

The Race to Study Race Expands to New Territory

by Kristopher Weeks, PhD candidate

Given our contentious political climate, race is a topic that many would prefer to avoid. Despite this, Travis Dixon, Professor of Communication and Alumni Professorial Scholar, endeavors to investigate how media misrepresentations of racial groups affect us as individuals and as a society. Through his research, he seeks to find ways in which media can play a role in healing the racial rifts in America.

Professor Dixon has received a grant from the *Family Story Project's* New Venture Fund to embark on a significant and large investigation of how the news media portrays Black and White families.

To conduct this study, Dixon and his team of graduate students, Kristopher Weeks, Marisa Smith, and Chelsea Butkowski reviewed content from television, [print and online] newspapers, and blogs, looking at hundreds of families and how they were represented. The study measured the degree to which families were portrayed as stable or unstable and explored ways in which they were depicted as sources of social problems or as contributors to society's well-being.

Professor Dixon hopes this study and others to follow can influence change in the news media industry. To this end, he also is finishing a study on race and

social media activism in collaboration with former student, Chris Josey, now a Visiting Professor at the University of Missouri. This study analyzed users' posts on Facebook and Twitter to determine if the users shared content that was supportive or critical of social movements related to race. For the next two national election cycles, Professor Dixon says, "it will be really interesting to see how social media use informs our politics and our views of one another."

The study goes a step further by surveying these users of social media to understand their prejudices and the factors that motivate their online news source selections. It is increasingly important for us to understand why users prefer some sources and ignore others because, according to Professor Dixon, "Today, you can choose a blog which is news opinion," meaning that many Internet users are now exposing themselves to a "heavy dose of stereotyping." Some of these users are vulnerable to being influenced by these stereotypes.

Why has society failed to resolve this problem? In Professor Dixon's view, it is becoming progressively more difficult for America to maintain a healthy problem-solving democracy because the nation is fragmented into different groups

of media consumers. Since we do not share the same news sources, we do not share the same facts about the world we live in today.

Professor Dixon's research is at the heart of what he teaches, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For example, in *Mass Media and the Audience*, he challenges students to think about how audiences experience media consumption and cognitively process media content. He also teaches *Race and the Mass Media* and this fall will begin teaching the popular *Introduction to Mediated Communication*, CMN 277, formerly SPCOM 177, *The Art of Public Discourse*.

Professor Dixon recognizes the changing landscape of social media. But he is adamant that it is also important for us, as social media users, to slow down and make the effort to understand one another. Professor Dixon's advice to us: "Don't defriend people who have different political views than you. Try to engage them... and don't have wars. Have an understanding of what they are sharing and what they are thinking. That gets you to human understanding." ■



Travis Dixon

PHOTO BY L. BRIAN STAUFFER.

headlines . . .

WORKING TOWARD OUR GOALS

John Caughlin

Greetings from Lincoln Hall! If you were looking in this space for some words from David Tewksbury, it means you have not heard the news that he has been named Executive Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Our department is greatly indebted to Dave for his leadership as Head since 2010 (and as Associate Head and Director of Graduate Studies prior to that). The college is getting an excellent leader, and we are glad he will only be one floor away (moving to the 2nd floor of Lincoln Hall from the 3rd).

As you might have guessed, the change in leadership means I have been serving

as Acting Head in the Spring and will drop the Acting part effective with the beginning of the Fall term. I am honored to be entrusted with this role. Our department has a long and distinguished tradition, and it is as vibrant and vital as it has ever been. As you are surely aware, the university has faced critical budget challenges over the past few years. Yet I am amazed at how our faculty, staff, and alumni have stepped up to ensure that our department continues to provide outstanding opportunities for our students.

This newsletter summarizes some of the many reasons for excitement about the future of the department. There are stories on research programs led by Professor Travis Dixon and Professor Will Barley. Both are doing grant-sponsored work that addresses timely social concerns. You can also read about new and growing opportunities that our students have beyond the classroom, including our active professional internship program and a new competitive debate

tournament, which is being sponsored by a generous alumnus. Such activities and programs illustrate how more and more Communication majors are going above and beyond meeting their requirements and engaging in experiences that allow them to demonstrate and practice what they are learning in the classroom.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you can read about the virtual conference that was sponsored by our online Health Communication Master's Program (HCOM). The conference is another example of our department's commitment to engaging with the larger community. For that matter, the HCOM program itself is a manifestation of our impact beyond campus as most HCOM students complete their MS while working full-time in fields related to health and medicine.

Another exciting bit of news you will not find elsewhere in the newsletter is we have a new faculty member joining us this fall. JungHwan Yang is finishing his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his research examines

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Speaking of...Communication

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the use of interactive media in political discourse. Mr. Yang is an expert in computational social science methods, which allows him to bring a Big Data perspective to the study of political science. He is going to fill an important role in our department, and we expect him to teach courses in the areas of political communication, mediated communication, and computational methods. With this new addition to our department, we will be able to offer cutting-edge training to our students that few Communication departments can offer.

I recently heard someone describe our department as “very busy.” I agree with that description. We have outstanding students, active alumni, and dedicated faculty and staff. This newsletter should give you a sense of how our “busy-ness” is productive. If you have questions or ideas for contributing to our active department, please feel free to contact me (caughlin@illinois.edu). And if you are able to support our students and programming, there has never been a better time to do that. For ideas where even small contributions can help, please see the back page of this newsletter or visit www.communication.illinois.edu.

Thanks for reading. I look forward to another great year ahead, and wish you a terrific year as well.

John Caughlin
Department Head

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Bob Husband

Life remains active and busy since retiring from the classroom. My two grandsons, ages 6 and 10, have become an increasing nexus of my universe. I delight in them and in sharing their world. Although I miss my daily contact with students, I continue to have significant interaction with former students both professionally and personally. The Department recently honored me with a named leadership symposium, and it gave me a wonderful opportunity to visit with so many former students about whom I care so deeply. It is truly a joy, in this phase of life, to continue mentoring and working with past students. Beyond spending time with former students, my consulting activities continue at a surprising and rewarding pace. These days, I primarily coach and advise executives in a variety of organizations across the U.S. Without question for the last decade, I have been engaged in living a life that wants to live me. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Cheri Kramarae

The years since retirement have not been leisurely, and I am thankful for that. Some of my long-time academic interests continue to provide opportunities. I have taught Public Speaking, and Women’s Studies at a university in Beijing, China; served as an international dean at an International Women’s University in Germany; and worked as visiting scholar/researcher on gender and online education issues at the American Association of University Women in D.C. I have a courtesy appointment at the University of Oregon, Eugene, and continue to publish articles on social media.

I have also had wonderful community-based experiences with many Habitat for Humanity teams, building homes in South Africa, Nicaragua, Guatemala, India, and Mongolia, as well as in the U.S. I spend time almost every week as a hospice volunteer, and as an advocate for women and men experiencing domestic violence. Most recently I have trained as a community mediator. All this to say that a background in communication studies can lead you all over the place! ■

Competitive Debate Returns to Lincoln Hall

by Francesca Fridman (Class of 2018)

It was a rainy Saturday in April, and ten students were ready to compete for a \$1000 cash prize, thanks to the generosity of an alumni donor. Prepared with their topics, it was the first annual Lincoln Hall Debate Series—and the first time competitive debate had been seen or heard in Lincoln Hall in a long time.

The Debate Series was organized by Grace Giorgio, who is the Course Director for CMN 111/112, Oral & Written Communication, which is a 2-course sequence that was begun in the 1940s. Thousands of students over the years have met their beginning composition requirement by completing these two courses. One of the final assignments in the second course, CMN 112, is a debate. Instructors from CMN 112 selected outstanding debate teams for the Lincoln Hall Debate Series.

The competition followed the style of a public forum debate, with each team given 37 minutes to present their case. Two team members took the affirmative role, while the other two took the negative. There was no easy side to be on, as the affirmative struggled with the burden of proof, while the negative had to prove that the status quo was sufficient or a change in policy would make the situation worse.

A panel of instructors served as judges of the “clash” between affirmative and negative. The debate teams constructed a series of speeches to build their case arguments, using “blocks” to reinforce their arguments against their opponents. Although their speeches were prepared, each side did not know what their opponents would say, and thus had to have evidence ready for rebuttal. Most exciting were the 2-3 minute cross examinations of questions each side was allowed.



These students were not trained debaters, but as Dr. Giorgio pointed out learning how to debate is not only an academic skill, but also, “really helpful for building confidence. You learn how to think on your feet and respond to a whole host of sources of opposition or resistance.”

Not only will the debate prove to be useful for current CMN 112 students, but also, the entire event was video recorded for use by instructors and future students. It is hoped that this will be an annual event each spring. We are grateful to this generous alumnus for making this outstanding student experience possible.

Professor Emeritus and former debate coach, Joe Wenzel was pleased to hear about this event. “Although invested in communication research of many kinds nowadays, the Department of Communication has always sustained teaching and research that honor vigorous debate and critical discussion as the life blood of a democratic society. Now is a good time to be reminded of that tradition.” ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Joanna Maclay

Since retiring in 1999, we moved to Chicago. We now live our summers and falls with our son John in Lake Zurich, Illinois; and our winters with our daughter, Barbara in Durham, North Carolina.

I started acting professionally once we retired and I have worked in several theatres in Chicago. I have also made some commercials and a couple of films. That has been fun. My health has not been so good recently, so the acting has slowed down considerably. But I can still have fun with my 4 grandchildren: Jackson (12) and Grace (5) in Illinois; and Cate (16) and Anna (12) in North Carolina. ■

Internship Program Update

Our Department's Internship Program helps prepare our undergraduate students for the post-graduate workforce. Students learn to apply classroom communication concepts in a real organizational setting while earning academic credit for their placements. Many of our students receive full-time job offers as a direct result of their internships.

The Internship Program was started in the late 1990s by Professor Bob Husband. Since that time, the importance for students to have experience by the time they graduate has increased, and thus, our program has grown. Yet several of the connections made in the early years of the program are still in place. It readily adapts to the changing needs of students and the dynamic landscape of communication-related careers.

This past year, nearly 100 students, mostly juniors and seniors, participated in the program, working in a variety of capacities such as: marketing, public relations, human resources, sales, corporate communications, political communications, research, data analysis, radio production and broadcasting, non-profit promotion, health care philanthropy, and more. Students work for large corporations, small businesses, start-ups, hospitals, and non-profits. As the program's strong reputation has grown, an increasing number of opportunities have become available across campus during



the academic year.

The program is now directed by Kate Ditewig-Morris, who offers an online class for those interning each semester, including summer. Students complete coursework online, submitting a variety of assignments that help tie communication concepts to real workplace experiences. They also engage in professional development activities to expand their networks, both in-person via informational interviews and online through LinkedIn. At the end of the semester, they meet for a celebratory portfolio "Bring & Brag" event, at which time they show off their hard work and accomplishments to each other and members of the Communication faculty.

The strength of our Internship Program is a testament not only to our hard-working students, but also to the Department's commitment to prepare our undergraduates for the competitive world that awaits after graduation. This year, of the 226 students who participated in our spring convocation ceremony, 71% or 160 said they had an internship, either paid or unpaid at some time prior to graduation.

Should you have an internship opportunity for one of our Communication majors, please contact Kate Ditewig-Morris for more information at ditewig2@illinois.edu. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Kay Holley

Kay Bohannon Holley concluded her U of I career in May of 2015, after 30 years of teaching. It was a conclusion not without its bit of sorrow, but one that came gracefully, as the time was right.

Kay now has plenty of time for her other passion: theater. She directs regularly (and acts occasionally) as part of the Celebration Company at the Station Theatre in Urbana, where she is also a member of the board of directors. She has also returned to working with survivors of sexual assault, this time as a medical advocate, accompanying and supporting victims at the Emergency Departments of local hospitals. Her advocacy for sexual, gender and racial justice continues in retirement.

An active life with husband, David Butler, and four very bright grandchildren rounds out what has become a retirement that is as rewarding as it is relaxing. ■

Professor Barley's Innovative Research Earns Prize and Lands Grant

Professor Will Barley's article "Anticipatory Work: How the Need to Represent Knowledge Across Boundaries Shapes Work Practices Within Them," published last year in *Organization Science*, won the Organizational Communication Division's 2016 Outstanding Article Award at the National Communication Association convention last fall.

This research has led to a larger project examining how scholars with diverse sets of expertise come together to study the topic of resilience to climate change. Barley is leading a team of scholars, including Professor M. Scott Poole, who have secured a National Science Foundation grant of \$100,000. This is the first grant to be awarded to a Communication researcher from the program, "Engineering Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities."

Barley's project, entitled, "*Eager Germination: Crystallizing Transformative Ideas by Seeding a Diverse Knowledge Community*" brings together researchers and scholars from across disciplines. Project and team members include researchers from the American Indian Higher Education Council, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, and directors and research scientists from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Not only do they represent diversity in respect to their disciplines, they also are from a variety of institutions, including ones that traditionally serve underrepresented student populations (Native American, Hispanic, and African-American). This project will bring attention to these institutions and scholars who in the

past often have struggled to get support for their research.

Resilience to climate change is a fundamentally important issue and the project has the opportunity to generate new approaches to this challenge. The study also breaks new ground in ensuring that minority-serving institutions are integral to the work, making their voices an important part of this inquiry. At the same time, the project will study procedures that are designed to facilitate the inclusion of multiple voices and diverse perspectives. Because many groups have stakes in scientific issues, it is important to understand how scientific collaboration can proceed in ways that is responsive to the viewpoints of multiple stakeholders. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Pat Gill

Since retiring in June, 2016, I have had a life crowded with incident, busy yes, but never harried or hectic. This is quite a relief since my work, which was an avocation as well as a vocation, filled my days for thirty-five years, and I was more than a little worried that time would drag in retirement. My husband Richard and I visited Paris and London last summer.

My PhD specialization was 18th Century in English Literature and Culture with a secondary specialization in film theory. Although I have been researching and teaching variations of the latter for the past fifteen years, which I thoroughly enjoyed, my heart belongs in the 18th Century. We walked all over London going to museums, famous houses, churches, parks, and plays. Finally, after all these years, I was on streets, and in some of the houses, of the playwrights, poets, novelists, philosophers, artists whom I had studied and loved for so long.

I loved my life at the University, especially after I joined the Department of Communication, and it is wonderful to discover that one can find purpose and deep contentment after such a satisfying work life. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Marian Huhman

Since retiring a year ago, I have largely carried through on my repurposing priorities: Fitness (yoga, strength training, walking); academic clean up (couple of dissertation committees; two publications; some advising; taught an HCOM course); environmental activism and restoring the 400 acre family farm in Missouri.

What I had not anticipated this year was welcoming into the world our first grandchild, Alpen Mark, born in March in Seattle. I will be repurposing myself this summer as Grandmother Mimi in our beloved Pacific Northwest. ■



Husband (2016) Symposium

participants pictured here with Bob last October. From left, Andrew Stroth (BA, '90), Laura Krajecki (BA, '98), Bob, and Becca Guyette (MA, '03).

The Department has learned that a generous alumnus will match every gift contributed to this fund. We have realized the benefits of this fund in only two short years, providing our students with access to some of our accomplished alumni via a symposium. To support this continued effort please refer to the "Give Online" box on the back cover.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

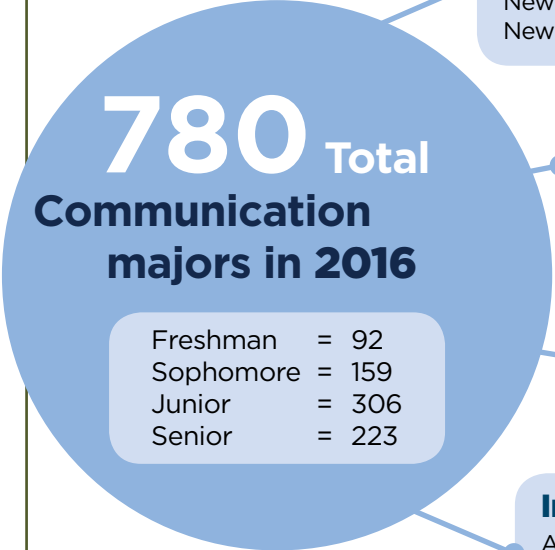
Retiree: Ken Andersen

Mary and I celebrated our 53rd wedding anniversary and 47 years in our Champaign home in August. As suggested in *Candide*, we watch our garden/grass grow with time to devour the *New York Times*, read magazines and even books. We frequently see our son, Erik, wife Susan, and three grandchildren in Batavia or Champaign.

I do miss being involved on a daily basis with the University. Since giving up my role as Senate parliamentarian about 3 years ago, our University contacts are concerts at Krannert, travel sponsored by the alumni association, the annual foundation meeting, and a monthly meeting of a university YMCA group. I keep my parliamentarian skills alive serving as parliamentarian for the American Society for the Alexander Technique annual meeting and consulting on relevant parliamentary issues during the year.

This year we abandoned our 20 year habit of spending January and February in Fort Myers Beach. Climate change means milder Champaign winters. I have abandoned the pattern of many years of travel to San Francisco for operas and New York for theatre. But we still enjoy the Chicago Lyric Opera season, some Chicago theatre and concerts. ■

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION BY THE NUMBERS



First Generation

All Majors (n = 780)	= 216
New Freshman (n = 62)	= 18
New Transfers (n = 71)	= 19

Under Represented

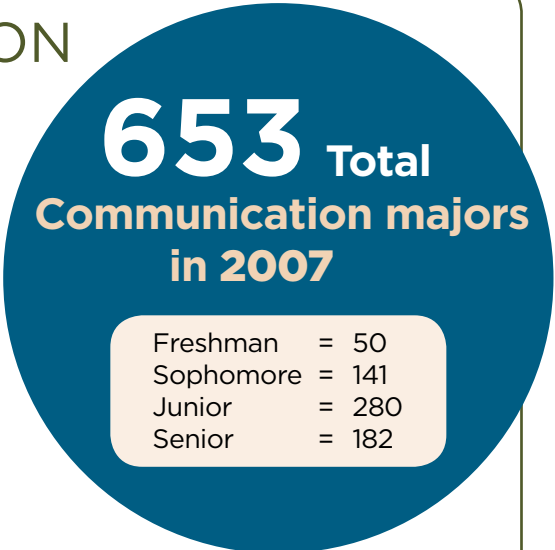
All Majors (n = 780)	= 238
New Freshman (n = 62)	= 15
New Transfers (n = 71)	= 17

International

All Majors (n = 780)	= 79
New Freshman (n = 62)	= 6
New Transfers (n = 71)	= 10

In-State

All Majors (n = 780)	= 670
New Freshman (n = 62)	= 49
New Transfers (n = 71)	= 60



2017 GRADUATE STUDENTS

MA	= 14
MS	= 40
PhD	= 36

FACULTY = 22

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Tom Conley

Professor Conley reports that he has been savoring the fruits of retirement with emeritus status, enabling him to devote his energies exclusively to his research and related activities. As a few examples: a conference presentation in Tuebingen, Germany in 2015 on the uses of philological erudition as an instrument of propaganda and a lecture at the University of Paris in 2016 on rhetoric as it informs the works of Philo of Alexandria.

The last two years have also seen the publication of an essay by him on language as an image of authority in Byzantine society and culture; and a published version of his Paris lecture is due out later this year. Most importantly, however, Tom and his wife, Elizabeth, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past April.

Most days, Tom can still be found at his desk, now on the 4th floor of Lincoln Hall working away at the research he loves so much. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Joe Wenzel

Joe and Patricia Wenzel continue to enjoy the freedom of retirement, especially the freedom to travel while they are still ambulatory and, more especially the freedom to visit grandchildren on the East coast as well as other family in the Midwest. They also take trips with old faculty friends Tom and Barbara Sloan more or less annually.

A rare opportunity for these grandparents has been following their oldest grandchild's last four years of outstanding performance in Civil Engineering on our campus. The Wenzels will miss hearing about his academic work, but also about his participation in theatre, including two spring musicals, for which he designed and built sets. Vincent's degree will be the sixth from U of I for the Wenzel family. ■

Fellowship Honors Wayne Brockriede



Wayne Brockriede received a doctorate from Illinois in 1954 under the direction of Marie Hochmuth Nichols. He also served as Director of Forensics, became an assistant professor at Illinois and subsequently held faculty positions at Carthage College, University of Colorado, and University of Oklahoma, before completing his career at California State University, Fullerton.

Dr. Brockriede was a rhetorical theorist and critic whose work included five books and several dozen articles. *Decision by Debate*, which he published in 1963 with his colleague Douglas Ehninger, remains a classic work in argumentation theory. He served as editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* from 1969 to 1971 and as associate editor of many other journals. He was elected 2nd Vice President of the Speech Communication Association in 1972, and, after having resigned from the presidential sequence for health reasons, finally became President of the Speech Communication Association just before his death in 1986.

Wayne Brockriede believed that to enter into argument is to practice “the art of being human”: to show a respect both for reasonableness and for the capacity of others to be reasonable. He is often remembered for the portrayal of argumentation as a cooperative activity in which people strive to persuade one another while respecting one another’s freedom to disagree. In his view, ideal arguers are not those who win most often,

but those who treat other arguers neither as objects to be manipulated, nor as targets to be coerced. They treat them as partners in a shared search for mutual understanding and agreement. His legacy at Illinois and far beyond has been a view of argumentation that includes the attitudes and values of arguers as central to its skillful practice.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a fellowship has been established to honor Professor Brockriede. The fellowship will be used to recruit a top graduate student applicant of exceptional scholarly achievement and promise of success. Each year, the Graduate Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid will select from among the pool of applicants a candidate who demonstrates notable intellectual ability, a distinguished record of academic achievement, strong fit with the mission of the department, an aptitude for research, and excellent leadership skills. Both prospective MA and PhD students will be eligible for the fellowship.

This year’s recipient, John Moist, received a BA *magna cum laude*, in English literature, from Mount Aloysius College in Pennsylvania and an MA from Baylor University in communication studies and rhetoric, where he served as an editorial intern for the journal, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. His research interests involve political rhetoric, technology, and cultural identity. We believe that Professor Brockriede would be proud to see how rhetoric has evolved, and would be honored to see this student supported in this way, in his name. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Ruth Anne Clark

Following retirement, I have remained in Champaign and have led a leisurely life. I enjoy volunteering in the public schools and at the hospital, and I spend far too much time reading newspapers on line.

We have had some travel adventures as well. High points: we looked across the Silk Road on the Turkey-Syrian border and rode a camel down the canyon at Petra. My souvenir from that trek was a hip replacement.

My greatest pleasure always is visiting with family (three grandchildren now) and friends. Nothing pleases me more than seeing the name of a former student pop up in my email inbox. I send greetings to all of you wonderful people who have been a part of the Communication (formerly Speech Communication) Department at Illinois. ■

Illinois Hosts Online Health Communication Conference

by Allison Chmaj (Class of 2018)

An online health communication conference was hosted by the department this year: the first of its kind! The three-day conference, entitled, “Health Communication: Barriers, Breakthroughs, and Best Practices” or HCB3 took place March 1-3, 2017 and was hosted by the Health Communication Online Master of Science Program (HCOM) and its Program Director, Professor John Lammers. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL), which leads the campus in online education, also helped to host the conference.

Three keynote speakers were invited to present at the HCB3 Conference. They were Stacy Robison from CommunicateHealth, a health education and communication firm specializing in improving health literacy through user-centered design, policy, research, and content development; Lisa Gualtieri of Tufts University, and Lorien Abrams from George Washington University. The virtual audience tuned in from all across the United States and from around the world. There were 320 registered conference attendees (virtually).

Submissions were accepted (15 total) online as video presentations. Viewers of the event were able to communicate with presenters and other audience members via a discussion

board where they could comment specifically on the speakers’ and/or the individual papers. A Twitter hashtag (#) was also used by some conference viewers to generate buzz about the event as it occurred.

Professor Lammers had two major goals for the event: 1) the conference would be a voice for health communication digital platforms and, 2) would bring attention to the HCOM Masters Program at Illinois. Lammers also explained how this year’s conference will help develop future online conferences. Next year’s conference is scheduled at the end of February (2018) and will focus on aspects of digital media, medical health records, and web sources for health information.

Some familiar faces from the Communication Department who attended the conference in person included Professors Brian Quick, Sally Jackson Dave Tewksbury, and John Caughlin, along with several undergraduate and graduate students. Abstracts from the presentations can be found at http://conferences.illinois.edu/HCB3/assets/docs/HCB3_2017_abstracts.pdf ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree: Peggy Miller

After many years of visiting Santa Fe, New Mexico, Larry and I moved here two years ago. We enjoy the easy access to urban and rural pleasures. We love the landscape—we can see the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from our back window. Our most exciting wildlife encounter occurred when a bobcat climbed onto our balcony. I have also seen a great horned owl roosting on a coyote fence.

I just received the copyedited manuscript of my book, co-authored with Grace Cho (St. Olaf College), *Self-esteem in time and place: How American families imagine, enact, and personalize a cultural ideal*, which will be published this fall by Oxford University Press.

We are looking forward to a visit from my grandson, Gershom (age 6), in August and to my daughter’s wedding, at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens, in September. When Kathleen was a little girl, she would fax her letters to Santa Claus from the office of the Communication Department, with help from Mary Rudder and Susana Vasquez-Weigel. ■

Alumni Matters

Doug Hurst, Board Chair

The Alumni Advisory Board held its annual meeting in Chicago on April 14th. The Alumni Advisory Board is comprised of a select group that represents the breadth of occupational careers, and the varied accomplishments of Communication alumni.

The Alumni Advisory Board was established to strengthen ties between the Department and its accomplished alumni all over the United States.

Among its activities, the Board serves as a liaison for the Department's current students to the professional world and helps to generate the resources necessary to attain the goals and objectives of the Department.

The current members of the 2016-17 Board are: Susan Berardi, Brent Centlivre, Ben Haglund, Mark Hersh, Doug Hurst, Brad Kolar, JD Miller, Deborah Parker and Jake Parrillo

Thanks to Board Member, JD Miller, a Happy Hour is planned for Communication Alumni and New Hires, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, September 12 at Rivers Restaurant, 30 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago.

Invitation at evite.me/FnKWfmMDDa ■



2017 LAS and Campus Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Teaching Assistant

David Tokarz
recipient

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retirees: Dan Schiller & Susan Davis

Our new home in Santa Fe looks out on a municipal park and, beyond that, the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the east. We are busy developing new activities and routines, including learning a little about the fascinating history and archaeology of the region prior to the Spanish conquest. Both of us also have carried forward our research and writing projects, and most days find us both at our desks for a couple of hours at least.

During fall 2016, Dan spent two weeks visiting Peking University as a Global Fellows scholar, in order to present lectures on "Networks and the Age of Nixon." His lectures will be published as a book by Peking University Press. Both of us traveled to Barcelona in December to attend a conference on digital capitalism."

After moving to New Mexico, we had to keep plugging at long delayed projects, in my case bringing to a close a long oral history project that is a biography of the folklorist Gershon Legman (1917-1999). It should be out in about a year, I hope, from U of I press. Yes, it really is almost done, and it really is true that you have to retire to get any work done.

But it is not all academic work—we have a house that needs arranging, a couple of cold frames to garden in, and a new landscape to learn about. There are many opportunities for hiking, and winter snow-shoeing. We've been taking language courses at the excellent community college here. We are participating in courses at the School for Advanced Research, a Santa Fe anthropology/archeology research center, archive and publishing outfit.

It is interesting to live in a region that is aware of thousands of years of its history, as opposed to hundreds of years. The deep past is close to the surface here, and people have long memories. ■



2017 Communication Graduation Ceremony featuring the special 150 year sesquicentennial stole.

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You can make a gift to the department online, by phone or by connecting with our advancement officer, Tony Pomonis (LAS '02). Tony expanded the local chain of Merry Ann's Diners from one location to four, and he offers his own experience as proof that a LAS degree equips you with the skills needed for career success. You can reach out to him by calling (217) 300-3470 or email him at apomonis@illinois.edu. Tony travels around the country regularly and may be in your neighborhood soon! Your gift will support the department's continued excellence in education.



Ensure continued excellence in teaching, research, and public engagement by supporting the Department of Communication with a gift!

You can designate your gift to:

- 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 at the top to make your gift.

Communication Alumni and New Hires Happy Hour

5-7 p.m. **September 12**

Rivers Restaurant

30 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL

<http://evite.me/FnKWfmMDDa>

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