



The COMM Husker

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Department of Communication Studies Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR'S CHAIR

Dear Communication Studies Students, Colleagues & Friends,

It was grand to see many of you at our reception at the 100th National Communication Association convention in Chicago. We are proud of our current undergraduate and graduate students and alumni. I cannot begin to describe my feelings of pride at your accomplishments, the longstanding relationships you have with our faculty and with each other.

Speaking of accomplishments, did you know that two of the four current regional communication association Presidents hail from our program: Leah Bryant at CSCA and Thomas Flynn at ECA. Three of nine people elected to NCA governing committees are also UNL alumni: Leah Bryant, Angela Hosek, and Tiffany Wang. This is just one way you all are distinguishing yourselves in business, government, and the academy.

We hosted the British National Debate Team's second visit to Lincoln on November 17th in the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The UNL and British debaters squared off on the topic "Are Social Media a Threat to Human Creativity?" The turnout was extraordinary—1023 attended! Others listened via radio and web, tweeting in questions for the debaters. PhD students Adam Blood and Jon Carter were brilliant debaters as were our visitors from the UK. This was one of the select E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues events. Dr. Carly Woods of our faculty coordinated the U.S. tour



for the debaters. Undergraduate Students are distinguishing themselves. The Speech students captured their fourth straight Big Ten Tournament title in February. Our COMM Club has had a very successful year and great leadership. Twenty African undergraduate student leaders spent a month in Lincoln on a State Department grant. Dr. Damien Pfister was one of the coordinators of the grant and accompanied the students to Civil Rights sites in Birmingham, Alabama. We have our annual Honors and Awards Ceremony scheduled for April 12th and have much to celebrate.

The department is delighted to announce that we have hired two faculty members. Dr. Aaron Duncan, who is our Director of Speech & Debate, is now a Professor of Practice. Angela Palmer-Wackerly, who is coming out of Ohio State University, will join our faculty in August as an Assistant Professor. She specializes in interpersonal and health communication.

It has been a season of books: Dr. Damien Pfister's *Networked Media, Networked Rhetorics: Attention and Deliberation in the Early Blogosphere* (Penn State U Press) came out in November. Dr. Aaron Duncan's *Gambling with the Myth of the American Dream* (Routledge) is due out any day. We will have had seven faculty books released in 18 months with Drs. Lee, Seiler and Braithwaite also publishing volumes.

Issue 13, Spring 2015

Featured Articles

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Newsletter Editors

Kathy Thorne, Zeth Schlenker, and Dawn O. Braithwaite

From the Chair's Chair (continued)

Speaking of publishing, Dr. Jordan Soliz became the Editor of the *Journal of Family Communication* in January. Jordan and his editorial assistant, Kaitlin Phillips, are doing a wonderful job with the journal.

With all the joyous news, we have experienced tremendous grief at the passing of Dr. Karen Lee in December. Karen was a faculty member since 1992 and our Chief Undergraduate Advisor.

We also note with sadness the passing of Dr. Jack Kay who was on our faculty from 1979-1990, serving as both our Department Chair and Director of Forensics. We include more information on

these cherished colleagues in this newsletter.

Keep in touch! Follow us on Twitter, "like" the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies on Facebook, and check out our website: comm.unl.edu

This spring we'll be represented at WSCA, CSCA and ICA. "CommHuskers" past and present, you are always part of us and we are proud of you. We appreciate your support.

GO BIG RED!



COMM CLUB

BY JAMIE DOWNING, COMM CLUB ADVISOR

During the second semester, Communication Club leadership has focused programming on professional and academic development activities.



Dr. Kirkland speaks to Commconnect

During the first meeting of the semester, Dr. Jake Kirkland, Assistant Director of UNL's Career Services talked to the club about preparing for February's Career Fair.

Dr. Kirkland advised students to think about what experiences make them stand out from their competition, approach elevator pitches* like a conversation, and focus on the organizations they are most interested in at the fair.

Students agreed that the discussion helped them

feel better prepared and more confident to meet potential future employers, network with experts in their fields, and explain their strengths.

The club continued its development activities at its March meeting, when Dr. Chuck Braithwaite gave a talk entitled, "Selling the Communication Studies Degree..." Or, what do you say when asked "What IS a Communication Studies Degree?"

In addition to monthly meetings, the Comm Club's executive board has spearheaded an effort to collect used books for Books4Cause. The organization collects used books, CDs, and DVDs to help fund and support the African Library Project, which helps support libraries in schools and villages in southern Africa.

The club plans on concluding its year with a social activity, participation in the department's annual DeCOMMpress event, and by installing a new executive board who will begin to lead the club in Fall 2015!

*An elevator pitch should explain what makes you – or your organization, product, or idea – unique. An effective elevator pitch is interesting, memorable, and concise. The elevator pitch should be about 20 to 30 seconds in length, the same length of time a short elevator ride would be.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

DR. JORDAN SOLIZ, GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Our department holds a series of professional workshops each year to assist graduate students in preparing for academic life. Topics range from *putting together a teaching portfolio* to *going on the job market* to the *process of academic publishing*.

Each time I am involved in these workshops, I realize the multitude of changes that have occurred in academia since I completed my PhD. For instance, the digital age offers academics more opportunities (e.g., blogs, social media, websites) to disseminate information about research and teaching as well as engage in dialogue about social issues relevant (or not!) to programs of research. Of course, there are many cautionary tales with social media as an academic (e.g., Dr. Steven Salaita*).

Thus, the rise and use of social media by academics is something that was nonexistent during my PhD



One of the "changes" since my PhD days!

days but something that is certainly part of the academic landscape today. Since part of our responsibility as graduate faculty is to prepare future faculty for life in the academy, we should always be aware of the changes and implications of these changes for our students. Therefore, I call on the wisdom and expertise of our alumni and friends of the program. What are the most salient changes in academia that you have seen since you earned your doctorate? More importantly, what are the implications for our graduate students as they become faculty?

***Steven Salaita** (born in 1975) is a controversial American scholar, author and public speaker. Mr. Salaita became noteworthy when the University of Illinois withdrew its offer of employment as a professor of American Indian Studies after attention was drawn to his controversial tweets on the 2014 Israel–Gaza conflict.

I want to hear from you!

Please send me your thoughts at jsoliz2@unl.edu.

I will share them with our graduate students and post some of these thoughts in our next newsletter.

#1. What are the most salient changes in academia that you have seen since you earned your doctorate?

#2. More importantly, what are the implications for our graduate students as they become faculty?

SPOTLIGHT ON GRADUATE ALUMNA DIANA CARLIN



1) During which years were you a student at UNL? Which degree(s) did you earn at UNL? When did you graduate? I was in the PhD program from 1980-85 but I was on campus for two years and departed with my dissertation left in fall 1982 (ABD), graduating in summer '85.

2) Why did you choose a degree in Communication Studies? Communication was my undergraduate major, and I taught high school for several years while working on my Master's. Once I decided to get a doctorate, it was a natural since that was where my teaching and research interests were. High school debate got me started down the path.

3) What brought you to study Communication at UNL? Jim Klumpp (Grad Program Director) and Gus Friedrich (Chair) both had degrees from the University of Kansas—my undergrad and master's alma mater. Jim was an undergrad and judged me as a high school debater and Gus knew me as an undergrad at KU. They both followed my career and saw me at Central States Communication Association where I was active due to my officer positions in the Kansas Speech Communication Association. When I indicated I was interested in a doctorate, they recruited me to UNL and I liked what I saw. It was a young, vibrant faculty and Lincoln was a great city.

4) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? My first position while ABD was at Washburn University. I was there for five years on a non-tenure track. I was part time for 2.5 years while I worked as a speechwriter in a governor's office and did work on education and international trade. After Washburn, I went to KU on a non-tenure track for two years and then was hired on a tenure track. I spent a total of 24 years at KU where I received tenure and a full professorship. For seven years I was the Dean of the Graduate School and International Programs. I also did a stint as interim Department Chair and Interim Assistant Provost. Jim Klumpp invited me to Maryland as a visiting professor for a semester while I worked on a grant to start the DebateWatch program

as part of the presidential debates in 1996. I spent 14 months in Washington, DC, as Dean in Residence at the Council of Graduate Schools. I am now at Saint Louis University as a professor and Associate Vice President for Graduate Education and International Initiatives.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? Working on a content analysis project with Matt Sobnosky and Jan Larsen (Anderson) my first semester for Klumpp's research methods class. We analyzed the 1980 Carter-Reagan debate over several weeks and many nights into the wee hours. That research was the start of what has been my major program of research on political debates. It truly changed my life. Plus, we had a lot of fun—many punch drunk moments trying to figure out how to categorize some of Reagan's comments.

6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? One thing I have tried to do since I graduated was contribute financially to the department annually to support graduate student activities. I know as a grad dean at two institutions how much need there is for travel funds for conferences and funds for research to complete the degree. When my dear friend and fellow grad student, Phyllis Japp, passed away, I knew that I had to contribute to her memorial Foundation Fund because it got to the heart of what graduate students need. In addition to financial support, we can all mentor. Any of us is an email away and I've been pleased to be asked to participate in two UNL students' research projects.

7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate/graduate students in our department? UNL has a great faculty and a great tradition in the communication field. Look at the track records of our alums and the current faculty and it is pretty clear that this is a top program. Take advantage of the expertise and the connections the alumni can provide for you with research or in the job hunt. For undergraduates, there is so much you can do with a communication degree and adding a master's or a doctorate opens many doors—and not just in academia.

INTERVIEW WITH UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNUS, TUCKER LANE



1) During which years were you a student at UNL and when did you graduate? Which degree(s) did you earn at UNL? I was a student at UNL from 2007 – 2012. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. I was also the varsity heavyweight on the Husker wrestling team for four years.

*Outstanding
Communication
Engenders
Outstanding Trust*

2) What have you been doing since leaving UNL? Since leaving UNL, I have spent the past two and a half years working at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. I have been an assistant coach with the wrestling program while pursuing my Master's in Business Administration. I have been fortunate enough to help mentor three Division I All-Americans, six Southern Conference Champions, and six Academic All-Americans.

3) Why did you choose a major in Communication Studies? I enjoy public speaking. As excellence in public speaking is a skill required in a multitude of professions, I sought a degree that would cultivate my inherent interest in the subject while challenging me with diverse audiences, environments, and situations.

4) We have a focus in the undergraduate program to teach students about three capacities: Advocate, Negotiate, and Relate. How has your communication degree helped you with one or more of these in your life and career? As a collegiate wrestling coach, my education in communication studies has been invaluable. The following lists a few of the many ways my degree has trained me to succeed:

Recruiting - I continually have to strike up new relationships with high school kids and their families. A lot of interpersonal and small group communication comes into play as I build trust with relative strangers. After

relationships have been built with high school wrestlers, coaches, and families, persuasion comes into play as I try to sell them on the benefits of getting an education at The Citadel.

Running practice - I have to find ways to motivate the team on a daily basis with both my verbal and nonverbal cues.

Resolving conflict - Whether it be issues of poor performance, floundering grades, or lack of discipline, impassioned conflict frequently arises in a Division I wrestling program. The quality of communication is paramount in determining whether issues get resolved in a productive manner. As a leader, I believe in engaging everybody—from athletes to administration—in the communication process. Outstanding communication engenders outstanding trust—a key for any successful coach-athlete relationship.

Banquets/awards ceremonies - As a representative of Citadel Wrestling, I frequently have to make speeches when our program/wrestlers are recognized.

5) What is a favorite memory of your time in Communication Studies at UNL? There are many presentations required as a Communication Studies major, and it was always fun to collaborate with my peers.

6) In what ways can alumni support our department and students? Any feedback from alumni about what they are doing with their degree is a significant help to students who may be undecided on their futures. People love to ask, "What are you going to do with your degree?"

7) What advice do you have for current undergraduate students in our department? Establish relationships with faculty early! At some point, you will need their help in advancing your career interests, and they are always willing to help if they know who you are!

UNL B.A. GRADUATE, JULIE SADOFSKY, CREDITS COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE AS SHE ENTERS THE PEACE CORPS



In May of 2014 Julie Sadofsky received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On March 2, 2015, she left for the Dominican Republic.

Julie made a twenty-seven month commitment to serve with the Peace Corps as part of a new and exciting project for the Peace Corps/Dominican Republic: the Education Literacy Project. The project addresses the needs of teachers, students and communities in low-income areas.

During her time as a volunteer, Julie is living in Santo Domingo, the capital of the country. Ms. Sadofsky's role is as a Primary Literacy Educator and Promoter in the Education sector.

What exactly does a Primary Literacy Educator and Promoter do? Julie will work to improve the availability and quality of education in the Dominican Republic.

To accomplish such an all-encompassing task, Julie will be incorporating new teaching methods that will promote literacy skills and a lifelong love of learning.

Even before she left the United States, Julie knew, without a doubt, that she would find her task especially challenging because the Dominican Republic (like most developing countries) consistently confronts the problem of educating a growing population of school children with a static or shrinking pool of resources. The Dominican Republic, in fact, according to UNESCO (2010), has one of the lowest investments in education in the northern hemisphere. In actuality, it has some of the *most* dismal education-related statistics in the world.

When it comes to her education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where Ms. Sadofsky received her B.A., Julie enthusiastically asserts: "My degree in Communication Studies has allowed me to be a competent communicator with members of my community and use my communication skills to collaborate with others, advocate better resources and tools, and negotiate new methodologies to improve youth involvement and engagement in education. Peace Corps will be one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life."



Notes on the Dominican Republic

Climate

The average temperature range is 65-95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Social life in the Dominican revolves around the family porch, where people talk and play dominoes, a national pastime.

Food and Diet

The diet consists primarily of rice, beans, yucca, plantains, sweet potatoes, potatoes, and other vegetables, along with eggs, chicken, pork, beef, and some fish. Locally grown fruits include bananas, mangoes, papayas, pineapples, guavas, and avocados.



UNL SPEECH & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS

DR. AARON DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF SPEECH & DEBATE

The UNL Speech & Debate Team is finishing up the regular season with strong showings heading into nationals. The speech team earned its fourth straight Big Ten championship at the Conference Challenge Tournament, Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 at Northwestern University. UNL led the field with a two-day point total of 165 points, ahead of second-place finisher Northwestern's 101 points. In addition to clinching a fourth team championship, UNL students captured six separate event titles. Senior Josiah BeDunnah of Lexington led the way with individual event wins in Dramatic Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation and Prose Interpretation. BeDunnah also placed first in Duo Interpretation with his partner, fellow senior Toni Karaus of Omaha. Karaus also had an individual success in Poetry Interpretation. Junior Grace Solem-Pfeifer of Omaha won the Impromptu Speaking event. With the four championships he won at this year's tournament, BeDunnah raised his career total to seven individual championships, the most in the history of the Big Ten Tournament.

The debate team finished its regular season with a victory at the Illinois State University spring Lincoln Douglas Tournament. The tournament featured many of the top teams in the country. The team was led by freshman Garret Swanson who took first place in the novice division and senior Derrick Stevens placed

second in the varsity division. The speech team has currently qualified nineteen students and 61 events for American Forensics Association's National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) with two weekends of competition left in the season. Debate has qualified eight students in Lincoln Douglas Debate to National Forensics Association's National Tournament (NFA-NT). The AFA-NIET takes place April 4-6th on the campus of Lewis and Clark



University in Portland, Oregon. The NFA-NT will be held on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio April 16th-21st.

"Are Social Media a Threat to Human Creativity?"

UNL's Speech & Debate Team took on the British National Team in an E.N. Thompson Forum on November 17, 2014. The event was held at the Lied Center in Lincoln. UNL graduate students, Adam Blood and Jon Carter performed brilliantly as an audience of 1,023 observed.



Jon Carter speaking at the E.N. Thompson debate.



An audience of 1,023 watches UNL Speech & Debate take on the British Debate Team.



Adam Blood at the podium during the debate.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS

We have had our biggest uptick in donations at a time when we are facing critical needs:

- We will be losing much of our funding for graduate student professional expenses. The **Phyllis Japp Fund** is becoming more important than ever.
- Speech & Debate is traveling to Oregon and Ohio for national tournaments. Donations to the **Donald O. Olson Fund** are needed.
- Donations to the department's **Communication Studies General Fund** cover visiting scholars and NCA reception for alumni and for recruiting.
- We do not yet have *any* scholarships for Communication Studies undergraduate majors.

We have had several people talk with us about endowing the Phyllis Japp Fund and student scholarships. And we've had a new scholarship endowed in Speech & Debate. Thank you to those who are working with Victor Martinez and others from the NU Foundation on our behalf:

vmartinez@nufoundation.org; 402-458-1185.

Recurring gifts can be set up easily via the NU Foundation (a number of alumni and faculty donate monthly). We can provide information on endowing gifts and on estate giving. Talk with Department Chair Dawn O. Braithwaite: dbraithwaite@unl.edu; 402 472-2069. I'll also be at CSCA. To access individual funds:

Department of Communication Studies Fund: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-department-of-communication-studies-fund-01035440>

Phyllis Japp Student Development Fund: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-phyllis-japp-student-development-fund-01100710>

Donald Olson fund for Speech and Debate: <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-donald-o-olson-memorial-fund-for-forensics-01041680>

Your support is valued and appreciated!

You are making a positive difference in the lives of students and their education.

The faculty and students of Communication Studies thank you.

RESEARCH IN ACTION

Focusing on High School Adolescents' Perceptions of the Parent-Child Sex Talk

BY AMANDA HOLMAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Adolescence was an important chapter in my life. Trust me when I tell you there were a *lot* of ups-and-downs during my teenage years, but it was in these moments that I discovered my unique voice. As an adult, it is my goal to never lose touch with this chapter of my life and the importance of acknowledging and accepting adolescents' perspectives.

This goal led me to my current research area on *adolescents' perceptions* of parent-child communication about sex and sexual health. It is well established that one of the most challenging conversations for both parents and children during adolescence is the "sex talk." Many parents shy away from these discussions expressing discomfort, lack of knowledge, and fear of their children's perceptions. I argue that the best way for parents to feel more comfortable engaging in these conversations is to spend less time on what parents *believe* are effective strategies for communication, and focus on how adolescents actually perceive these conversations.

In my most recent study, I spent several months collecting data in local high schools. In the end, 159 adolescents completed an online survey that included scales and open-ended questions about a conversation they had with their parent(s) regarding sex, as well as what they wished their parents would have said or done differently when talking to them about sex-related topics. Collectively, the findings revealed that adolescents want their parents to talk with them and, more importantly, provide details and guidance as they navigate through adolescence and make decisions regarding sexual health and relationships.

Based on the applied nature of my research, the results revealed two main recommendations for parents. First, *be prepared, informed, and confident*. Adolescents urged parents to stop being afraid and just talk to them. Many adolescents made statements encouraging their parents to talk about sex-related topics and some even acknowledged that it would "be uncomfortable" but wanted the parents to talk to them anyway. Adolescents perceived parents

sharing their personal experiences surrounding sex and relationships while growing up to be the most effective. Although this first strategy does take more forethought, if parents can better educate themselves on sexual safety, as well as share their personal experiences in relationships, they may have a better chance of being perceived as a credible source on sexual relationships.

Second, *communicate, be specific, and make it a two-way conversation*. Adolescents need a lot of guidance and information about sex-related topics, even if they often seem uninterested in their parents' thoughts. Despite this apparent lack of interest, parents should not be afraid to communicate. Further, the results of the study indicate that adolescents perceive detailed conversations about safety, emotions, and relationships as the most effective conversation in reducing their risky attitudes and behaviors. Finally, adolescents crave a more collaborative conversation and encouraged their parents to engage in more collaborative conversations where adolescents can freely ask questions and express their opinions without repercussion.

Moving forward, my research is currently under review for publication at a number of journals. Based on these initial findings, I am in the early stages of developing educational videos and other materials. The long-term goal is to create and implement educational videos and materials for both parents and adolescents based on adolescents' perceptions and input.



Amanda Holman

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. (15-16).

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.

Rittenour, C.E. & **Kellas, J.K.** (2015) Making Sense of Hurtful Mother-in-law Messages: Applying Attribution Theory to the In-Law Triad. *Communication Quarterly*, 63 (1), 62-80.

Tye-Williams, S. & **Krone, K. J.** (2015). Chaos, reports, and quests: Narrative agency and co-workers in stories of workplace bullying. *Management Communication Quarterly*, 29, 3-27.

Krone, K. J., & Gallant, L. (2014) "Tensions in Talking Diversity," *Communication Reports*, (2014, 1, 39-52).

Soliz, J. (2015) recent work published in: *Journal of Family Communication, Qualitative Research Reports in Communication, and Communication Yearbook*.

AWARDS

Dawn O Braithwaite received the Master Teacher Award, Western States Communication Association, Instructional Communication, February, 2015; Presidential Citation for Service, National Communication Association, for Co-Chairing NCA's Centennial Committee, November 2014.

Aaron Duncan received the Omicron Delta Kappa

honorary professor of the month award in October 2014; Aaron has been awarded the UNL Parents Association certificate for Contributions to Students and will receive his certificate this spring.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Pfister, D. S. (2014). *Networked media, networked rhetorics: Attention and deliberation in the early blogosphere*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press. 288 pp. In the Rhetoric and Democratic Deliberation series co-edited by J. Michael Hogan and Cheryl Glenn.

Braithwaite, D. O. & Schrod P. (Eds.). (2015). *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication: Multiple perspectives* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

BOOK CHAPTERS PUBLISHED

Wood, J. T. & **Braithwaite, D. O.** (2015). Introduction: "Teaching with case studies." In D. O. Braithwaite & J. T. Wood (Eds.). *Casing interpersonal communication: Case Studies in Personal and Social Relationships* (2nd ed.) (pp. xv-xxiv). Dubuque IA: Kendall/Hunt.

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.

Soliz, J. recent chapters published in the following edited volumes: *Communication Across the Life-Span, International Encyclopedia of Communication, Examining the Darkness of Family Communication: The Harmful, the Morally Suspect, and the Socially Inappropriate, and Developing Good Relationships: Moral Communication Across the Lifespan*.

EDITED

Soliz, J. recently co-edited a special issue of *Language and Communication* titled "Communication Accommodation Theory: Innovative contexts and applications."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

FACULTY IN LEADERSHIP

Jody Koenig Kellas is one of five UNL faculty members in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Academic Leadership Program this year.

Jordan Soliz was appointed by the NCA Committee on Committees to serve on NCA's Doctoral Education Committee; invited to be one of the faculty mentors for NCA's Doctoral Honors Seminar, summer 2015; vice-chair of the Intergroup Communication Division of the International Communication Association.

He also acts as the head coach for the 6-year-old Rangers soccer team and recently performed in a hip-hop dance (with his daughter) at Pershing Auditorium. Pictures and video available by request.

FACULTY IN THE MEDIA

Dawn O. Braithwaite was quoted in a Boston Globe November 26 article on Thanksgiving dinner: "Passing the drumstick to a new generation": <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/11/26/when-drumstick-passed-new-generation/Fwrri61ttyTilewRlyztYL/story.html>

Aaron Duncan's essay on "The Rise of the Risk

Society and the Pokerization of America" appeared in *Poker News*: <http://www.pokernews.com/news/2015/02/the-rise-of-the-risk-society-and-the-pokerization-of-america-20358.htm>

Damien Pfister's class project was featured in the Lincoln Journal Star: http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/where-s-the-best-water-fountain-on-campus-these-students/article_88349c36-6404-5e06-a76d-35d3866b75cd.html

Damien Pfister was quoted in a Lincoln Journal Star 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

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Damien Pfister is one of three UNL faculty who received the grant, "Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement," from the U.S. Department of State. The SUSI grant brought 20 undergraduate leaders from Africa to UNL in January 2015. Damien is a co-PI with Patrice McMahon of Political Science and Linda Major from the Center for Civic Engagement at UNL.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

AWARDS

The American Forensics Association's Young Coach Award will be presented to **Amy Arellano** at the national tournament in April 2015.

Julia Moore received an honorable mention from UNL Graduate Studies for the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award.

DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Sarah Jones successfully defended her dissertation "Networking Local-Global Advocacy: A Rhetorical Historiography of the International Women's Tribune Center (1972-1986)," Advisor: Dr. Damien Pfister.

Richard Murphy successfully defended his dissertation "Vets in the classroom: The relationship between teacher accommodative and non-accommodative behaviors on military veteran

students' perception of learning." Advisor: Dr. Bill Seiler.

POSITIONS ACCEPTED

Joshua Ewalt Assistant Professor; James Madison University; Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Jessy Ohl (Ph.D. 2014) Assistant Professor; University of Mary Washington; Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Chigozirim Utah Assistant Professor; Eastern Illinois University; Charleston, Illinois.

PUBLICATIONS

Blanton, R., & Joshua P. Ewalt (2014). "Rhetorical Maneuvers: Reflections on Being Blue-Collar in an Academic World." *Rhizomes Special Issue 27*, Working-Class Academics: Theories, Mythologies, and Realities. Edited by Carol Siegel.

Graduate Student Accomplishments (continued)

Ewalt, J.P. (in press) Rhetoric, poetics, and Jacques Ranciere's *The ignorant schoolmaster: Five lessons in intellectual emancipation*. *Philosophy and Rhetoric*.

Thompson, B., Mazer, J., & **Flood Grady, E.** (in press). The changing nature of parent-teacher communication: Mode selection in the smartphone era. *Communication Education*.

Ivey, C. Que (e/ry/) in Christianity: Questions, Answers, and more Questions," in *Kaleidoscope* (2014), 13.

Swords, N.M. and colleagues (Mark Orbe, A.

Cooke-Jackson, and Amber L Johnson) published *Exploring the Coordinated Management of the Meaning of Sex: The Social Construction of Male College Student Logical Forces in Creative Education* (2014).

TOP PAPER AWARD

Swords, N. M. & Phillips, K. M. (2015). Exploring converging identities: Memorable messages of sibling communicated identity. Top Student Paper/Burrell Award, Paper to be presented at the 85th annual convention of the Central State Communication Association Conference, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group, Madison, Wisconsin.

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEAN'S LIST

Majors

Jonathan Baker	Nicholas Gilbert	Geoffrey Ledbetter
Abigail Barla	Claire Hawkins	Haley Maxwell
Amanda Barnard	Allison Herbert	Yukiko Moriyama
Kelsi Boesiger	Taylor Hough	Hillary Naumann*
Hannah Coatney	Garrett Johnson	Laura Olson
Daniel Casburn	Regan Jones	Kali Patterson
Emily Coffey	Sarah Jones	Aleah Peters
Abigail Collins	Preston Kelley	Kathryn Piper
Abigail Foley	Conner Kozisek	Joshua Randazzo

Minors

Calista Accardi
Tabitha Adams
William Cox
Maritza Hayes
Hofer Lindsey
Brock Thompson

FALL 2014

*Hillary Naumann: graduated with high distinction

*Megan Shumkaker: graduated with distinction

Alumni Updates: Personal & Professional Endeavors

Anderson, Reynaldo (PhD 2005) & Niles-Goins M., Howard, S. (2014). *Liberalism and its Discontents: Black Rhetoric and the Cultural Transformation of Rhetorical Studies in the 20th Century*. In *A Century of Communication Studies: The unfinished conversation*. Gehrke, P., Keith, W. (Eds.). Routledge.

Anderson, Reynaldo (PhD 2005) Stephens, D.L., & Anderson, C. (2014). *Crowdsourcing "The Bad-Ass Slave": An analysis of Quentin Tarantino's "Django"* (continued)

ALUMNI UPDATES (continued)

Unchained.” In *Quentin Tarantino’s Django Unchained: The Continuation of Metacinema*. Oliver Speck, Ed. Bloomsbury Academic.

Anderson, Reynaldo (PhD 2005), *Black Atlantic Heretics of Empire 1919-1965: The Caribbean Intersectionality of Amy Jacques Garvey, Elma Francois, and Claudia Jones*. In *Underserved Women of Color, Voice, and Resistance: Claiming a Seat at the Table*, Givens S., Tassie K. (Eds.). Rowan & Littlefield/ Lexington Books.

Anderson, Reynaldo (PhD 2005), Jennings, J. (2014). *Afrofuturism: The Visual Imagery of Kanye West*. In *The Cultural Impact of Kanye West*, Julius Bailey, Ed. Palgrave Macmillan. New York, NY.

Jesse Barlean (B.A. 2014) Began working in Jan. 2015 as the Media and Marketing Coordinator for Senior Insurance Marketing in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Leah Bryant (Ph.D. 2003) President of Central States Communication Association.

Jessica Eckstein (B.A. 2001) tenured Associate Professor at Western Connecticut State University.

Thomas Flynn (PhD 1991) is Professor and Chair at Slippery Rock University and is President of the Eastern Communication Association.



John Goodwin, in L.A. for Nebraska vs UCLA with Rachel Friedman, UNL class of 2011.

John Goodwin (B.A. 2011) Ph. D. candidate at Arizona State University in North American History; currently teaching a 100-level undergraduate course at ASU on U.S. History since 1865.

Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer (PhD 2009). Service-learning in crisis communication education: Revisiting Coombs' objectives for the crisis communication course, *Communication Teacher*. Award: Second-time recipient of the Corpus Christi Under 40 Award, which honors individuals who have achieved "great professional successes, but are also outstanding community philanthropists and volunteers." Other Accomplishments; passed the FEMA/U.S. Department of Homeland Security Community Emergence Response Certification Exam; helped establish a chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at Texas

A&M University-Corpus Christi; became the Vice President of Public Relations for the TAMU-CC Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Jessy Ohl (PhD 2014) accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Rob Patterson (Ph.D. 1997) is teaching at the University of Virginia in the McIntire School of

Commerce's management communication program. He teaches an advanced public



Rob Patterson (right) on a ride with professional off-road racer Ryan Abbatoye.



Rob Patterson after competing in a Cross country

speaking course, a business speaking and media relations for business offering in an integrated core undergraduate curriculum and in the graduate degree program offered for students not having had prior exposure to business. Rob also returned to an old hobby: motorcycle racing. (See pictures.)

Josh Planos (B.A. 2014) had a version of his informative speech turned into an essay published in *The Atlantic*. Read the article: <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/11/the-dutch-village-where-everyone-has-dementia/382195/?page=true>

Marcus Powers (J.D., 2008, B.A., 2005) Head Brewer, Chief of Operations, & Co-Founder of Zipline Brewing Co. Zipline was named Best Brewery in Nebraska by the Omaha World Herald in 2014 and later received the Small Business of the Year award from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Marcus also was nominated to serve on the national Brewers Association Sustainability Committee.

Jessica Sluyter (B.A. 2012) is working as a project manager and data analyst at Experian. This year Experian was named as top innovative company: <http://www.forbes.com/companies/experian/>

TRANSITIONS

KAREN KING LEE

Colleagues at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln share with heavy hearts that Dr. Karen King Lee passed away on December 13, 2014, after a four-year battle with breast cancer.

Karen came to UNL in 1992 and was a member of our faculty for 22 years. She was born January 15, 1948, outside Chicago. Like so many of us, she came to the discipline via debate, graduating from Thornton Fractional South High in Lansing, Illinois. She earned her B.A. in Speech at Illinois State University in 1970, with a secondary teaching certification. She earned her MA at Baylor University in 1971, becoming Assistant Professor of Speech and Director of Debate at the University of Northern Iowa from 1971-1976.

Karen entered the doctoral program at the University of Iowa in 1976 and received her PhD in 1980 under the direction of Bruce Gronbeck. While at Iowa, Karen met her husband Ronald Lee. They married in 1980. After graduate school, they moved to the faculty at Indiana University-Bloomington where Karen was the Director of Forensics from 1979-1992, being promoted to Associate Professor in 1986. Karen and Ron moved to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1992. While at Indiana, they adopted Amanda Lee (1989) and she is the light of their lives.

While at Nebraska, Karen was a Professor of Practice and served as the department's Chief Undergraduate Advisor.



Ron, Karen and Amanda Lee

She was the Interim Director of Forensics 1999-2000. Over her career, she taught fourteen different undergraduate courses and five graduate courses. She and Ron published many articles together, centered in argument and focused on issues surrounding racism, religious discourse, poverty, and adoption. Their book, *Arguing Persuasively*, was published by Longman Press in 1989.

Karen was an active member of the National Communication Association and regularly attended the NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation in Alta, Utah.



Ron and Karen Lee

While at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Karen served as the Department of Communication Studies' Director of Undergraduate Studies from 1998-2010, a member of the Undergraduate Committee, member of the Executive Committee, representative to the Faculty Senate, advisor for the Lambda Pi Eta Chapter, a member of the Awards Committee, and the faculty advisor for UNL's chapter of the American Cancer Society since 2013. She also served as an Assistant Coach of Lincoln Pius X High School Speech and Debate Team from 2003-2010.

Karen was a devoted teacher and her students shared that devotion. They regularly talked about her as wise, thoughtful, and kind. As she reflected on her teaching, Karen highlighted, "Teaching for me is still and always has been exciting and a real labor of love. I never feel more energized than after a class has gone very well. Likewise, I never feel more frustrated than when I fail to ignite that spark in my students that allows them to taste and share the passion I have for the discipline of communication studies and become collaborators not only with me but with each other in the exploration of communication theory, research and practice that has the power to define the kind of community we are all a part of. ... I do not think of my students as empty vessels into which I am pouring information. Rather, I seek to encourage students to critically assess that information, to challenge it and me and their classmates who are engaging in the same process. Together we can create a dynamic classroom community that fosters sophisticated thinking about complex topics, an openness to new ideas and a willingness to argue with civility and integrity."

Karen was active in the community, especially St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lincoln.

KAREN KING LEE

She had a passion for serving the poor, through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization dedicated to helping the poor. She was Secretary of St. Joseph's Parish Conference of St. Vincent de Paul since 2004 and was a member of the Transition Committee for the organization's new outreach center.

Her daughter Amanda described her mother as "A

woman with a heart the size of the universe, she never stopped thinking of others."

Karen is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Ronald Lee and daughter Amanda of Boulder, Colorado.

The family requests donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul/St. Joseph Conference. <http://lincoln.svdpcouncil.org/website/Default.aspx>

TRANSITIONS

It is with great sadness that we share that Dr. Jack Kay passed away on January 30 at age 63. He was a valued member of our faculty from 1979-1990, Director of Forensics here at UNL, our Department Chair, and a great friend of the department. He was a dear friend of Ron and Karen Lee. Dr. Matt Seeger, his friend and Dean at Wayne State University wrote:

Jack Kay was a dedicated teacher scholar, an active member of the forensics community, and long time member of the National Communication Association. He was a past president of the Central States Communication Association, the Michigan Association of Speech Communication, the Nebraska Speech Communication Association, and Delta Sigma Rho / Tau Kappa Alpha.



His administrative appointments at Wayne State University included chair of the Department of Communication, two terms as interim dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, interim dean of the former College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, associate provost for assessment, retention and global education, and associate provost for student services. In 2005, Jack accepted an appointment as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at University of Michigan-Flint, where he later served as interim chancellor.

In 2009 he was named provost and executive vice president at Eastern Michigan University. In 2011 he moved from administration to a professorship in EMU's Department of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts.

Dr. Kay will be remembered for his efforts to promote a culture of student academic success, international activity for students and increasing community engagement. He inaugurated Wayne State's annual Student Academic Success Summit, established the Study Abroad Office, and was a member of the Anthony Wayne Society.

Jack was extensively published in argumentation, rhetoric and political communication. He researched and spoke on issues such as race, diversity and the language of oppression. He frequently presented on Anti-Semitism on the internet and hate in cyberspace. His publications include the book Argumentation: Inquiry and Advocacy, (with his mentor and friend Dr. George Ziegelmüller), book chapters, journal articles, and many newspaper editorials.

His contribution to doctoral advising was recognized with the Wayne State University Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 1998. He was an early and active promoter of the Debate Watch program.

All who knew him benefited from his strength, intellect, and deep commitment to fairness and diversity. He believed that speech could make the world more just and humane.

From Dawn O. Braithwaite: Just reading the wonderful tributes on CRTNET and Facebook gave me an even clearer look into Jack's contributions at UNL and his amazing influence on the Speech & Debate program, as well as on undergraduate and graduation students here in Lincoln. Our hearts go out to his wife, Ruth, who earned her degree at UNL, and their daughter Erin.

Department of Communication Studies

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

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

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

Dr. Kathleen Krone
Professor
Organizational Communication

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 & Intergroup

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