

Connections

Dept. of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2004

Have You Been Counting?

The Communication Studies Department faculty membership continues to grow each year. As the number of majors rapidly swells, we now have eight professors on board! [Read the accompanying lead article to meet our three newest members.]

In fact, we have outgrown our current office located on the third floor of the Business Tech Center (BTC). Dr. Manning, Dr. Meyer, and Prof. French are housed in the adjacent Accounting Department. Their three offices are easily accessible after entering that suite. But, as you can imagine, there is quite a bit of 'legwork' between department sites.

Not a problem, however! We are a cohesive team. And, of course, we love to communicate!



Meet Our New Members!

Dr. Linda Manning joins our department from The University of Colorado. Her doctorate is in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Family Communication from The University of Denver.

Her major area of expertise is relational and family communication. She researches and teaches about the ways in which interpersonal relationships contribute to, and are influenced by, larger social systems. As an example, her doctoral work considered intersections of identity and culture within groups – specifically families with children from China. Dr. Manning takes a systems approach to communication that considers the recursive relationship between communicators and the external and internal social forces that influence interaction.

Over the past 14 years, she has developed a teaching philosophy that consists of creating a civil communication context centered on students, in which learners carry their classroom experiences into the community. According to Dr. Manning, "One of my favorite quotations is: *Only she who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible.*"

Dr. Michaela Meyer has just received her Ph.D. in Communication Studies and a Certificate in Women's Studies from Ohio University. Her scholarly

identity is comprised of two specific interests – media and identity formation, specifically in young adult contexts. "I have found this an exciting line of work because my students live and breathe popular culture...." says Dr. Meyer.

A second line of her research interest involves the representation of her figures in popular culture. Most recently, she has published work on *Dawson's Creek*, *Angel*, and *Spiderman*. Her dissertation examines the representation of interpersonal relationships on *Smallville*.



As an educator, Dr. Meyer focuses on cultivating student efficacy and critical thinking. Also, she has a strong commitment to undergraduate mentorship. "I believe that young adults are key players in understanding our media environment."

Dr. Meyer is an interdisciplinary individual. Outside of work, her interests are varied as well... from wine connoisseur to karaoke!

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Dr. Claire Jacobs, New Department Chair

Dr. Claire Jacobs, Assistant Professor, has taken on the role of Communication Studies Department Chair. Dr. Jacobs has been a full-time member of our department since 2002. Prior to that, she had been employed here as an Adjunct Professor. Her role as Employee Relations and Training Manager at Jefferson Lab in Newport News preceded her entrance into academia.

In addition to her responsibilities as Department Chair, Dr. Jacobs oversees the internship program

for our majors. Her other interests include the discovery of how communication influences organizational effectiveness and culture. She is also “passionate” about bending and stretching gender stereotypes.

She says of her new role, “It’s an exciting time to be in this position. Our department continues to grow, and now with our three new faculty members, we are able to offer some different courses to our majors. It’s a great department to chair!”

The Scholastic Council on Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) has awarded our department the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies!

This will replace the former Bachelor of Arts in English with a major in Communication Studies.

Way to Go!!!



Meet Our New Members!

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Prof. Nate French is currently working towards his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His dissertation is titled *Beyond Exclusion: Next steps in counterpublic theory*, a rhetorical construction of the “liberal” university post September 11, 2001.

His teaching and research are grounded in a pragmatic rhetoric that finds a home in modernist philosophy. His questions concern what was/is persuasive and why. Specific areas of interest consider the effect of popular culture on public policy. Beyond teaching,

Prof. French has worked in multiple capacities at institutions of higher education. These include minority affairs, undergraduate admissions, student advising, financial aid, and awarding and managing scholarship funds.

Prof. French describes himself as an enlightened eclectic. “I am one of the few admitted individuals who listens to talk radio, reads multiple newspapers, spends hours on the web, and still – I am politically obtuse.” But among students and colleagues, he is considered most acute.

[you can meet all our faculty members on our soon-to-be redesigned web site at www.cnu.edu/speech/faculty]

Faculty Notes



Dr. Linda Baughman presented two papers at the International Cultural Studies CrossRoads Conference: *Critical Pedagogy in a Conservative Context* and *Anthony Comstock and Gramma's Book on Sex*. She is also a member of CNU's Honor Council and Liberal Learning Committee.

Dr. Vernon Harper is a member of the Student Appeals Committee for the University. He also acts as Webmaster for the Communication Studies Department at CNU and for the African American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association.

Dr. Pamela Laucella has been awarded a Ph.D. in from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her dissertation was entitled *An Analysis of Mainstream, Black, and Communist Press Coverage of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games*.

Prof. Mary Best was a Judge at the Future Business Leaders Association Annual Forensics Conference, and has utilized her certification in *Sexual Harassment Awareness* to present programs on this subject to professional organizations.



There have been many moments – high and low – that compete for significance as I look back on three interesting and fast-paced years since graduation.

In my current job as managing editor of ArcaMax Publishing, www.arcamax.com, I am enjoying the best of times. My work consists of finding and editing stories for our news site and e-mailed publications – anything from health and science news to gardening tips. My cynicism and dry sense of humor that I carried over from two years as a journalist have earned me nicknames around the office I'd rather not mention. I work with great people who encourage creativity and make hard work fun.

Before I began working at ArcaMax last year, I was a general assignment reporter for the Smithfield Times weekly newspaper in Isle of Wight County. I covered everything from protests over an unwanted pagan community to a terrorism scare on the Surry-Jamestown ferry. The 60-70 hour weeks that included covering sporting events on the weekends and government meetings on weeknights were a challenging introduction to the "real world." I called this job the writing equivalent to boot camp.

As a communication student at CNU, I remember questioning when I would find practical value to my education. These questions are being answered as I find myself examining daily how I interact with others – whether I'm editing a story that will be read by 50,000 subscribers or discussing a problem with my boss. I give a big thanks to the communication faculty for their relentless dedication in teaching the most important and dynamic survival skill there is: effective communication.

Hugh Spain '01

Loni Albertson ('04) Chesapeake, VA, is enrolled in graduate school at Regent University. She is studying Directing for Television and Film.

Melissa Bubash ('03) Tinley Park, IL, is an Accountant for the firm of Ernest Di Monte and Associates. She is also enrolled in an MBA program at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

Becky (James) Ceraul ('97) Newport News, VA, is moving to Baltimore, MD and will be employed as a Senior Media Relations Specialist at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Christa Crawford ('03) Stafford, VA, is an Executive Assistant working for the United States Senate. She is in the Office of the Sergeant of Arms at the Capitol Building.

Katie Farmer ('03) Glen Allen, VA, is engaged to be married to Rob Copeland, October 2005.

Hannah Goodwin ('03) Virginia Beach, VA, is the Assistant Editor of *The Standard Report*, a student-run national news web site.
<http://www.thestandardreport.com>



Dave Gosselin ('01) Williamsburg, VA, Assistant Director of Athletic Communications for CNU, has won several Citations for Excellence in Publications, including 'Best in the Nation' for *Men's Basketball Game Program*.

Quenequa Hitchcock ('03) Newport News, VA, is employed as a Salesperson at The Scotsman in Hampton, and was named Associate of the Quarter at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Newport News.

April Hudson ('00) Yorktown, VA, is employed as a Career Advisor for Medical Careers Institute in Newport News.

Susan (Shelburne) Hunt ('97) Ashville, NC, gave birth to daughter Reagan Elizabeth Hunt, born July 24, 2004.

Natalia Ilchyshyn ('04) Newport News, VA, is employed by Entercom as a Disc Jockey for Z104 in Norfolk, VA.

Erika McGee ('02) Raleigh, NC, will be joining the United States Air Force and pursuing a career in nursing.

Stacy Moore ('01) Virginia Beach, VA, will be graduating in December with a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University.

Stacy Mullins ('04) Richmond, VA, works for Executive Concierge of Virginia as the Corporate Concierge for Riverfront Plaza in Richmond, VA.

Shaina Silver ('04) Annapolis, MD, is pursuing a Master's Degree in Integrated Marketing Communication at Emerson College in Boston. On campus, she is the Communications and Promotions Coordinator for Emerson Channel Television.

Katie Sutton ('02) Chesapeake, VA, is employed as an Air Personality for Eagle 97.3 in Virginia Beach, in addition to her Towers Perrin career.

Jessica Wharton ('04) Newport News, VA, is the Membership and Guest Sales Coordinator in the Marketing Department of the Virginia Air & Space Center, Hampton, VA.

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