



# The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

## From the Chair's Chair

Dear UNL Colleagues and Friends,

Well, Spring semester in Lincoln is not spring weather! We have many highlights this year:

Dr. Damien Pfister and UNL colleagues received a grant from the U.S.

Department of State to fund "Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement,"

a study and cultural exchange program centered on democracy, citizenship and civic activism for African student leaders, starting at UNL and ending in Washington, DC.



We had another successful COMM Careers event for undergraduate students. See the article by Director of Undergraduate Studies Dr. Jody Kellas for more information (page 3).

You will read about a number of research projects, publications and Top Paper Awards by faculty and graduate students in this year's newsletter. Three COMM undergraduates are presenting their papers at the Central States Communication Association meeting in Minneapolis in April.

The faculty has had great research success. For example, Dr. Jordan Soliz was named Editor of the *Journal of Family Communication*. Dr. Damien Pfister's book, *Networked Media, Networked Rhetorics: Attention and Deliberation in the Early Blogosphere* is now in press at The Pennsylvania State U Press. Dr. Carly Woods and graduate students J. Ewalt and S.

Baker published in the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. Dr. Jody Kellas and Dr. Elizabeth Suter (University of Denver) won the inaugural Monograph of the Year Award from NCA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Division for their research in *Communication Monographs* on lesbian mothers and challenges they face.

We had a very successful event with the British National Debate Team debating doctoral students Jon Carter and Jessy Ohl on government surveillance. We hope to have the British team back soon.

Our Speech & Debate team won the state tournament, which is no small feat as Nebraska fields four of the top teams nationally.

This year marked the passing of Dr. Dennis Bormann and then Dr. Phyllis Japp, both long-time members of our faculty. We miss them and our hearts go out to their families.

"CommHuskies" past and present, you are part of us and we are proud of you. We appreciate your support of the department. **GO BIG RED!**

Dawn O. Braithwaite  
Willa Cather Professor and Chair

Follow us on twitter, "like" the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies on Facebook, view our web-site: <http://comm.unl.edu/>. Stop by, call, or email me.

## Issue 11, Spring 2014

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### Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Zeth Schlenker,  
and Dawn O. Braithwaite

## Commconnect

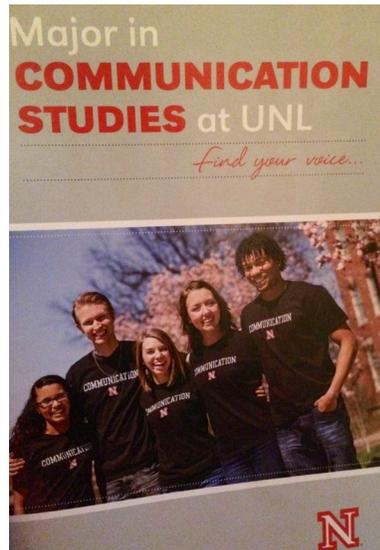
Commconnect, the undergraduate student club, is ready to make lasting impressions on the campus of UNL. This year's mission is to make new connections and expand our organization to all majors and minors across the university's campus. As a new executive board is being elected under the snazzy new name we adopted last year, more progress and growth is expected for the 2014 Spring Semester.

This semester, Commconnect has bridged a new partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission! Together, we will provide leadership opportunities as well as professional networking through events that focus on preserving, exploring and enjoying Nebraska's outdoors. Additionally, this semester we plan to continue partnering with Career Services to offer our members assistance with their resumes, cover letters, and interviews.

Last semester, we worked with Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas to create t-shirts to advertise and promote the Department of Communication Studies! You may even recognize a few of our members and recent graduates sporting their shirts on the Communication Studies and the College of Arts and Science promotional flyers. These t-shirts sold like hotcakes, but don't worry! If you'd like one for yourself, we still have some available. For t-shirt information and

orders, email us at: [commclub.unl@gmail.com](mailto:commclub.unl@gmail.com).

The goals of our organization are focused on creating ethical leaders of tomorrow by fusing connections on-campus and in our community. These goals will prepare our members for success in their future careers. Commconnect has been working hard to identify additional ways we, as young professionals, can impact our community. Therefore, our club welcomes all UNL students, regardless of major, to engage in meaningful communication that will impact our surrounding communities.



With these goals in

mind, Commconnect is opening the Spring 2014 semester with recruitment and elections for new executive positions in our club! We have another exciting semester ahead and are looking forward to making new connections!  
—Commconnect President,  
Kayla Simms



For Questions about COMMconnect, contact our executive board at [commclub.unl@gmail.com](mailto:commclub.unl@gmail.com)



**Commconnect  
has bridged a new  
partnership with the  
Nebraska Game  
and Parks Commission!**



## From the Communication Studies Department Undergraduate Director

I recently had a student in my office who had a job interview set up for the next day. She was excited but a bit nervous because she hadn't had much interview experience. To assist her, I explained the core competencies of Advocate-Negotiate-Relate (ANR) and the ways in which these competencies connect with COMM classes and potential career paths. If you don't know what ANR is or if you are a COMM major who needs help talking about your major, this article is for you!

Over the last few years, the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies have worked to articulate the core competencies we want our majors to master before graduating. These include advocating, negotiating, and relating.

To **advocate** means, broadly, to make a persuasive case. We might advocate on behalf of a cause, a person, or an idea. For example, in classes like Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement and Small Group Communication students advocate for causes through class projects. For example, Jessy Ohl's students organized a fundraiser to support the Malone Center—an organization that assists underserved children. They argued about what cause to support, how to best support it, what to do, and then they implemented the strategy – a hot dog sale on campus that raised over \$500 for the center. Among other things, this experience could prepare students for a career in nonprofit organizing which requires attention to social issues and coordinating people around goals in order to enact positive change in the community.

To **negotiate** means, broadly, to open up space for creative communication. For example, in her Organizational Communication class, Dr. Kathy Krone shows video clips and walks students through transcripts of scenes from the movie *Office Space* in order to illustrate for students

how people can negotiate rules, needs, and interests in an organization. Understanding how this works prepares students for any number of careers and how to think and talk differently than others. Ultimately, we are providing leadership to students for a different *kind* of communication (Krone, personal communication, February 18, 2014). This should give majors a level of expertise that makes their Communication Studies degree an asset during the job search and in life.

Finally, to **relate** means to competently connect and interact with others. In my interpersonal communication class, for example, I have students complete a survey in which they indicate whether they are “strongly for” or “strongly against” a series of hot topics. I then pair up students who have opposite opinions and ask them to relate according to the principles of dialogic listening which stresses an attitude of collaborative meaning-making and perspective-taking as opposed to an attitude of ethnocentrism. Students interviewing for a job could use this example from class and their mastery of dialogic listening as evidence that they are well equipped to effectively manage their repertoire of communicative choices (Braithwaite).

The core competencies of ANR are what we want students to master before they graduate. They also provide language for students to articulate what they've learned to employers and connect these competencies to the position for which they are interviewing. Happy articulating!  
-Jody Kellas, Director of Undergraduate Studies



Advocate

Negotiate

Relate

For possible career pathways, see our website at <http://comm.unl.edu/ugrad>

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Anyone who has completed a graduate degree knows that it is a quite a journey. It can be filled with moments of doubt. But these moments of doubt often pale in comparison to the personal accomplishments and intrinsic rewards that come with



being a teacher-scholar. One of the roles of faculty and colleagues in the department is to offer support to graduate students during any tough times of graduate school. Often students will come to a faculty

member doubting her or his capabilities and aptitude for the program in comparison to students who they believe “just get it.” While it may appear that others are simply progressing through the program effortlessly, that is not the case. In graduate school, we often focus too much on our own struggles while not recognizing the “ups and downs” of our colleagues’ experiences as they complete the degree.

*“I have yet to meet a student who **‘just gets it.’**”*

Rather, most everyone is working extremely hard building on their strengths, addressing any limitations, and putting in great effort to develop into the scholar she or he becomes as they earn the graduate degree. Why am I using my column to write about this? In my opinion, these struggles are worth it because the payoff of having a career in which one gets to teach and research is truly a blessing. Yet, too often, struggles and self-doubt in graduate school are unspoken and considered atypical. In reality, they are very much the norm. My hope, however, is that the culture of academia becomes one in which communal support is also very much the norm. Whereas faculty and colleagues can assist in this, I also believe there is great opportunity for graduate alums to be a support system for current graduate students and a vessel for academic advice and wisdom. If you are an alum of our graduate program and would not mind being a “go-to” person for graduate students when they need advice about completing dissertations, teaching, job searches, and other facets of graduate life, please let me know. Nothing is more valuable than learning about the experiences of someone who has completed the journey that you are on currently.

—Dr. Jordan Soliz



# Spotlighting Graduate Alumnus Dr. Chad McBride

## Associate Professor and Chair of Communication Studies at Creighton University

### When did you earn your degree at UNL?

I moved to Lincoln in August 2000 and graduated with my PhD in December 2003.

### Why did you choose a degree in

**Communication Studies?** I was actually a Communication major as an undergraduate at TCU, and I chose it because I was really drawn to understanding human behavior and came to learn how integral communication was in constructing our realities, shaping our relationships, and generally making our way through the world. When I went to pursue a PhD, I wanted to study interpersonal and family communication because our relationships are part of our common human experience. We enter this world with relationships, and we will hopefully leave it with a constellation of relationships.

### What brought you to study Communication

**at UNL?** I knew I wanted to study families and relationships and one of the professors at TCU told me, "My grad school friend, John Caughlin, is teaching up in Nebraska and really likes it there." I also knew of Dr. Braithwaite's work so I applied and was lucky enough to get in.

### What have you been doing since leaving

**UNL?** I have been a faculty member at Creighton University in Omaha. I often joke that my plan when going to UNL was "three years and out of Nebraska." When I was on the job market, I applied all over the country and landed just down the road in Omaha. I was fortunate to land a first job that was a great fit and a place where both research and teaching are valued and supported. I have been department chair here since August 2013. Obviously, I do more than work—I have a full life with a great partner and home; we enjoy traveling and going to a lot of concerts.

### What is a favorite memory of your time in

**Communication Studies at UNL?** I have so many memories from my time there (e.g., cold Husker football game days, laughing at happy hours with fellow students and faculty, hanging out at the Braithwaite home for the influential book course, having my mind blown in Dr. Japp's Burke seminar), but it is funny looking back now that the ones that really resonate with me all seem to center around

research teams. I'll never forget our nightmare research experiment on interpersonal deception my first semester with Karla Bergen, Paul Schrodt, and Leah Bryant, or brainstorming an instructional research project with Shawn Wahl on Monday nights at Yia Yia's Pizza, or being knee deep in coding interview data on a phone conference with Leslie Baxter, Dawn, and Paul. The relationships I developed in both the social and work times have been invaluable to me in my time since UNL.



### In what ways can alumni support our

**department and students?** When we are able to give back to the department, especially in the form of supporting student travel and honoring the memory of Phyllis Japp, it's always a great idea. Also you can offer to talk in current graduate seminars, find young scholars who have similar interests, see if there's a research project you can develop, or offer to write letters of support for others' job applications or tenure cases.

### What advice do you have for current

**undergraduate/graduate students in our department?** Foster relationships with the faculty and other students who are currently there. These begin the relational networks that are so important in your life and career. Also, appreciate the opportunity to read important works and have big conversations because, even if you choose to become faculty in a supportive department, it will become more and more difficult to be able to do these bigger picture things with your focused research projects, teaching, and service responsibilities. I also tell current students, when they ask, that your time at UNL is only partially your own, but your time after is yours. You can decide what kind of career you want and what kind of scholarly life you want to pursue, but it is important to lay good groundwork while you are there. And even though it is important to work and learn while you are there, take time for yourself too. Go out with friends, laugh, and make memories of your own.

## HELP THE DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS

- Has UNL Communication Studies made a difference in your life and career?
- Do you see value in your Communication degree?
- Have you ever attended a departmental event, guest speaker, NCA reception, department honors reception, received travel support, or taken part in speech & debate over the years?
- Is there a Communication professor who made a special effort toward your education?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you benefitted directly from alumni donations to the department. *Annual and monthly donations make an enormous difference in what we can do for students.*

Visit with Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite about donation opportunities:

**Communication Studies General Fund.** Brings experts to campus, recruits new students, hosts NCA receptions, helps undergraduate and graduate students attend events:

<https://nufoundation.org/unl/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/department-of-communication-studies>

**Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund.** Funds help graduate students across areas with conference and research expenses: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>. Dr. Japp and her daughter Debra have both contributed to the fund and the family suggested the fund for donations in Phyllis’ memory.

Visit with Director of Speech & Debate Aaron Duncan about donating to the team. We have a critical need these next two years to raise additional support for travel as the national tournaments are in Tempe, Arizona, and Portland, Oregon. Aaron and the coaches need significant help to get the students there.

**Donald O. Olson Memorial Fund for Speech & Debate.** Funds go for team travel and scholarships: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-donald-o-olson-memorial-fund-for-forensics-01041680?fundId=01041680>

One-time or recurring gifts can be set up easily via the UNL Foundation: <https://nufoundation.org/unl/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/department-of-communication-studies>. (A number of alumni and faculty donate monthly). We can provide information on estate giving.

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT  
AND  
WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL!

## Interview with Undergraduate Alumnus Justin Fujan

Justin Fujan graduated with his BA and a major in Communication Studies in the Spring



of 2007. He describes his career and how the major helped give him his start in this interview. Justin has served as a resource for Communication Studies majors in the department's career events for undergraduate students.

**What have you been doing since leaving UNL?** Since leaving UNL, I've been working in the field of elder care. I started out as a Memory Care Specialist with Tabitha Health Care and am now doing community outreach with Tabitha.

**Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies?** I chose to major in Communication Studies because the field encompasses so much, which appealed to me due to my varied interests.

**How has your communication degree helped you in your life and career?** My degree has helped me learn what it takes to reach diverse populations; what it takes to be an effective bridge between an organization and its customers, as well as the larger community. Building relationships, within the community, is

an enormous component of my job. To build successful and meaningful relationships, one must demonstrate the ability to relate to others. Organizations will always need leaders who excel at building genuine, lasting relationships.

**What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL?** The opportunity to take independent classes, focused on intergenerational communication, with Dr. Soliz. This helped solidify my passion for gerontology and elder care.

**In what ways can alumni support our department and students?** Being a resource for current students within the department.\*

**What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department?** Talk to as many professionals, within your field (s) of interest, as possible. Ask questions. Start networking. Do this sooner than later.

**Find Your Voice:  
DISCOVER the  
promise and possibility  
of COMMUNICATION**

**\*How Can You Be a Resource for a current student? Check out ways you can help Communication Studies financially,**

<https://nufoundation.org/unl/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/department-of-communication-studies>

## Western States Communication Association Names Braithwaite Distinguished Scholar

Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite was named the Western States Communication Association Distinguished Scholar, receiving the award at the association's conference in Anaheim, California. The award was created in 2008 to recognize one member per year who has made sustained contributions to the study of human communication and has influenced the way scholars and students think about the nature, function and scope of communication.



In his speech the award's presenter shared, "Our awardee's scholarly achievements are both substantial and numerous. She has been a pioneer in scholarship in the field of family communication—as both the quality and the span of her scholarship attests. She has indeed made a sustained and significant contribution to Communication Studies." He continued, "Many

of the accolades come from her former students, all of whom are now successful scholars in their own right. For example, Paul Schrodtt offers that our awardee 'represents an exemplar of how to balance research productivity with pedagogical acumen, administrative skill, and a commitment to service'... Loreen Olson, another of her former students, aptly expresses this commitment, stating 'Her promotion of family communication and dedication to its scholarship has created several generations of scholars who are following in her footsteps. The area of family communication will benefit for years as a result of her scholarship and the legacy of scholars she has mentored (and continues to mentor).'"

Braithwaite expressed deep appreciation to her own professors, colleagues, and her research collaborators, many of them current and former students.

## UNL Communication Studies Professor, Dr. Bill Seiler, Wins Basic Course Distinguished Faculty Award



Dr. Angela M. Hosek (Ph.D. 2011, pictured center) and Dr. Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D. 2012, pictured right) were excited to honor their dissertation advisor Dr. Bill Seiler (pictured left) as he received an inaugural NCA Basic Course Distinguished Faculty Award at the 99th Annual NCA Convention held in Washington, D.C., in November 2013.

## Dr. Charles Braithwaite Traveling to Sweden and Russia

Dr. Chuck Braithwaite, Senior Lecturer in the Department and editor of *Great Plains Quarterly* will be traveling to Lund University (Sweden) in May 2014. He was awarded a fellowship from The Center for



Dr. Braithwaite teaching a Global Classroom Project in 2013.

Middle Eastern Studies at Lund to visit the campus and become familiar with faculty, research areas, and teaching specialties in order to plan future collaboration between UNL and Lund University. Research on the Middle East has existed in Lund since the university's founding in 1666.

During Fall 2014, Dr. Braithwaite will be traveling to Tyumen State University in

western Siberia (Russia) after being awarded a Senior Fulbright Specialist Grant. He will work with faculty, administrators and students to enhance and expand existing video conferencing courses between UNL and Tyumen. The campus is located just west of the Ural Mountains and is considered to be the "Gateway to Siberia."

Dr. Braithwaite is also serving on the UNL Speakers Bureau. He has given numerous presentations to various community groups on African-Americans on the Great Plains and American Indian higher education.



Dr. Braithwaite introduces a speaker in Jan. 2014

## Zeth Schlenker January 2014 Ovation Award Recipient

2014's first College of Arts & Sciences Ovation Award went to Communication Studies work/study junior, Zeth Schlenker, for his work in our department.

His nominators wrote:

"Zeth has been an essential part of Communication Studies since he began in our department. He has willingly taken on whatever project he was given—from copying to cleaning up our tech area and writing instructions so we can all effectively use the resources. As a computer major, his expertise was invaluable when we redesigned our site. Not only is he good at whatever he's asked to do, he does it with a smile, is consistently friendly and asks if he can help. Zeth is a great asset to Communication Studies."



**AN OVATION FOR ZETH!!**

## UNL Speech & Debate Team Highlights



The Debate Team after winning the Central Missouri University Tournament.

The Speech & Debate Team is in the process of closing out another successful season. The debate team recently traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend the largest regular season debate tournament of the year held on the campus of Webster University. Junior Jeff Garst advanced to the semi-finals in the Lincoln Douglas Debate in the varsity division. In the novice division freshmen Alex Johnson and Brendan Gallow closed out the final round, taking home 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places. The speech

team is on record pace for qualifying events for nationals, already having amassed a total of 45 qualifications. At the start of the spring semester, the team traveled to Austin, Texas, to compete on the campus of University of Texas at the biggest regular season speech tournament of the semester. The team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall out of more than 50 schools.

The weekend was highlighted by first place finishes from seniors Grace Kluck in Dramatic Interpretation and Josh Planos in Informative Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation.

The speech team will travel to Tempe, Arizona, the first week in April to compete on the campus of Arizona State University at the American Forensics Association's National Individual Events Tournament. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the debate team will head to Ypsilanti, Michigan, to attend the National Forensics Association's National Tournament on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. After school adjourns in May, the team has been invited by the American Exchange Center to send a delegation of coaches and competitors to travel to Xi'an Jiaotong University, located in Xi'an, China. Xi'an University is a partner school to the University of Nebraska. The students and coaches are excited about the opportunity to teach Chinese students about public speaking and debate.

—Aaron Duncan, Director of Speech & Debate

### UNL Speech & Debate Captures State Title for the Third Year in a Row!

The Nebraska State Forensics Championship took place February 15, 2014, on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The UNL team won 1st place at the tournament for the third year in a row and for the 8th time in 9 years. The tournament was highlighted by team members capturing 5 individual state championships. Individual state champions included sophomore Grace Solem-Pfeifer in Impromptu Speaking, junior Daniel Wheaton in Extemporaneous Speaking and Communication Analysis, senior Grace Kluck in Dramatic Interpretation, and senior Josh Planos in Program Oral Interpretation. Despite being open to only schools within the state, this is one of our toughest tournaments of the year. Last year four teams from the state of Nebraska placed in the top 15 at nationals. No other state in the country had more than two teams place in the top 20 at the AFA national tournament.

Speech &  
Debate  
Update

## Research in Action

# Reclaiming an Ancient Rhetoric for Contemporary Times

Prompted by Dr. Ronald Lee's Modern Rhetorical Theory class, I became interested in the ways that Jewish Rhetorics intersect with mainstream understandings of rhetorical theory.

Dominant rhetorical histories are typically rooted in Aristotelian thought and traced through Christian Enlightenment thinkers. By attending to Jewish rhetorical practice, another story is uncovered, lending insight into the ways rhetoric influenced the position of Jewish communities within Western societies.



Jewish *shtetl* Lithuania

Until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jews were denied citizenship, basic civil rights, and were required to live in ghettos. As public spaces opened at the beginning of the Enlightenment, Jewish reformers pushed for the expansion of basic rights. Unlike Spinoza who, two centuries before, advocated abandoning Jewish practice in favor of secular society, reformers, led by Moses Mendelssohn, pushed communities not toward rhetorical revolution, but reclamation.

Centuries' old practices had been largely abandoned as Jews were pushed into *shtetls*, isolating the communities from dominant society. Mendelssohn recognized that these rhetorical traditions, which had been slowly abandoned as Jews were pushed into *shtetls* aligned closely with dominant rhetorical styles of the time. Exacting knowledge of subject material and a measured delivery style were highlighted. Rabbis were pushed to reintroduce weekly sermons delivered in the vernacular, mirroring both ancient Jewish—and Modern Christian style. Mendelssohn also worked on other fronts, lobbying national governments for equal rights and making sure Jewish youths had access to secular education and entrance to local *Tischgesellschaften* (salons).

Combined with burgeoning liberal economies and the emergence of formal political states, Mendelssohn found success in 1863. Official emancipation split communities in one of two directions—either taking advantage of new opportunities offered or retreating back into closed, insular societies. This division represents the roots of progressive Jewish movements.

From here, I am working to trace the rhetorical history of Jewish communities in the United States. Whereas European Jews tended to differentiate themselves on an individual level, the United States saw more formal divisions. Future research efforts work to help us understand the rhetoric surrounding these divisions. It is possible to gain a better understanding of the struggle to maintain religious identity, while integrating into larger American society. At the same time, American public figures found themselves enmeshed in public disputes concerning how and if Jews should be integrated into larger American society. The result was a pluralistic society, intentionally constructed in a way unfamiliar to other nations.



# Department of Communication Studies

## Faculty Accomplishments

### Awards

**Dr. Jody Kellas** has won an award from the UNL teaching Council and UNL Parents Association.

### Faculty Awarded Grants

**Damien Pfister** and colleagues Patrice McMahon (Global Studies) and Linda Major (UNL Center for Civic Engagement) received a State Department grant for the institute, "**Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement.**"

**Carly Woods** was awarded a **Helen Faust Women Writers travel grant** to support her research visit to the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at Penn State University.

### UNL Communication Studies Faculty published these articles

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

Breshears, D., & **Braithwaite, D. O.** (in press). A dialectical analysis of discourses surrounding children's experiences of parental disclosures of homosexuality. *Journal of Family Communication*.

Galvin, K. M., & **Braithwaite, D. O.** (in press). Family communication theory and research from the field of Family Communication: Discourses that constitute and reflect families. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*.

Metts, S., **Braithwaite, D. O.**, Schrodtt, P., Wang, T., **Holman A., J., Nuru A. K., & Stephenson Abetz, J.** (2013). The experience and expression of emotions of stepchildren at critical events in stepfamily life. *Journal of*

*Divorce and Remarriage*, 54, 414-437.

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

**Duncan, A., & Arellano, A.** (in press) Hip Hop and Sexuality, *Teaching Media*.

**Duncan, A.**, Reimagining the Self-Made Man: Myth, Risk, and the Pokerization of America. *Western Journal of Communication*.

**Krone, K.J., & Steimel, S.J.** (2013). Cooperative struggle: Reframing intercultural conflict in the management of Sino-American joint ventures. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, 6, 259-279.

**Ohl, J., Pfister, D.S., Griffin D., and Nader, M.** (2013). Lakoff's theory of moral reasoning in Presidential campaign advertisements, 1952-2008. *Communication Studies* 64 (5): 488-507.

**Koenig Kellas, J., & Suter E.**, Accounting for lesbian families: Lesbian mothers respond to discursive challenges. *Communication Monographs*, 79, 475-498. (NCA GLBT Division's Article of the Year).

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

**Koenig Kellas, J., Willer, E. K., & Trees, A. R.** (2013). Communicated perspective-taking: Spouses' perceptions of each others' behaviors during stories of marital stress. *Southern Communication Journal*, 78, 326-251.

## Faculty Publications (continued)

Thorson, A., Rittenour, C., **Koenig Kellas, J.**, & Trees, A. R. (in press). Quality interactions and family storytelling. *Communication Reports*.

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

**Woods, C.S.** (in press). Repunctuated feminism: Marketing menstrual suppression through the rhetoric of choice. *Women's Studies in Communication*. 36 (3).

**Woods, C.S.**, **Ewalt, J.P.** & **Baker, S.J.** (2013). A matter of regionalism: Remembering Brandon Teena and Willa Cather at the Nebraska History Museum. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 99 (3), 341-363.

## Communication Studies Faculty Publish Papers

**Pfister, D.S.** (2014). The Timeliness of the New (Networked) Rhetoric: On Critical Distance, Sentiment Analysis, and Public Feeling Polls. In *Disturbing Argument: Selected papers from the 2013 NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation*, ed. Catherine Palczewski, (Ed.) (United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis).

## UNL Faculty Keynotes at National Communication Conference

**Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite** was a 2013 keynote speaker at the National Communication Association's Hope Conference for Faculty Development in Holland, Michigan.

## UNL Community Outreach

**Dr. Jody Kellas** was the keynote speaker for "Creating Our Stories: Relax ... Renew ... Rejoice," at the 234th annual women's retreat at Westminster Presbyterian Church in January, 2014.

**Dr. Jordan Soliz and Dawn O. Braithwaite** both presented about communication research for the UNL Grand Rounds training for University of Nebraska-Lincoln Counseling and Psychological Services.

## Recipient of Presidential Citation

Communication Studies faculty member **Dr. Damien Pfister** received a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service from the Association for the Rhetoric of Science & Technology at the NCA convention in November.

## Communication Studies in the Media

**Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite** was cited in the *New York Times* article, Changing American Family—on voluntary kin: <http://nyti.ms/18TEgrp>

**Dr. Dawn O. Braithwaite** appeared as a source for the Omaha World Herald article "Blended Families Can Add Emotional Stress to the Holidays" <http://www.omaha.com/article/20131224/OMS16/312229941>

**Dawn O. Braithwaite** appeared on National Public Radios "On-Point" via WBUR Boston, discussing family reunions and her research on rituals.

**Jon Carter, Carly Woods, and Jessy Ohl** were interviewed on NET Radio Friday, Oct. 18, about the upcoming debate with the British National Team: <http://netnebraska.org/public-event/music-books-lectures/british-national-debate-team-public-debate-government-surveillance>

**Dr. Aaron Duncan** and members of the UNL Speech & Debate appeared on 10-11 News Lance's Journal on KOLN-TV News. Look in the archives for Speech & Debate at <http://www.1011now.com/lancesjournal>.

**Dr. Jody Kellas** & Dr. Elizabeth Suter's award-winning study in *Communication Monographs* was featured on UNL Today: <http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/study-on-lesbian-moms-earns-national-award/>

## GTA Nominees and Award Winners



CSCA Cooper Award  
Nominee, Ray Blanton

The Cooper is awarded to this year's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant.



Josh Ewalt, named a  
Phyllis Japp Scholar

All funds from the Phyllis Japp award go directly to support graduate students with conference and research expenses.

## Graduate Student Accomplishments

### Awards

**Raymond Blanton** 2013-2014 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, Honorable Mention, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Moore, J, Grady, E. & Kienzle, J.** Top Student Paper from the Family Communication Division at NCA in Washington, DC.

### Top Papers

**Jones, S.L.** The rhetoricity of conflict and peacebuilding. Paper to be presented for the Peace and Conflict Communication division at the annual meeting of the national Communication Association. Washington, D. C. Selected as a Top Student Paper.

**Wertley, C. & Soliz, J.,** Identifying with the "other" through digital media: Facilitating positive group contact. To be presented in Seattle.

### Publications

**Ohl, J.,** CSCA Top Paper, Women's Caucus Division, Mediated Evaluations of Sarah Palin's Gender Transitioning in the 2008 Presidential Election.

**Arrellano, A.** "World Wielding Womb: Using the Body to Fight the War on Women" (in press), *Cultural Studies* ↔ *Critical Methodologies*.

**Downing, J.,** "An Ancient Modern Rhetoric: Calling Upon Traditional Rhetorical Practice in the Fight for Jewish Emancipation." The paper will be presented at the Star Panel during the RCA pre-conference at the NCA convention in Washington, D.C. in November.

**Arrellano, A.** "Performance, Dialogue, and Debriefing: Examining Frank Ocean's Coming Out" appears in *Teaching Media*, 1.3 (Spring 2013): 2-33.

**Arrellano, A.** Hobbs J. (in press) "The Use of Pathos in IPDA Debate," the *IPDA Debate Handbook*.

**Downing J.,** CSCA Top Paper, Intercultural Communication Division, Up in Smoke: Jewish-Latino Building in Williamsburg.

**Click, K.** The Gaming Research Report, *The Daily Nebraskan* [http://www.dailynebraskan.com/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/article\\_f39221b4-ad44-11e2-b49c-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.dailynebraskan.com/arts_and_entertainment/article_f39221b4-ad44-11e2-b49c-0019bb30f31a.html)

## Graduate Student Accomplishments (Continued)

**Moore, J.**, Scarduzio, J. A., Plump, B., & Geist-Martin, P. (in press). The Light and Shadow of Feminist Research Mentorship: A Collaborative Autoethnography of Faculty-Student Research. *Journal of Research Practice* (Special Issue on Research Assistantships.)

**Moore, J.**, & Spitzberg, B. (in press). Once upon a midnight stalker: A content analysis of stalking in films. *Western Journal of Communication*.

**Ohl, J.**, & Potter, J. (2013). United we lynch: Post-Racism and the (re)membering of racial violence in *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*. *Southern Communication Journal*, 78(3), 185-201

**Nuru, A. K.**, & **Wang, T. R.** (2014). "She was stomping on everything that we used to think of as a family": Communication and turning points in cohabiting (step)families. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 55, 145-163.

### Successful Defense

**Jenna Abetz**, successfully defended her dissertation on October 18, 2013. (Advisor: Dawn O. Braithwaite)

**Scott Church** successfully defended his dissertation, All Living Things are DJs: Rhetoric, Aesthetics and Remix, and graduated with his PhD in August 2013. (Advisor: Damien Pfister)

**Rachel Stohr** successfully defended her dissertation: Toward a Global Organizational Public Sphere: Non-governmental Organizing and Democratic Legitimacy in a Postmodern World. (Advisor: Damien Pfister)

**Janell Walther** successfully defended her MA thesis. (Advisor Damien Pfister)

**David Montgomerie** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on Nov. 27 at UNC Chapel Hill. David earned his MA at UNL.

### Doctoral Students Accept Faculty Positions

**Jenna Abetz** accepted a position at the University of Charleston.

**Amanda Holman** accepted a position at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Audra Nuru** accepted a position at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut.

**Sara Baker** accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University.

## Undergraduate Accomplishments

**Nick Banks** spoke with great skill and passion at the "Not Here, Not Now, Not Ever" rally at UNL on Nov. 25.

CSCA accepted papers to their Undergraduate Research Conference from **Carla Talmadge**, **Anna Samland** and **Julie Sadofsky**.

### Communication Studies Majors on Dean's List Fall 2013

Stephanie Elizabeth Banks  
Abigail Elizabeth Barla  
Amelia Rose Barrett  
Angela Nicole Barry  
Bethany Jade Bishop  
Kelsi KahleRae Boesiger  
Danielle Beverly Buschkoetter  
Joy Anna Carey  
Hannah Cecelia Coatney  
Brittney Ann Ernesti  
Caroline Elizabeth Flynn  
Caitlyn Jesse Gardner  
Lisa Ann Havermann  
Karissa Marie Jensen  
Hannah Marie Kelley  
Connor Kozisek  
Rebekah Jolene Land

## Undergraduate Accomplishments (Continued)

### Communication Studies Majors on Dean's List Fall 2013

Geoffrey Himel Ledbetter  
Kailas Mikal Ledbetter  
Hillary Ruth Naumann  
Erin Michelle Pagenkemper  
Robert Benjamin Potter  
Julie J. Sadofsky  
Jillanna Rose Scanlan  
Kayla Ann Simon  
Jessica Emily Stephenson  
Jordan Marie Steins  
Carla Jo Helen Talmadge  
Katherine Kay Wilkins  
Amanda Jo Winterstein  
Christian Xavier Yuskevich

### Dean's List 2nd Majors and Minors

Amanda Marie Barnard  
Andrew Michael Brey  
William Allen Cox  
John Erwin Dowd  
Chelsea Brianne Finnegan  
Jack Joseph Forey  
Maritza Christine Hayes  
Ashley LeAnn Hick  
Bonnie Leah Martin  
Arielle Jenay Raymond  
Megan Leigh Shumaker  
Amanda Perrin Stoffel

## Alumni Updates:

**Paul Turman (Ph.D. 2000)** has been named the South Dakota University System Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has been working for the SD Board of Regents heading up academic assessment, research, and economic development efforts.

**Audrey Fox (B.A. 2013)** works as an Analyst, Client Service and Developmental Specialist for HUMANeX VENTURES. Audrey was an intern with the organization for two years prior to working for them full-time. She works with client partners throughout the country in industries such as education, healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, retail and others to help organizations select top talented individuals into their companies and learn how to build a more positive and dynamic culture. This role incorporates sales, marketing, client service, research, consulting and presentation skills.

**Nicole Lopez (B.A. 2012)** Since graduating from UNL, Nicole Lopez has gotten engaged to a fellow UNL Alum, Michael Bettendorf! "We both graduated in 2012 and have been planning our wedding for a few months. The happy nuptials will happen in May of 2014!"

**Tiffany R. Wang (Ph.D. 2012)** contributed a Translating Research into Instructional Practice essay to the NCA Virtual Faculty Lounge in July 2013 and co-authored an article with colleagues at Illinois State, TCU, and UNL: Metts, S., Braithwaite, D. O., Schrodtt, P., **Wang, T. R.**, Holman, A. J., Nuru, A. K., & Stephenson Abetz, J. (2013). An exploratory study of experience and expression of emotions of stepchildren at critical events in stepfamily life. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*. Tiffany was also appointed Newsletter Editor for CSCA and Chapter Advisor for University of Montevallo's Lambda Pi Eta Lambda Nu Chapter.

## Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors (continued)

Tiffany's dissertation entitled "Formational Relational Turning Points In The Transition To College: Understanding How Communication Events Shape First-Generation Students' Relationships With Their College Teachers" was awarded the 2014 International Communication Association Instructional and Developmental Communication Division Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Tiffany published an article from her dissertation (Advisor: Dr. Bill Seiler): **Wang, T. R. (2014).** Formational Turning Points In The Transition To College: Understanding How Communication Events Shape First-Generation Students' Pedagogical And Interpersonal Relationships With Their College Teachers. *Communication Education*.

Tiffany was awarded a \$2000 University of Montevallo ILIUMinate Grant to purchase iPads to promote COMS 101 Foundations of Oral Communication students' information

literacy skills.

**Dusty Stanczyk (B.A., 2010)** Since graduating from UNL, Dusty was engaged and married to Erin! They are currently settling into their first home and looking to buy a dog! Since graduation Dusty has been, for the most part, working for himself. He's always had a very entrepreneurial spirit, and as a result, has done a number of different things on his own. His focus and passion lies in the realm of home renovation and contracting work. He's done landscaping, remodeling, and even some event management. Dusty and Erin also manage a wedding and event property and really enjoy that!

Dusty's Comm Studies degree prepared him for everyday interactions with clients, bankers, other sub contractors, and especially his family! Comm Studies rocks!

## Transitions

This year we are sad to report we lost two Emeritus Professors from our academic community.

Dr. Phyllis Japp died on Monday, December 2, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, following a sudden illness. She was surrounded by her family. Dr. Japp, or



Phyllis, as she was lovingly called by both her colleagues and students, was a mentor, teacher, and scholar who retired recently from the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Phyllis earned her BA (German) and MA (American History) from the

University of Nebraska at Omaha, and her PhD (Communication Studies) in 1986 from UNL. She was hired by her alma mater, where she served as an assistant and associate professor, and director of graduate studies. Her scholarship

focused on discourse related to health, healing, and the environment, and on communication ethics and rhetorical and feminist cultural theory.

Phyllis collaborated on a number of books and published chapters and critical essays in several scholarly anthologies and journals. She received the Central States Communication Association's Outstanding Teacher Award and Distinguished Book Awards from both the Health Communication and Applied Communication Divisions of the National Communication Association. Phyllis believed her students were her most significant contributions to the discipline. She encouraged excellence from them and was supportive and proud of their achievements. Her students, in turn, admired her intellect, wit, and professionalism. Phyllis embodied the virtues of a scholarly life. She believed that teaching well and

## Transitions (continued)

writing well were profound obligations. She valued intellectual diversity and advised her students to “not hurry,” “read good stuff,” and to “think before you write.” She was beloved for her capacity to create safe conversational spaces for students and simultaneously to push them beyond their comfort zones. Her professional legacy will be former students who continue to take risks, challenge established ideas, pose socially relevant questions, and pursue thoughtful answers.

While a faculty member at UNL, Phyllis’s students and colleagues would often find her at The Mill, a coffee house in Lincoln. Phyllis loved conversation so she gladly postponed her reading and writing to listen and to chat, usually in that order. She listened respectfully, and when she did speak her insights were tempered with humility and humor. She preferred the thought-provoking question to the statement of her own opinion.

Phyllis is survived by her husband, Lyle, two children—Debra of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and John (Janet) of Knoxville, Tennessee—two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and five siblings. She adored her family and spent much of her last two years collaborating professionally with Debra, a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at St. Cloud State University. Phyllis and Debra co-authored several scholarly works and shared a wonderful mother-daughter-colleague-best friend relationship. Her family and friends will remember her for her love of reading, joy of learning, and an appreciation of nature. She lived a life of integrity, quiet dignity, and deep faith. We miss her, but are better for having had her in our lives.

Those who wish to honor Phyllis may do so by donating to the “Phyllis Japp Scholars Fund” at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which supports student research. Donations may be made at <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>, or by check to the NU Foundation at 1010 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln NE 68508. Indicate “Phyllis Japp fund” on the memo

line. For assistance, contact Victor Martinez at 402-458-1185.

### Dr. Dennis Boorman



Colleagues at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln report the sad news that Dr. Dennis Bormann passed away on August 3, 2013, after an extended illness. Dennis came to UNL in 1966 and was on our faculty for 39 years as a Professor of Rhetoric, retiring in 2005. He served as Interim Chair of the department from 1975-77.

He was born November 7, 1935, in South Dakota. He earned his BA at the University of South Dakota in 1957. As an undergraduate, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa (Senior Men's leadership honorary), Tau Kappa Alpha (Forensics honorary), Sigma Theta Epsilon (Methodist Men's Fraternity), and Alpha Tau Omega. He earned his MA and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa completing his dissertation in 1968 under the direction of Donald Bryant. Dennis served in the Army and was honorably discharged in 1965.

While at Iowa, Dennis met his wife Brenda. They married in 1962 and she also taught courses in our department for 17 years before her retirement. Between Dennis and Brenda, they had 52 years of service to the department’s students. Dennis and Brenda raised their family in Lincoln and retired in Lincoln.

Dennis’ work in rhetoric took a special focus in George Campbell. Among his scholarship, he published “George Campbell's Cura Prima on Eloquence” in the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* in 1988. His article, “Some ‘Common Sense’ about Campbell, Hume, and Reid: The Extrinsic Evidence” was published as a lead article in *QJS* in 1985. The article was nominated for the National Communication Association’s James Winans-Herbert Wichelns award. Fluent in German and with a love of travel, Dennis pursued scholarship and teaching opportunities, starting a Fulbright at Goethe Universitaet, Frankfurt,

## Transitions continued

Germany. Of his many international contributions, he served as a Guest Professor at the University of Hannover, Germany, for the Summer semester, 1992. He and Elizabeth Leinfellner have several articles and translations together including *Adam Mueller's Twelve Lectures on Rhetoric: A Translation with a Critical Essay* (1979) and "On the Art of Listening," in *German Essays on Science*, edited by Wolfgang Schirmacher (1996). He was invited to international conferences and received travel awards, for example, a Woods Faculty Fellowship, for research on eighteenth-century German rhetorical and poetic theory, Philipps-Universitaet, Marburg, Germany (1973) and the Institute for International Affairs Archives of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland (1995). Dennis was very proud of his students, both undergraduate and graduate. He taught 21

different courses at both levels at Nebraska over the years. He directed ten doctoral dissertations. He received several teaching awards and nominations, most recently a "Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students" from the UNL Parents Association and Teaching Council (2000).

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ernest G. Bormann. He is survived by his wife Brenda, his daughter Kathy Bunn, husband Jeff, granddaughter Randi and her fiancé Steven Shiffermiller; his daughter Liz Dennis, husband Todd, granddaughter Sarah, and Dennis' sister Grace and her husband Delmer Heymeyer. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

## Department of Communication Studies

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone  
Professor  
Organizational Communication

Dr. Karen Lee  
Professor of Practice  
Rhetoric and Public Culture

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

Dr. Damien Pfister  
Assistant Professor  
Public Deliberation, Digital Media,  
Network Culture, and Rhetorical Theory

Dr. William J. Seiler  
Professor  
Instructional Communication

Dr. Jordan Soliz  
Associate Professor  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Interpersonal & Family Communication

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

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

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

Professor Kathy Castle  
Director of COMM 286 and  
Distance Education