies Bruce Kendall Award given to one faculty member each year. She received the award in April 2014.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Pfister, Damien (2015) *Networked media, networked rhetorics: Attention and deliberation in the early blogosphere*. State College, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press. <http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/pfister-s-book-examines-rise-effects-of-political-blogging/>

Galvin, K., **Braithwaite, D. O.**, Bylund, C. (2015). *Family communication: Cohesion and change* 9th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Braithwaite, D. O., & Wood, J. T. (2015). *Casing interpersonal communication: Case studies in personal and social relationships* (2nd ed.). Dubuque IA: Kendall/Hunt.

(Continued)

Friedman, R. B., & Lee, R. E. (2014), appeared in late 2013). *The style and rhetoric of Elizabeth Dole: Public persona and political discourse*. Lanham, MD: Lexington.

Seiler, William J.; Beall, Melissa, L.; Mazer, Joseph (2014) *Communication: Making connections* (9th ed.). Pearson.

FACULTY IN LEADERSHIP

Dawn O. Braithwaite, Co-Chair National Communication Association Centennial Committee (2008-2014).

Jody Koenig Kellas, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been named an administrative fellow in the UNL Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and an Academic Leadership Fellow with the Big Ten's Committee on Institutional Cooperation for the 2014-15 academic year.

FACULTY IN THE MEDIA

Damien Pfister was quoted in a LJS article on proposed training at Lincoln Public Schools on transgender students: http://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-social-engineering-gender-and-blue-onsies/article_b434af60-a408-5208-a8cf-7d76573bc20b.html

FEATURED SPEAKER

Carly Woods has been invited to be a featured speaker at a conference on Speech & Debate as Civic Education, hosted by the Department of Communication Arts & Sciences and the Center for Democratic Deliberation at the Pennsylvania State University, March 2015.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Braithwaite, Charles (2014) Senior Fulbright Specialist Grant, US Department of State & Department of International Relations-Tyumen State University, Russian Federation (2014). Informal Learning in Science, National Science Foundation, Salish word for world: Journalism as a Tool to Engage Native Americans in Environmental Communication. Consultant with co-principle investigators from the University of Montana (2014) Directora del Centro de Investigación sobre Diversidad Cultural y Estudios Regionales, Sede de Occidente, Universidad de Costa Rica. Project: "Valoración del Aula Global (UNL-UCR) como instrumento para el desarrollo de las habilidades

comunicativas y el aprendizaje intercultural en estudiantes de Bachillerato y Licenciatura en la Enseñanza del Inglés y del curso Comunicación Intercultural." Grant will fund the study of the impact of The Global Classroom Project teaching method on English-as-a-Second-Language learning among undergraduates at Universidad de Costa Rica-San Ramon, and the cultural competency among undergraduates at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (October, 2014).

Pfister, Damien (2014), Damien's grant, "Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement," has been renewed by the U.S. Department of State. The SUSI grant will bring undergraduate leaders from Africa to UNL in early 2015. Damien is a co-PI with Patrice McMahon, of Political Science and Linda Major from the Center for Civic Engagement at UNL.

HONORED FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D., 2012), Rich Murphy, Dr. Blair C. Thompson (Ph.D., 2007), Dr. Adam C. Jones



(Ph.D., 2007), Dr. Randa (Lumsden) Garden (Ph.D., 2009), and Dr. Linda B. Dickmeyer (Ph.D., 1998) were excited to honor their dissertation advisor **Dr. Bill Seiler** at the spotlight panel

honoring his CSCA Hall of Fame Induction at the CSCA Convention held in Minneapolis in 2014. A video recording of this panel can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9qhZiUxotM>

Jordan Soliz will be honored as an outstanding teacher at NCA in Chicago by the "Teachers on Teaching Series" that recognizes inspiring educators whose vibrant educational connections have made a real difference with today's students. Dr. Soliz's "commitment to his students and advisees surpasses expectations, and his dedication to incorporating his scholarly identity into every teaching moment encourages learners to find their own identity and voice... he creates challenging and rewarding opportunities for all students' dialogue, research, and personal growth, all while exhibiting genuine care."

HUSKERVISION FEATURES SPEECH & DEBATE

Aaron Duncan and Speech & Debate will be a featured academic spot on Huskervision during football games!

Graduate Student Accomplishments

APPOINTMENTS

Amy Arellano has been appointed as an UNL student liaison for PREVENT, a partnership of the UHC, the Women's Center and the Victim's advocacy center; an intervention/relationship violence prevention peer education group for UNL. She will lead workshops and make presentations across campus and within the Greek system to increase awareness, education, and action to create dialogue surrounding assault on college campuses. See <http://involved.unl.edu/gender/advocate.php>.

DISSERTATION DEFENSE



Dr. Kristen Lucas hoods Dr. Sara Baker at her graduation.

Dr. Sara Baker defended her dissertation on April 16, 2014: "You bring yourself to work: An Exploration of (In) dignity and identity." Dr. Kristen Lucas advised her dissertation and Dr. Soliz served as advisor from UNL.

Dr. Arleen Bejerano defended her dissertation on April 21, 2014, "An examination of the role support, coping strategies, and individual characteristics in students' adaptation to college." Advisor: Dr. Bill Seiler. Arleen is teaching in New Zealand as her partner, Travis Bartosh is working on his Ph.D.

Dr. Getachew Godana defended his dissertation on Aug. 25, 2014! Title: "The rhetoric of community participation: NGOs' discourses and deliberative practices with communities in Ethiopia." Advisor: Dr. Ronald Lee.

Dr. Jessy Ohl defended his dissertation on April 22, 2014, "Rhetoric, aesthetics, and power in the age of light war." Advisor: Dr. Damien Pfister.

Dr. Amanda Olson Holman successfully defended her dissertation on June 20, 2014. "How adolescents perceive their parents' communication about sex: Toward reducing adolescent sexual risk." Advisor: Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas.

Dr. Audra Nuru defended her dissertation on Aug. 28, 2014! Title: "Almost like a constant tug of war": Exploring discursive negotiations of identity frames, identity gaps, and critical incidents experienced by multiethnic/racial individuals." Advisor: Dr. Jordan Soliz.

Dr. Chad Wertley defended his dissertation on April 18, 2014, "Identifying with the 'other' through the internet: A comparison of online videogames, text and video in facilitating positive intergroup contact and reducing prejudice." Advisor: Dr. Jordan Soliz.

FELLOWSHIPS

Josh Ewalt received a Dean's Fellowship from the UNL Graduate Studies to support his work in the next academic year (2014).

Julia Moore received a Dean's Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Blanton, R. & Ewalt, J. (in press): Rhetorical maneuvers: Reflections on being blue collar in an academic world, In *Rhizomes* Special Issue 28, Working-Class Academics: Theories, Mythologies, Realities. Edited by Carol Siegel.

Ewalt, J. (2014, May). At the borders of rhetoric, theory, and history: A topological approach to rhetorical historiography. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, Texas.

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

Moore, J., Kienzle, J., & Flood Grady, E. (forthcoming). Discursive struggles of tradition and non-tradition: Retrospective accounts of married couples who cohabited before engagement. *Journal of Family Communication*.

Moore, J. (2014). Reconsidering childfreedom: A feminist exploration of discursive identity construction in childfree LiveJournal communities. *Women's Studies in Communication*, 37, 159-180.

Utah, C. (in press). Migrant Diaries: Communicating in pop culture nation. Globalizing intercultural communication: A reader.

Utah, C., & Waters, A. (2014). Confronting critical thinking challenges "in" the college classroom. In L. J. Shedletsky & J. S. Beaudry (Eds.), *Global Cases*

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on teaching critical thinking through visual representation strategies (pp. 140-156). Hershey, Pennsylvania: IGI Global.

Omlion-Hodges, L., & **Swords, N. M.** (in press). Communication that heals: Mindful communication practices from palliative care leaders. *Health Communication*.

Swords, N. M., Orbe, M. P., Cooke-Jackson, A., & Johnson, A. L. (2014). Exploring the coordinated management of meaning of sex: The social construction of male college student logical forces. *Creative Education*, 5(15), 1383. In Press (Was accepted to *Health Communication* July 2014).

STUDENTS ACCEPT FACULTY POSITIONS

Darrel Farmer (ABD UNL) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor and Director of Debate at

Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Sarah Jones is an instructor at Creighton University for the next academic year.

Jessy Ohl is an instructor at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg Virginia.

Dr. Chad Wertley has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Robert Morris University outside of Pittsburgh.

TOP PAPERS

Jonathan Carter Top Paper -- Kenneth Burke Society **Carter, J.** (2014, November). From Bennington to browsers: Extending burkean pedagogy into the age of the MOOC. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

Avery, Jonathan (B.A. 2013) found a job close to home (Lincoln) that allows him to travel and write and then return to family and friends. Officially, he's a journalist but considers himself more of a professional conversationalist and jotter.



Barton, Matt (Ph.D. 2002) has been promoted to Full Professor at Southern Utah University.

Bailey, Caleb (B.A. 2010) has entered his fourth season as Orchestra Manager for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. This year he was competitively selected by the League of American Orchestras to take part in their two-year Emerging Leaders program. As part of the program, Caleb has met with orchestra executives, presented at the 2014 conference, and was afforded the opportunity of meeting with leaders in major non-profit organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Hall, and the NFL. He is being mentored by Dan Buchner, VP of Leadership Development at BANFF, the world leader in arts and creativity incubation. Over the next year, he will be implementing a leader



ship initiative for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. He will complete the program in January of 2016.

Baker, Sara (Ph.D. 2014) was the graduate student winner of the Bruce Kendall award in April 2014.

Church, Scott (Ph.D. 2013) has accepted a job as an Assistant Professor-Lecturer in the Department of Management at the University of Utah.

Daugherty-Murphy, Jennifer (B.A. 1999) Jennifer was recently hired by Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star (one of the largest BBBS organizations in the country) to serve as the Senior Director of Grants and Foundation Relations. She has been tasked with leading the Grants team in expansion and diversification of the agency's funding portfolio.

Harter, Lynn (Ph.D. 2000) Professor at Ohio University and colleagues received a regional Emmy Award for the documentary, *Courage of Creativity* in July 2014.

Heinz, Matthew (Ph.D. 1998) held faculty appointments at Bowling Green State University and the University of North Dakota before relocating to Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.

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In Canada, he originally joined Royal Roads University's School of Communication and Culture to launch the MA in Intercultural and International Communication but soon found himself immersed in higher education administration. Nine years later, he's still there, and in the middle of a five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Social and Applied Sciences. Most of his research in the past few years has focused on transgender communication; he's involved in supervision of doctoral and master's students and occasionally teaches. When he studied at UNL, he was known as Bettina. Matt advises, "If you are interested in teaching part-time online or in residency here in Victoria, check out our web page www.royalroads.ca and then contact me: matthew.heinz@royalroads.ca. We are always looking to expand our associate faculty pool and welcome UNL graduate students."

Hollihan, Tom (Ph.D. 1978) just edited a new book called: *The Dispute over the diaoyu/senkaku Islands: How media narratives shape public opinion and challenge the global order*. He lectured on the book in September and October at City University Hong Kong, Chinese University Hong Kong, National Chengchi University of Taiwan, Fudan University, Shanghai, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Renmin University in Beijing, Communication University of China in Beijing, Tianjin University of Foreign Studies in Tianjin, Waseda University in Tokyo, Meiji University in Tokyo, and International Christian University in Tokyo.

Holman, Amanda (2014) and colleagues published Sillars, A., Holman, A., Richards, A., Jacobs, K., Reynolds-Dyke, A., Koerner, A. (2014). Conversation and conformity orientations as predictors of observed conflict in parent-adolescent relationships. *Journal of Family Communication*, 14, 16-31. Amanda is also a Co-PI on a grant that has been funded from the Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health Pilot Grant Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "Impact of residential treatment on American Indian maternal-child health outcomes."

Miller-Ott, Aimee (Ph.D. 2007) her husband Chris, and big brother Brandon welcomed their newest addition, Samantha Avery Ott, to their family on July 15, 2014. Aimee also began a new academic position as an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Illinois State University this fall.

Ohl, Jessy (Ph.D. 2014) married Maggie Yancey at Lake Austin in Austin, Texas on July 18, 2014. Their ceremony included many references to rhetoric and communication.



The Nebraska Communication Studies group at Jessy and Maggie's wedding.

Sargent, Jack (Ph.D. 2000) was named the Executive Director of the School of Communication, Media & Journalism at Kean University. The School of CMJ has five different communication tracks, more than 600 undergraduate majors and 40 graduate students.

Pickering, Matt (B.A. 1994) finished a tour at 1st Marine Division and is now deployed aboard the USS MESA VERDE (LPD 19), homeported in Norfolk, Virginia http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=83349

Thompson, Blair (Ph.D. 2007) received the 2014 James Applegate Award for Excellence in Research from the Kentucky Communication Association.

Thorson, Allison (Ph.D. 2009) married Neil Knutson in July of 2014. Allison currently lives in San Francisco and teaches at the University of San Francisco. She recently published an article with **Haley Kranstuber Horstman** (UNL Ph.D., 2012) in the *Journal of Family Communication*, titled: Buy now, pay later: Family communication patterns theory, parental financial support, and emerging adults' openness about credit card behaviors. Allison Thorson (UNL Ph.D., 2009) recently published an article in *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, titled: Feeling caught: Adult children's experiences with parental infidelity.



Wang, Tiffany R (Ph.D. 2012) published an article: Wang, T. R. (2014). "I'm the only person from where I'm from to go to college": Understanding the memorable messages first-generation college students receive from parents. *Journal of Family Communication*, 14, 270-290. Tiffany also published a book chapter: Wang, T. R. (2014). Starting a new family legacy: Transitioning from high school to college as a first-generation student. In D. O. Braithwaite & J. T. Wood (Eds.), *Case studies in personal and social*

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relationships (2nd ed., pp. 155-160). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. Retrieved from http://www.kendallhunt.com/braithwaite_wood/

Tiffany contributed a Communication Currents piece to NCA's website: Wang, T. R. (2014). Instructor's corner #1: Caring teacher communication makes college transition easier. Communication Currents, 9, Retrieved from <http://www.natcom.org/CommCurrentsArticle.aspx?id=4902>. Tiffany was awarded a \$2000 University of Montevallo Teaching and Learning Grant for promoting experiential learning in her COMS 310 Social Media and PR course.

Whittt, David (Ph.D. 2012), Professor and Chair of Communication Studies at Nebraska Wesleyan, has

won the 2014 Wayne State College Outstanding Alumni Award for the School of Arts and Humanities.

Zmarzly, Mark (B.A. 1998, M.A. 2005) In July Mark Zmarzly's software company (Hip Pocket) launched a unique, patent-pending mortgage comparison app with Nebraska-based Union Bank & Trust. This app is free to use for anyone and allows you to see how your current mortgage rate compares to your peers and if you can save money by refinancing. You can try it at: <http://www.bit.ly/ubtcompare>.

Department of Communication Studies

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

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone
Professor
Organizational Communication

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

Professor Kathy Castle
Director of COMM 286 and
Distance Education