

Communiqué

Vol. 8 No. 1

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 1995

From the Director

As you've noticed, it has been some time since you received the alumni newsletter. Publication was postponed because of budget cuts.

Thanks to the Communication Research Center, which many of you have supported, this issue brings you up-to-date on the many good things that are happening at your alma mater. I especially appreciate the efforts of Becky Rubin, Judy Jerkich, and Ronda Smith who edited and produced this issue of *Communiqué*.

We are very pleased with the successes reported here by our forensics teams who have qualified for nationals, by the establishing of our national honorary chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, and the Kent Communication Society for our R&C majors.

I also call your attention especially to the items reporting our new faculty member, Susan Grant, from the University of Illinois; the very active scholarship, of both our faculty and our alumni, which has brought our school national recognition; the installation of the computer lab for graduate students and the entire "computer revolution" in our school; the faculty exchange programs with three institutions in China; and the highly successful Alumni Summer Research Conference last summer that many of you attended.

You are making an impact on the field. As we prepare to respond to the Board of Regents doctoral review process (all doctoral programs in Ohio are being



D. Ray Heisey
Director

reviewed during a three-year period), your excellent record will help us as we cite your achievements. To help us in this, please send us your most recent vita with your latest papers and publications.

We look forward to hearing from you.

D. Ray Heisey, Director

Alumni Survey

Included in this newsletter is our alumni survey. It is VERY important that you complete it and return it to us as soon as possible. Your opinions are very important to us. Here are some results from previous surveys.

In 1989, 113 alumni responded. More than 70 percent of the returns were from the B.A. degree students, more than 10 percent were from M.A. students, and more than 10 percent were from Ph.D. alumni. The 1989 and 1992 samples were comparable, although the 1992 respondents seemed to find employment somewhat closer to graduation.

We asked respondents to indicate if they had acquired specific skills during their degree programs. In 1989, the top ranked skill was interpersonal communication, followed by oral presentation, organizational communication, listening, and questioning skills. In 1992, the

responses were similar, but more positive for all the skills listed. Generally, more respondents in 1992 indicated they had acquired skills in their academic programs. Graduate degree alumni were more positive about writing, research, and group communication skills than

were undergraduate alumni, but this is expected to change with the addition of writing intensive courses and research courses to the program within the last five years.

The results from these surveys are most helpful in designing and adapting the degree programs in communication to the needs and demands of a changing society.



1994
Research
Conference
Attendees

Undergraduate News

Kent Communication Society

The Kent Communication Society (KCS) is on the move! An undergraduate student organization, its mission is to bring students together for fun and information. The brain child of a former rhetoric and communication major, David Weatherbee, KCS has been around for over four years.

The organization has sponsored and participated in activities such as its annual Faculty Tea, which allows undergraduates to get to know the faculty a little better outside of the classroom, food drives, phon-a-thons, and speakers on interviewing and career planning. On Valentine's day, KCS sold carnations and chocolate roses; the fundraiser was a big success, selling the entire supply of both products. "Our most immediate goals are to raise membership and funds," says William Chan, vice-president of the organization. "Our biggest problem is that many students don't come into the major until their junior year; therefore, there is an

entirely new membership every year, or even every semester, rather than a group that is cohesive due to continuity over a few years."

National Communication Honorary Chapter Chartered at Kent

As a part of the First Annual School Awards Dinner (1991), Kent established the Upsilon Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) with a class of 13 members. This national Greek letter honor society (now officially affiliated with the Speech Com-

munication Association) selects only the top academic undergraduate majors. Named for the classical Greek concepts of logos, pathos and ethos, the honorary fosters excellence in communication and encourages graduate study. A total of 66 members have been inducted to date into our chapter. The chapters nationally are growing in number very rapidly; if you are affiliated with a college or university that does not have a chapter, contact Jerry Feezel or the SCA office for how to charter one. Our officers and adviser have been active participants in each national meeting of LPH at the SCA conference.



R&C Graduates Employed

Rhetoric and communication majors continue to find good entry-level jobs. Here's a sample of recent information we've received from our alumni:

Colleen Corrigan is a business manager with Lancome Cosmetics and a free-lance writer for Cleveland Dillard's.

Kirk Mathay is an account representative with Hudson Data Vault.

Ann Rohrbach is in charge of special projects at National Association of College Stores, Oberlin.

Amber Braun is customer service representative and trainer at Thrifty Car Rental.

Gary Brown is assignment manager at WTOV 9 TV, Steubenville.

Jen Hutchings is assistant manager at Gapkids Store, Northpoint Mall, Atlanta.

Sherri Bartter is a media relations representative at Thistledown Race Track.

Toni Schultz is a DJ at WFUN/ WREO, Ashtabula.

Joyce Echols is a wife and mother of a 4 month-old baby girl.

Lynette Yohe is a benefits assistant at Camelot Music Corporation, headquarters in North Canton.

Sonya Savage is employed by Roadway Express Company.

Dan Slattery is a sales service representative with Dutch Boy Paints, Fairview Park, OH.

Ann Petrella was promoted to marketing services manager at COMDOC Office Systems, Akron.

Mary Rog is a casualty claims representative at Crawford & Co., Sylvania, OH.

Susannah Foreman-Klodt is assistant vice-president at Klodt & Assoc. Insurance Agency, Cuyahoga Falls.

Brian O'Connor is a sales agent at Ryan Insurance, Cleveland, OH.

Michael Lisman is a training and development manager and CEO, Five Columns/Four Estates, Akron.

J. Andrew Feree is an account executive with Moore Business Forms & Systems, Broadview Hts.

Gary Chvatal is director of the Media Center, Summa Health Systems, Akron.

Kris Lillich is a trainer at Holiday Inns headquarters in Atlanta.

Lisa Lombardi is a marketing representative with Fun & Stuff Park, Macedonia.

Lori Shea is an account executive with Newark Electronics, Cleveland.

Douglas Shriber is an account executive with OBC Publishing (a division of WKDD/WSLR), Akron.

David Weatherbee is a sales representative with Pearl Sales Inc. (World Trader) in Cleveland.

Michael Cloonan is a customer service representative with Dunn & Bradstreet Credit Services in Cleveland.

Janet Newcomer is a branch manager at Interim Personnel, Cleveland.

Harold Wilson directs a middle school media center in Austintown; his son will be attending Kent State University (Honors College) in the fall.

Geno Booker is working with Oak Tech, a vinyl gloves manufacturer in Kent.

Graduate News

New Graduate Students

Since the last newsletter, we've had a number of graduate students begin the Communication Studies program. New graduate students in 1992 included: Meg Algren (M.A., The Cleveland State University), Peggy Finucane (M.A., The University of Iowa), Cecelia Merkel (B.A., Canisius College), Barry Pollick (M.A., The Cleveland State University), Lisa Schroeder (M.A., The University of Akron), Ronda Smith (M.A., Ball State University), Mary Step (M.A., The Cleveland State University), and Mei Zhong (M.A., Southern Illinois University).

Five new students began the program in 1993: Juliann Cortese (B.A., Youngstown State), Lisa Flaherty (M.A., The University of Wyoming), Christopher Hofer (B.A., Walsh College), Tara Rivera (B.A., University of Maryland), and Stephanie Westmyer (M.S., Illinois State University).

This fall, eight new students entered the program. New M.A. students included Amy Barta (B.A., Baldwin Wallace), Laurie Bentley (B.A., Hiram College), Kendra Bunn (B.A., Marietta College), Susan Pyles (B.B.A., Ohio University), and Xiao Xiaoyu (B.A., Changsha Railway). New Ph.D. students include Rachel Dicioccio (M.A., Michigan State University), Jeff Kassing (M.A., Murray State), and Kevin Pearce (M.A., San Diego State).

The graduate students have been keeping busy while working on their degrees. The Communication Graduate Student Association has started fundraising. We bought a refrigerator, have had an office social the past three semesters, and will be giving money to graduate students who participate in conferences. Here are profiles of four of our current graduate students.

Lisa M. Flaherty is from Chesterland, Ohio. She completed her master's degree in interpersonal communication in 1991 at The University of Wyoming. While in Wyoming, she enjoyed outdoor activities including rock climbing, horseback riding, and skiing. Prior to enrolling at Kent, Lisa was assistant director of the



Dan West, Stephanie Westmyer, Lisa Flaherty, Scott Myers working on his Ph.D. in mass communication.

Small Business Institute, a small management consulting firm for greater Cleveland. She is now enjoying being back in the Cleveland area with her family and friends and is excited about finishing her Ph.D. coursework this year. She is interested in marital interaction and research methods.

Scott Myers (M.A., Illinois State University) has been busy publishing, chairing committees, and receiving awards while working on his doctorate. In 1992, Scott received the Teaching Award from the school and in 1994, he received the Research Award with Rick Buerkel (M.S., Central Michigan University). This year, Scott is the Information Services chair for the Graduate Student Senate and the chair of the Graduate Student Caucus for the Central States Communication Association. He also has several publications. Scott and his colleagues worked on a textbook with Dr. Gorden. *The Teamwork Trainer* by Gorden, Nagel, Myers, and Barbato will be available from Irwin Press in the fall.

The recipient of the Teaching Award in 1993 was Dan West (M.A., Kent State University). Dan also received the Thesis Award in 1994 for his thesis titled: *The End Complete: An Analysis of Rhetorical Vision of Omnicide in Death/Thrash Metal Songs*. Last summer, Dan edited and designed three of Dr. Gorden's books. Dan is currently

Stephanie Westmyer hails from sunny Southern California. She received her B.A. in speech communication from San Diego State University and her M.A. in communication from Illinois State University. Stephanie enjoys attending baseball games and traveling. One lifetime goal is to attend all the Major League baseball stadiums. She has been to 16 of the 28 stadiums. Once her Midwest tour is completed, Stephanie wants to work at a university on the West coast.

Graduate Alumni News

Charles Waugh (Ph.D., 1982) is working on a new book: *Mainers in the Civil War*.

Ray Falcione (Ph.D., 1972) visited Guam and Japan last summer.

Guo-Ming Chen (Ph.D., 1987) and wife, Jean, had a new addition to their family in 1993--a son, named Clifford Chung-Li; Guo-Ming was just elected to the SCA Legislative Council and is currently chair of the Intercultural Interest Group at ECA.

Robin Clair (Ph.D., 1990) moved from The Cleveland State University to Purdue University in 1993; she won the SCA Golden Monograph award in 1994 for her article in *Communication Monographs*.

Joe Conway (Ph.D., 1989) is now a financial consultant in Charlotte, NC.

Elizabeth Graham (Ph.D., 1987) and Elizabeth Perse (M.A., 1985; Ph.D., 1987) were promoted, tenured, and granted sabbaticals at Ohio University and University of Delaware, respectively.

Mary Mohan (Ph.D., 1988) published a book, *Organizational Communication and Cultural Vision*, based in part on her Kent State University dissertation.

Linda Moore (Ph.D., 1973) is dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at The University of Akron.

Evelyn Onykwere (Ph.D., 1986) has moved to the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos, Nigeria.

Andrew Rancer (Ph.D., 1979) has moved from Emerson College to The University of Akron.

Randi Nevins (M.A., 1986) finished her doctorate in education at Michigan State University and is now a faculty member at the University of Georgia.

Cameron Armstrong (M.A., 1987) has returned to the states from Australia; she's living in Centre County, PA, and working at a local radio station until her permanent return to Australia in 1997.

Where Are They Now? New Graduate Alumni Since 1991

We like to hear from all of our alumni. What are you doing now? What paths have your careers taken? What significant events have taken place in your lives? Listed below is the last information we heard from the 32 graduate students who earned M.A. or Ph.D. degrees in Communication Studies between 1991 and 1994. Regrettably, some of this information is probably no longer current. Please let us know how you are doing. Keep in touch.

1991

Christopher Clarke (Ph.D.) is director of the Academic Information Management Center for the Education Division of the Veteran's Administration Health Organization in St. Louis, MO.

Ken Danielson (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

James Mignerey (Ph.D.) was assistant professor at St. Joseph's College prior to

his death in 1992.

Jill Rudd (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Cleveland State University.

Donald Taylor (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, California State University, Sacramento.

1992

Carolyn Anderson (Ph.D.) is visiting assistant professor, University of Akron.

Dawn Bennett (M.A.) is working in the health field in Virginia.

Karin Billions (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, University of Akron, Wayne.

Wendy Bower (M.A.) is teaching at Kent State University, Geauga, and Lakeland Community College.

Stephen Bruning (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Capital University, Columbus, OH.

Pam Conyngham (M.A.) is working in career services at Kent State University.

Kevin Einbinder (M.A.) is working in public relations and teaching at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

Lisa Felice (M.A.) began work in a doctoral program in California.

Mary Ann Higgins (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN.

JungKee Kim (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Hyang University, Seoul, Korea.

Julia Lijeron (M.A.) has moved to Montreal, Canada.

Matthew Martin (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, West Virginia University.

Gail Moore (Ph.D.) is teaching at Kent State University, while applying for a Fulbright in Hungary.

1993

Bernard Armada (M.A.) is in the Ph.D. program at the Pennsylvania State University.

Karen Hartley (Ph.D.) is a minister at Wedgewood United Methodist Church, Akron, OH.

Cary Horvath (M.A.) continues in the Ph.D. program at Kent State University.

John Izzo (Ph.D.) is a member of the Einstein Consulting Group, San Diego, CA.

Ann Merkel (M.A.) is working in training and development in the Cleveland, OH, area.

Gus Schulz (M.A.) expected to be seeking teacher certification in Pennsylvania.

Dan West (M.A.) continues in the Ph.D. program at Kent State University.

Lyn Wolfson (M.A.) has moved to Chicago, IL.

1994

Carole Barbato (Ph.D.) is assistant professor, Kent State University, East Liverpool.

Bruce Riddle (Ph.D.) is teaching at Walsh College, Canton, OH.

Suzanne Holt (Ph.D.) owns the Zephyr Restaurant in Kent.

Wendy Mitchell (M.A.) is in the Ph.D. program at Bowling Green State University.

Noreen Schaefer-Faix (Ph.D.) is teaching at Kent State University, Salem.

Pawena Sirimangkala (Ph.D.) has moved to Tucson, AZ.



Ph.D. Alumni: Elizabeth Perse, Carole Barbato, Donald Taylor, Elizabeth Graham

Ph.D. Research Conference

The school and Communication Research Center sponsored a research conference for Ph.D. alumni in June 1994 at the Kent campus. Twenty-five alumni attended. Group discussions focused on research topics such as argumentativeness, interpersonal motives, rhetorical theory, intercultural research, and book publication. Additional sessions on talk radio, nonverbal communication, publishing articles, teaching undergraduate courses, and grant-getting strategies resulted in several fruitful joint research project ideas.

There was plenty of time for networking too. A preconference golf outing on Friday featured one faculty member, alumnus, and graduate student in each group. Bill Gorden, who, since his retirement, has been studying driving, chipping, and putting, led the winning team. On Saturday, we enjoyed part of a ballgame at Jacobs Field (before the rain began) and a get-together with graduate students at BW3's that evening.

And the send-off on Sunday was brunch at the Schwebel Garden Room. Plans are underway for another such conference in the summer of 1996.

Also, as a result of the conference, we've established a listserv "bulletin board" to enhance networking for alumni and faculty.



"Take me out to the ball game!"

School/University News

New Staff

Alumni who have been away for a few years will encounter two new faces in the department main office. In addition to Alice Kopunovitz, senior secretary and secretary to the director, the department now has the services of Judy Jerkich and Kelly Schobinger.

Judy Jerkich fills a new position: office systems specialist and computer coordinator for the school. With the installation

of a graduate computer lab, the acquisition of desktop machines for all faculty (to be LAN'd to a server and high-capacity HP 4Si printer), and the soon-to-be-completed fiber optic trunk to the University mainframe and thence to the Internet, Judy has become a very important part of the departmental support staff. She provides training and assistance--on an individualized basis--to faculty and staff.

Ms. Jerkich is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in psychology and classics from Case

Western Reserve University (magna cum laude, 1972), and comes to us from Kent's Department of Psychology where for five years she provided assistance in the writing of research grants. Prior to that she was administrative assistant for the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*. Judy's hobbies include gardening and, appropriately enough, complex board games; she lives in Ravenna.

Kelly Schobinger is the first person to whom many rhetoric and communication students turn, as she is in charge of registration for controlled classes and manages student forms and records, all while serving as "gatekeeper" for visitors and callers. Kelly also does word processing of faculty research, course syllabi, and examinations; she says that computers are also a hobby, and she is proficient in writing and testing programs in BASIC, FORTRAN, and other languages. Away from work she also enjoys serving in various capacities to several Girl Scout troops associated with Indian Trail elementary school, where two of her three children are in attendance. Her oldest attends Kimpton Middle School.



Alice Kopunovitz, Kelly Schobinger, Judy Jerkich

Memorial Fund in Communication Studies

The school has combined a number of gifts made previously in memory of faculty and students into a scholarship fund. The Memorial Fund currently honors Scheffel and Dorothy Pierce, Michael Dubetz, James N. Holm, L. LeRoy Cowperthwaite, and James Mignerey. Once donations reach a certain level, the fund can be invested and scholarships granted on a regular basis.

The Scheffel and Dorothy Pierce annual award was begun in 1954. Scheffel Pierce, a 1943 graduate, is remembered through this award for outstanding service to the University through speech.

Michael Dubetz, a 1941 graduate of Kent State University, was a faculty member in the school from 1948 until his retirement in 1980. Each year an award is given to a Junior R&C major who demonstrates leadership and personal/academic achievement. This award is from an endowment established by his widow, Shirley Dubetz, of Kent.

James N. Holm was a faculty member in the school and coordinator of the Division of Rhetoric and Communication until his retirement in 1973. He died in 1985. More recently, the name of his wife, Sally Holm, has also been added to the Memorial Fund.

L. LeRoy Cowperthwaite was director of the School of

Speech for 29 years until his retirement in 1983. Following his death in 1985, his wife, Margaret, donated much of his extensive library to the graduate students, and the collection serves as a valuable research source for them. The L. LeRoy Cowperthwaite Lecture in Communication is presented annually in his honor by a distinguished professor from another university.

James Mignerey, who received his Ph.D. in 1991, died shortly thereafter. An annual award goes to a graduate student who demonstrates helping, collegial behavior toward fellow graduate students.

Tax-deductible donations to the Memorial Fund can be sent directly to the School Director or to the Kent State University Foundation (Communication Studies Memorial Fund).

Sally Holm Dies

Sarah Elizabeth Holm, widow of Dr. James N. Holm, died February 12, 1995, following a stroke in Texas. Many graduates will remember both Dr. Holm and Sally Holm who was in charge of the "Cherub" program for many years. A memorial fund in her memory was established to join that of Dr. Holm's. If graduates who remember her wish to contribute, they may send donations to: The Sarah Elizabeth and James N. Holm Memorial Fund, c/o D. Ray Heisey, School of Communication Studies, Kent State University, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242-0001.

Annual Honors Week Dinner

A tradition began in spring 1991. Each Monday evening of Honors Week we gather for a dinner with ceremonies to honor our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. The first year, President Carol A. Cartwright had just arrived to begin her term and was our honored guest speaker. Last year, undergraduate alum and 1991 Kent State University Valedictorian, Roxanne Precopia, was our honored guest and speaker. The provost, the dean, parents of students, and other guests have joined with us to honor 40-50 students each year. Officers of student organizations are recognized and other awards given to the Graduate Student Association; Graduate student teaching, research, collegiality; Forensics team; Kent Communication Society; Student Advisory Committee; and Lambda Pi Eta.

Besides our own recognition dinner, some of our undergraduate and graduate majors are recognized each spring with awards from Graduate Student Senate, Honors Day, and Student Life Activities and Leadership. We wish we had the space to list each and every one of our best and brightest who are honored each year.

The Kent State University forensics team ended its 1994-1995 season in style as 11 of its 20 members qualified for the National Championships this April. The team was ranked fourth in the state, but may rank higher now because six people qualified for "Nationals" at the last tournament.

Co-coaches Rachel DiCioccio and Barry Pollick and student coach, Sheila Rosenthal, are especially gratified because the team essentially started from scratch this season. In fact, all of those who qualified are participating in forensics for the first time on the collegiate level, and many are first-year students. So they expect to have an even stronger team next year.



Amber Braun, Ann Petrella, and David Weatherbee receive honors from Dr. Feezel at the 1992 banquet

Forensics Flourishes

Computer Revolution

The School of Communication Studies has made great strides towards joining the computer revolution of the late 20th century. Judy Jerkich, our office systems specialist, is responsible for meeting all the school's computing needs. Judy has been working long hours planning and implementing a Local Area Network (LAN) for the school.

Judy has already installed 14 new 486 personal computers for the school. The main office is ready for the LAN with a server, a new scanner, a big new printer, and software. The new printer, an HP Laserjet 4Si, is capable of printing 17 pages per minute and is faster sometimes than our photocopier! Judy continues to work through the red tape so computer connections can be installed that will connect the faculty and staff machines to the server. This last step in completing our LAN will be finished during the Fall 1995 Semester, Judy hopes.

Financing for the computer project came from House Bill 904, an appropriations bill passed in 1993 for instructional and lab equipment for Ohio universities. The school's appropriation was approximately \$26,000. This money was desperately needed. Before our upgrades, the school's equipment consisted of one 486 PC, one 386 PC, some mainframe terminals, and a number of old XT and AT type PCs.

In addition to improvements for the faculty to support instructional efforts, the graduate students have had their computing facilities upgraded. Judy has installed a five-machine computer lab, with its own printer, in a room adjoining the graduate student offices. These machines offer word processing, statistical analysis with SPSS-PC, and literature databases for literature searches.

The school is also planning another lab. Another House Bill appropriation of \$25,000 will be used to create a computer lab for our undergraduates, called the Communication Instructional Center (CIC). The CIC will offer word processing, but also specialized programs for instruction in outlining, presentation preparation, visual aid preparation, and other instructional services. The CIC will also house equipment to support a communication anxiety project. Directed by Dr. Rebecca Rubin, this project will help undergraduates overcome their communication anxiety with a regime of relaxation tapes and exercises.

What is in the future for the school? We are also planning long-term for our own on-ramp

to the information superhighway. The University is installing an advanced fiber optic network to link all buildings to the mainframes on campus, offering direct Internet connections. While the fiber optic network is not planned to reach our office until 1997, we are now planning for interim connections to the mainframes because we now have the necessary basic computer equipment.

School Establishes Presence on the Internet

Today one cannot escape essays and whole issues of publications in the popular media about the proliferation of electronic conferencing and e-mail. Alumni may be interested to know that the Kent School of Communication Studies has had a presence on the Internet since last summer. The "list," or conference, is designated COMMSTUD@KENTVM.KENT.EDU and is a place where Ph.D. alumni and faculty can post messages to the department and for others to read. The list is essentially a limited circulation "bulletin board" reachable from anywhere in the world. COMMSTUD has seen a modest amount of activity since its origin, including job postings, news of interest in the discipline, and announcements of upcoming events (e.g., activities featuring department graduates and faculty taking part in the University's commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the events surrounding May 4, 1970).

COMMSTUD is, in the jargon of E-conferences, a moderated listserv, with limited membership and access. The moderator is currently Hugh Munro (HMUNRO@KENTVM.KENT.EDU). The original commitment by the department was to serve the graduate alumni with possible extension to B.A. alumni after acquiring sufficient experience and as resources permit. One consideration was that it was more likely that Ph.D. holders (whose post-graduation employment is usually with academic institutions, business or government organizations) would have Internet e-mail access and addresses.

As a means of estimating the possible demand for extending this post-graduation connectivity, B.A. and B.S. alumni reading this article who have e-mail access (accounts on CompuServe, Prodigy, America OnLine, Genie, etc. or Internet addresses at work) and

who would like to be able to communicate with other alumni through such a resource should send a note or an e-mail message to Hugh Munro or any other faculty member (RHEISEY, RRUBIN, ARUBIN, JFEEZEL, DINFANTE, RRODGERS, SGRANT, and NMITCHELallatKENTVM.KENT.EDU).

Present plans for expansion include the possibility of establishing a WWW (World Wide Web) home page, which would have hyperlinks to and from other resources and institutions with a professional interest in rhetoric and communication.

Faculty Sabbaticals

Three faculty members in the School of Communication Studies have had productive leaves during the period 1992-1994.

D. Ray Heisey taught a graduate seminar in the Department of Applied Psychology at Lund University in Sweden during Fall Semester 1992. While there, he presented research papers to several departments and conducted research on political communication and Swedish culture, which resulted in five papers presented at SCA and WCA.

Dominic Infante was on a sabbatical leave for Fall Semester 1993. He wrote two articles. One was recently published in *Communication Education* and the other was accepted for *Communication Yearbook*.

Hugh Munro had a sabbatical leave for Spring Semester 1994. He worked on two books. One is on the criticism of enthymemes. The other is an introductory textbook designed for a course such as our COMM 1500: Theory and Practice of Oral Discourse.

.....

Inquire. Learn. Reflect. Kent State University will be commemorating the 25th anniversary of the events surrounding May 4, 1970, this spring. The University is sponsoring programs throughout the semester to encourage all to inquire, learn, and reflect about the events leading to the events of May 4.

On selected days in April, faculty from the Schools of Music, Communication Studies, Art, and the Department of Sociology will be sponsoring a workshop entitled, "Music, Film, Art, Communication, and Protest." Beginning Saturday, April 29 an opera, dance programs, symposia, poetry reading, and a Peter, Paul, and Mary concert will be held throughout the week culminating in the traditional candle-light vigil and walk on May 3 and the memorial program on May 4.

The School of Communication Studies will be hosting a symposium on Monday, May 1, 1995, at 7 p.m. in D205 Music/Speech. The symposium, "Four Days in May 1970: Rhetorical Reflections Then and Now," will examine the events leading to May 4 and its aftermath. Taking part in the symposium will be Dr. Linda Moore, Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at The University of Akron; Dr. James Crocker-Lakness, a professor at the University of Cincinnati; Ms. Stephanie Westmyer and Mr. Grant Cos, graduate students in the School of Communication Studies; and Dr. Carole Barbato, an Assistant Professor at Kent State University, East Liverpool. All are invited to attend the events commemorating May 4. If you have any questions, call the Alumni Office (216-672-5368) or Dr. Barbato (216-385-4272) or e-mail Dr. Barbato at CBARBATO@KENTVM.KENT.EDU.

Zhang Ming
and
Chen Yinghe



The China Connection

The school's commitment to international education may be seen in the three exchange programs with China. In 1992 D. Ray Heisey initiated an annual faculty exchange program with Zhang Ming of the *Guangming Daily* in Beijing. Three faculty members from communication schools, along with a Kent State University administrator, go to China for two weeks as guests of China's second largest newspaper. Then four delegates from *Guangming Daily* come to Kent as guests of the University. The purpose is to allow the delegates to experience the culture of the host country and to establish research connections among colleagues. So far, Ray Heisey, Becky Rubin, Dom Infante, Alan Rubin, and Jerry Feezel have been part of these delegations.

The school also has established faculty exchange programs with the Departments of International Politics in People's University and in Peking University. The Kent faculty member typically goes there for a month to teach a course in communication that fits within the department's

curriculum. The best students in the department are selected to participate because the lectures are presented in English. So far, John Miller went in 1994 and Carl Moore is scheduled to go in April 1995 after completing a teaching assignment in Singapore. Carolyn Anderson is scheduled for June 1995 and Jerry Feezel for October 1995 and Bill Gorden for April 1996. Visits beyond this time are also being planned. These departments in China are having some of their best graduates apply for advanced study in our school.

These connections in the universities were initially made by Mei Zhong, one of our school's doctoral students, and followed up by D. Ray Heisey when he was in China to present papers at conferences there in December 1993 and in September 1994. He will be going to a conference again in August 1995 and to visit these two universities.

The School of Communication Studies now has three students from China. Mei Zhong in the doctoral program, Xiaoyu Xiao in the M.A. program, and Sarah Yi in the undergraduate program, who is also a student in the Honors College.

Top-Ranked Program

A study by Hickson et al. in *Communication Education* (July 1993) ranked the Kent State University Communication Studies program second in the nation in terms of faculty research productivity. West Virginia University was ranked first while Michigan State University and The University of Texas at Austin were tied for third place. Four Kent faculty were in the top 50 ranked active scholars: William Gorden, Rebecca Rubin, Alan Rubin, and Dominic Infante. Other studies of research productivity also have reflected favorably upon the Kent Communication Studies faculty. Rebecca Rubin was ranked as the 4th most productive woman in the discipline in one study. Alan Rubin was ranked first in a study of mass media research productivity. In another study, Dominic Infante was ranked first in organizational communication research productivity while William Gorden was tied for second.

Conference Programs

The School of Communication Studies was well represented in conference activities--at the state, national, and international levels--since the last edition (Spring 1991) of *Communique*. Here's a sampling of faculty and graduate student participation....

Carole Barbato, E. E. Graham, and E. M. Perse presented "Uses of Interpersonal Communication Motives and Humor Among Elders" at the Speech Communication Association (SCA) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, in November 1994. Also in the Crescent City, Mei Zhong (a current Ph.D. student) and D. Ray Heisey presented "China's Apologia on the Human Rights Issue: An Intercultural Conflict with the United States"; and X. Xiao (an M.A. student) and Heisey presented "Confucian and Taoist Strategies for Peacemaking." Felecia Jordan and A. Merkel presented "The Relationship of Selected Communication Climate Variables to Cognitive Learning in the College Classroom." R. Pierre Rodgers chaired "African Americans, Work, and Unions: Historical Perspectives, Language, and Images of Reconciliation" and chaired and responded to "Preaching as Rhetorical Form: The Oratory of African American Ministers." Dozens of other presentations were made over the past three years at SCA by faculty, students, and alumni.

In-state conferences included communication-based meetings (Speech Communication Association of Ohio, Columbus) and interdisciplinary ones as well (e.g., the Midwest Regional Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society [CIES], Kent, 1994). In the former, Dominic Infante, Matthew Martin, and Steve Bruning presented "A Unit for Teaching About Verbal Aggression" (1991); Felecia Jordan presented "New Advances in Communication Research from Kent State University" (1991); Alan Rubin presented "Researching Media Uses and Effects" (1991); and Rebecca Rubin presented "Interpersonal Communication Competence" (1991). In the latter Ohio-based conferences, D. Ray Heisey and S. Yi presented "Contemporary Rhetorical Education: A Comparison of American and Chinese Theory Texts" and Heisey and Mei Zhong, "Inaugurating an American Communication Studies Program in Chinese Universities" at the CIES Conference.

International and regional conference appearances reflected diverse issues in the communication discipline. Kent faculty and graduate students participated in SCA meetings (Alexandria, VA [Summer Conference], 1994; Miami

Beach, 1993; Chicago, 1992; Atlanta, 1991); Central States Communication (CSCA) (Oklahoma City, 1994; Lexington, 1993 [joint convention with Southern States]; Cleveland, 1992; Chicago, 1991); Eastern Communication Association (ECA) (Washington, DC, 1994; Portland, ME, 1992); and the Organizational Communication Mini-Conference (OCMC) (Urbana, IL, 1992; Minneapolis, MN, 1991). William Gorden and D. Ray Heisey presented "A Language of Solidarity in the Swedish Work Environment" (SCA, 1993); Alan Rubin, "Reconsidering the Active Evidence in Media Research" (SCA, 1993); Rebecca Rubin, "Assessment of the Cognitive Component of Communication Competence" (SCA Summer Conference, 1994); Russell Ensign, "In the Walls, Invisibility, and a Rhetoric of Obfuscation: Experiencing, Reducing, and Creating Uncertainty in the Prison Community" at the 1992 CSCA convention; Jerry Feezel, "Preparing Teachers: Should They Be Clever, Creative, or Just Plain Crazy?" (CSCA/SSCA, 1993); Susan Grant, "Dynamic Modelling of the Social Influence Process: A Networks Approach" (OCMC, 1992); and Jeffrey Nelson (with Robert Ellis), "Hamletmachine and the Rhetoric of the Image" (ECA, 1993).

Finally, faculty members have made or will make international presentations on communication-based issues. D. Ray Heisey, Alan Rubin, Rebecca Rubin, and R. Pierre Rodgers

Columbia in July 1995. Heisey, A. Rubin, and R. Rubin will present "Dialogue on Penetrating and/or Removing Disciplinary Boundaries" and "Sabbaticals That Remove Boundaries." Rodgers and Heisey will present "Perspectives on Communication in the Former Soviet Union."

At the First African Symposium on Rhetoric, Persuasion and Power, Capetown, South Africa, M. A. Brockett and Heisey presented "Nelson Mandela and F. W. De Klerk: Rhetorical Visions of a new South Africa." N. S. Contractor and Susan Grant had their paper, "The Emergence of Shared Interpretations in Organizations: A Self-Organizing Systems Perspective," presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (July, 1994) in Sydney, Australia. M. Zhong and Heisey also presented "A Rhetorical Role Analysis of Mao Zedong's Yan'an Conference on Literature and Art" in Sydney. More frequent-flier miles were accrued by Heisey: "The Influence of Cultural and Rhetorical Values on Managing Communication in China's Modernization Process," presented at the International Symposium on Oriental Culture and Social Development, China (1994); "Internationalization of Higher Education," presented at the International Society for Education, Training, and Research Congress, Ottawa, Canada (1994); and "The Foreign Policy Rhetoric of Interventionism: International Case Studies," presented at the University of Lund Seminar, Sweden.



SCA Conventioneers: Bruce Riddle, Bill Gorden, R. Pierre Rodgers, and Alan Rubin. They have had papers or panels accepted for presentation at the World Communication Association's Biennial Conference in Vancouver, British

Dr. Jordan Goes South

After almost six years as an assistant professor in the school, Felecia F. Jordan has accepted a position as associate professor at Florida State University. "It was the hardest decision I've had to make so far in my professional career," Dr. Jordan admitted, "but my time at Kent has prepared me for the challenges and opportunities this move will bring."

Florida State University is located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city in the northwest portion of the state. One of its appeals is its proximity to her family in southeast Georgia and middle Florida. "For the first time in years, the family (including parents, sisters, and brother) will be within a three and a half hours' drive of each other." Because both family and career are important to Felecia, it looks as if she'll have the best of both worlds. Dr. Jordan will begin her new position this fall.

New Member Joins Communication Studies Faculty

Susan J. Grant joined our faculty in the 1994-1995 academic year as an assistant professor. Susan is currently completing her Ph.D. in organizational communication/small group communication from the University of Illinois. Her dissertation topic is "Investigation of the Dynamic Relationship Between Communication and Shared Interpretations: A Networks Approach." Susan earned two undergraduate degrees from Purdue University in 1985: a Bachelor of Arts in Science and Culture and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She received her M.A. from Purdue as well in 1990 in communication.

While at Kent, Susan has taught undergraduate courses in organizational communication, discussion, and interviewing and field research. Her approach to teaching emphasizes a combination of theory and practice. Susan's fall 1994 interviewing and field research class was featured in an article in the *Akron* (OH) *Beacon Journal* (January 25, 1995, p. A1). Susan and her student researchers found evidence to dispel the myth that the so-called "Generation X" (ages 20-30) is an aimless, lazy, monolithic group. For an "encore," Susan's spring 1995 organizational communication class is conducting a communication audit for the entire Kent Campus. Based on the questionnaires and data analysis, the class will report on faculty and staff perceptions of the use and efficacy of

"information." No doubt the University administration will find the audit revealing and insightful.

Susan is looking forward to continuing her research and teaching efforts at Kent. Among her recent awards and publications, her co-authored paper (with N. S. Contractor), "Dynamic Modelling of the Social Influence Process: A Networks Approach," was named as the "Top Paper" in organizational communication at the 1993 Speech Communication Association convention. In addition, Susan and Contractor have a book chapter in press--"The Emergence of Shared Interpretations in Organizations: A Self-Organizing Systems Perspective," in *Cycles and Dynamic Patterns in Communication Processes*, edited by J. H. Watt and C. A. Van Lear Jr. (Newbury Park, CA: Sage).



Susan Grant

Professors Emeriti

The three most recent faculty members who selected the early retirement incentive have been keeping as busy as ever.

Carl Moore has been involved in his work in negotiation and mediation in the public policy arena and was invited back to Singapore to teach in the same subject this spring. As described elsewhere in the newsletter, he will go on to China to teach in the exchange program at People's University.

Bill Gorden continues to serve on graduate student committees and advise students. He also is busy writing. He has published three books recently which are announced elsewhere.

John Miller continues his speaking activities and co-authored one of the books with Bill Gorden.

Summer Visiting Scholar

Beginning in 1987, the School of Communication Studies assumed the sponsorship of the annual L. LeRoy Cowperthwaite Lecture Series. We did so by linking the lecture to our continuing Summer Visiting Scholar Program. The

Summer Visiting Scholar Program provides our graduate students with an intensive week-long seminar with notable communication scholars from other universities.

The week begins on Sunday afternoon or evening with the visiting scholar delivering the public Cowperthwaite lecture, which lays the foundation for the seminar's topic. The visiting scholar and approximately 15 communication studies graduate students then meet for the remainder of the week to examine the scholar's unique contributions to communication theory, research, and practice.

Since 1991, we have been very pleased to welcome Virginia Richmond, Jennings Bryant, Fredric Jablin, and James McCroskey as our Summer Visiting Scholars. In her 1991 seminar on "Power: Communication, Control, and Concerns in Organizations," Virginia Richmond (West Virginia University) focused on communication power in interpersonal, instructional, and other settings.

In his 1992 seminar on "Entertainment Theory," Jennings Bryant (University of Alabama) examined the audience and new technologies in the uses and effects of media entertainment.

In his 1993 seminar on "Organizational Communication: A Life-Span Perspective," Fred Jablin (University of Texas) discussed assimilation and socialization in organizations.

And, in his 1994 seminar on "Communication Anxiety, Apprehension, and Compulsion," Jim McCroskey (West Virginia University) focused on his past and current research about apprehensive and compulsive communicators.

We are also pleased to announce that Nancy Signorielli (University of Delaware) will be our 1995 summer visiting scholar. Dr. Signorielli will present the Cowperthwaite Lecture (Sunday, June 4) and the graduate seminar (June 5-9) on "Cultivating Media Images." The seminar will consider such topics as media cultivation, sex-role stereotyping, and content analysis.

The Summer Visiting Scholar Program provides our students with a unique opportunity for intensive interaction with many of the leading researchers in the field of Communication. We are gratified that we now have been able to offer our students this opportunity for the past 10 years.



Nancy Signorielli

Recent Publications

Faculty and graduate students have been quite busy writing books, book chapters, and journal articles, in addition to their regular stream of conference papers and conference presentations. Six books and seven book chapters have been published since our last newsletter in 1991, and 30 journal/yearbook articles.

We would particularly like to draw your attention to *Communication Research Measures*, which was compiled by numerous editors and associate editors, including Drs. Rebecca and Alan Rubin. As the first compilation of quantitative research measures in all communication research fields, it is a truly valuable contribution to our discipline.

BOOKS

Gorden, W. I. (1993). *We mean business: Building communication competence in business and professions* New York: HarperCollins.

Infante, D. A., Rancer, A. S., & Womack, D. F. (1993). *Building communication theory* (2nd ed.). Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Rubin, R. B. (1994). *Communication competency assessment instrument* (rev. ed.). New Orleans: Spectra.

Rubin, R. B. (1994). *Communication competency assessment instrument: High school edition*. New Orleans: Spectra.

Rubin, R. B., Palmgreen, P., & Sypher, H. E. (Eds.), and Beatty, M. J., DeWine, S., Downs, C. W., Graham, E. E., Greenbaum, H. H., Kearney, P., Perse, E. M., & Rubin, A. M. (Assoc. Eds.). (1994). *Communication research measures: A sourcebook*. New York: Guilford.

Rubin, R. B., Rubin, A. M., & Piele, L. J. (1993). *Communication research: Strategies and sources* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Feezel, J. D. (1994). Don't just sit there, speak up: Teaching speech can touch lives forever. In B. J. Morgan & J. M. Palmisano (Eds.), *Education career directory* (pp. 29-34). Detroit, MI: Visible Ink Press.

Heisey, D. R. (1994). On preaching: A review essay. In E. M. Sider (Ed.), *Preaching the word: Sermons by Brethren of Christ ministers* (pp. 155-166). Grantham, PA: Brethren in Christ Historical Society.

Heisey, D. R. (1993). The strategy of narrative and metaphor in interventionalist rhetoric: International case studies. In D. Zarefsky (Ed.), *Rhetorical movement: Essays in honor of Leland M. Griffin* (pp. 186-209, 253-256). Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press.

Rubin, A. M. (1994). Media uses and effects: A uses-and-gratifications perspective. In J. Bryant & D. Zillman (Eds.), *Media effects: Advances in theory and research* (pp. 417-436). Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Rubin, R. B. (1994). Assessment of the cognitive components of communication competence. In S. Morreale & M. Brooks (Eds.), *1994 SCA summer conference proceedings and prepared remarks: Assessing college student competing in speech communication* (pp. 73-86). Annandale, VA: Speech Communication Association.

Rubin, A. M., & Perse, E. M. (1994). Measures of mass communication. In R. B. Rubin, P. Palmgreen, & H. E. Sypher (Eds.), *Communication research measures: A sourcebook* (pp. 37-56). New York: Guilford.

Rubin, R. B., & Graham, E. E. (1994). Measures of interpersonal communication. In R. B. Rubin, P. Palmgreen, & H. E. Sypher (Eds.), *Communication research measures: A sourcebook* (pp. 21-36). New York: Guilford.

ARTICLES

Feezel, J. D. (1992). Applications to teaching: Raising some flags at the SCA Flagstaff conference. *Speech Communication Teacher*, 6(2), 9-10.

Feezel, J. D. (1992). Applications to teaching: Teachers mind your BATs and BAMs. *Speech Communication Teacher*, 6(3), 8-9.

Feezel, J. D. (1993). Students as stars: Integrated language arts ideas. *Speech Communication Teacher*, 7(2), 12-13.

Gorden, W. I. (1994). "Wego" comes in several varieties and is not simple. In S. A. Deetz (Ed.), *Communication Yearbook*, 17, 285-297.

Gorden, W. I. (1994). [Review of the book *Workplace drug abuse and aids: A guide to human resource management policy and practice*]. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal*, 7, 1-4.

Gorden, W. I., Anderson, C. M., & Bruning, S. D. (1992). Employee perceptions of corporate partnership: An affective-moral quid pro quo. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal*, 5, 75-86.

Gorden, W. I., Holmberg, K. A., & Heisey, D. R. (1994). Equality and the Swedish work environment. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal*, 7, 141-160.

Graham, E. E., Barbato, C. A., & Perse, E. M. (1993). The interpersonal motives model. *Communication Quarterly*, 41, 172-186.

Hamilton, N. F., & Rubin, A. M. (1992). The influence of religiosity on television viewing. *Journalism Quarterly*, 69, 667-678.

Heisey, D. R. (1992). Critical methods and ideology: An international perspective. *Systems Practice*, 5, 215-223.

Heisey, D. R. (1992). Horace Bushnell's rhetorical training. *Journal of Communication and Religion*, 15, 55-69.

Heisey, D. R. (1993). The rhetoric of Anatoly Sobchak: Rule of law vs nomenclatura? *Southern Communication Journal*, 51, 60-72.

Heisey, D. R., & Phipps, K. S. (1993). The Hart and Biden apologies: The failure of apologetic rhetoric. *Journal of Communication Studies*, 11, 53-65.

Infante, D. A., Anderson, C. M., Martin, M. M., Herington, A. D., & Kim, J. (1993). Subordinates' satisfaction and perceptions of superiors' compliance-gaining tactics, argumentativeness, verbal aggressiveness, and style. *Management Communication Quarterly*, 6, 307-326.

Infante, D. A., Myers, S. A., & Buerkel, R. A. (1994). Argument and verbal aggression in constructive and destructive family and organizational disagreements. *Western Journal of Communication*, 58, 78-84.

Infante, D. A., & Rancer, A. S. (1993). Relations between argumentative motivation, and advocacy and refutation on controversial issues. *Communication Quarterly*, 41, 415-426.

Jordan, F. F., & Wheelless, V. E. (1994). An examination of organizational and personal communication variables as predictors of whistleblowing. *Ohio Speech Journal*, 32, 98-109.

Martin, M. M., & Rubin, R. B. (1994). Development of a communication flexibility measure. *Southern Communication Journal*, 59, 171-178.

Nelson, J. (1994). Magic Johnson's apology for HIV: A commentary on the American family. *New Jersey Journal of Communication*, 2, 16-35.

Nelson, J. (1993). Correspondence in Saturday Review and the genesis of the gay-rights movement. *Massachusetts Journal of Communication*, 11, 43-51.

Nelson, J., & Higgins, M. A. (1993). The virtuous game in the Field of Dreams. *Massachusetts Journal of Communication*, 11, 113-120.

Rubin, A. M. (1993). Audience activity and media use. *Communication Monographs*, 60, 98-105.

Rubin, A. M. (1993). The effect of locus of control on communication motivation, anxiety, and satisfaction. *Communication Quarterly*, 41, 161-171.

Rubin, R. B. (1994). The CCAI-HS: A new assessment tool. *Speech Communication Teacher*, 8(2), 14-15.

Rubin, R. B., Collado, C. F., & Hernandez-Sampieri, R. (1992). A cross-cultural examination of interpersonal communication motives in Mexico and the United States. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 16, 145-157.

Rubin, R. B., & Martin, M. M. (1994). Development of a measure of interpersonal communication competence. *Communication Research Reports*, 11, 33-44.

Rubin, R. B., Martin, M. M., Bruning, S. S., & Powers, D. E. (1993). Test of a self-efficacy

model of interpersonal communication competence. *Communication Quarterly*, 41, 210-220.

Rubin, R. B., Rubin, A. M., & Martin, M. M. (1993). The role of self-disclosure and self-awareness in affinity-seeking competence. *Communication Research Reports*, 10, 115-127.

Sabourin, T. C., Infante, D. A., & Rudd, J. E. (1993). Verbal aggression in marriages: A comparison of violent, distressed but nonviolent, and nondistressed couples. *Communication Research Reports*, 20, 245-267.

Zakahi, W. R., Jordan, F. F., & Christophel, D. (1993). Social adjustment to college: Communication apprehension and social network development among college students. *Communication Research Reports*, 10, 39-46.

New Gorden/Miller Books

Most of you were students of Drs. Gorden and/or Miller. After more than 25 years each in Kent's classrooms, they are now retired, but active. They are making a donation to the school of *all* proceeds from the following books bought by our alumni. If you would like to buy these three paperback books, please send your order to: Gorden/Miller Books, School of Communication Studies, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242-0001, and include a check for \$20 payable to the School of Communication Studies for the three books, which will cover the cost of the books and the postage/handling. Thank you for your support.

TIME CAPSULES FOR HEAD AND HEART (New, \$5.95) by William I. Gorden, Ph.D. This is not a typical book on setting priorities. Rather Time Capsules is about finding meaning in what we do. Dr. Gorden argues that time management training for a collection of strangers is a waste of time. However, he's for it if it brings co-workers together and if it is linked with organization-wide quality improvement efforts.

WORKING FOR THE BEST CAN JUMP-START AMERICA (New, \$5.95) by William I. Gorden, Ph.D., and John R. Miller, Ed.D. Here's a book that presents stories of Can-Do individual and corporate achievement. Working For The Best is a book you will be proud to give to your co-workers and friends.

VALUE-ADDED ATTITUDE AND ACTION (New, \$5.95) by William I. Gorden, Ph.D. Right connections, according to Dr. Gorden, refers to the family-friendly workplace, to teamwork, and to close-to-the customer relationships. Value-Added is a book that individuals engaged in team building programs will find both inspiring and informative.



PO BOX 5196 KENT OH 44242 0001

*10161

School of
Communication Studies