



# The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

## From the Chair's Chair

Dear UNL Colleagues  
and Friends,

We send you greetings from Nebraska here in Spring 2011. For me, this is my lucky 13<sup>th</sup> year at UNL and it has been a wonderful place to be. You can see that we have had some changes in the department this year. Bill Seiler has returned to the faculty after 21 years as our Department Chair. We owe Bill an enormous debt of gratitude for his many years of service and leadership and his great heart for the department. No one could be more helpful and supportive than Bill—he truly bleeds Big Red! He has been a tremendous source of information and help during our transitions. I am sure you will join me in thanking Bill. Ron Lee continues to support us, especially in his work on our Academic Program Review documents, and we are fortunate for his collegiality.

In the department we charge ahead with our scholarship and teaching. The faculty has been hard at work on some significant updates to our undergraduate program and curriculum. We are fortunate that Dr. Jody Kellas agreed to serve as our Director of Undergraduate Studies (or DOUGS as we call it) and the faculty has been working together on all aspects of curriculum and support for undergraduate students. The major continues to be strong and we appreciate the outreach efforts faculty members, Comm Club, Kristen Carr (Assistant



Advisor), and Sara Baker (Lambda Pi Eta) have undertaken to reach new majors.

Dr. Kristen Lucas is finishing her stint as the COMM 286 (formerly 311) Director and has done a wonderful job, renovating that course with the support of Kathy Castle who will be the new 286 Director. Bill Seiler continues on as COMM 109 Director. Both courses benefit greatly from the leadership of GTA Associate Directors who take on a great deal of responsibility. You'll see on page 5 that Sarah Steimel won the university-wide UNL Graduate Teaching Award and we are so proud of her. She represents the department's commitment to excellent instruction and a high quality program.

The faculty is hard at work on scholarship. Since our last newsletter, faculty have been awarded grants and have had significant manuscripts in press or published. We have several faculty-led research teams working as I write this and our research spaces are stretched to the limit with all the projects going on. While this is a challenge, and we hope to begin some renovations to current facilities, we also see this as very good news. In fact, in our analysis to prepare for the department's program review, we found that our faculty publications increased 125% since our last review in 2004. Just one example—we'll have had four publications during that time in *Communication Monographs* from five of our faculty members.

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite Willa Cather Professor, Acting Chair, & Graduate Director

## Issue 5, Spring 2011

### Featured articles

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

## Comm Club Prepares Students for Careers

As graduation approaches and many Comm Club members prepare to enter the workforce, our primary focus this semester has been on connecting skills learned in communication courses with 'real world' experiences. At our January meeting, members completed the Strengths Deployment Inventory®, a tool designed to quantify individuals' strengths in relating to others in day to day situations, as well as in times of conflict and stress. After completing the inventory, we spent some time talking about the role of communication in managing relationships and conflict, both in the workplace and beyond. As part of this continuing series, our members are particularly interested in guest speakers that can share information about life after graduation with a degree in communication. Alumni, we'd



*Spring 2010 End of Year Party*

love to have you come share your experiences, insight, and advice! Please contact [commclub.unl@gmail.com](mailto:commclub.unl@gmail.com) if you would be willing to spend an evening talking with us.

Also this semester, Comm Club members spent a Sunday afternoon at the Big Red Road Show (BRRS) in Omaha talking with the Comm Studies majors of the future! The BRRS is targeted toward local high school juniors and seniors interested in attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our members had a great time talking with students, sharing information about the major, and having some fun as well.

Comm Club meetings take place on the first Monday of every month and are open to all majors. Please email us at [commclub.unl@gmail.com](mailto:commclub.unl@gmail.com) for additional information. Kristen Carr & Sara Baker, Comm Club Advisors

## From the Desk of the Graduate Director

Wait, didn't you just read another column from Dawn Braithwaite? Yes, you are right, no one in their right mind would want to undertake both of these department roles at once, and thankfully it's short-lived. However the silver lining is the ability to see the "big picture" in the department and understand the breadth of teaching, advising, scholarship, and service that's going on. In addition, I have been able to see firsthand how our faculty and graduate students have stepped in to lead this semester. It makes one proud, it really does.

Our graduate program continues to thrive—we had a very strong showing at NCA, and at the Western States meeting in Monterey in February. We hope to see many of you at Central States in April. We are very proud of Sarah Jones who had three (yes, three) Top Papers at WSCA. Please check out the accomplishments page with this newsletter and I think you'll be very impressed by our graduate students!

As I write this, we are finishing up our graduate admissions process for spring. We have excellent students

coming in from several states including California and Texas—both students are looking forward to those balmy Nebraska winters! Once again, we have had acceptances from our top students and we continue to bring in high quality students to study with us. We have a very large class graduating in the next months—two MAs and 5-6 PhDs. We wish all of you well. You will be missed in our community.

We named our first three Phyllis Japp Scholars this year, thanks to your donations. We hope you will continue (or begin) to donate to this fund so that we may honor Phyllis and help top students with their research needs. 100% of the funds go directly to help these students.

The really fun part of going to the different conferences is to see our alumni who remain devoted to our program and are our best ambassadors. Check out the graduate alumni column on page 3 to read about one of our most distinguished alumni who earned his MA in 1951!

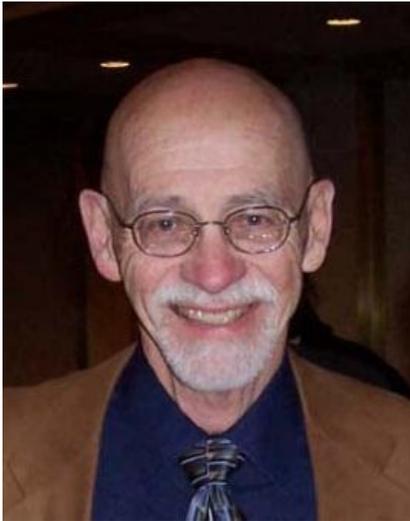
Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite, Willa Cather Professor, Acting Chair, & Graduate Director



*Dr. Braithwaite at WSCA in Monterey*

# Spotlight on Graduate Alumnus Dr. Robert L. Scott

## Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies from the University of Minnesota



We are delighted to have one of our most distinguished graduate alumni featured this spring. Dr. Robert L. Scott is Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Scott is a native of Fairbury, Nebraska (875 miles south and west from Lincoln). He and his wife Betty (also of Fairbury) were married here in Lincoln and Bob earned his M.A. degree from our department in 1951. Dr. Scott had an outstanding career at Minnesota, serving as Editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. He is a NCA Distinguished Scholar, a winner of NCA's Woolbert award (the first award made), and a plethora of other awards for his rhetorical scholarship. Most of us have studied Dr. Scott's essay, "Rhetoric as Epistemic." Dr. Scott is also a member of the Central States Communication Hall of Fame. He is a trombonist for the Northeast Orchestra and a charter member of the Fridley (Minnesota) City Band since 1961.

### 1) What is your history as a student at UNL?

I was at the University of Nebraska in 1950-51. I graduated that spring with an M.A. degree.

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

Not so much "why" as "how." I was an English major. I applied to both departments at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Nebraska. I walked into the auditorium at the U of N one bright, September morning not having decided on my major, so I flipped a coin. Harry Husker caught it, stuck it in his overall pocket, and pointed to the table that said "speech." I guess it was the closer. By the way, I was a high school, then a college debater.

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

Lincoln was closer than Madison and my wife was pregnant. We were very young and both of us had been reared in Fairbury. Betty was quite willing to go to far-away Madison, but caution overtook resolve.

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

I taught my first college class, public speaking, at the U of N during the 1951 summer session. Late that summer, Betty and I and our eight month-old son went to Urbana, Illinois, where I earned a Ph.D. I spent four years in my first, full-time position, 1953-57, at the University of

Houston. I then accepted an offer to the department at the University of Minnesota, which was packed with old Wisconsin grads, and retired there in 2003.

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

All my favorite memories are about the faculty. Leroy Laase was the Department Chair and my adviser. Don Olson was the debate coach. He and Bruce Kendall were working on doctorates, slowly, at Wisconsin. They were all nice to me and I learned a great deal out of the classroom talking with them. My favorite teacher was John Wiley, even though I didn't give a hoot about speech therapy. He was a bright, lively teacher. I believe he, and his specialty, left Lincoln for the School of Medicine in Omaha.

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

I always tell them, or I should use the past tense, I told them that advice is easy to come by. The difficulty is sorting out the good from the bad. Work hard, have fun--that's excellent advice and ties in with what my former colleague Ernest Bormann always said: "If you are not enjoying what you are doing now, stop doing it. You may think that things will change once you have the degree. They won't."

## Do You Want to Support Communication Studies at UNL?

We want to thank you for your continued support. Your generosity has allowed us to support student conference travel, support our student club, enhance our research facilities and productivity, actively recruit graduate students and undergraduate majors, and host our reception at the annual NCA convention. As always—and especially in this time of budget constraints for higher education—your financial contributions to the department are key to allowing us to continue support of our students and faculty.

Please consider one of the following ways of donating to the department and please remember that even a small monthly donation of \$5 or \$10 will help us tremendously!

**Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** All funds go directly to support graduate students with conference and research expenses. We were excited to name our first three Phyllis Japp Scholars in Fall 2010: Scott Church, Haley Kranstuber, Sarah Steimel (see p. 10) and we very much want to support deserving students next year. Donate at

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

**Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Forensics.** In addition to supporting day-to-day operations of our forensics and debate program, contributions provide students with invaluable opportunities to nurture the special relationships that forensics and debate builds within academia, our communities, and, of course, between one another. Donate at <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=986>.

**Communication Studies General Fund.** A gift to this fund will enhance programming and opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students (e.g., support special programs for our department, provide assistance for student and faculty travel, support general day-to-day operations). Donate at <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1286>.

All of your support means very much to us and we are thankful for all of you have contributed in the past and we hope that you will consider how you can support our department so we can continue to excel. **GO BIG RED!**

## Forensics Students Triumph in Lead Up to Nationals

The UNL forensics team is having another outstanding season. So far the team has placed at every tournament it has attended and has won a total of 10 tournaments.

On February 4th-6th the debate team traveled to Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA. The Point Loma tournament is the largest debate tournament on the west coast and was attended by 44 teams. UNL debaters placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

The speech team is also having a strong year having already qualified 50 events to the national tournament. On February 18th-19th the forensics team competed at the Nebraska State Tournament held on the campus of Hastings College. The team took 1st place in debate, 2nd place in speech, and 1st place overall. Seniors Mallory Marsh and Caroline Casias were crowned the parliamentary debate state champions. Caroline Casias also won the state championship in after dinner speaking and fellow senior Stephanie Fleming placed first in

extemporaneous speaking for the second year in a row. This was the third consecutive year the team has won the overall portion of the tournament.

UNL students also demonstrated their sportsmanship and healthy competition. Senior Caroline Casias, senior Cody Hrabanek, and junior Nick Herink were recognized by the

state for their contributions to the forensics community with nominations for the prestigious Spirit of NIFA award.

Nick Herink won the Spirit of NIFA award for best representing the state of Nebraska. The team is now gearing up for its national tournaments.

The speech team will compete April 2nd-4th at the American Forensics Association's National Individual Events

Tournament to be held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, while the debate team is headed to Illinois for the National Forensic Association's annual tournament on the campus of Illinois State University April 15th-18th.



*UNL Forensics Team at the 2011 Nebraska State Tournament held at Hastings College*

## Sarah Steimel Named Outstanding UNL GTA



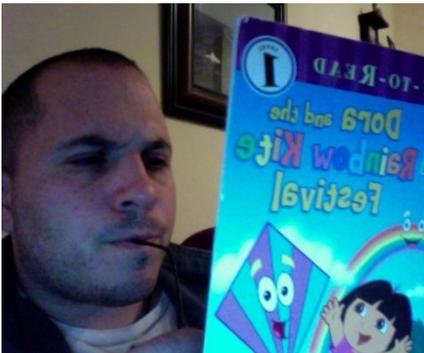
UNL Doctoral Candidate Sarah Steimel recently received UNL's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. In Sarah's introduction, Dr. Kathy Krone remarked, one of the greatest joys a professor can experience is to work with a graduate student like Sarah Steimel. Sarah arrived in our department just three and a half years ago and has been enriching our graduate seminars as a student and our undergraduate classrooms as a teacher ever since.

Sarah's contribution to our instructional mission has been varied and significant. She began by serving as Assistant Director of our Forensics program, and then went on to teach several sections of two of our large-enrollment, service courses -- Business & Professional Communication,

and Introduction to Public Speaking. Sarah was such a gifted student and talented instructor that we then invited her to teach our highly popular Gender & Communication course. And now, for the second year in a row, Sarah has been teaching our introductory course in the undergraduate organizational communication sequence. When commenting on her teaching, students say things like she's an awesome instructor, very engaging, great at facilitating discussion and keeping lectures interesting, very prepared, organized, knowledgeable and makes class time interesting, and my favorite one, her comments on my papers made me want to work harder.

Already, Sarah is demonstrating excellence in both teaching and research. We're confident that she will continue to make the Communication Studies Department and the University of Nebraska proud in years to come.

## Spotlight on Faculty Member Dr. Jordan Soliz



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

The University of Kansas. Home of the 2008 National Basketball Champions and the 2009 National Debate Champions!

### 2) Were you a faculty member anywhere before joining the UNL faculty?

UNL was my first position.

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

Well, what kid doesn't dream of one day moving to Nebraska?!?! In all seriousness, Lincoln and the university have been great since we moved here. UNL provided the opportunity to focus on research and teaching. During my interview, I realized that this was a department that would provide the support I needed as a newly appointed assistant professor. In addition to the people that were already here, we have had some incredible people join our faculty. I am blessed that some of my closest friends are also colleagues that I very much respect and admire.

### 4) What classes do you teach?

On the undergraduate level, I teach Social Identity and Communication, Family Communication, Communication and Aging, Introduction to Research Methods in Communication Studies, and our new capstone course, Communication, Collaboration, and Community: Capstone. I also teach graduate seminars on Intergroup Communication and Family Communication.

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

Hmm? Quite a few! I am continuing my work on multiethnic families and I am in the final stages of a love-hate relationship with a meta-analysis project. I recently started a new area of inquiry: families as a "site of citizenship" (kudos to Kathy Krone for that terminology). For this, I am directing a research team with UNL graduate and undergraduate students with the goal of understanding the role family plays in shaping attitudes and behaviors associated with civic engagement, social justice, and humanitarian efforts.

### 6) Tell us about some of your biggest recent accomplishments?

Tovah Eliana Soliz... "accomplished" January 11, 2011.

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**7) What do you do when you are not working?**

Um, see answer to the previous question. Tovah and her partners in crime, Aliyah and Elijah, keep me fairly busy.

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

Working with graduate students has been more enjoyable and rewarding than I could have ever imagined—especially, my doctoral advisees! I also have to give a special “shout-out” to the Kellas family. There’s something special about starting at a new job with a colleague and, not only sharing experiences as junior faculty, but also watching our daughters (Hannah and Aliyah are only a few days apart) grow up with each other. And, of course, I will share a special bond with the 2010 UNL World Cup Soccer crew and always remember the Algeria game at Captain Jacks!

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

We can always benefit from monetary contributions. But, in addition to that, I would love to see an alumni-initiated and supported “Husker network” specific to Communication Studies. Our graduate alumni do a great job with this and you can see the tight connection among the various UNL cohorts. It would be great to have this on the undergraduate level where our current majors could connect with undergraduate alumni from our department on both the professional and social level.

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

For undergraduate students, I would say, “don’t rush!” Make sure you enjoy the experience. Yes, a college education should prepare you for a career. But, it should do so much more. I recently finished a book which argued that a university education no longer allows students to explore the “important” questions such as: “what is the meaning of life?” I don’t necessarily think that we need to tackle this question in all of our classes. However, I think undergraduates are better served if they start looking at a university education as more than acquiring a set of skills necessary for professional development. Your college education should be a time to learn about new places, people, and perspectives--a time to challenge yourself in all aspects of life. Basically, use your time in college to find meaning in *your* life and identify the kind of person you want to be. And, please buy a stapler! They’re really not that expensive and it will make grading so much easier for me... thanks!

For graduate students...as difficult as it may be to do at times, take time to realize what an incredible profession this is—we get paid to read, write, and teach (oh, and some service responsibilities)! In the midst of end-of-the semester stress, comprehensive exams, and completing those pesky dissertations, don’t forget why you are doing all of this—I truly believe it is one of the most rewarding careers one can have.

## Communication Studies Dept. Welcomes Betty Jacobs



Exhilaration and anticipation would be the best words to describe how I feel to be a part of Communication Studies, as well as Judaic Studies.

I began my UNL career at the Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Center for Grassland Studies. Responsibilities included book editing/design, newsletter publications, and managing two web sites.

Later I was hired by Dr. Beth Franklin, Teachers College (5 years), and then later in Accounts Payable (5-1/2 years) until my retirement (2009).

A week later I joined Dr. Barbara Banks at the Lentz Center for Asian Culture, which had been targeted for closing, and assisted her with digitizing the entire collection, events, web site, designing posters, etc. Working with Barbara was fun, much like being the cherry atop a delicious banana split, and more importantly, I gained a friend.

As a member of UNL’s UNOPA office professionals group I gained leadership opportunities and chaired several committees, including the newsletter committee (2007-2008). We designed and developed a newsletter that took third place nationally in an annual newsletter competition in 2008. In 2005-2007 I co-chaired the Career Development Committee.

This July Rich and I will have been married thirty one years. Rich has been employed at Nebraska Book since 1982, is their SAP officer and general ledger specialist/senior programmer analyst. Our family is small. We have two sons, Chris Sanders (Lincoln, NE) and Doug Sanders (Joplin, MO), two granddaughters, six step-grandchildren, and one spoiled maltese (Skipper).

It is amazing that I’ve become a part of another very fun group of people. How many banana splits can there be in one life?

## Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors



UNL Ph.D. Grad Michelle M. Maresh (2010) and UNL M.A. Grad Jenna Catlett (2008) at the Big Red Road Show

**Reynaldo Anderson (Ph.D., 1995):** Book Chapters Anderson, R., & Harris, K. (in press). Black history dot com: The role of social media in linking the Black Atlantic in the Barack Obama campaign. In M. German & P. Banerjee, (Eds.), *Global migration, technology & transculturation*. St. Charles, MO: Lindenwood University Press. Brown, R., Anderson, R., & Thompson, J. (in press). Out with the 'old' and in with the 'new' hegemony, sports and representations of Black male athletes. In C. Campbell, R. Brown, C. Jenkins, & K. LeDuff, (Eds.), *Race and news: Critical perspectives*. New York: Routledge. Anderson, R., Buckley, P., & Tindall, N. (2011). Black Greek-letter fraternities and masculinities. In M. W. Hughey & G. Parks (Eds.), *Black Greek-letter organizations: New empirical and critical thoughts*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press. Anderson, R., Thompson, J., & Harris, N. (2010). Fear of a Black planet: Michael Jackson, Eddie Murphy, Michael Jordan and the globalization of Black masculinity during the Reagan era. In K. Mofitt & D. Campbell (Eds.), *The 1980's: A critical and transitional decade*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield/Lexington Books. Anderson, R. (2010). The Kansas City Black Panther Party and the repression of the Black Revolution, In J. Jeffries (Ed.), *On the ground: The Black Panther Party in communities across America*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press. Community and Awards Exemplary Community Leadership Award awarded by Gov. Jay Nixon State of Missouri. Elected President of School Board Imagine Career Academy Charter Schools. \*100% of Imagine H.S. graduating seniors were accepted into 2-4 year colleges

**Diana Carlin (Ph.D., 1985):** Diana Carlin organized the first-ever political debates in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia in May 2010 through a project with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. She also spent two weeks in Kabul, Afghanistan working with faculty and students at three private universities to develop a curriculum in British Parliamentary Debate which included public speaking, argumentation, and persuasion basics. Carlin serves as chair of the board of directors of Kids Voting USA and is currently a professor of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. She has recently been appointed as Associate Vice President for Graduate Education and Professor of Communication at St. Louis University starting June 1.

**Daniel Cronn-Mills (Ph.D., 1995):** Recipient of the Nadine B. Andreas Creative/Research Faculty Grant, \$9,000. (2010, Summer). Department of Communication Studies, College of Arts & Humanities, Minnesota State University, Mankato. New book coming in spring 2011 with Dr. Stephen Croucher. Citation is: Croucher, S. M., & Cronn-Mills, D. (in press). *Religious misperception: The case of Muslims and Christians in France and Britain*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

**Scott Dickmeyer (Ph.D., 2001)** Scott is currently serving as the Interim Associate Dean at the College of Liberal Studies at UW-La Crosse. In addition to his teaching and administrative responsibilities, he is a regular facilitator/teacher for Certificate Programs in Business through the Small Business Development Center at UW-La Crosse.



UNL Ph.D. Grads Wes Durham (2004), Karla Bergen (2006), Leah Bryant (2003), Chad McBride (2003), and Paul Schrodt (2003) in May 2003 with advisor Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite

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*The Koenig Kellas Academic Family: Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas with advisees UNL Ph.D. Grads Cassandra LeClair-Underberg (2008) and Erin Willer (2009) and current Ph.D. students Kristen Carr and Haley Kranstuber*

**Michelle M. Maresh (Ph.D., 2009):** Named "Family Support Network Coordinator" for the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi McNair Scholars Program. Elected "Board Secretary" for the Corpus Christi Southside Rotary Club. Nominated for the "Distinguished Alumni Award" at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Two recent publications: (with fellow Nebraska alum!) Wheelless, V. E., Witt, P.L., Maresh, M. M., Bryand, M. C., & Schrodt, P. (in press). Instructor credibility as a mediator of instructor communication and students' intent to persist in college. *Communication Education*. Maresh, M. M. (in press). Battling "ana" with discursive reframing: Women's counterstories of a stigmatized illness. *Texas Speech Communication Journal*.

**Aysel Morin (Ph.D., 2004):** Aysel received NCA's 2010 Critical and Cultural Studies Outstanding Article Award.

**Rob Patterson (Ph.D., 1997):** I teach management communication in the McIntire School of Commerce and frequently teach a University Seminar in rhetorical theory and application at the University of Virginia. I was on a panel with Reynaldo Anderson, Ron Lee, and Aysel Morin at ECA last year analyzing backlash discourse in the Obama presidency. A personal and career highlight this past year was being able to teach aboard the Summer 2010 voyage of Semester-at-Sea. I taught great historical speeches and advanced public speaking on the voyage. We traveled to nine countries



*UNL Ph.D. Grad Rob Patterson (1997) in Athens*

and sailed almost 14,000 nautical miles over 65 days. I got to bring my entire family on the voyage.

**Marcus Powers (B.A., 2005; J.D., 2008):** Assistant Attorney General at the Nebraska Attorney General's Office working on both in-state and interstate water and natural resources litigation

**C. Thomas Preston, Jr. (Ph.D., 1986):** Dr. C. Thomas Preston, Jr. is Professor of Communication at Gainesville State College in Oakwood, GA, where he keeps busy on the appointment and tenure review committee, the University System of Georgia Asia Council, and the curriculum committee for the School of Humanities. He also advises two competitive clubs--the Mediation Club and the Debate Forensics Interpretation Club. The GSC Mediation Team won first place (out of 36) in every category of performance in Fall of 2010 at a district tournament at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA, and finished in the Final Four of the national tournament at Drake University in Des Moines. The DFI Club, which regularly wins sweepstakes awards, is in the midst of raising funds for students who have qualified to attend national tournaments. Although his point of emphasis is teaching these days, Dr. Preston keeps up an active research program in sports communication, intercultural communication, and argumentation. For the third time, he was selected as a faculty member for the University System of Georgia Study Abroad Program in China for the Maymester of 2011. This will be his sixth visit to China as a teacher.

## Fall 2010 Dean's List

Melanie Lee Allen	Brittanie Nicole Lopez
Hailey Jean Artz	Hannah Leigh Maher
Michael Stephen Boal	Margaret Diane Merrill
Sara Anne Breaw	Adam Michael Musich
David Joseph Carrig	Leslie Rose Nelson
Brittney Ann Ernesti	Cassie Rose Olson
Hallie Ann Ewing	Molly Therese Peck
Natalie Kae Fech	Seth Michael Peterson
John Anthony Goodwin	Arielle Jenay Raymond
Lauren Marie Huston	Sunny Caprice Russell
Jourdyn Lee Kaarre	Emily Anne Schlichting
Elizabeth Lucille Kinnel	Sara Marie Steinkruger
Alexis Marie LaFleur	Emily Louise Veys
Kailas Mikal Ledbetter	Xingjian Wang
Alexis Nicole Lehman	

# Department of Communication Studies

## Departmental Accomplishments

Academic Year 2010/2011



*Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite and Grad Students Sarah Dirks, Haley Kranstuber, Amanda Holman, Kristen Carr, Tiffany Wang, and Sarah Steimel before Dr. Braithwaite's NCA Presidential Address*

### FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Communication Studies Faculty published 12 refereed articles in journals, including:

- *Argumentation and Advocacy*
- *Communication Quarterly*
- *Communication Studies*
- *Communication Teacher*
- *Management Communication Quarterly*
- *Personal Relationships*
- *Social Epistemology*
- *Western Journal of Communication*

Additionally, they published 4 book chapters in volumes such as:

- *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*
- *The Dark Side of Close Relationships II*

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

- Charles A. Braithwaite, Best Anthology (with B. Glasrud), The Nebraska Center for the Book
- Damien Pfister, Spotlight Panel, Critical/Cultural Studies Division, NCA
- Damien Pfister (with D. Griffin), \$10,000 Grant-in-Aid for Nebraska Political Campaign Project, UNL
- Jordan Soliz, Top Four Papers (with C. E. Rittenour & C. A. Fowler), Communication and Aging Division, NCA

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

- Dawn O. Braithwaite, President, NCA
- Jody Koenig Kellas, Immediate Past Chair, Family Communication Division, NCA
- Jody Koenig Kellas, Nominating Committee, Publications Committee, WSCA
- Jody Koenig Kellas, Peer Review of Teaching First Year Project Leader, UNL

### GRAD STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNL Graduate Students published 2 books:

- **Bejerano, A.R.** (2010). *Fundamentals of human communication student workbook*. Retrieved from [http://wps.ablongman.com/wps/media/access/Person\\_Default/8850/9062428/login.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/wps/media/access/Person_Default/8850/9062428/login.html)
- Ward, J., Campbell, K., & **Nichols, Z.** (2010). *Essentials of Business and Professional Communications*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press.

They published 8 refereed articles in journals, including:

- *Communication Quarterly*
- *Communication Studies*
- *Health Communication*
- *International Journal of Communication*
- *Journal of Family Communication*
- *The Journal of Media Geography*
- *Violence and Victims*
- *Women & Language*



*Grad Students Sara Baker, Rachel Stohr, and Jenna Stephenson-Abetz at UNL Reception at NCA*

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*Grad Students Tiffany Wang, Sarah Steimel, Sarah Jones, Rachel Stohr, and Sara Baker at UNL Grad Student Open House Booth*

Additionally, they published 2 book chapters in volumes such as:

- *Communicative understandings of women's leadership development: From ceilings of glass to labyrinth paths*
- *The Dark Side of Close Relationships II*

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

- Arleen Bejerano, Sarah Dirks, Haley Kranstuber, Sai Sato Mumm, and Travis Bartosh, Top Panel, Training and Development Division, NCA
- Kristen Carr and Tiffany Wang, Top Student Paper, Family Communication Division, NCA
- Scott Church, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- Colleen Warner  
Colaner,  
University of Nebraska Graduate Fellowship
- Sarah Jones, Top Student Paper, Communication and Research Theory Division, WSCA
- Sarah Jones, Top Four Papers, Organizational Communication Research Division, WSCA
- Sarah Jones, Top Four Papers,



*Grad Student Getachew Dinku Godana and his wife treated the department to an Ethiopian lunch*

- Organization for Research on Women and Communication Division, WSCA
- Haley Kranstuber, Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award Honorable Mention, UNL Office of Graduate Studies
- Haley Kranstuber, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- Jessy Ohl, Top Four Papers, Media Studies Interest Group, CSCA
- Sai Sato Mumm, Certification of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council
- Sarah Steimel, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, UNL Office of Graduate Studies
- Sarah Steimel, Phyllis Japp Scholar, UNL Department of Communication Studies
- Jenna Stephenson-Abetz, Best Overall Presentation, Scholar to Scholar Session, NCA
- Tiffany Wang, Preferred Faculty, UNL Wrestling

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

- Tiffany Wang, Membership Working Committee, NCA

## FORENSICS TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The UNL Forensics Team added many wins to its list of accomplishments, including:

- Qualified 50 events to the 2011 American Forensic Association's National Individual Events Tournament (IET)
- 2011 Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensics Association (NIFA) IET Debate and Overall Champion
- 3 state champions in parliamentary debate, after dinner speaking, and extemporaneous speaking
- Seniors Caroline Casias and Cody Hrabanek, and junior Nick Herink were selected as Spirit of NIFA Award nominees
- Junior Nick Herink won Spirit of NIFA award for best representing the state of Nebraska
- Point Loma debate tournament champion in Lincoln-Douglas debate



*UNL Debate Trophies*

# Department of Communication Studies Faculty

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone, Professor, Organizational Communication

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, Interpersonal & Family Communication

Dr. Charles Braithwaite, Research Professor

Aaron Duncan, Director of Forensics

Dr. Karen Lee, Professor of Practice

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

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

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

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

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