

Connections

Dept. of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2003

Got a Spot?

Before graduating from CNU, those of you who had an internship know what a valuable experience it was. Some of you were even offered career opportunities at the organizations and businesses which took you under their wing.

Are you now in a position to offer this same educational experience to a current Communication Studies major?

Whether you work for a broadcast facility, non-profit group, government agency, or business firm -- if you think you've "got a spot," we would love to hear from you! Just get in touch with Dr. Claire Jacobs who oversees the internship program. Her e-mail address is cjacobs@cnu.edu.

It couldn't be easier!



Our Team Has Grown

Two New Members Join the Communication Studies Department



As the number of Communication Studies majors has swelled to 162, so has the need grown for faculty in our program. Fortunately, we have been able to welcome Dr. Vernon Harper and Prof. Pamela Laucella to our ranks.

Dr. Harper received his Ph.D. in Mass Communications from Howard University. He comes to us from California State University at San Bernardino where he spent the last 3 years teaching mass media courses.

Typically, Dr. Harper's research has focused on mediated technology and computer-mediated communication. His most recently published article in Educational Technology and Review centers upon the ever-changing perception of the digital divide and its consequences upon pedagogy; that is, the impact of computer technology on our communication patterns.

Dr. Harper has filled the role of Dr. Mark Borchert, who has returned to his alma mater [see page 3]. This semester, Dr. Harper is teaching Mass Media and Society, Introduction to Documentary, and Public Speaking. Regarding his new 'home,' Dr. Harper feels that "CNU will not only be the academic heart of the Peninsula, but the heart of the state."

Prof. Pamela Laucella is completing her doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She expects to receive her Ph.D. from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in early 2004.

Prof. Laucella's mission as a "creative inquirer, enlightened citizen, and motivating and committed teacher" is guided by baseball legend Jackie Robinson's epitaph: *A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.*

Her research explores historical and contemporary issues in sport, especially focusing on media portrayals of race and gender. Prof. Laucella's doctoral dissertation studies the variances in mainstream, black, Communist, and Nazi press coverage of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

This semester, Prof. Laucella is teaching multiple sections of Public Speaking. During Spring 2004, this will be expanded to include Interpersonal Communication and Diversity in the Media.

Having Dr. Harper and Prof. Laucella join the Dept. of Communication Studies is clearly a bonus to our expanding program. The department website will soon have photos of our new colleagues!



"Body Language Can Speak Volumes during Interview"

"We have all experienced instances in which someone is saying one thing and their nonverbal communication says another. We usually believe the nonverbal," according to Susan Bixler, author of five professional image books and the president of The Professional Image in Atlanta.

Shake on It

Your interviewer's initial nonverbal impression of you comes through your first point of contact – the handshake. "You think that's simple - everyone knows how to shake hands – but that's not true," says Sherry Maysonave, communication/ image consultant and author of *Casual Power*. Don't be afraid to display a strong, firm handshake. Doing otherwise might make you appear insecure or insincere.

Musical Chairs

Ask your interviewer for instructions if you have seating options. Don't just assume and sit anywhere. Furthermore, how you sit is equally important. "If you are sitting on the edge...it can make you look eager but also scared, like you are ready to bolt out of the room." Maysonave says, "Go ahead and slide to the back of the chair and sit tall and straight." Women should be seated with their knees together rather than crossing their legs. It conveys a comfort level which is inappropriate to the interview situation. For the same reason, men should avoid sitting with their legs too wide apart or crossed with the ankle on top of the knee.

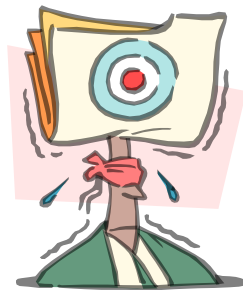
Hands Down

Nervous habits such as hair twirling and hand twitching can distract the interviewer and convey a lack of confidence. Instead, you can sit with

your hands clasped together or hold on to an organizer throughout the session. Avoid steeping your fingers, however, when answering a question. "This can be perceived as arrogant, saying: *I know more about this subject than you do*," Maysonave warns.

The Eyes Have It

We have all been told that eye contact is important. It conveys assurance and respect. But too much eye contact can be a bad thing. "You don't want to make eye contact for more than three or five seconds," advises Bixler. "It's too intense to sustain it the whole time – the key is to make it, break it...." Remember, though, avoiding eye contact, especially while answering a question, might convey dishonesty.



Practicing for those tough interviews is half the battle. During mock sessions, you can become aware of your own bad habits while learning the nuances of an interviewer's own nonverbal messages. Don't ignore the obvious signs, for instance. If your interviewer stands up, so should you. The interview is over.

[source: "CareerBuilder," *Daily Press Newspaper*, Newport News, VA, Feb. 2003]

Faculty Notes



Dr. Terilyn Goins is a member of the CNU Leadership Council. She is writing a book titled *Sole to Soul: To Walk in a Child's Shoes*. She also continues with her message/music seminars, and has released a new CD of inspirational songs, *When You Believe*. For more news and program schedules, see her website: www.terilyngoins.com

Dr. Mary Rose Williams will present the paper *What, Me Worry?: CosmoGirl and Her Friends Look at Women's Health Issues* at the National Communication Association Conference in Miami, Florida. She is also Conference Chair of the Women's Caucus.

Dr. Linda Baughman is a member of the Honors Council Committee. This month, she is presenting a paper entitled *Policing Gender Online and the Construction of Identity for Teen Girls* at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender Conference in Covington, Kentucky.

Dr. Claire Jacobs is the Faculty Advisor to the CNU Equestrian Team. Also, she will present the paper *What, Me Worry?: CosmoGirl and Her Friends Look at Women's Health Issues* with Dr. Williams in a roundtable discussion at the November NCA Conference.

Prof. Mary Best is one of the four Co-Chairs for the 2003-2004 University Faculty/Staff Campaign. She has applied for a Faculty Development Grant in order to train for certification in "Sexual Harassment Awareness" issues.

Guest Column

"A Note from Dr. Mark Borchert"

As I think about my friends and former students at Christopher Newport University, I am delighted to have had the opportunity - like many of you - to have spent four years of my life at the school. I enjoyed our chance to share in life and learning. Like some of you, I have graduated on to other things, but miss our time together.

Returning to my own alma mater has been a very good experience. We now live in Tennessee, and I am teaching at Carson-Newman College, a private liberal arts institution. We are enjoying our mountain home and new surroundings. The silent skies and rolling hills are different from Newport News. Last night we looked out the window to see five deer emerging from the forest down below.



Though we are enjoying our new experiences, it is sad not to be working with CNU's outstanding Communication faculty and staff. Terilyn Goins, Mary Rose Williams, Claire Jacobs, Linda Baughman, Mary Best, and Ellen Whiting are incredible friends and colleagues. And I hear wonderful things about the new faculty members. Best wishes to all.

AlumniConnections



Farissa Alexander ('03) Richmond, VA, is employed as an Advertising Executive for radio station 96.5 *The Planet*.

Jeanette (Hiser) Bevers ('98) Fort Worth, TX, accepted a position as a Pre-Kindergarten Teacher with Clifton Early Childhood in Irving, TX.

Brad Brewer ('02) Newport News, VA, is married to Jennifer Leja Brewer ('04). In May, Brad released his first music CD *Conquering Canaan*. He also has a website www.bradbrewer.net

Becky (James) Ceraul ('97) Newport News, VA, gave birth to a daughter, Lily Joy, on September 8.

Christa Crawford ('03) Stafford, VA, is working with the Dept. of Justice in Washington. She is a Special Project Assistant with the Executive Office for United States Attorneys.

Amy Getts ('01) Smithfield, VA, graduated from Radford University, in May 2003, with an M.S. in Corporate and Professional Communication. She is employed by Northrop Grumman Newport News as an Operations Coordinator.

Hanna Goodwyn ('03) Virginia Beach, VA, is a graduate student in Journalism at Regent University. She is also an Editor of the student-run news website *The Standard Report*.

Dave Gosselin ('01) Williamsburg, VA, is a new father to daughter Kaylee Marie, born September 14.

Lynda (Smith) Greve ('98) has released a new music CD *Rollin' in the Wind*. It is available at her website www.lyndasmithmusic.com

Susan (Shelburne) Hunt ('97) Asheville, NC, received her Professional in Human Resources (PHR) Certification in May 2003.

Michele (Bates) King ('97) Newport News, VA, gave birth to a son, Andrew Cameron, on September 9.

Krista Jones ('02) Richmond, VA, is employed as a Reporter for the *Tidewater Review* newspaper in West Point, VA.

Lena (Mitchell) Lomosi ('99) Hampton, VA, married Alex Lomosi in August 2003.

Casey Martin ('03) Richmond, VA, is a Financial Researcher for Circuit City in their Corporate Office

Erika McGee ('02) Raleigh, NC, is employed by Noland Company in their Management Trainee Program.

Stacy Moore ('01) Virginia Beach, VA, works for the Educational Opportunity Center in Norfolk. She is attending ODU part-time to pursue a Master's in Public Administration.

Julie (Brunner) Newman ('01) Clinton, NJ, married Geoff Newman in June 2003. She is an Anchor for News 10 Now, a 24-hour regional news network in Syracuse, NY.

Eric Pesola ('98) Norfolk, VA, is a new father to son Alec William Stokes, born June 26.

Margo Scheinhaus ('03) Fairfax, VA, is pursuing a Master's degree in the Communication Dept. at George Mason University.

Katie Sutton ('02) Chesapeake, VA. Works part-time for Hampton Roads Radio Group in addition to her full-time position with Towers Perrin.

Courtney Thon ('03) Newport News, VA, is employed by Riverside Regional Medial Center as a Human Resources Assistant.

Brad Webb ('02) Fairfax, VA, is working towards an M.A. in Film and Video at American University.

