

Connections

Department of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter
Christopher Newport University

Fall 2006

Website

Looking for a way to revisit the Communication Studies Department... or hoping to learn what's new?

Check out our expanded department website! Here are the menu choices:

- What We Do
- Academic Program
- Faculty Profiles
- Careers in Communication
(includes valuable links)
- Department News
- Student Achievement
- Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society



- Alumni Newsletter
(current and archives)

Among the interesting developments and opportunities, you will see photos of college friends and contact information for your former professors. Just go to:

<http://communications.cnu.edu/>



Academic Festival is Huge Success

Thursday, August 18 was not just any ordinary day for returning CNU faculty and students. In an effort to introduce freshmen to the diverse choices of majors, and to help them get acquainted with faculty in each of the departments, the first Academic Festival was launched.

Much more than a 'meet and greet' opportunity, the Festival showcased the types of subjects in each curriculum that the incoming students could expect to learn. As the name suggests, these showcases were venues where academia and fun easily fused.



Dr. Nate French

The highlight of the Communication Studies festival was the *Wheel of Communication*. Fashioned after the popular television game show *Wheel of Fortune*, our version was hosted by Dr. Nate French and Dr. Ron Von Burg.

Each host ably led three contestants through a sequence of wheel spins and alphabet letter choices which resulted in a topical communication word, such as "interpersonal" or "organizational."

The contestant who correctly guessed the word won a special prize. But no one left empty-handed. Every visitor to our showcase received a small gift.

Filling in the letters to tip off the contestants was Sarah London, Communication Studies '07, our very own 'Vanna White.' All department professors were on hand, as well, to offer short descriptions of the curriculum vocabulary.



Sarah London, Communication Studies student

A visit to the Communication Studies showcase was further energized by other activities. Dr. Linda Baughman, who is currently leading a freshman seminar on the television show *The Simpsons*, discussed clips of the program in its media perception context. And Dr. Vernon Harper displayed student-crafted digital graphics as produced in his Visual Communication course.



The Simpsons

Another Communication Studies major, Brett Small '06, piloted an interview session with pre-Communication freshmen as a way to assess current attitudes for later departmental comparison.

Alumni Achievements

The Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender (OSCLG) has given the same prestigious award to TWO of our Communication Studies graduates, in consecutive years!

In 2005, Madeline Rose Russo ('04) won the national award for the "Outstanding Undergraduate Paper." Her research was titled *Women Take the Sack in Hegemonistic World of Sports*.

This year, 2006, Kristen Harding ('06) won the same national award "Outstanding Undergraduate Paper" for her work. Kristen's research was titled *Behind the Nettela: Race, Gender, Power, and Identity in the Third World*.

Both papers were originally completed as senior Communication Studies research projects under the mentorship of Dr. Linda Baughman. Honorees are formally congratulated at the annual OSCLG Conference. This October, it will be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Currently, 'Rosie' Russo is pursuing her Master of Arts Degree in Communication at The University of Colorado at Denver. She is also teaching Presentational Speaking to undergraduates.

Kristen Harding spent the summer working in Ethiopia and Kenya, assisting local development projects. She has now taken on an internship in Washington, DC with the National Student Leadership Forum.

(accompanying Guest Column by Kristen Harding appears on page 3)



Rosie Russo (center) at the National Communication Association Convention in Boston



Kristen Harding visits a patient in Fistula Hospital

Career Connections Career Connections

Interview Types and Tips

Employers often use a variety of interview techniques and settings to determine your hire ability. It is to your advantage to be aware of which type of interview you will be having and how to respond accordingly.



Screening Interview – these may be conducted in person, over the phone, or via video to help employers determine if you meet the minimum qualifications. **Tip:** familiarity with your resume and portfolio are your best strategies for emphasizing your skills and abilities.

One-on-One Interview – this is the most common interview format and is usually conducted on site by the hiring supervisor. **Tip:** in addition to selling your key strengths, suggest strategies that the supervisor could implement to resolve company challenges.

Panel Interview – this group is usually comprised of three or more people representing different departments. **Tip:** direct your answers to the person who asks the question, but maintain contact with the other panel members.

Peer Group Interview – this will comprise of your potential co-workers who will evaluate you and make recommendations. **Tip:** focus on being agreeable and as someone who would make a good team player.

Luncheon Interview – the purpose here is to assess how well you can handle yourself in social situations. **Tip:** steer clear of foods that are not easy to eat gracefully and do not order alcohol even if others do.

Second Interview - known for seeing how you perform under stress, these typically last one whole day or more. They may involve a combination of all interview types. **Tip:** prove that you have researched the company and maintain your selling point as a well-balanced package. Emphasize your dedication to the organization and remain composed under fire.

[source: *Job Choices 2005*, National Association of Colleges and Employers]



Halfway Around the World and Back.

Graduating from CNU this May not only marked the end of four full years' academics, but the beginning of many unexpected adventures. My classroom has only expanded since graduation. I've trekked on the Appalachian Trail, journeyed through parts of East Africa, and ventured into the work force in our nation's capital.

These last months have been some of the most fulfilling months of my life. I've loved exploring and learning more about the world and the numerous opportunities to serve in it.

One highlight was the two months I spent working in Kenya. I worked a fishing village on a remote island on



Lake Victoria (photo) where there were no roads or cars. It was an amazing experience working at an orphanage in a place of devastating need yet unwavering optimism.

Seeing more of the world has reaffirmed my passion to serve in areas of need. Unexpectedly, this passion to serve has brought me to Washington DC. This August I started up a job with the National Student Leadership Program that seeks to invest in the future leaders of our country. While at times I have pangs of nostalgia thinking back to the good ole' days at CNU, it has been exciting to move forward into the "real world." I'm finding out the real world is what you make it. So far it has been challenging, but a blast!

Kristen Harding '06

Loni Albertson ('03) Virginia Beach, VA is continuing her graduate studies in the new MFA program for Directing and Producing at Regent University.

Loren Arnot ('03) Richmond, VA is a National Sales Account Representative for T-Mobile Wireless. Her territory is from Richmond to Emporia, VA.

Caitlin Austin ('06) Stafford, VA is seeking her Master's Degree in Teaching at Christopher Newport University. She is engaged to be married to Victor Duenow.

Crystal Banwarth ('06) Chesapeake, VA is employed by Enterprise Rent-a-Car in their Management Training Program.

Melissa Bubash ('03) Chicago, IL was awarded an MBA from Saint Xavier University. She is currently a Financial Planner for Waddell & Reed.

Susanne Burgess ('05) Richmond, VA collaborated with American Idol producers to bring Elliott Yamin to the Richmond Braves stadium for his "hometown tour."

Allison Burr-Miller ('05) Fort Collins, CO is pursuing her Master of Arts Degree in Speech Communication at Colorado State University.

Missy (Taylor) Christianson ('03) Virginia Beach, VA and husband James, announce the birth of their second child, Jackson Thomas, born August 21 2006.

JamieLynn (Caulder) Cook ('04) Newport News, VA is a 3rd grade Teacher at Hilton Elementary Magnet for Communication Arts. She was married to James Cook in August 2006.

Jenny Lynn (Hodges) Dean ('99) Newport News, VA is employed in Training and Development with Ferguson Enterprises.

Ashley (Midgette) Fleischer ('05) Chesapeake, VA works in Human Resources at Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center. She was married to Ryan Fleischer (CNU '06) in August 2006.

Kristin Gallaway ('06) Hampton, VA is employed as a Loan Officer Assistant at American Home Mortgage.

Hannah Goodwyn ('03) Virginia Beach, VA was recently promoted to Producer for CBN.com and LivingTheLife.com in the Digital Media Dept.

LaShondra James ('06) Fairfax, VA is employed as a Marketing Assistant for The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, a non-profit agency.

Sam Kang ('03) Newport News, VA is a Real Estate Appraiser for Leading Edge Res., LLC. He was married to Kristen (Fauver) Kang (CNU '05) in May 2004.

Jennifer Mandler ('06) Newport News, VA is a Sales & Special Event Services Representative at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg.

Amy Norris ('95) Yorktown, VA is pursuing a graduate degree in Psychology and Counseling at Regent University.

Christina Rawls-Luley ('04) Gloucester Point, VA was married to Patrick Luley in July 2006.

Katie Reagan ('05) Montclair, VA is employed as the Project Assistant for Rinker Design Associates, P.C. in Manassas, VA.

Derek Rivers ('03) Fairfax, VA has accepted a new position with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC.

Rosie Russo ('04) Denver, CO is a graduate student in the Communication Department at The University of Colorado.

Emily Seamon ('06) Richmond, VA is seeking her Master's Degree in Communication at Florida State University. She works as an Assistant Manager for Walgreens.

Jamel Seward ('06) Queens, NY is attending Long Island University Brooklyn Campus for a Master's Degree in Media Arts-film production and directing.

Jeremy Wall ('06) Newport News, VA is the Unit Director for the Boys & Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula Pinedale Unit. He was married to Lori (Caretta) Wall in 2005.

Hannah Wampler ('05) is the Specialty Brand Manager for M. Price Distributing, the Peninsula's Anheuser Busch distributor.

Melissa (Johnson) Williams ('96) Newport News, VA attended the American Society for Training and Development *Performance Driven Training Conference*, in September, as Instructional Designer with Bank of America.

Taylor Winstead ('05) Virginia Beach, VA is a Marketing and Communications Account Representative for REIN, Inc. in Virginia Beach.

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