

# Connections

Department of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2005

Photos, anyone?



## On the Move...

Those of you who have been receiving the newsletter for a few years, can identify the Photo Gallery as a new addition. It began last Spring and has been well-received. Many of you have recognized old friends and former professors.

We are always looking for new contributions to the Photo Gallery, and you can help with this effort! If you have a picture of yourself or other Communication Studies graduates which you would like to see in a future edition of the alumni newsletter, please pass it along. Have you traveled to an exotic locale or helped with volunteer efforts? Are you posed with a collaborative team at work, or are you being given an award? Let's spread the word.

Our only request is that the photo is in a digital format, and that you are able to send it electronically. Just pass it along to the editor with a caption identifying the participants.

If you have visited or driven by the CNU campus recently, you have noticed that many changes are afoot. A new student center nearing completion... an expanding library... and more student apartments than ever before. Like the University, our Department of Communication Studies is growing, too. We now have ten faculty members!

*[meet 3 new members on page 2]*

In the way that a large family has outgrown its small home, so we have outgrown our former office space. You recent graduates will recall that three of our faculty had to be housed in the adjacent Accounting Department on the third floor of the Business Tech Center.



Kathy Byars, Office Manager

So where have we gone? Our new residence is named Commonwealth Hall. It is located on Warwick Blvd. next to the Warwick Restaurant. Formerly, our offices served as a student residence hall called Warwick River.



We currently share Commonwealth Hall with the Department of Modern and Classical Language and Literatures. And a few professors from other departments add to the eclectic nature of our new home.

The Communication Studies faculty occupy rooms 23 through 33. Kathy Byars, our office manager, anchors the department in room 30. And Dr. Claire Jacobs, our Department Chair, is adjacent to her in room 31.

Each of our offices has roomy comfort and a tiled bath. Full glass storm doors allow sunlight and an "at home" welcoming quality to our environment. Already, we have had visits from some of our alumni. And we are planning a Commonwealth Hall picnic with our university colleagues later this month. Best of all, parking is merely a few feet from our office doors.

So do stop by to say "hello." Our one-story units are still sky blue in color. You can't miss us!

# Photo Gallery



Communication Studies Department sponsored field trip to media centers in Hollywood, California



Jenelle Sewell on a mission trip to Honduras



Danielle Elbeze - May 2005 Commencement



Prof. Yih-Shan Shih, Prof. Ron Von Burg and Prof. Irene Grau



Dr. Nate French teaches a Public Speaking class



Jeremy Smith & Quinton Sheppard - May 2005 Commencement

## OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

**Prof. Irene Grau** is in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa, pursuing her Ph.D. in Communication Studies, Rhetorical Emphasis. Her dissertation is titled: *La Raza Cosmica?: Latino identity and the politics of speaking.*

**Prof. Ron Von Burg** is pursuing his Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric from the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Communication and Rhetoric. His dissertation is titled: *Cinematic Turn in Public Discussions of Science.*

**Prof. Yih-Shan Shih** attends the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Cultural Studies, and her dissertation is titled: *Postcolonial Theory Reconsidered: An intervention of inter-Asian colonial relationships.*

## Communication Studies Faculty

Dr. Claire Jacobs, Chair  
 Dr. Linda Baughman  
 Dr. Vernon Harper  
 Dr. Linda Manning  
 Dr. Michaela Meyer  
 Dr. Nate French  
 Prof. Irene Grau  
 Prof. Ron Von Burg  
 Prof. Yi-Shan Shih  
 Prof. Mary Best



## Success From Home – Plan B

by Tamara (Kagler) Barnes '03

After graduation, I experienced two major disappointments in the pursuit of my career. Although stressful, this made me do a little self-evaluation. While in my discovery process, I landed a gig in my first love, theater. I did a few plays and started going on auditions, and learned of an open call for a movie. I went to the audition and got a part for a documentary with the History Channel. The opportunity gave me the boost I needed to see that my past disappointments led to a chance of a lifetime.

The Cole Conspiracy, which will air in October 2005, will provide viewers with an action-packed look at the Al Qaeda attack on the USS Cole. I played Hospital Corpsman Campbell aka "Baby Doc". At the time of the Cole bombing, she was a 24-year-old junior corpsman who managed routine medical needs of 300 sailors. It was an honor to retell her story.

Although the opportunity paid \$250 a day, all good things end. Back to square one, still planning a wedding, I went to a bridal show and saw this display of products that caught my eye. I talked to the person and she gave me some info on the products. Weeks later, I got a call from the same lady to attend a workshop. I signed up as a consultant.... Well, my career in network marketing began. This was an opportunity to make money, and I was passionate about the product. A home based business - now there's an idea.

I currently run two network-marketing businesses. One is as an Independent Consultant for Arbonne International, which markets natural and botanical skincare and nutrition products. The other is as an Independent Financial Representative for Primerica, a subsidiary of Citigroup. I am licensed to market products that help people get out of debt, get first time home loans, and restructure existing home mortgages. I would not trade it for the world. I enjoy being my own boss and making my own schedule. It also allows me to audition when I want to, do work in my community, and not go through the ups and downs of working for someone else. And, I'm using skills within my degree.

Tamara can be reached at  
[tamara@mybarbonne.com](mailto:tamara@mybarbonne.com)

**Loni Albertson ('03)** Chesapeake, VA, acted as a Second Assistant Director for an INSP Network film and as a Production Assistant for a Nike commercial, as part of her graduate studies at Regent University.

**Jessica Baker ('05)** Lanham, MD, works as the Local Sales and Human Resources Coordinator for Infinity Broadcasting.

**Tamara (Kagler) Barnes ('04)** Hampton, VA, was married to Samuel Barnes on May 21, 2005.

**Chris Caras ('05)** Virginia Beach, VA, is employed with Definitive Concepts, Inc. in Virginia Beach. He was married to Kelli Culver in June 2005.

**Missy (Taylor) Christianson ('03)** Virginia Beach, VA, was married to James Christianson on Sept. 24, 2005.

**Christen DuChemin ('04)** Newport News, VA, is employed by Christopher Newport University in the University Events Department.

**Eric Gambardella ('05)** Suffolk, VA, has been involved with Fund Development for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He is engaged to be married to Beth Heath (CNU '05).

**Hannah Goodwyn ('03)** Virginia Beach, VA, is the Internet Media Dept. Web Producer of [LivingtheLife.com](http://LivingtheLife.com) for the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

**Lynda (Smith) Greve ('98)** Mathews, VA, gave birth to a son, Andrew Richard, on July 29, 2005.

**Natalia Ilchyshyn ('04)** Virginia Beach, VA, is employed as evening air-personality "Natti @ Night" for 94.9, the Point radio.

**Lindsay Moss ('05)** Yorktown, VA is employed as an Admissions Officer for Christopher Newport University

**Taya Moss ('04)** Richmond, VA, has been promoted to Community Outreach Specialist in the Public Affairs Dept. for the VA Dept. of Transportation.

**Ashley Midgette ('05)** Virginia Beach, VA, is a Human Resources Assistant at DePaul Medical Center. She is engaged to Ryan Fleischer (CNU '06).

**Stacie Mullins ('04)** is planning to travel to South Africa in November. She is engaged to be married to Adam Rose.

**Julie (Brunner) Newman ('01)** Clinton, NJ, accepted a new position as Evening Anchor for WSET News (ABC affiliate) in Roanoke, VA.

**Molly Reed ('04)** Virginia Beach, VA, is pursuing a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and Healthcare Administration at Regent University. She is a Benefits/Disability Specialist for Sentara Healthcare.

**Gina (Holland) Shackelford ('96)** Newport News, VA, has been promoted to Membership Manager at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News.

**Quinton Sheppard ('05)** Gloucester, VA, is employed as a Reporter/Photographer with the Gloucester/Mathews Gazette-Journal.

**Jeremy Smith ('05)** Louisville, KY, is pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree in Pastoral Studies from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

**Hugh Spain ('01)** Yorktown, VA, is seeking applications for a Public Relations/Editing position at ArcaMax Publishing, an on-line company. He can be reached at [hspain@arcamax.com](mailto:hspain@arcamax.com)

**Katie Sutton ('02)** Chesapeake, VA, has accepted a position as a Customer Service Representative with CIBA Specialty Chemical Corporation in Suffolk.

**Katherine Wallace ('04)** Newport News, VA, is enrolled at West Virginia University for a master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communication.



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