

Connections

Department of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter
Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA 23606

Spring 2006

A Decade Makes a Difference!

A few of you [newsletter recipients] will remember your graduation from Christopher Newport University in 1995.

In fact, you began your studies while the school was called Christopher Newport College. At that time, the Department of Arts and Communication oversaw music, theater, fine arts and communication studies. To those majoring in communication studies, the department conferred its Bachelor of Arts degree upon four individuals.

Compare that with our number of 2005 graduates. Last year, the Department of Communication Studies conferred the Bachelor of Arts degree upon forty-eight individuals!

What incredible growth of a program! Congratulations to all!



Faculty Lead the Way at NCA

In November 2005, the Department of Communication Studies was represented by an unprecedented number of faculty and students at the **National Communication Association Convention** in Boston.

Seven of our professors offered scholarly presentations, authored research papers, participated in caucuses, and moderated discussions.

The following is only a partial list of their diverse accomplishments:

Dr. Linda Baughman and **Dr. Claire Jacobs** (dept. chair) presented *'The Princesses' v. Britney Spears: A war of ideological occupation and young girls.*



Dr. Claire Jacobs



Dr. Linda Manning

Dr. Linda Manning gave presentations entitled *When Boys Won't be Boys: The production of gendered identity in young boys* and *Compiling a Master Tape: Communicatively constructing a shared family identity.*

Dr. Michaela D.E. Meyer presented *This is My Obsession: The subversion and reconstitution of homoeroticism on*

'Smallville.' She also engaged in several caucuses on racial, sexuality, and gender issues.



Dr. Nate French was a participant in a panel session entitled *Black Drama in Canada and the United States.*

Dr. Ron Von Burg presented *Cinematic Genetics: The impact of GATTACA on science policy discourse* and *Decades Away or the Day after Tomorrow: The public scientific discourse on the possibilities of global warming disaster.*

Prof. Irene Grau participated in sessions related to *Latina/Latino Communication Studies* and *The Rhetoric Society of America.*

Further topics for discussion by our faculty participants included those ranging from *Feminization of Service in the Academy* to *A Critical Examination of the Production of 'Kids' in American Culture.*

In all, our seven illustrious department members were involved in twenty-five scholarly activities at the NCA conference.

Student participants were represented by Jane Berry Bodenstern, Julie Brubach, Allison Burr-Miller ('05), Jessica Kotula ('05), Rosie Russo ('04) and Sarah Zoric.

See their accompanying story on page 2.

Students Also Lead the Way...

Three Christopher Newport University graduates presented their senior research projects at the 91st National Communication Association convention in Boston. This was the first time students from the Communication Studies Department were competitively selected to attend the conference.

Allison Burr-Miller presented *Red Sox Fans are Feminists: Gender parallels in the media's representation of the Boston Red Sox*, research which examined the mythically constructed narrative of the Red Sox baseball franchise and its representation in popular media.

Jessica Kotula's work, *Kickin' Identity: Young women, soccer, and the construction of self*, provided a narrative reflection of Ms. Kotula's participation in youth soccer and the experiences of the young girls she now coaches in the sport.



Sarah Zoric ('06), Julie Bruback ('06), Rosie Russo ('04)
Jessica Kotula ('05) and Dr. Meyer [far right]

Dan McCleese's paper, *Rescue Representation: Examining firefighting in contemporary popular film*, analyzed the depiction of men in firefighting roles in the movies "Backdraft" and "Ladder 49." Julie Brubach, a senior Communication Studies major, presented Mr. McCleese's research due to his inability to attend the convention.

The students were sponsored by Assistant Professors Dr. Linda Baughman and Dr. Michaela Meyer.

Career Connections Career Connections

Behavior-Based Interviewing

Among human resources professionals, behavior-based interviewing (BBI) is one of the fastest growing interviewing methods. Based on the premise that an applicant's past behavior will predict how he or she will respond in similar situations in the future, BBI focuses on determining how you, the interviewee, have actively applied your skills. The recruiter is looking for proof that you can demonstrate the desired capabilities in the career world.



The best way to prepare for BBI is to familiarize yourself with the types of questions you may be asked. The following are some commonly asked questions in the behavior-based interview:

- Describe an innovative idea that you created which led to a significant contribution in the success of an activity or project.
- What was the most complex assignment you have had? What was your role?
- Provide an example of how you acquired a technical skill and converted it to a practical application.
- What are three effective leadership qualities you think are important? How have you demonstrated these qualities?
- By providing examples, demonstrate that you can adapt to a wide variety of people, situations, or environments.
- Tell me about a suggestion you made to improve the way academic and/or employment processes worked. What was the result?

So expect to think – often in painstaking detail – under pressure. Then take your time in formulating your response.

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



My reasons for returning to college are probably much different from the traditional student. For personal reasons, I had resigned my position as a legal assistant and found myself at the crossroads of life. An urge within me spurred an interest to return to school. Knowing the importance of technology, a friend suggested taking a computer class at Christopher Newport. After a review of my previous college transcript, I learned that I only needed 30 credits to complete the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. I was going to earn a college degree!

At my age, a long-range career was no longer important to me. It was the feeling of accomplishment and opportunity to strengthen my communication skills and fulfill my inner desire to serve God. Since graduation, my calling has been to use my gift of communication in service to others as a lay caregiver and group leader. What a great opportunity to give to others from the fruits of my labor.

A trip cross-country and working in Yellowstone National Park were a highlight in 2005. Meeting people from all over the world was an experience I will always cherish. Life experiences can be rewarding in many ways, and to be able to share the results of my efforts has been the blessing.

Barbara Coulson
Class of 1998



The Continental Divide passes through Yellowstone National Park

Loren Arnot ('03) Richmond, VA, is employed as an Insurance Agent for New York Life in Richmond.

Jessica Baker ('05) Washington, DC, works as the Continuity Director for Free FM 106.7 WJFK in Fairfax, VA.

Susanne Burgess ('05) Richmond, VA, is an Information Specialist for the International Mission Board and will have an Internship with the Richmond Braves baseball team.

Jamie Caulder ('04) Newport News, VA, is a 3rd grade Teacher at Hilton Elementary, a magnet school for communication arts, in Newport News.

Jacqueline Condict ('04) Newport News, VA, has been promoted to Aquatic Staff Assistant at the Midtown Community Center in the Recreation Dept. for Newport News.

Katie (Farmer) Copeland ('03) Glen Allen, VA, was married to Rob Copeland on October 22, 2005.

Heather Dennee ('05) Culpepper, VA, is currently an English Teacher at Gunam Elementary School in Seoul Korea.

Eric Gambardella ('05) Harrisonburg, VA, and wife Beth, are returning to Christopher Newport Univ. as InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff workers for Campus Ministry. www.intervarsity.org

Shana Goodman ('02) Cary, NC, has accepted employment at FleetPride, a heavy duty truck parts distributor, in Garner, NC. She continues her graduate studies in Human Resources Administration with Central Michigan Univ.

Dave Gosselin ('01) Williamsburg, VA, and wife Ashley announce the birth of their second child, Ella Kate, born October 3, 2005.

Jonelle Hanson ('05) Newport News, VA, is the owner of *Jersey's Java*, a coffee house in Suffolk, VA. www.jerseysjava.com

Megan Hunter ('02) Fredericksburg, VA, is a Research and Information Services Associate at Nations Development Institute in Fredericksburg. She and Charles Dean announce the birth of their son, Charles Phillip Dean III, born October 24, 2005.

Michele (Bates) King ('97) Newport News, VA, is an Assistant Professor for the College of William and Mary. Recently, she was a judge for the 2006 National Catholic Forensic League.

Corey Leggett ('05) Suffolk, VA, is a Home Builder with Sturdevant Expressions L.L.C. in Newport News. He is engaged to be married to Autumn Warren.

Robert May ('05) Ewa Beach, HI, completed the Quartermaster Officer Basic Course and serves as a Second Lieutenant, Fuel and Water Platoon Leader, in the U.S. Army.

Jessica (Kelly) McLean ('05) Kitty Hawk, NC, is a teacher for Dare County Public Schools. She was married to Nicholas McLean on January 15, 2005.

Taya Moss ('04) Richmond, VA, is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Strategic Public Relations from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jimmy Nicholson ('05) Fort Meyers, FL, is employed as a Photojournalist for WINK-TV, the CBS news affiliate in Ft. Meyers. He is engaged to be married to Estonna Garrett.

Christina Rawls ('04) Gloucester, VA, is engaged to be married to Patrick Luley. She works for Gloucester County Public Schools, and is a consultant for Tastefully Simple. www.tastefullysimple.com

Derek Rivers ('03) Fairfax, VA, is a Senior Analyst for Robbins-Gioia, a program management consulting firm in Alexandria, VA. He is engaged to be married to Angela Eyer mann.

Russell Roles ('05) Fredericksburg, VA, is a Recreation Counselor for Intercept Youth Services in Fredericksburg. He is also pursuing a Masters degree in Professional Counseling from Liberty University.

Shaina Silver ('04) Annapolis, MD, graduated from Emerson College with a Master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications. She is the Publicity Specialist and Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator for Naval Support Activity in Washington, DC.

Katie Sutton ('02) Suffolk, VA, is employed as an Account Manager for CIBA Specialty Chemicals in Chesapeake, VA.

Melissa (Johnson) Williams ('96) Newport News, VA and husband Steve announce the birth of their second child, Peyton Elizabeth, born October 21, 2005.

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