



COMMUNIQUE

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Fall 2011

Vol. 1, Issue 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 23
Graduate Student Spotlight
Performance Hour
5:00 pm & 8:00 pm
GAB 321/Performance Space

Monday, October 10
The British are Coming!
UNT vs British Debate
6:00 - 11:00 pm
Gateway

Friday, November 4 &
Saturday, November 5
John S. Gossett Memorial High
School Debate & Forensics Tour-
nament
Times and locations TBD

Thursday, November 10 through
Sunday, November 13
Meagan Oestry Presents:
"Harrison Bergeron"
11/10-12 8:00 pm
11/13 3:00 p.m.
GAB 321/Performance Space

Tuesday, November 15
COMM 1010 COMMunity Social
Issues Fair
9:00 am-3:00 pm
One O'Clock Lounge, Union

Tuesday, November 29
Dept of COMM Gender Fair
10:00 am-3:00 pm
One O'Clock Lounge, Union

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UNT @ NCA

Twelve faculty members and 19 graduate students from the department will be making presentations at the 2011 National Communication Association annual conference in New Orleans in November. We are quite proud of our presence on Top Paper Panels at the convention this year. Four faculty members and five graduate students were selected for inclusion on these prestigious panels.

A joint effort by Christine Keller Angell and Dr. Karen Anderson has been recognized on the Top Paper Panel in Instructional Development. Dr. Zuoming Wang and four graduate students, Hannah Novak, Heather Scofield Snow, Sarah Traylor, and Yuanyuan Zhou earned a Top Paper nod in Communication and Technology for a group project completed last fall as part of Dr. Wang's Quantitative Methodology seminar. Dr. Rebecca Walker, currently serving as an adjunct faculty member in the department and as our undergraduate advisor, earned a Top Paper in Performance Studies. Last, but certainly not least, Rachele Avery, a master's student in rhetorical studies, earned a slot on the Top Three Competitive Papers Critical and Cultural Studies Panel.

In addition, Dr. Suzanne Enck-Wanzer will be featured as part of a new series of NCA sponsored panels entitled *Voices of Consciousness*. The series features the work of NCA



Dr. Karen Anderson, Rachele Avery, and Norma Jones.

members who are doing work in their local communities to promote the social good. Dr. Enck-Wanzer will be discussing her work advocating for a more human criminal justice system, particularly for incarcerated women.

These are only the highlights of a full slate of presentations and performances by our faculty members and graduate students. We are incredibly proud of the research that is being produced in our department and invite you to search out some of our scholars at the conference.



Master's Hooding Ceremony

Alumna Keturi Beatty (MA, 2009) served as the Keynote Speaker at the Department of Communication Studies' Inaugural Hooding Ceremony on May 13, 2011. Several years ago, when UNT established separate commencement ceremonies for graduate students, the administration decided to stop hooding students received their Master's degrees. This past fall, in order to remedy this situation, the department established its own hooding ceremony. Nine students were hooded by their major professors as the department chair, Dr. Jay Allison, read statements written by the graduates. Our first group of graduates included Tricia Adams, Kristin Biery, Stephanie Burt, Bethany Germany, Joshua Newton, Benjamin Nye, Stuti Rodriquez, and Sara Shaunfield. Visit the department Facebook page to see pictures.

Interested in a Teaching Assistantship in Communication Studies?

A limited number of positions are available for spring.
For more information, contact Dr. Brian Richardson
(Brian.Richardson@unt.edu)

Special Guest Attends & Participates in TA Training this Fall

As part of her duties each fall as Director of the Basic Course, Cindy Gordon hosts a weeklong Teaching Assistant (TA) Training Program. The training, designed for both new and returning students, helps TAs gain confidence in the classroom, develop instructor skills, and acclimate to the stresses of being both a graduate students and a TA.



This year, with the cooperation of SAGE publications, Cindy arranged for Dr. Deanna Fassett (San José State University) to visit and conduct a training session with our TAs. Dr. Fassett is the co-author (with the late John T. Warren of Southern Illinois University) of the new COMM 1010 textbook, *Communication: A Critical/Cultural Introduction*. Dr. Fassett discussed the unique features of the new book and explored the intricacies of dealing with social topics that are frequently ignored in the classroom. In addition, she led a group workshop on creating classroom environments that provid room for each student's voice to be heard and respected.

According to one of our returning TAs, the new textbook engages students in a different, more personal way. In the workshop portion of her presentation, Dr. Fassett modeled behaviors that provided the TAs the confidence to facilitate discussions of what are often difficult issues for college students.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumnus Todd Steinberg screened the pilot for a new animated series, *Don't Tell My Wife I'm a Cult Leader*, for a

packed theatre in early September. The video, a selection for the Dallas Video Festival, will be screened at the Dallas Angelika Film Center on September 23rd at 10:00 pm.



Two spring graduates were accepted into doctoral programs this fall. Norma Jones has begun her PH.D. program at Kent State University. Sara Shaunfield entered the program at the University of Kentucky.

Jenna Shimkowski (BA, 2008), who recently completed her master's degree at TCU and who has enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Denver, learned recently of her impending first publication in *Communication Monograph*.

Debate Team Successes

Under the leadership of the Director of Debate Dr. Brian Lain and Louie Petit, Assistant Director, the University of North Texas Debate Team of Amy Schade (freshman Biology major from Grapevine, TX) and Colin Quinn (sophomore Communication Studies major from Chicago, IL) won the National Junior Division Debate Tournament title held at Johnson County Community College in Kansas City, Missouri.

Schade and Quinn defeated the University of Oklahoma in the final round to take the title. They also posted wins over Wichita State University, Augustana College, the University of Northern

Iowa, the University of Kansas, and the University of Texas at San Antonio on their road to victory. Schade and Quinn were undefeated in preliminary rounds and won four elimination rounds to claim the title.

One week later Schade and Brian Kersch (sophomore Political Science major from Austin, TX) advanced to the quarter finals of the Cross Examination National Association's annual tournament before losing to Kansas State University. In Spring 2011, UNT brought home a national Junior Varsity title while placing among the top 8 teams in the nation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 3

Debate-a-palooza

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Check FB/website for location & info

Friday, December 16

Master's Hooding Ceremony

12:00-2:00 pm

GAB 321/Performance Space

Master's Hooding Reception

2:00-3:00 pm

GAB 309

Undergraduate Commencement

7:00 pm

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See our Facebook page for news, event notifications & pictures!

COMM Joins UNT @ Apogee Stadium



The department has finally taken the leap! In conjunction with the opening of UNT's new Apogee Stadium, the department joined hordes of fraternities and sororities, campus organizations, students, and alumni in tailgating festivities. Thanks to Cindy Gordon and a devoted cadre of graduate students, the event was a smashing success.

We plan to have two more tailgating events this fall. Our next opportunity to gather under the tent will be prior to the Homecoming game on October 22nd, when



UNT will play host to University of Louisiana, Monroe. Our final tailgating event will take place at our last home game on December 3rd, when the Mean Green takes on the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders.

We hope that if you are in the area you will take the opportunity to reconnect with the department and your fellow alumni.

See the "UNT's Apogee Stadium Timelapse" on the universitynorthtexas YouTube.com channel.

