

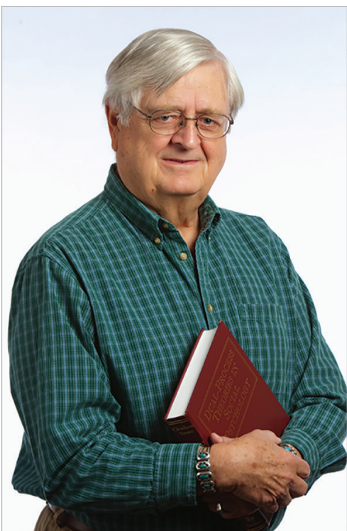
DEPARTMENT OF

COMMUNICATION

We Need To Do Our Share

RETIRED PROFESSOR KEN ANDERSEN CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO HELP STUDENTS

By *Therese Pokorny, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*



From growing up on a farm in northern Iowa without indoor plumbing to graduating debt free with a doctoral degree at age 27, Ken Andersen knows the financial struggles endured by many college students who pursue higher education. That's why the professor emeritus at the University of Illinois has created a new scholarship fund to support current students in the Department of Communication.

His decision to create the fund has firm roots in a life devoted to earning—and

providing—higher education. Andersen, who worked as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Communication from 1970 to 1995, is an accomplished scholar who has published research on topics such as persuasion, communication ethics, academic governance, and debate.

In 1955, Andersen graduated magna cum laude from the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree. A year later, he received his master's degree. "I think I paid \$27 a quarter for three years," Andersen said. "I went to summer school and graduated four years after I started with a master's degree. I was an assistant in debate, and so I got my tuition waived, which was good stuff."

At age 21, Andersen accepted a teaching position at the University of Colorado before joining the U.S. Army. During his service, Andersen was transferred to teach classes to soldiers and to advise incoming recruits because of his background in teaching. After his time in the Army, Andersen earned a PhD as a Knapp Fellow from the University of Wisconsin. He worked as an instructor at the University of Michigan before coming to the University of Illinois.

"The maximum tuition I paid (at Wisconsin) was \$115 a semester because I had a fellowship, and my last year I had a teaching assistantship, so I didn't pay anything," Andersen said he's shocked to see the way college tuition has risen since he was a student, which is why he decided to create the Building the Future for Communication Students Scholarship Fund.

"There I was at 27 with no debt and a PhD," he said. "We ought to be doing that for the students of today. If you're appealing to people like me who benefited from what they gave us in the past, then we need to do our share of giving to support the students who are coming after us." Andersen believes that whatever is given will keep on giving, and the right investments will continue to grow over time.

"That's the motivation. What I hope we can do is attract other people to do the same thing," he said. "We have our own life story, but all of us owe a debt to the teachers, to the people who made it possible ... It's a way of paying debt that we don't really have on paper, but we do have in reality."

While at the University of Illinois, Andersen served the academic community in various ways, ranging from serving as associate head and director of graduate studies in the Department of Communication, to serving as deputy vice chancellor for academic affairs.

With his background in debate, Andersen was also part of the Campus Senate and American Association of University Professors. He served as president of the National Communication Association, the largest association of communication scholars in the world. In retirement, Andersen continued to serve in the Campus Senate as the Parliamentarian and on the Senate Executive Committee.

John Caughlin, head of the Department of Communication, said Andersen has given back not only to the department, but to the campus and his discipline. Caughlin said it's no secret that the cost of higher education has increased over the past few decades, which makes Andersen's gift a wonderful and meaningful commitment to giving students access to college. "Ken is someone who has spent a career—and years past his official career—giving his time and talent for the benefit of the academic community," Caughlin said. "That he should decide to give even more at this time is exceedingly generous. His giving in a way that benefits our students is completely consistent with the kind of community member he has always been."

To learn more or support the Building the Future for Communication Students Scholarship Fund, see the back page of this newsletter or go to communication.illinois.edu/giving. ♦



From Department Head John Caughlin

Greetings from Lincoln Hall!

In recent months, I have heard from a few of you who wondered why the Communication newsletter had not arrived in its usual late summer window. I'm pleased to hear that receiving the newsletter is something you look forward to! Going forward, our plan is for the newsletter to arrive toward the end of each calendar year.

The timing of the newsletter is not the only change. The department has been working with the communications team in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences on a redesigned format. We are excited about the sharp new look and with how it ties into our webpage and other publications.

While the look of the newsletter has changed, the focus will continue to be on sharing glimpses into the life of our busy department. In looking at the stories this year, I am struck by the breadth of outstanding opportunities, occasions, and accomplishments. You have the newsletter so I will not summarize everything in it, but this year we celebrated:

- amazing acts of generosity, including Professor Kenneth Andersen's gift supporting undergraduate scholarships;
- inspiring scholarly events, such as the inaugural Dale Brashers Lecture given by Dr. Susan Morgan;
- innovative instruction like the work on diversity led by Professor Mardia Bishop and Kris Weeks in the introductory public speaking course;
- numerous student and faculty awards and recognition; and
- faculty research benefiting the community beyond campus, such as Professor Ned O'Gorman's scholarship being featured on the Smithsonian Channel.

Given limited space, not all activities and successes can be summarized in the newsletter. Our students and alumni continue to thrive in many ways. For instance, in the most recent Illini Success survey that was released earlier this year, Communication graduates led the College of LAS in securing a first destination. Within months of graduation, 95% of our department's graduates had found employment or successfully matriculated in advanced degree programs.

Newsletters naturally tend to highlight the recent past, but we also are beginning to discuss the more distant past and an important future milestone for the department that will occur in 2022: the 75th anniversary of Communication as a standalone department. We have had four different names during that time (Speech, Speech and Theater, Speech Communication, and Communication), but a common thread across those names and decades is excellence worth celebrating. We are starting to brainstorm ways to celebrate this major anniversary throughout 2022. Watch for future newsletters for more details, and if you have ideas for activities or events, please contact me at caughlin@illinois.edu.

Finally, if you want to support our students and programming, there are plenty of opportunities to do that. Perhaps you would like to join Kenneth Andersen and help support undergraduate scholarships. Or maybe you would like to help honor the legacy of Dale Brashers. There are various opportunities for supporting students, faculty, and the department. For more information see the back page of this newsletter or visit communication.illinois.edu/giving.



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75 YEARS
**DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION**

1947-2022

Thank you for reading. I hope all of you have a wonderful 2020! ♦

Susan Morgan Delivers Inaugural Dale Brashers Memorial Lecture

This year marked a special moment in the history of the department as we launched the Dale Brashers Memorial Lecture. The Brashers Memorial Lecture showcases cutting-edge research in health communication. “Dale was the visionary behind our thriving program. Remembering and honoring his legacy by recognizing scholarship aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals strikes at the core of our program’s outreach mission,” said Professor Brian Quick, faculty member and director of the department’s Health Communication Online Master of Science (HCOM) program.

Professor Brashers was the visionary behind the creation of the HCOM program before he died unexpectedly in 2010. In February, Professor Susan Morgan of the University of Miami was invited to deliver the inaugural Brashers Lecture because of her own outstanding scholarly record and because she was a close friend of Dale’s. In her lecture, Morgan addressed how using technology can increase participation in cancer-related research studies among low-literacy patients.

“Memorializing Dale’s life gives us all a chance to reflect on the values that he represented,” said Professor Morgan, a world expert in health promotion and health literacy. “Dale proved every day that you could be an outstanding scholar who does methodologically and theoretically rigorous work that is also pragmatic. He cared about helping real people with his scholarly work, but he also cared deeply about the people around him. His sense of joy and fun—as well as his intellect and hard work – enriched the lives of his colleagues and his students. I am grateful to the Department of Communication for selecting me to give the inaugural Dale Brashers Memorial Lecture. It was wonderful to feel like I was reconnecting with Dale by spending time with his favorite colleagues and talking about health communication research.”

Morgan’s Brashers Memorial Lecture was held in conjunction with the HCOM program’s third 100% online conference, Health Communication: Barriers, Breakthroughs, and Best Practices (HCB3). The conference, like the HCOM program itself, takes place in a 100% online, asynchronous, and flexible environment, drawing experts and others interested in health communication from various professions in health care and academia.



Dale Brashers

For more information about our HCOM program as well as to watch a recording of Professor Morgan’s lecture, visit hcom.illinois.edu. If you are interested in supporting graduate student research in honor of Dale Brashers’s legacy, consider giving to the Dale Brashers Memorial Fund at communication.illinois.edu/giving/support-graduate-students. ♦

The Most Important Film Studio in America

Sometimes, research projects come from where you least expect them.

For Professor Ned O’Gorman, that happened early in his career while conducting archival research. Studying White House memos from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library for his book *Spirits of the Cold War: Contesting Worldviews in the Classical Age of American Security Strategy* (Michigan State University Press, 2011), O’Gorman discovered a memo describing a nuclear test film that President Eisenhower had seen. An aide reported that after watching the film Eisenhower turned to his staff, aghast, and said, “Every American should see this film.”

That sparked O’Gorman’s curiosity. After additional research, he came across the film, entitled “Operation Ivy,” a one-hour nuclear test film made by a secretive Air Force unit based out of the Hollywood hills. Together with his University of Illinois colleague Kevin Hamilton (now dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts), O’Gorman spent a decade researching the film’s maker, Lookout Mountain Laboratory. Their richly illustrated book, *Lookout America! The Secret Hollywood Studio at the Heart of the Cold War* (Dartmouth College Press, 2018), explores how the Department of Defense produced and disseminated movies produced at Lookout Mountain.

The most important Hollywood film studio of the Cold War and the least known, Lookout Mountain shot most of the iconic moments of the Cold War, ranging from mushroom clouds to space monkeys to Vietnam aerial footage. As the documentary hub of the Cold War, the staff at Lookout Mountain Laboratory worked closely with Hollywood figures like Jimmy Stewart, Marilyn Monroe, John Ford, and Walt Disney. Additionally, Lookout Mountain contributed to several major technological breakthroughs, including first-

generation 3D filmmaking and widescreen technologies.

O’Gorman, a rhetoric scholar by training, argues that the Lookout Mountain films amounted to “cinematic self-talk,” the process by which the U.S. government convinced itself that its ambitious and deadly Cold War activities were warranted, legitimate, and safe. Since its publication, O’Gorman and Hamilton’s book has been featured on the podcast New Book Network as well as on KMOX radio in St. Louis. In addition, O’Gorman appears as an on-camera expert in a documentary aired on the Smithsonian Channel called “Filming the Bomb.” If you want to learn more, there is lots to explore at the book’s web site, lookoutamerica.org, including a database of film clips. ♦



LOOKOUT AMERICA!

**THE SECRET
HOLLYWOOD
STUDIO at the
HEART of the
COLD WAR**
KEVIN HAMILTON
NED O’GORMAN



Graduate Student News



Two graduate students have won prestigious awards recognizing the high quality of their teaching. Doctoral candidates **Matthew Pitchford** and **Kristopher Weeks** each won a College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Notably, the selection of two graduate instructors from the same department

is rare and highlights the exceptional work of both of them in the classroom. Pitchford also won a campus-level Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award as well, yet another example of how the Department of Communication's tradition of excellent instruction continues.



Doctoral candidate **Ann Bryan** has won a 2019-20 Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship to support her dissertation project. Bryan, one of only eighteen winners from across the whole campus, is examining the working relationship between medical scribes and physicians in conjunction with electronic medical records.



Doctoral candidate **Katie Bruner** was named a 2019-20 graduate fellow of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. One of only a handful of campus graduate students selected for this honor, Bruner will use the fellowship to write her dissertation, which examines the rhetoric of visual media research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from the Great Depression through the Vietnam War.



2019 master's program graduate **Natalia Román Alicea** was named a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant for the 2019-20 academic year. One of only 80 awardees nationwide, Román Alicea will teach English to undergraduates at local universities in the nation of Colombia. She also hopes to offer translation services and professional development workshops

for a local grassroots organization serving underprivileged Colombian youth. ♦



Faculty News



At this year's International Communication Association conference, **Travis Dixon** and **John Caughlin** were named ICA Fellows. According to the organization, the status of fellow recognizes "distinguished scholarly contributions to the broad field of communication." Both scholars are pioneers in their respective areas and have outstanding records of

research and service in the field. Dixon studies the effects of stereotyping in the mass media, while Caughlin studies interpersonal communication's effects on relational well-being. ICA Fellows represent a mere 3.2% of the active International Communication Association membership, so the distinction is a high honor. Professors Dixon and Caughlin join Professor Scott Poole, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Wilson, and Emeritus Professor Jesse Delia as other ICA Fellows affiliated with the Department of Communication.



At the 2018 National Communication Association convention, **Leanne Knobloch** was awarded the Charles H. Woolbert Award for scholarship that has "stood the test of time." Her co-authored article with Penn State University's Denise Solomon, "A Model of Relational Turbulence: The Role of Intimacy, Relational Uncertainty, and Interference

from Partners in Appraisals of Irritations," was originally published in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* in 2004. In recognizing Knobloch and Solomon's work, the National Communication Association stated that they "presented a conceptually and methodologically sophisticated study of the Relational Theory Model (RTM) framework. In their articulation of RTM, Solomon and Knobloch's study laid the groundwork for decades of interpersonal communication scholarship."



Scott Poole and Illinois doctoral program alumnus Andrew Pilny of the University of Kentucky were awarded the Ernest Bormann Research Award for the Best Book of 2018 from the Group Communication Division of the National Communication Association. Poole and Pilny won the award for their co-authored book, *Group Processes: Data-Driven*

Computational Approaches (Springer, 2017), which introduced several data-driven computational methods for analyzing group communication processes.



J. David Cisneros has been named a Conrad Humanities Scholar by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The Conrad Scholar distinction, designed to recognize and assist prominent mid-career faculty at the University of Illinois, lasts for five years and comes with research support and teaching releases. Cisneros, who studies rhetoric

and intercultural communication, is currently completing a book on immigration politics. The project is based on interviews with grassroots leaders and an analysis of immigrant rights groups' symbols and strategies. ♦

Talking About Equity and Inclusion in Communication 101

Diversity is a fact of the workplace, so learning to communicate with those who have different backgrounds is essential. Professor Mardia Bishop, Course Director for Communication 101 (Public Speaking), and doctoral candidate Kristopher Weeks received a grant from the University of Illinois Provost's Office to update the public speaking curriculum in ways that help students and teachers manage those differences.

"The project was founded off an organizational communication problem," Weeks says. Bishop and Weeks were asked to develop a training session for university advancement officers on addressing microaggressions and racially insensitive language from donors. In the process, they realized that Communication 101 instructors faced similar problems in the classroom. Students and instructors grew uncomfortable when colleagues made inappropriate statements and needed a framework to help them respond.

Drawing on conflict resolution theory and listening theory, Bishop and Weeks developed a curriculum to teach both

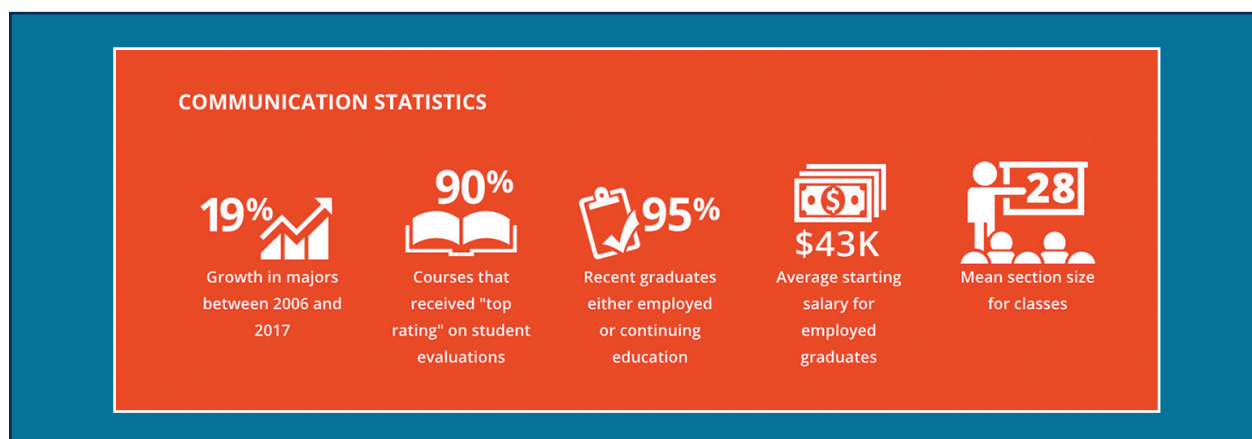
instructors and students about practical ways to champion equity and inclusion. As Weeks put it, "What we want to do is attach very specific practical skills [to these discussions] rather than just general tips like 'don't be mean' or 'just be mindful.' The goal is to give practical means for students and instructors to put those strategies into action."

Action is paramount in Communication 101. Bishop observed, "our pedagogical approach in 101 is to introduce a concept and immediately put it into action." That means giving students concrete opportunities to practice communicating in charged situations, helping students learn how to breathe, listen to themselves and others, and clarify their messages.

Additionally, Bishop and Weeks have added sections to the course focusing on how persuasive language and ethics relate to diversity, with two new classes on ethical speaking. "Information on inclusion is out there," Bishop argued. "But what we're doing is giving instructors and students a model, and most importantly actual practice, on how to work through the discomfort and communicate in a constructive way." ♦

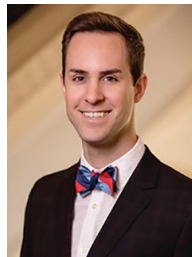
Illini Success Survey Shows Communication Graduates Place Highest in College

The Illini Success initiative gathers career-related information about recent bachelor's degree recipients. In the most recent Illini Success Survey, 95 percent of Communication alumni reported landing a first destination within six months of graduation, either employment (73 percent) or continuing education with graduate/professional study (22 percent). This outstanding placement ranked the Department of Communication's graduates highest among that year's alumni in the College of LAS. In addition to this impressive statistic, here are some other department numbers that might interest you:



Invest in the Future of the Department of Communication

You can make a gift to the department online, by phone, or by connecting with our advancement officer, **Joseph Baldwin**, by calling (217) 300-5967 or emailing him at jbbaldw2@illinois.edu. Ensure continued excellence in teaching, research, and public engagement by supporting the Department of Communication with a gift!



You can designate your gift to:

- Building the Future for Communication Students Scholarship Fund (**NEW**, see story on p. 1)
- Communication Annual Fund, which supports an array of activities
- Robert L. Husband Leadership in Communication Fund
- Joseph Wenzel Undergraduate Support Fund
- Thomas Conley History of Rhetoric Award
- Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Award Fund
- Dale Brashers Memorial Fund

You can also boost your gift:

See if your company is listed as one that has a matching gift program (some even double or triple your gift).

Give Online

Visit our website at communication.illinois.edu and click on the **Give!** button.

Got Internships?

Communication students are eager for real-world experience. We offer our students course credit for interning with organizations that put them to work in a supervised learning setting. Employers who partner with us report that they benefit from our students' communication skills and gain from evaluating the on-the-job performance of potential employees. Communication interns are eager to apply what they have learned to the work world. If you have internships to offer or would like more information, please contact Kate Ditewig-Morris via email: comm-internships@illinois.edu. ♦