

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

s o m e t h i n g t o t a l k a b o u t

interpersonal/organizational | rhetoric | performance

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Congrats to the Graduates of Spring 2016!

The Spring 2016 Hooding and Senior Recognition Ceremony was filled with love, tears and memorable speeches from our faculty. We recognized 37 undergraduates and seven Masters students at the ceremony. The seven students that earned their Master’s degree were: Joshua Brandon, Sarah Friday, Kyle A. Hammonds, Matea Ivanovic, Mary Knickerbocker, Brian Ontiveros-Kersch and Ashley Trudeau. May you all soar like the eagles you are and stay in touch. We are very proud of all of our graduates! See page 13 for a list of department award honorees.

EST. 1890

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION STUDIES
College of Arts & Sciences



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Caroline Parrack B.A. 2011



I received my Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies at UNT in May, 2011. Shortly after graduation, I began work at The Hockaday School, an all girls' Independent School in Dallas, working in the Development and External Affairs Department. I managed the School's Annual Fund, which supports and provides for many different aspects of the School. In my five years working at Hockaday, I raised over \$10 million for the Annual Fund and have been instrumental in raising funds for the School's current \$100 million Capital Campaign. Most recently, I have taken a job at the American School of Paris (a pre k - 12 school) as Associate Director of Development where I will be tasked to take their new fundraising program and bring it to a higher level.

To some, fundraising for an institution might seem bleak, but what I quickly realized in my role, is that each day is an opportunity to tell a story (perhaps I can attribute this to taking a summer session of "Story Telling" in the Black Box) and find unique ways to inspire others to be charitable. When thinking of how my Communication degree benefits me in my current position, the ways are countless. I work with hundreds of volunteers, write countless letters and appeals, make fundraising calls and requests, and even attend and present at annual fundraising conferences.

For all of these tasks, I can attribute success to my studies at UNT. I can confidently say that the endless amount of papers due in any given Communication class taught me to not only pay attention to the most minute details, but also to be original and creative in my writing. My personal favorite was any class on Interpersonal Communication, shout out to Dr. Richardson and Dr. Wang as this is their specialty! If I could make an easy living off "people-watching", I would do it in a second!

I forever will be grateful to UNT and the Communication Studies Department for all that they have done for me. Go Mean Green!

-Caroline Parrack

ALUMNI NEWS

What can a COMM degree do for you? Alumni Careers and Promotions



Congratulations to Lori Paschal Winters (MS, 1998) for receiving the Alumni of the Year Award at the Spring 2016 Hooding where she gave the keynote address. Winters is a Senior Director of Corporate Delivery – Change Leadership for Southwest Airlines. Upon joining Southwest Airlines in 2006, she served as a Director in the Customer Support and Services Department, focusing on strategic planning and projects.

Heather Giovanini (BA, 2004; MA, 2008) is working as an Account Manager for Edmentum, an educational software company. She has been with the company for almost three years.



Congrats to alumnae Dr. Norma Jones (MS, 2011) who successfully defended her dissertation "*Drivers and Danica, Start your engines!*" *The case of Danica Patrick in NASCAR*. Dr. Jones is one of the founders of SmartyPop a multi-media company that seeks to encourage engagement and critically evaluate the influence of popular culture.

Congratulations to Yea-Wen Chen (MA, 2006) for her recent appointment as assistant professor at San Diego State University.



Congratulations to alumnae, Christi Saindon (MA, 2006) who was just named James Madison University School of Communication Studies' "Lecturer of the Year."

Evette Allen (MA, 2010) was recently named a “30 Women to Watch” in the publication *Utah Business*. In her role at Utah State University Eastern, Dr. Allen helps engage students in life on the campus through projects, programs and activities. She works with the student government team, student activities team, leadership programs, and diversity and inclusion programs to create programs that support differences in people, society and the community as a whole.



Allen says she enjoys “introducing students to varying perspectives and cultures, helping them to become more socially conscious and aware, which will help as they move through our increasingly diverse world.” Read more about Evette and the other 30 Women to Watch [here](#).



Jake Dionne and Joe Hatfield (both class of 2014) earned their master's degrees in Communication & Rhetorical Studies from Syracuse and are about to embark on the PhD journey in the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado-Boulder in the fall.

UNT DEBATE

UNT Wingspan Event Debate Reunion



The University of North Texas has a long history of speech and debate excellence. The university was officially founded in 1890 and 2015-2016 marked the 125th anniversary of its founding. The university held a number of events to commemorate the birth of the university and UNT Debate was invited to participate in the

“Wingspan” series of events in April of 2016. The UNT Debate celebration and reception took place April 15, 2016, in the Alumni Gateway arch in the Gateway Center. The UNT

Debate team and the College of Arts and Sciences invited Alumnae back to campus to celebrate over 100 years of debate at North Texas.

The event’s keynote speaker was Robert Early (class of '83) who is current President and CEO of JPS Health Network and former Texas House of Representatives member. Mr. Early spoke about the impact North Texas Debate had on his life in politics, business, and even personal affairs.



UNT Debate members Maggie McGehee (sophomore, political science major) and Megan Hill (junior, business major) teamed up with Curtis Loveless (class of '66) and Cliff McKenzie (class of '74) to create a public debate. The four mixed up teams (one current student and one Alumni on the affirmative, the other student and Alumni taking the negative) and debated the proposition Resolved: that the 1960s was the best time to be a UNT Student. The debate was a fun-filled affair with discussions of popular culture, politics and pride.

Tournament Wins



At the University of Texas at Dallas Tournament, held January 2-4, senior Hope Saucedo (Political Science) and senior Darrian Carroll (Political Science) were in the top three debate teams at a tournament with over 20 schools. They were the 6th and 7th best speakers at the tournament as well. They also attended the University of California at Berkley January 6-8. They placed in the

top 40 at that tournament. Carroll and Saucedo were ranked as the 37th best 2-person debate team in the country!

At the Wichita State University Debate Tournament, held January 22-24, Victor Martinez (freshman, International Studies) and Luis Avila (freshman, RTVF) finished in third place in Junior Varsity. Victor Martinez was also named the tournament's 3rd best speaker.

Finally, at Tarrant County College on January 22-23, Garrett Hammonds (sophomore, Communication Studies) and Abron Hester (sophomore, Political Science) were the runners up in Parliamentary debate. Hammonds also placed 4th in Poetry at the tournament.

All State Debaters



Garrett Hammonds (Sophomore, Communication Studies major) and Abron Hester (Sophomore, Political Science Major) were recently named to the All State Texas Forensics Squad. The All State Squad recognized these two debaters on an elite squad of Texas's best speakers.

The two competed together in the Texas Interscholastic Forensics Association's parliamentary debate division. Hester and Hammonds qualified for the quarterfinals, meaning they finished in the top 8 of the state's best debate teams.

-Written by Dr. Brian Lain, photos courtesy of Dr. Brian Lain & the College of Arts and Sciences.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Lambda Pi Eta

Spring 2016 officers

Taylor Bell and Breanna Mapston: Co-Presidents
 Michael Jones: VP of Communication
 Adriana Salvador: VP of Social Programming
 Emily McCormick: VP of Philanthropy
 John Madrigal: VP of Academic Development
 Bryan San Miguel: VP of Finance





LPH had many events this semester including gathering donations for Resolona, an organization that empowers women to break the cycle of incarceration. The group also hosted the “COMMunication through Music” event that the NTDJs helped with in the syndicate as people listened to music while eating at the new Fuzzy’s Tacos on campus, the Mooyah Fundraiser, and 90’s Night which featured students dressed in costume, grunge music, and played Twister!

NCA Future Pros



NCA Future Pros hosted the first annual COMM Career Day event that demonstrated the commitment and interest of our alumni. We would like to thank Earlina Green, Keturi Beatty, Eric Sambaluk, Sydney Hamilton, Ricardo Alvarado, and Bryan Lysinger for coming out and offering their advice. Also, thanks to the UNT Career Center, which provided us a great space for the event. If you missed it don’t worry, it will be back next year. If any alumni are interested in participating next year, please email mark.hlavacik@unt.edu.



Stay connected with NCA Future Pros on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/untncafuturepros

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

New Faculty Member: Dr. Joe McGlynn

The Department of Communication Studies is excited to announce the hiring of Dr. Joseph "Joe" McGlynn as its newest faculty member. He will begin his appointment in the Fall 2016 semester and will teach courses in health, interpersonal, and organizational communication. Dr. McGlynn received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014. For the past two years, he served as a Postdoctoral Fellow for the Austin-based Center of Identity, a research center addressing online identity management, privacy, and security. Dr. McGlynn is an alum of UNT, receiving his M.A. in Communication Studies from UNT in 2006 and his B.A. in Psychology from UNT in 2002. Dr. McGlynn's research addresses "the intersection of health communication and technology, with a focus on how communication and technology converge to affect thought, intention, and action in health contexts." His work has been published in the *Journal of Health Communication*, *Management Communication Quarterly*, the *Western Journal of Communication*, and other prominent outlets. "We are very pleased to bring Joe back to UNT," said department chair Brian Richardson. "Not only will he reinvigorate our health communication area, he's also exceptional in the classroom, and has a proven track record in developing productive research collaborations."



Faculty Success



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Hlavacik and a cross-disciplinary team for receiving a \$5000 Research Colloquium-Team Mentoring Grant from the Office of Faculty Success within the College of Arts and Sciences. The grant was spearheaded by Hlavacik in search of a more inclusive way to continue the former Communication Studies Department's "New Voices, New Perspectives" annual research conference.

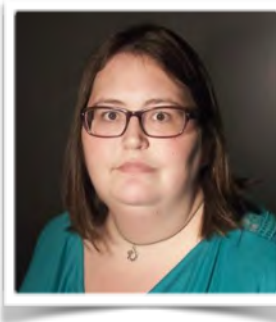
Hlavacik contacted various departments of allied disciplines and organized a team consisting of, Sara Champlin, School of Journalism, Jordan Frith, Technical Communication, Kyle Jensen, Department of English, Robin Lakes, Dance and Theatre, George S. Larke-Walsh, Media Arts, Teresa Marrero, Department of Spanish, Dana Nogay, Technical Communication, and Jacqueline Vickery, Media Arts. For more information [click here](#).

Dr. Megan Morrissey and Karen Kimball (M.A., 2008) are excited to see their essay “#SpoiledMilk: Blacktavists, Visibility, and the Exploitation of the Black Breast” published online by *Women's Studies in Communication*. This essay is part of a special issue on mothering rhetorics that the journal will put out in print later this year. If you would like a copy, please contact Dr. Morrissey at megan.morrissey@unt.edu.



Along with his Penn State education colleagues Dr. Dana Mitra and Bryan Mann, Dr. Mark Hlavacik published a new article, "Opting Out: Parents Creating Contested Spaces to Challenge Standardized Tests," in the March 7, 2016 issue of *Education Policy Analysis Archives*. In their article, Mitra, Mann, and Hlavacik examine how the opt-out movement responded to the strange mix of stringent federal testing policy and the weak, often variable implementation of those policies at the state level. [The article is available here](#). In addition, there is a video of Dr. Mitra and Bryan Mann describing the article [available here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain and Melodee Sova, who presented at the 5th annual "Doing Autoethnography" conference March 10-13, 2016 in San Angelo, TX. The conference is co-sponsored by the National Communication Association. UNT Alumni Jake Beck (Phd Student, Southern Illinois



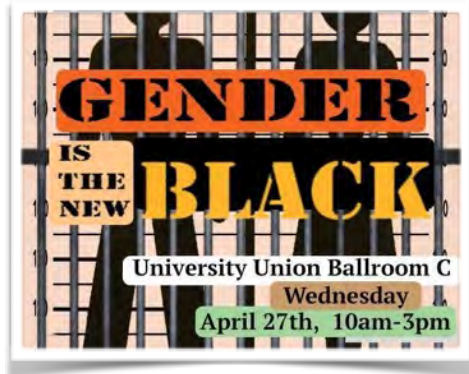
University) and Dr. Andrea Baldwin (Lecturer, University of Houston-Clear Lake) also presented. For more information on this conference, [click here!](#)



Special congratulations to
Dr. Suzanne Enck
for making Tenure!

EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

Gender Fair Spring 2016



The students in Dr. Suzanne Enck’s Gender & Communication course took visitors on a journey through experiences as gendered individuals, encouraging visitors to question how gender works with other aspects of our identities (including race, sexuality, and class). This event also explored how gender acts as a constraint on our fuller identities.



COMM 1010 Advocacy in Action Food Drive



COMM 1010 students and teaching assistants, along with UNT Career Connect, organized the Advocacy in Action Food Drive this semester. The drive was able to provide more than 1,700 pounds of food and bottled water to the UNT Food Pantry and 1,208 pounds of food to the Denton Community Food Center.

COMM 3620 Cultural Identity Forum

The first Cultural Identity Form for COMM 3620 went very well. Everyone had a great time and had a chance to learn about their culture and the cultures of their peers. Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain and Brittany Hale, instructors for COMM 3620, hosted the forum. We are looking forward to additional Cultural Identity Forums in future semesters.



Performances

The department hosted three student-directed performances during the 2015-2016 school year. They are described below.



The Cookie Jar

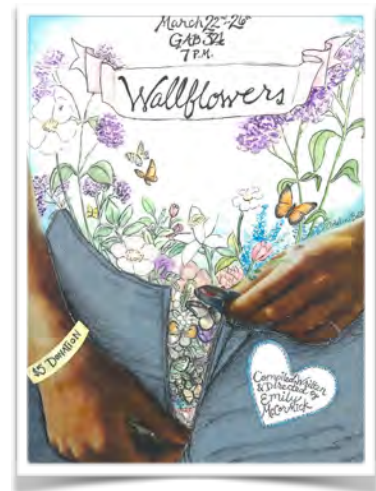
Written and directed by Kyle A. Hammonds and Matea Ivanovic.

The characters in THE COOKIE JAR experience a variety of eerily familiar communication phenomena related to unchecked entitlement and violent masculinity, as presented in the context of a contemporary fairy tale horror.

Wallflowers

Compiled, written and directed by undergraduate Emily McCormick.

Wallflowers explores Judith Butlers notion of creation in that women are born neutral bodied and are then taught to be woman through a series of repetitive acts. Our show uses the 5 stages of the tulip in order to portray the growth and death of female sexuality. Our cast discusses our perception of our sexuality and the worlds perception of our sexuality through a series of performances that make up an "Ourstory" as opposed to a "Mystory".



Burning Times

Compiled, written and directed by Sarah Friday.

Burning Times explores the conflation of witch and woman by examining the iconicity of the witch, various histories regarding the American and European witch burnings, as well as contemporary manifestations of our own modern day "burning times." By playing in the shadows, Burning Times sheds light on the expressions of women's power, both culturally and supernaturally.



Student Awards

The following outstanding students won University Awards at Honors Day and Departmental Awards at the Spring 2016 Hooding Ceremony. We are so proud of you!

University Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Debate: Garrett Hammonds

Outstanding Graduate Student in Communication Studies: Matea Ivanovic

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Communication Studies: Breanna Mapston

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Service Award in Communication Studies: Taylor Bell

Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award in Communication Studies: Ashley Trudeau

Ted Colson Award for Excellence in Performance Studies: Emily McCormick

Departmental Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Research: Bre Mapston – Gender Dysphoria and Transgenderism in the Public Sphere: A Foucauldian Analysis of Caitlyn Jenner’s Vanity Fair Feature

and Emily McCormick – Caitlyn Jenner: Trans Branding

Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor: Taylor Bell & Bryan San Miguel

Outstanding Performance by an Undergraduate Student: Adeline Ballard – *Burning Times* and *Wallflower*

Outstanding Research Project: Matea Ivanovic - Street Power Crafting a Queer Counterpublic

Outstanding Graduate Scholar: Matea Ivanovic

Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student: Mary Knickerbocker & Kyle A. Hammonds

Outstanding Performance by a Graduate Student: Sarah Friday – *Burning Times*

Outstanding Thesis: Ashley Trudeau – Tracing the Evolution of Collaborative Virtual Research Environments: A Critical Events-Based Perspective

Outstanding Graduate Internship: Mary Knickerbocker – Internship with Healogics

Outstanding Comprehensive Exam: Kyle Hammonds

LOOKING FORWARD

Dates to Remember:

First day of class for the 2016 Fall Semester: August 29th

Homecoming 2016: November 5th, Tent location will be announced closer to event



Join us on our linked in group by searching for: UNT Communication Studies. This group page is to be used as a place to connect our faculty and students with alums. Alums, we invite you to use this group page for posting information about internships and career opportunities at your organizations. We envision this site becoming a resource for all members of the UNT COMMunity!

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