



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS™

Communication Studies

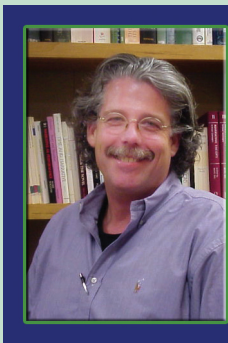
Alumni Newsletter

Edited by John Gossett
University of North Texas

• Department of Communication Studies •

Spring 2007
www.com.unt.edu

From the Chair



In a 1966 speech in Cape Town, South Africa, Robert Kennedy cited what he referred to as an ancient Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times.” Researchers who have attempted to determine the origin of the phrase have concluded the “curse” is not Chinese in origin. In fact, the earliest known use is in a story from the 1950s by a British science fiction author. Whatever its origins, whether the expression is understood as a curse or a blessing turns on the ambiguity of the word interesting.

In the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Texas, we certainly live in interesting times. In the last newsletter, we noted that change is the only constant. Given recent circumstances, we might amend that statement to read the only constant is constant change. Having noted that truth, I will note another: Change is what we make of it.

In mid-August, the Board of Regents heralded the hiring of a new president, Gretchen Bataille. For the six years prior to her appointment at UNT, Dr. Bataille served as the chief academic officer for the University of North Carolina System, and as interim chancellor of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. A tenured professor of English, Dr. Bataille has interests close to our own. She is a noted scholar of Native American Literature, and has published in the area of storytelling. I have heard her speak three times, and on each occasion, in the midst of describing ongoing and impending changes at the university, she has used an instructional anecdote to illustrate her ideas. The story is about a button that she keeps in her desk. The button is of the “red circle with a slash through it” genre. The button says, “The Way We’ve Always Done Things.” Already, she has vowed to make the budgeting and governance processes transparent. To paraphrase one of her themes, “You may not like what I’m doing, but you will always know why I am doing it.”

The transparency of decision-making in the college and the university began, in part, prior to Dr. Bataille’s arrival. Over the past two years, all units in the university have been writing strategic plans to guide our decisions and actions in the period from 2006 to 2011. While the call to write yet “another strategic plan” was met early in the process with skepticism by many faculty members and administrators, it has become increasingly clear that the strategic plans, at all levels (department, college, university), are going to serve as the bases for evaluating progress and for the allocation of resources. The department already has benefited from our strategic plan. In space negotiations with the college last spring, we were able to retain some valuable space on the third floor of the GAB to establish an Office of Communication and Social Influence Research—a goal we had established in our strategic plan. Although

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NASA Official Addresses Crisis Communication Seminar

Dr. Brian Richardson enjoys providing real world scenarios for his students to analyze. This past summer, he invited Dan Carpenter, former Public Affairs Manager at NASA, to present a guest lecture in the graduate seminar in Crisis Communication. Mr. Carpenter was one of NASA’s primary communication coordinators prior to and following the Columbia disaster. In his lecture, “Strategic Communications: Leadership in a Crisis,” he discussed how NASA responded to the massive media onslaught following the space shuttle disaster and utilized stakeholder communication to keep its primary audiences abreast of the latest information. Mr. Carpenter also spoke about NASA’s post-crisis communication efforts, which served to bolster the space agency’s image after the tragedy.

writing the strategic plans was a difficult and time-consuming process, if they serve as the primary blueprint for decision-making and allocation of resources, they will be valuable tools at our disposal as we work toward our future.

Times continue to be interesting in the department as well. Only yesterday, it seems, we announced our move from Terrill Hall to the General Academic Building. While we were thrilled with our new, larger space, we were sorry to leave behind a situation in which we were all located on a single floor. For the past two years, our home has been the third, fourth, and fifth floors of the GAB. Late this summer we acquired additional space on the third floor of the GAB. As a consequence, we were able to move all the faculty to one floor, and we are currently working with the Dean's office to construct a new T.A. office on the third floor as well.

We are happy to report that Dr. Bud Wheelless joined Dr. Ted Colson at the exalted rank of Professor Emeritus last fall. The department is fortunate to be able to maintain such distinguished teachers and scholars on our faculty roster. This fall, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Justin Trudeau as the newest member of the faculty. Justin served as an adjunct in the department last year, and applied for our full time position. After a nationwide search, Justin was the unanimous choice of the faculty to fill the new line in performance studies. Following another national search last spring, the faculty selected Dr. Shaun Treat to serve as a lecturer in rhetoric. Shaun hails from LSU, and is doing yeoman's duty teaching four courses in rhetoric for us in the fall and again in the spring.

We are saddened to announce the departure of three faculty members. Dr. Lori Byers announced at the beginning of the fall that she will leave academia at the end of the school year to seek her fame and fortune in the private sector. Lori has been a fixture in the department for a number of years, both as a master's student and as a faculty member, and has been instru-

mental in our growth and evolution. Last spring, Dr. Pratibha Shukla announced her engagement, wedding, and resignation simultaneously. Pratibha married this past summer in her native India and has moved with her spouse, Sanjay, to New Jersey. Pratibha recently emailed me that she and Sanjay are expecting their first child. Dr. Jeff Bennett joined the faculty last fall and served for one year; in that short time, however, he made a lasting impression. He became an immediate favorite with students and faculty alike. Jeff and his partner, Isaac, both accepted positions with Georgia State University in Atlanta. Each of these faculty members has been an important part of the department, and we will miss them. We wish them well in their new endeavors, and hope they will maintain close ties with the department.

Given these circumstances, our year will be quite busy. In addition to our normal business of scholarly productivity and teaching, we are occupied three faculty searches. Moreover, we will continue to respond to key themes in the strategic plans of the college and the university. This year, for example, to increase interdisciplinarity, we are revising prerequisites and seeking opportunities to cross list courses with other departments; to increase diversity, we are launching recruiting initiatives; and, to respond to a college call for increased accountability in the area of faculty evaluation, we are instituting teaching portfolios and peer review.

Unquestionably, in the department, we are living in interesting times. Our faculty, staff, student body, and alumni can ensure that from our collective perspective we ascribe no ambiguity to the word interesting. Working together, we can make the interesting times in which we live healthy and productive. We invite you to visit our website, read our strategic plan, and email us with your questions and comments. We welcome your ideas and actions as we work to achieve these goals. As a departmental family, our future will be what all of us, working together choose to make of it.

ALUMNI NEWS *and Notes*

Matt Caligur honored as Department's Annual Outstanding Alumnus

Each year, the university recognizes its alumni on Alumni Appreciation Day. Colleges, schools, and departments are encouraged to select a former student, invite him or her to campus, and participate in a luncheon in the Silver Eagle Suite. The Department of Communication Studies actively supports this endeavor and looks forward to inviting former students back to campus for this recognition. The Department of Communication Studies named Matt Caligur as its honored alumnus in Spring 2006. After graduating

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from UNT with his B.A. in 1989 and his M.S. in 1991, Matt earned his J.D. from South Texas College of Law, summa cum laude, in 2001.

Caligur joined Baker & Hostetler's Houston office in May 2003 as an associate in the Litigation Group and focuses his practice in the areas of toxic tort and product liability litigation.

In law school, Matt was a member of the South Texas Law Review, won several moot court championships, received the Dean's Outstanding Student Advocate Award, and served as an intern for the Honorable Ewing Werlein, Jr., United States District Court, Southern District of Texas.

Prior to law school, Matt was an Assistant Professor of Speech Communication at Houston Baptist University and directed

ALUMNI NEWS *and Notes* cont'd

the university's debate and mock trial programs. He conducted communication skills workshops for academic and corporate clients, and was retained as a jury consultant in a variety of civil and criminal cases.

Caligur serves on the Editorial Board of *The Houston Lawyer* and is a member of the American and Houston Bar Associations.

As a part of our alumni development effort, we view Alumni Appreciation Day as an opportunity to revive relationships with students who earned degrees in the department and are now using those degrees in organizations across the nation. Previous honorees include: Sonja Goza Harsch (2001), Dixie Waldo (2002), Karen Gossett (2003), Swann Royer VanDelden (2004), and Gary Gansle (2005).

Will Helixon (B.A., 1988)

Will was promoted in Major in the U.S. Army in November 2005, and he and his family, wife Nata?a and daughter Niko, spent Christmas 2005 in Virginia where Will was a student at the Judge Advocate's Legal Center and School on the campus of the University of Virginia. He completed his LLM in military law with a criminal law specialty in May 2006. It was Nata?a's first trip to the US, and while she is learning about our capitalist society, she longs for Europe. Will is the Command Judge Advocate for the 173d Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) stationed in Vicenza, Italy. Will asks that we remember the sacrifices made by the soldiers who are stationed abroad defending the U.S.

Dixie Waldo (M.S., 1994)

Dixie moved to Iowa over the summer to assume a debate coach position in DesMoines. Those of you who knew her at UNT probably remember that she was in Performance Studies. In her forays into the real world, she became an "Accidental Debate Coach." She is grateful for all her experiences with Gossett, Bruner, Hamlett, Colson, and of course, Jay Allison.

Patricia (Pat) Rogers (B.A., 1963)

Pat says that retirement is the best job she's ever had, and she recommends it highly. She enjoys golf, reading, and speech tournament judging. She remembers fondly her days with all her friends in the Texas Speech Communication Association.

Jim Bob Jones (B.A., 1971; M.Ed. 1974)

Jim Bob departed higher education and Texas Tech in 2001 for a rather dramatic change to an agrarian lifestyle. That change met his expectations in some ways but not in others. The boom that Texas experienced in 2004-05 from abundant rainfall has turned to bust this year with virtually no rain for 7? months. He is learning to be calm and patient. He spends a good deal more time judging various UIL forensic and speech events.

Jeff Giraud (M.S., 1995)

Jeff still works at DFW Airport—now Battalion Fire Chief. He retired from the Army Reserves in 1998 after a tour in Bosnia and also has been an adjunct faculty member at Tarrant County College for 10 years. Most recently, he's done some coaching work with Neeley School at TCU and is contemplating retirement in about 5½ years.

Dr. Michele Ramsey (M.A., 1995)

After leaving UNT, Michele completed her Ph.D. at Georgia in 2000. She was recently tenured at a 4 year college in the Penn State system, is married, and lives happily in Mt Penn, a city about 2 hours from NYC and DC and about an hour from Philly. She admits that she doesn't suspect learning will ever be as fun as it was in classes with Gossett, Hamlett, Rhea, DeLoach, and Allison.

Elizabeth Marie (formerly Elizabeth Gourdie) (B.A., 1998)

Elizabeth says it is overwhelming to think that it has been 8 years since graduating. She has participated in Leadership Denton, served as a Denton Planning and Zoning Commissioner and as a director on various boards and commissions, owns her own business, and now has a job in downtown Dallas as Director of Operations for a private investigation security firm.

Lucy Holsonbake (M.A., 1992)

Lucy teaches full-time at Northern Virginia Community College, a campus with representatives from over 150 countries. She also teaches part-time at George Mason University. She visited with Gossett and Kelly Taylor in Washington while they were accompanying students on a field trip. Recently Lucy took the opportunity to meet UNT's new president, when Dr. Bataille visited Washington DC.

John Burch (B.A., 2006)

John works for a company called Cirrus Health, and soon will be moving to Dallas. John does marketing, advertising, communications, and eventually PR. His position is new for the company, and he works in Corporate Communications. He is enjoying high job satisfaction.

Alma Martinez (M.A., 2004)

Alma is a full-time communication instructor at Tarrant County College and teaches classes such as the speech survey course, public speaking, interpersonal communication, business and professional communication, and forensics. Her newest course, forensics, makes her proud because TCC has a competitive and nationally ranked team. Another new endeavor for Alma involves online teaching. In Fall 2006, she taught three online speech courses and expected that number to grow. She also works with a women's shelter, where she helps by providing communication seminars.

FACULTY NEWS

and Notes



Karen Anderson

Dr. Karen Anderson is in her third year UNT. Dr. Anderson continues to serve as the Basic Course Director (COMM 1010: Introduction to Communication) and coordinates training for the graduate student teaching assistants.

The past year has been one of great change both professionally and personally. On the research front, Dr. Anderson spent much of the past year managing the transformation of COMM 1010 to incorporate online and blended learning. As part of the University-wide Blended Learning Project the course is serving as an important foundation to the University Quality Enhancement Plan. Dr. Anderson is currently preparing three manuscripts based on the results of the project.

Dr. Anderson also conducts an active research program in intergenerational communication. She is currently working on a project that examines the interactions of older adult characters in prime-time television. Additionally, she continues to work on research that builds a relational-based model of intergenerational communication.

Dr. Anderson's political communication research program critiques the electoral process through the examination of political campaigns and debates. Dr. Anderson is currently the chair of the Political Communication Division of the Central States Communication Association and served as a program planner for the 2006 Convention.

On the personal front, Dr. Anderson and her partner George welcomed their son, Aidan on February 17, 2006, and their daughter, Kaia, on January 18, 2007.



Lori Byers

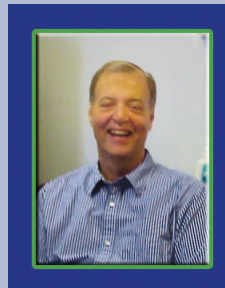
Dr. Byers conducts research examining how people cope and create meaning through storytelling during times of crisis. Her most recent publications, two book chapters co-authored with Dr. Brian Richardson, appear in *Disciplines, Disasters and Emergency Management and Case Studies in*

Organizations: Ethical Perspectives and Practices. Dr. Byers has two articles, co-authored with Dr. Carrie Shue, examining how family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's cope with the progression of the disease; one article was recently published in *Alzheimer's Care Quarterly* and one article was awarded a "Top Three" paper award in *Communication and Aging* at the 2005 convention of the National Communication Association. Sadly for the department, Dr. Byers has decided to pursue opportunities outside of academe, although she will continue her relationship with the depart-

ment through involvement with the Office of Communication and Social Influence Research.

Ted Colson (emeritus)

Dr. Colson continues to enjoy his retirement. Although he has experienced some significant health problems in the past year (he went to hospital for a spinal epidural and in the process developed bacterial meningitis), in spite of weakened legs and tremors, he is hanging in there—still going to cardiac rehab work-out three times a week—and is optimistic about his future.



John Gossett

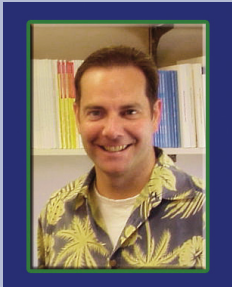
After 17 years, Dr. Gossett stepped aside as chair at the end of August 2006, but he remains an active faculty member. As you may know, Dr. Gossett experienced health problems during Fall 2006. In Spring 2006, his Freedom of Expression graduate course took a field trip to Washington and

heard oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on the Texas redistricting case. Currently, he is engaged in a research project on the difficulty in establishing time, place, and manner regulations on cyber-communication. In addition, he is pursuing a study on reasons for the decline in civility in the U.S. Senate. His wife Karen is active in speech and drama at Ryan High School, and John, Jr., a freshman at the University of Arkansas, works in sports broadcasting by taping and editing varsity football practices and games and basketball games. Of course, Dr. Gossett and Karen are thrilled to have their first grandchild, Andrew, son of Taylor and his wife Yesinia, born July 12, 2006.

Brian Lain

Brian Lain has started a new line of research inquiry in both forensics practice and continued his research into the rhetoric of American detention. Much of 2005-2006 Lain spent traveling with the debate team as it competed across the nation to eventually finish in the top 50 programs in the country and one of the best teams in NDT District III. In the summer of 2005, Dr. Lain presented an essay on the future of the tenure track director of forensics, a product of his three-year stint on the American Forensics Association's Committee on Professional Development. In November, he was asked to serve on a special task force in order to review the AFA's suggestions to Departments and Colleges on the standards for tenure among directors of Forensics. Dr. Lain is currently working with Dr. David Hingstman of the University of Iowa to provide suggestions for standards for research contributions among forensics directors. Dr. Lain has continued research from his award winning dissertation on the memory of Japanese American internment by turning his attention to more recent detentions. In April, Dr. Lain commented on the Spectacle of the detention at Guantanamo Bay Camps at the Southern States Communication Association Convention.

FACULTY NEWS cont'd *and Notes*



Brian Richardson

Dr. Richardson's fifth year at UNT is quite busy. Between juggling time with family, changing diapers, traveling, advising, researching, and teaching, the past year was a blur. Much of his time was spent teaching undergraduate courses, including Organizational Communication, Small Group

Communication, and Conflict Management, and graduate courses including Organizational Communication, Qualitative Research Methods, and Communication and Consulting. He also continued to direct the department's Internship program.

Dr. Richardson continued his research into two key areas: the ways that employees communicatively respond to organizational wrongdoing, and disaster/crisis communication. One of his current projects involves investigating the experiences of whistle-blowers in the Collegiate Sports industry. Graduate student Joe McGlynn has helped Dr. Richardson with this project and the two presented their first manuscript from this study at the NCA conference in San Antonio. Dr. Richardson also participated in several panels at the recent Southern States Communication Association conference in Dallas, which focused on Hurricanes Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

In September, Dr. Richardson presented a paper on hostage negotiation at the conference Understanding and Responding to Terrorism: A Multi-Dimensional Approach. The conference, held in Washington, D.C., was sponsored by NATO and the Turkish Institute of Police Studies.

On a personal note, Dr. Richardson's handsome son Keith turned four on September 11, and his beautiful, yet increasingly independent, daughter Ella turned 2 on August 9.

Dr. Richardson is still the faculty advisor for NCA Future Pros, the organization for students in Communication Studies. Alumni interested in presenting to NCA Future Pros can contact Dr. Richardson.



Kelly Taylor

With the assistance of Esra Guleyupoglu (graduate student), Dr. Taylor has begun a new research project. Hacivat and Karagoz are trickster characters from Turkish folklore. Guleyupoglu and Taylor are examining these multilayered and frequently subversive characters and the ways in which individuals' memories

of their childhood exposure to the stories about them has continued to guide their values as adults.

Dr. Taylor is also involved in a performance project this spring. The title of the script is "Frida Kahlo in Love," and the

performance text will be a collection of excerpts from poems, essays, and letters by this famous Mexican artist centering on the primary passions of Kahlo's life. In connection to this script, Dr. Taylor is contemplating the nature of the literary phenomenon known as ekphrasis which occurs when a visual stimulus (usually a painting) prompts the creation of a literary work (usually a poem). Reproducing Kahlo's art via staging, masks, puppets, and costumes, Dr. Taylor hopes to create a performance that embodies and interrogates the potentially symbiotic relationship between literary and visual creations.

On a sad personal note, Dr. Taylor's beloved dog, Propst, died on September 20, 2006. He had been battling illnesses caused by a tumor growing on his liver for almost a year. Dr. Taylor would like to thank all of you who sent cards and messages of sympathy and support during this difficult time.

When not teaching, writing, or directing, Dr. Taylor stays busy with her duties as faculty advisor for the Performance Interest Group and Lambda Pi Eta (the national organization for students in Communication Studies). Additionally, she maintains the department's website www.comm.unt.edu. If you have questions or comments about these organizations or the website, please contact her.



Shaun Treat

Dr. Shaun Treat, Louisiana State University (2004), who joined the UNT faculty as a visiting lecturer in Fall 2006, was raised on an Arkansas farm amidst the cool streams and soothing shade of Ozark Mountain foothills. After receiving his B.A.

(1991) and M.A. (1994) from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and serving briefly in positions with both city government and in the corporate sector, Shaun journeyed to the sweltering Louisiana bayou to hone his fascination with Rhetoric and Critical/Cultural Studies at LSU. While earning his doctorate, Shaun's interests gravitated around mythic culture types and fantasy rhetoric in popular culture, more specifically how these archetypal forms are narratively deployed to shape the consciousness, identity, and cultural politics of group memberships. His dissertation explored the mythic culture types and fantasy rhetoric of charismatic leadership within the discourses of populist business gurus like Stephen Covey and Jim Collins, finding their anti-charismatic models actually conformed to a mythic fantasy script constitutive of charisma-prone memberships awaiting the empowering rescue of a uniquely "gifted" superheroic leader.

Shaun's research interests include rhetorical theory and criticism, political communication, cultural and media studies, psychoanalysis, free speech issues, and constitutive rhetorics of postmodern civic identities. His publications include "Zombie Trouble: A Propaedeutic on Ideological

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Organizations

North Texas Debate Team

The 2006-07 year started with teams going to two tournaments on the same weekend. Assistant Coach Calum Matheson traveled to Georgia State University (the primary national opener now) with Junior Kuntal Cholera and Sophomore Matt Schuster, and UNT Director of Debate Dr. Brian Lain traveled to Wichita State University with four of our first year debaters, John Elson, Alex Fairchild, Dillon Zwick, and Rodney Bernal.

The results were fantastic. At Georgia State, Cholera and Schuster posted a 5-3 record, and although they were beaten in double-octafinals by Georgia, that Georgia team eventually won the tournament. Competing in the double-octas with a field of 127 teams in the open division is quite an accomplishment. Based on their performance, Cholera and Schuster have already established themselves as part of the top 32 teams in the country.

At the Wichita State tournament, Zwick and Bernal led the way competing in the Junior division. After posting a 3-3 record, they upset top seeded Johnson County Community College in the semifinals to represent North Texas in the final round of the Junior division. They lost the final round to Kansas State, but Zwick was named the tournament's sixth-best speaker in the Junior division.

Elson and Fairchild were definitely the upstart team of the tournament. After six rounds in the open division they were 5-1, losing only to Emporia State and causing many at the Kansas competition to ask, "Where did these guys come from?" After a quarterfinal win over the University of Missouri at Kansas City and a semi-finals win over the University of Texas at Dallas, they went on to face a rematch against the same Emporia State University team that they had lost to previously. Elson and Fairchild walked away with a unanimous win over Emporia State to claim first place. Elson was named the tournament's seventh-best speaker, and Fairchild was named the tournament's fourth-best speaker.

Lambda Pi Eta

The Department's chapter of NCA's honor society for Communication Studies majors at UNT will induct eleven new members on November 16, 2006.

In order to qualify for membership a student must:

- have completed at least 60 semester hours,
- have completed at least 12 semester hours in Communication Studies,
- have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0,
- have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 in Communication Studies courses,
- be in good standing at the university, and
- display commitment to the field of Communication Studies.

This year's new officers are Sophia Thelemaque, president, Serena Leow, vice president, and Ashley Newkirk, secretary.

LPE has planned several fund raising events for the fall semester. Plans are now underway for a bake sale and the sale of Communication Studies T-shirts. LPE also has several service events scheduled, including conducting a food drive for Denton's Friends of the Family.

The chapter is still working towards establishing a scholarship for LPE members. Dr. Taylor, the chapter sponsor, is scheduled in the

next few weeks to meet with a representative from the UNT's Development Office for guidance on the steps that must be taken before LPE can officially start accepting donations. If you or your organization are interested in contributing to the scholarship endowment, please contact Dr. Taylor () or one of the LPE officers.

For more information about UNT's Mu Alpha chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, visit the LPE website:
<http://www.comm.unt.edu/LPE/index.htm>

Performance Interest Group (PIGs)

In addition to hosting the Petit Jean Performance Festival in Arkansas in April, the Performance Interest group has stayed busy planning and performing our weekly Texts in Performance Series. This series spotlights work from the Performance Studies emphasis within the Department of Communication Studies, as well as other creative projects that fall within the "performance" genre.

In the fall we saw group performances directed by Gigi Perez (graduate student) and Lindsay Allen (undergraduate student), had an appearance by the infamous "Cake Lady", and witnessed the world debut of "Boomquesha & Lillian Don't Live Here Anymore!" a show about the difficulties and joys of growing up biracial. The production was directed, written, and performed by last year's PIG president and vice president, Shayne Francisco (alumna) and Andrea Baldwin (alumna). The PIGs also featured a performance of "Feet on the Street" directed by Dr. Justin Trudeau, Dr. Taylor's "Ghosts of UNT" Halloween presentation, and special performance hours directed by graduate students Nkechi Chibueze, Kris Noteboom, and Kristan Smeaton. Feel free to drop by GAB 321 any Tuesday from 5-6 pm and join in the fun!

This year's Performance Interest Group officers are Lindsay Allen, (president) and Jennifer Cavanaugh (vice president).

Petit Jean Performance Festival

Now in its twenty-seventh year, the Petit Jean festival is still going strong. Our guest lecturer this year is Dr. E. Patrick Johnson, Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, and Associate Professor in the Department of Performance Studies and Associate Professor in African American Studies at Northwestern University. A scholar/artist, Johnson has performed nationally and internationally and has published widely in the area of race, gender, sexuality and performance. His book, *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity*, published by Duke University Press in 2003, has won several awards, including the Lilla A. Heston Award, the Errol Hill Book Award, and was a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. He has co-authored (with Mae G. Henderson) *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* with Duke University Press. He is currently working on a book manuscript entitled, *Sweet Tea: An Oral History of Black Gay Men of the South*, which will be published by the University of North Carolina Press. His next projects include a book of auto-ethnographic essays on race, class, and gender as well as an anthology of black gay and lesbian theater.

Johnson has chosen "Performing Parody" as this year's festival theme. We look forward to seeing what he and our attendees will do with this challenging topic!

FACULTY NEWS cont'd

and Notes

Subjectification and the Unconscious,” co-authored with Joshua Gunn in the May 2005 issue of *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and “Rhetorical Imperialism and Sun Tzu’s Art of War: A Response to Comb’s Rhetoric of Parsimony,” co-authored with Jon Croghan in the November 2001 issue of *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*.

In addition to his research and teaching interests, Shaun enjoys spending time traveling, camping, fishing, searching out live music, and exploring the Denton area for cultural and culinary adventure with his two children, Kaitie and Austin.



Justin Trudeau

Justin Trudeau joined the performance studies faculty this academic year. He received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, and his dissertation, *Jack Kerouac’s Spontaneous Prose: A Performance Genealogy of the Fiction*, was an investigation of Kerouac’s per-

formative writing method of spontaneous prose. Justin’s research interests include performance of literature, historiography, and performance art. This past October he adapted and staged Ray Blount Jr.’s *Feet on the Street: Rambles around New Orleans* for the Patti Pace Performance Festival. The festival audience, which hailed from colleges and universities throughout the nation, experienced the production in New

The Patti Pace Performance Festival

On October 20-22 2006, members of the Performance Interest Group traveled to New Orleans to attend the Patti Pace Performance Festival. The festival is currently under the joint sponsorship of Capitol University and Georgia College and State University.

UNT was represented at the festival by a performance of “Feet on the Street: Rambles around New Orleans,” by Ray Blount Jr. The performance, adapted and directed by Dr. Justin Trudeau, traces the unique genealogy of the crescent city and captures the inimitable character of some of its denizens.

NCA Future Pros (formerly known as the Collegiate Communication Association.)

This student group helps connect Communication Studies students to careers in communication-related areas, while preparing them for their career search. They meet four times per semester and meetings usually include a guest speaker who discusses career-related matters, including resume building, networking, interviewing skills, and specific jobs.

Last year, NCA Future Pros hosted guest speakers Lauren Kwedar of Paige Hendricks Public Relations, and Jim Grimes, news reporter for the WB in Dallas. The group has also begun to host an annual Career Fair, at which recent graduates from our department talk about their careers with current students. Last April, our career fair speakers included Ryan McCallum, Brooke Wilson, Ashley Childress, Cari Swartzell, and Natalie Quisenberry. We also

Orleans on their first visit to the city since it was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The production was a powerful witness to both the losses sustained by the city, and the sheer creativity and love of life that will help it rise to its former glories. Justin and his wife Jessica continue to adapt well to north Texas; their first child, Jolie, was born on December 21, 2006.

Jenny Warren

Having graduated with her master’s degree in Communication Studies at North Texas, Jenny Warren has remained active in the field by teaching communication courses throughout the North Texas area. Currently, Jenny teaches at UNT, TWU, in the Collin County Community College District (Spring Creek Plano and Preston Ridge Frisco), and in the Dallas County Community College District (Brookhaven). Jenny teaches Introduction to Communication courses as well as Public Speaking, Argument, and Rhetoric & Oral Communication. When not teaching, Jenny spends much of her time with friends, visits her family in Missouri when time permits, and enjoys participating in her new favorite pastime, fantasy football! Additionally, Jenny spent the past semester researching and writing a paper for the Texas Speech Communication Association that deals with aspects of updating scholastic syllabi and rubrics to attend to the more technologically literate and mature student. Jenny hopes to further this research by analyzing various teaching styles used across collegiate education levels, particularly the different teaching methods used at the university level versus those used at the community college level and how, among others, cultural variation plays a part in that process.

hosted a Mock Interview (fishbowl interview), that was run by Jack Webb, International Sales Manager of a printing company. Student Courtney Brazile was our guinea pig for the mock interview and proved to be an outstanding performer.

This year, the president of NCA Future Pros is Monica Martinez, Houston senior. Dr. Brian Richardson is the group’s faculty advisor. If you would be interested in presenting to NCA Future Pros, please contact Dr. Richardson at richardson@unt.edu.

University of North Texas
Presidential Inauguration
SAVE THE DATE

As you plan for the spring semester, please make note of the dates marking the inauguration of Dr. Gretchen Bataille.

The dates for key events include:
Thursday, April 12th — student party
Friday, April 13th — the inauguration of the president at 10 a.m., campus picnic and The Emerald Ball.

Specific details about each event are still in the early planning stages, be sure to mark your calendar now so you won’t miss any of the celebration.

More information will be forthcoming as details are finalized. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the inaugural planning committee at 940-565-2108.

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