The past twelve months have been significant ones for the Department in several respects. In this column, I first lean back a little, as usual, to review some of the major events of the past year, and then I lean way back and also try to peer ahead just a little.

Leaning forward with the new Chair
Carolyn Ellis
Professor and Associate Chair

“What was I thinking?” I kiddingly say, when friends ask me why I decided to be Chair of the Communication Department, beginning December 7, 2012 (two months, 10 days, and 6 hours from this moment, but who’s counting?) In this column, I’ll try to answer that question.
Graduate student news
Alisha Menzies & Tasha Rennels
Co-Presidents, Graduate Communication Association

In yet another exciting year of graduate school, we celebrated the completion of degrees, a new cohort, and, of course, the connections we continue to build.

**Communication Day - April 20, 2012**
This year’s Communication Day was a huge success. Kicking off the day was the Sixth Annual Speak Out event, organized by Alisha Menzies. Six students from the beginning Public Speaking course (SPC 2608) competed for awards and cash prizes with Huikyong Pang’s student winning the first place award. A special thanks to the Speak Out judges, Dr. Abraham Khan, Dr. David Payne, and Dr. Ken Cissna.

The six Speak Out finalists (left to right): Aurora Filipski (2nd place), Alisha Menzies (coordinator), Max Dempster, Kelly Koch (1st place), Sherrin George, Masiel Pelegrino-Sarduy (3rd place tie), and Sara Madiedo (3rd place tie).

**The Performance Showcase**
The Performance Showcase immediately followed the Speak Out featuring the talents of several graduate and undergraduate students who provided an enjoyable hour of entertainment. Pictured right is Summer Cunningham, performing her original work, “On Being Alone.”

**Grazier Lecture**
Dr. François Cooren, Professor of Communication and Chair of the Department of Communication at the Université de Montréal delivered the 2012 endowed Grazier Lecture. The title of his lecture was, “Why Matter Always Matters in Organizational Communication: Animation, Incarnation, and Ventriloquism.” Pictured left is Dr. Francois Cooren.
Com Prom
After the Grazier Lecture, faculty, staff, and students rested briefly before heading to the beautiful Creative Loafing Building in the heart of Ybor City for the annual Com Prom. Speakeasy was this year's theme, which included some very creative ensembles and fun-filled interactions.

(Left) Dave Purnell posing by the new departmental sign provided by the Graduate Student Association; (below) Heather Curry and Sarah McGhee practice communication activism with Doug Jordan

No Com Prom would be complete without the awards portion of the evening. Students recognized by the faculty at this year's event include: **Sean Lockert** and **Cristin Cotton**, who received the Jennifer L. Pickman Outstanding Undergraduate Award. **Kari Goetz**, who received the James E. Popovich Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Master's Program and the Elias J. Nader and Vivian Zrake Nader Graduate Scholarship in Communication. **Dave Purnell** and **Ellen Klein**, who received the Barney Downs Spirit Award for outstanding community spirit and departmental citizenship, **Chris Patti**, who received the Arthur P. Bochner Award for Outstanding Achievement in Doctoral Studies, **Kristen Blinne** and **Patrick Dillion**, who received the Outstanding Teaching by a GTA award. Congratulations to all the student recipients who received awards.

**Dr. Art Bochner** poses with **Chris Patti**, and (far right) **Kari Goetz** with one of her two awards of the evening

Also at Com Prom, the graduate student community, in cooperation with
the Graduate Communication Association, presented three awards. **Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi** received both the faculty HUB Award as well as the Faculty Recognition Award. **Amanda Firestone** received the GCA Outstanding Peer Mentor Award. **Kristen Blinne** received the GCA Outstanding Departmental Service Award and **Dave Purnell** received the GCA Outstanding Community Engagement Award.

The new 2012-2013 GCA Executive Board was announced as well and includes: **Alisha Menzies**, Co-President; **Tasha Rennels**, Co-President; **Megan Wood**, Secretary; **Carolyn Day**, Treasurer; **Blake Paxton**, Events Planner; **Sanford Betz**, Social Media Coordinator.

(Left) Dr Mariaelena Bartesaghi receiving the Hub Award; (right) Tasha Rennels and Alisha Menzies, the new GCA co-presidents

Com Prom concluded with expressions of appreciation for **Dr. Ken Cissna**'s service as Department Chair (2006-2012) by former chairs, **Dr. Eric Eisenberg** and **Dr. Art Bochner**.

**Communicating Community**

Kristen Blinne, Summer Cunningham, and Sarah McGhee are currently petitioning National Communication Association members to propose a new NCA division focusing on activism and social change, for fall 2013. To support this effort, please visit: [http://NCActivism.questionpro.com/](http://NCActivism.questionpro.com/)

**Jill Potkalesky** and **Sarah McGhee** organized this year’s “Holiday Extravaganza.” On an extremely tight budget, they were able to collect enough donations to buy Christmas presents for three families (pictured below) engaged in migrant farm work in the Tampa area.

**Dave Purnell** hosted another successful “Christmas in July” party, which collected $1,000 in donations and 50 backpacks of school supplies for the Kids Charity of Tampa Bay, Inc. and Friends of the Joshua House Foundation, Inc.
As a result of this party, and the support of the Graduate Communication Association, over 250 abandoned or neglected children started the school year with the educational tools they needed.

Writer and cultural anthropologist, Mary Catherine Bateson, visited in the spring and spoke to a large crowd on intergenerational communication, aging, and her recent work on raising consciousness of the changing life cycle. The following day, she held a small seminar with faculty and graduate students and then spoke to Dr. Fred Steier’s doctoral seminar on Communication and Community.

(Top, clockwise, from left): Dr. Lori Roscoe, Dr. Jane Jorgenson, Sarah McGhee, Summer Cunningham, and Dr. Mary Catherine Bateson

The Graduate Communication Association’s 1st Annual Pedagogy Potluck was a big success, featuring faculty and student attendees, as well as some presenters from sociology. Second (on the right) is a photo of Kari Goetz presenting on improvisational methods of pedagogy.

The Communication Department dominated the Provost’s recognition of outstanding GTAs, with Patrick Dillon, Jacob Jenkins, Kristen Blinne, and Chris Patti (pictured below) with the “Provost’s Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant” Awards. The Provost also acknowledged the work of their outstanding mentors, Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi, Dr. Ambar Basu, Dr. Elizabeth Bell, Dr. Carolyn Ellis, Dr. Jane Jorgenson, Dr. David Payne, and Dr. Loyd Pettegrew.

Libby Jeter and Peter Zellmer welcomed their daughter and first child, Wallace Adelaide Zellmer, into their family on September 20, 2012.

Along with his wife Lori and daughter Kaylee, Travis Thompson welcomed the birth of his second daughter Elise in February.

Communicating Scholarship
Doctoral candidate Kristen Blinne will serve as the Program Planner and Vice Chair of the
National Communication Association’s Spiritual Communication Division starting this fall. She also has three forthcoming publications in the following journals: Communication Teacher, College Teaching, and Sexualities.

Doctoral student Carolyn Day was selected as the winner of the Outstanding Talk Award for her research presentation, “Like Water for Chocolate: Nestle and Shared Value as a Modern Day Idiom,” at the recent Research One: Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium sponsored by the USF Office of Research and Innovation. We are told that the competition was quite fierce, and that her talk was deemed exceptional by the judges.

Doctoral candidate Patrick Dillon recently published his essays "Moral accounts and membership categorization in primary care medical interviews" in Communication & Medicine and "African Americans and hospice care: Making decisions about enrollment" in The Howard Journal of Communications (with Dr. Lori Roscoe and Jacob Jenkins). He also co-authored (with Jacob Jenkins) the manuscript, "This is what we are all about: The (re)construction of an oppressive organizational structure," in the Southern Communication Journal. His co-authored article (with Dr. Ambar Basu), “HIV/AIDS and minority men who have sex with men: A meta-ethnographic synthesis of qualitative research,” is currently in press in Health Communication. Patrick has also co-authored two pedagogical manuscripts (with Jacob Jenkins) which are currently in press: “Improving students’ formal writing: The IDOL writing device” will appear in College Teaching and “Learning through YouTube” will be included in the forthcoming book, The Plugged-In Professor. In addition, Patrick was awarded (with Jacob Jenkins) the "Top Student Paper in Applied Communication" by the Southern States Communication Association for the second straight year.

Recently awarded the PhD degree, Dr. Ardis co-authored Care Issues in America: perspectives, “Public education,” and “School mental health.” Additionally, Ardis, along with Bruce Lubotsky Levin, completed Mental Health Informatics, a new Oxford University Press monograph. Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi and Ardis co-authored, “Understanding social networking: The benefit of discourse analysis” in Using Qualitative Methods in Action Research: How Librarians Can Get to the Why of Data. Ardis and Sheila Gobes-Ryan have recently had a chapter accepted in the upcoming "Trust in Computer Mediated Communication" in the Encyclopaedia of Information Science & Technology. Apart from her many publications, Ardis made presentations at international conferences.

Master’s student Nancie Jeanne Hudson received a $400 research grant from the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado at Boulder for her Master’s Thesis research project, a discourse analysis of 20 actual job interviews that were audio-recorded in an employment agency. She also earned a Certificate in College Teaching from the Graduate Teacher Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, which required completing 20 pedagogical workshops, being videotaped and evaluated while teaching, and writing a comprehensive teaching portfolio.

Doctoral candidate David Jenkins presented a performance of his personal narrative “On His Terms, In My Words” at the NCA Conference last November in New Orleans. He also directed a production of David Mamet's RACE at the Straz Center in May with a special emphasis on community engagement and dialogue. As part of this production he organized and moderated a lively post-show panel on contemporary race relations in America featuring Dr. Roy Kaplan, Dr. Abraham Khan, and Alisha Menzies. That panel was made possible by a reviewer’s award granted from Communication for Social Change. David helped organize and participated in activist performance demonstrations during the Republican National Convention in Tampa that were covered by CNN, Mobile News Network, and the Huffington Post. David’s work in attempting to bridge performance theory and practice was featured in a full-page article in...
Creative Loafing in July. He was just honored with a Best of the Bay Award from Creative Loafing's Reader's Poll in the Best Actor category.

Recently awarded the PhD degree, J. Jacob Jenkins recently published three refereed journal articles, with three additional works in press. “This is what we’re all about: The (re)construction of an oppressive organizational structure” was published in Southern Communication Journal, with Patrick J. Dillon as second author. “Engaging the internet generation: An experiential analysis of the world’s wealthiest nonprofit organizations” was published in Florida Communication Journal, and “African Americans and decisions about hospice care: Implications for health message design” was published in The Howard Journal of Communications, alongside Patrick J. Dillon (first author) and Dr. Lori A. Roscoe (second author). Publications still in press include two pedagogical pieces entitled “Learning through YouTube” and “Improving students’ reasoning and writing: The IDOL writing device,” and a public relations case study entitled “Common Ground voices: An organizational case study for media relations.” Jenkins also presented ten conference papers at national and regional conventions, resulting in two “Top Student Paper” awards at the 2012 Southern States Communication Association Convention. He was awarded a “Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant” by the University of South Florida's Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, and a “Graduate Teaching Certificate” by the University of South Florida’s E-Teaching & Technology Group. Finally, Jenkins was awarded a generous research grant by the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication & Society at Villanova University for his continued research of community and organizational metaphor. Jacob has also been selected to receive the 2012 Stanley L. Saxton Applied Research Award from the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research. The Stanley L. Saxton award recognizes papers that focus on how theory, research, and practice contribute to addressing real, pragmatic, social problems. Jacob won the award for his paper “A 'Community' of Discipline: The Paradox of Metaphor within Intercultural Organizations,” a version of which he will be presenting at the National Communication Association (NCA) convention in Orlando in November 2012. The award will be presented at the Applied Communication Division meeting at NCA.

Doctoral candidate Libby Jeter presented the paper, Dialoguing Fair Trade: Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts and Ethical Consumerism, at the 2012 NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar hosted by University of Southern California.

Doctoral candidate Doug Jordan was appointed as a research fellow for the Inter-University Seminar for Armed Forces and Society, which publishes the Armed Forces and Society Journal. In November of 2011, he chaired a panel on cultural competence in the U.S. military at the annual conference at the Palmer Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Doctoral candidate David Lee is doing fieldwork at Tampa Museum of Science and Industry, studying health promotion at The Amazing You exhibit. In August, he presented a paper at the 5th International Conference of the Inclusive Museum at The University of the West Indies in Barbados, co-authored with Fred Steier and MOSI president, Wit Ostrenko. Mr. Lee has been volunteering at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta. He also is a vintage record salesman at conventions in Tampa, Orlando, Atlanta and Savannah.

Doctoral candidate Sarah T. McGhee presented her paper “Getting Noticed, Being Heard, and (not) Resolving Conflict: An Examination of How Women in the Niger Delta used nonviolent action to call attention to the environmental and economic destruction of their communities” at the First International Conference on Eastern and Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainability and Conflict Resolution. She was also a committee member for Manasa Kanithi’s undergraduate honors thesis entitled “The Real Food Challenge,” earned a graduate certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies and became SAFE ZONE certified—USF’s institutionally recognized LGBTQ
diversity certificate program.

Doctoral candidate Chris Patti is revising his essay “Digging Beyond Life and Death” for publication in the oral history anthology *Beyond Testimony and Trauma: Oral History in the Aftermath of Mass Violence* (S. High, ed.). This piece resulted from a paper he presented in Montreal at a conference sponsored by the Concordia University Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. In April, Chris gave a talk on his dissertation research at USF’s Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes against Humanity interest group meeting. He was also interviewed for a USF Libraries Magazine article titled “A Family Shares its Stories with USF and The World.” This year, Chris was proud to receive a Provost’s Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a GTA and the Arthur P. Bochner Award for Outstanding Achievement in Doctoral Studies. Additionally, he was delighted to receive a top paper award in the Ethnography Division at this year’s NCA convention, where he’ll soon present his work “Listening with Sal: A (Com)passionate Ethnographic Approach to Working with Holocaust Survivors.”

Doctoral candidate Travis Thompson recently published his article “Indexing knowledge/able: A hierarchy of epistemic claims in Wikipedia” in the *Electronic Journal of Communication*. The article detailed ways in which Wikipedia editors organize around and negotiate a hierarchy of knowledge claims by indexing their position as the author of and authority on a topic.

Master’s student Megan Wood recently published an article, “Glee fandom and Twitter: Something new, or more of the same old thing?” in a special issue of *Communication Studies*, edited by Michaela D.E. Meyer.

Doctoral candidate Allison Weidhaas will present at the National Communication Association, Florida Communication Association and the Organizational Communication Mini Conferences this fall. Additionally, she has a book chapter currently in press based on her public relations experience for “Public Relations Strategies in Action: A Casebook.”

**Advancements**

David Steinweg successfully defended his dissertation, *Improvisational Music Performance: On-Stage Communication of Power Relationships* on August 9th. His committee included Fred Steier (major professor) as well as Elizabeth Bell, Stacy Holman Jones (now at California State Northridge), and Dan Belgrad (Chair of Humanities and Cultural Studies). The defense was chaired by Elaine Smith of the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies.

The following students moved to Ph.D candidacy during Spring and Summer 2012: Shelby Forbes, Ellen Klein, David Jenkins, Douglas Jordan, Mirim Kim, Alisha Menzies.

**Orientation Week**

Orientation Week for 2012-2013 was a huge success! The week started with a packed house for the annual department roundtable (pictured left). Faculty, current graduate students, and incoming students shared summer projects and activities.
Following the roundtable, GCA provided lunch for incoming and returning graduate students. Tuesday and Wednesday night the graduate students took some time to relax and get to know each other at popular student hangouts such as, Skippers Smokehouse and the Independent. The week concluded with a potluck (pictured below on page 5) hosted at the home of Dr. Fred Steier and Dr. Jane Jorgenson.

This year’s new graduate student cohort includes: Incoming Ph.D. students Krystal Bresnahan, Lindy Davidson, Nathan Hodges, Nancie Hudson, and Denise Shereff as well as incoming M.A. students Aphrodite Kocieda, Lisa Spinazola, Kyle Romano, Robb Bruce, Ariane Anderson, and Cesare Valenti. We are excited to see how each of them will uniquely contribute to our graduate community!

Thank you to all who currently help make our community what it is—strong, productive, innovative, and supportive. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store.

3rd Annual Communication Picnic
On October 6, 2012, several graduate students and faculty gathered at the USF Riverfront Park for our 3rd Annual Communication Picnic. Picnic participants enjoyed the lovely fall weather by exploring the scenic river, eating some grilled goodies, tossing eggs, listening to music, and engaging in stimulating conversation. We had a bountiful selection of food
offerings, provided by the USF Student Government. Picnic participants also brought tasty side
dishes to share.

**Blake Paxton** successfully attempted grilling for the first time and his tireless efforts resulted in
delicious hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers for all to enjoy.

The Communication Picnic was also the site of our first **Chip Dip Competi**p, which featured six
delicious entries, from six wonderful people: **Kristen Blinne**, **Mark McCarthy**, **Dave Purnell**, **Lisa Spinazola**, **Tasha Rennels**, and **Lindy Davidson**. Though each dip was delicious, participants were asked to pick their favorite and **Dave Purnell**’s cheesy jalapeno delight won by a landslide making him the first Chip Dip Competi Champion. Congrats, Dave!

After the chip dip competi, several participants (pictured below) gathered to play an enjoyable, messy round of **egg toss**. Some people got messy. Others came out clean and victorious.

The picnic was also well attended by a whole host of furry friends from our
extended communication family, including: **Cricket** (David Purnell & Steve Johns), **Jack** (Amanda Firestone & Michael Rowland), **Shiba**-picted below with Yael Noy (Mark McCarthy & Michael Marti), **Ray** (Jennifer Whalen) **Pongo** (Tasha and Matt Rennels), and **Dr. Watson** (Dr. Abraham Khan). The GCA would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event. Those of you who were unable to participate were missed! All in all, it’s been a wonderful, productive year for the graduate community at USF. Thank you to all who currently help make our community what it is—strong, productive, innovative, and supportive.
Faculty notebook
Publications, collaborations & conferences: It’s all good!

Mariaelena Bartesaghi earned tenure and became Associate Professor this year. She was a guest editor for a special issue of Electronic Journal of Communication on “Social Construction: Re-Opening the Conversation, Re-Constituting the Possibilities”. She wrote the “Introduction” for the special issue. She published co-authored essays in Composition Studies, and Poroi: Project for the Rhetoric of Inquiry. Mariaelena also presented at the 2nd Global Congress on Qualitative Research in Milan, Italy. Finally, she received Florida Communication Association’s Teacher of the Year award this year.

Ambar Basu had his co-authored manuscripts accepted for publication in the Handbook of Autoethnography and in Health Communication.

Art Bochner was chosen as an NCA Distinguished Scholar this year. He will receive this award at the forthcoming NCA Convention this year in Orlando. His lectures this year included a USF Provost’s Distinguished University Professor Lecture, “Coming to Narrative: Method and Meaning in a University Life” and a keynote address at a conference at the University of Lodz, Poland. Art published five essays this year for journals, Qualitative Inquiry, Review of Communication (lead article), Qualitative Communication Research, and International Review of Qualitative Research. Art and Carolyn enjoyed another glorious summer at their mountain retreat in Franklin, North Carolina. They hiked, wrote, and played with their “children,” Buddha and Zen. Art traveled weekly to Asheville, North Carolina to learn mindfulness strategies of attentiveness and meditation. Art found his trip to Poland and Germany with Carolyn significant. It aroused many deep-seated emotions connected to his father’s childhood in Galicia Poland. Visiting Holocaust and Jewish Museums evoked memories and emotions regarding the long struggle to overcome Eastern European anti-Semitism.

Garnet Butchart’s co-edited volume Philosophy of Communication (with Brianke G. Chang) was published by MIT Press. Garnet Galso has articles in press in Semiotica, The Review of Communication, Social Semiotics, and Liminalities. Garnet was also awarded a USF Humanities Institute Summer Grant in support of his new research project on ethics and documentary filmmaking in Israel. In addition, he received a CAS Matching International Travel Grant in support of his travel to Israel to lecture on the ethics of documentary filmmaking at the Jerusalem Center for Ethics.


Rachel Dubrofsky had her essay “Singing to the Tune of Postracism: Jewishness, Blackness, and Whiteness on Glee” accepted for publication by Communication, Culture & Critique. She also has an invited book chapter in the forthcoming book, A Companion to Reality Television (edited by Laurie Ouellette). Finally, Rachel’s co-edited volume Feminist Surveillance Studies (with Shoshana Magnet) is forthcoming, which is under contract with Duke University Press.

Carolyn Ellis won the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award in Qualitative Inquiry from The International Center for Qualitative Inquiry and has been selected to be the featured speaker at the George Herbert Mead Lecture Series at the 2012 National Communication Association
Carolyn and Art received a university travel grant to spend several weeks this summer in Poland and Germany. [The picture on the right shows Carolyn at Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps]. They gave keynote lectures and workshops at University of Lodz, met and worked with the leaders of The Institute for Qualitative Research at Freie Universität Berlin, and toured Holocaust sites and memorials around Poland and near Berlin, Germany. Both Carolyn and Art are personally interested in the Holocaust, and Carolyn is doing research with survivors in the Tampa Bay area. With Stacy Holman Jones and Tony Adams, Carolyn completed the *Handbook of Autoethnography*, which will be published in 2013 by Left Coast Press. She also presented “Collaborative Witnessing and Holocaust Survivors,” at the conference, *Beyond Testimony and Trauma: Oral History in the Aftermath of Mass Violence*, held at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Histoires de vie Montreal, Montreal, Canada.

**Jane Jorgenson** has been selected for the SSCA Gender Scholar of the Year Award. Jane will receive the award from the gender studies division of the Southern States Communication Association at its forthcoming convention in Louisville in April, 2013. She also attended the inaugural Work and Family Researchers Network Conference in June in New York City, where she participated in a panel, "Alternatives to the Male Breadwinner Model".

**Chris McRae** published his essay, “Embodied Listening: Engaging Listening as Experience” in *Listening Education*. His other article entitled, “Listening to a Brick: Hearing Location Performatively” appeared in *Text and Performance Quarterly*. In summer, Chris attended the “Economies and Ethics of Performance” conference at Villanova University in Philadelphia where he gave an invited presentation of his paper entitled, “Performance Teaches: Pedagogy and Performance Studies.” Chris hosted several performance events in the department. Chris’ students were central to the fall and spring performance showcases featuring performance research.


**Mahuya Pal** had her co-authored essay, “Organizing Resistance on the Internet: The Case of the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal” published in *Communication, Culture & Critique*. Her co-authored article with graduate student Carolyn Day has been selected for the top four-paper panel in the Environmental Communication division at the forthcoming NCA.

**Fred Steier** presented on a panel at the joint conference of the American Society for Cybernetics (ASC) and the Bateson Idea Group (BIG) held at the Asilomar Conference Center in California, in July. The panel, which featured former ASC presidents, was on the theme of reflexivity. At the same conference, Fred was invited to participate in a special small group/afternoon and then dinner session with California Governor Jerry Brown on ways of bringing Bateson’s ecological thinking to dilemmas of policy making with environmental issues (and beyond). Fred had a paper published this summer in the journal *Spaces and Flows: An International Journal of Urban and ExtraUrban Studies*. The paper, “Shaping Boundaries within the Flow: Workspaces, Environments, Identities,” was co-written with Loni Davis and Jeremy J. Shapiro. In addition, Fred was appointed to the Editorial Board of a new journal *Mobile Media and Communication*. His article will appear in the first issue of the journal in January 2013. Fred also helped arrange and hosted (sponsored by the Office of Student Success at USF) a series of workshops, presented by Dan Gilbert from Stanford University, on Designing Learning Spaces. Finally, with Linda Whiteford (Anthropology) and Josh Rayman (Philosophy) Fred continues to be the organizer for a series of sessions on critical issues for and multiple perspectives on citizenship. This is part of the university wide citizenship initiative, which is directed by David Jacobson (Sociology).
Alumni News and Notes


Corey Anderson (BA 1998) has transitioned from his career as a television sports anchor for WGCL in Atlanta to a licensed realtor for Allen Tate Company in Rock Hill, SC. He reports that “As a 1998 graduate of USF’s Communication department, I really appreciate the effort to reconnect with us!”

Deborah A. Austin (PhD 1998) is the Director of Outreach & Communication for REACHUP in Tampa. She recently attended the American Public Health Association’s 139th annual meeting. She will also be attending the PolicyLink Equity Summit in Detroit and the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparity Action Institute at the CDC, where she serves as the Coordinator of the Florida Team. After all of this travel, she plans to spend Thanksgiving in her PJ’s eating a turkey sandwich!

Jay Baglia (PhD 2003) has been appointed Assistant Professor in the College of Communication at DePaul University in Chicago, IL. He will teach courses in Health Communication, Communication and Gender, and Performance Studies. Jay was also selected as the 2011-2012 recipient of the Sharadin Medal, awarded annually to a distinguished faculty member in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA.

Julia Barnhill (PhD 2011) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at Tulane University School of Medicine. She writes that she enjoys the job and appreciates the opportunity to carve out a small communication niche in the healthcare community.

Daniel Blaeuer (PhD 2010) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Communication Arts Department at Florida International University in Miami, FL.

Robin Boylorn (PhD 2009) was recently awarded a research grant from the University of Alabama’s Office of Sponsored Programs for “Sweetwater Two: Re-tracing Rural Black Women’s Stories,” a project she plans to pursue by interviewing members of a rural community in North Carolina that are depicted in her forthcoming first book, *Sweetwater: Black Women and Narratives of Resilience*, which will be published by Peter Lang in early 2013. The book, which is based on her dissertation research, is a multi-generational story of growing up Black and female in the rural south. In addition to scholarship, as a member of the Crunk Feminist Collective (a feminist of color scholar-activist group), she contributes to a highly successful blog that was named one of the top 25 Black blogs to watch in 2012 by TheRoot.com, and one of the top “Lady Blogs” by *New York Magazine* in November 2011. In her spare time Robin cuddles with her Yorkshire Terrier, Sophia, and fantasizes about her next career as a SEC football coach. Roll Tide!

Deborah Cunningham Breede (PhD 2005), an Associate Professor of Communication, at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC is a founding member of the Women’s Resource Center and a member of Coastal’s Women and Gender Studies Advisory Board. Deb is a four-time recipient of the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts’ Outstanding Teaching Award, which is given to faculty who receive outstanding teaching evaluations from their students. Recently, Deb’s affiliations with Women and Gender Studies and the Center for Archeology and Anthropology have extended her interests in the processes of university-community collaborations and
social activism projects, yet have also re-invigorated her interests in narrative ethnography and anthropology.

“Remembering Mother: Reconstituting Voice and Identity through Narrative with Alzheimer’s Patients” is forthcoming in 2013 in the Journal of Loss and Trauma. Currently, Deb and Christine Davis (PhD 2005), are collaborating on a grant funded project that examines the influences of race, class, and gender in end of life communication, including funeral practices and rituals; epitaphs and grave markers; and the cultural meaning(s) of cemeteries, using ethnographic methodologies, of course!

Matthew Brooks (PhD 2007) has been promoted to Associate Professor in the English, Communications, and Modern Languages Department at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL.

Chris Cervellera (BA 2009) is the President and Creative Director of Swerve Communications Group, LLC in Tampa. Recently he spoke about social media and branding at a conference in Rio de Janeiro to over 100 corporate lawyers and accountants.

Catherine Clinch (MA) writes the Media Grazing column every Wednesday for FilmNewsBriefs.com, a free daily news aggregator for entertainment industry news.

Elizabeth Curry (PhD 2005) moved from Jacksonville (and FSCJ) back to Gainesville to take a position with the College of Central Florida as the Dean for Learning Resources. This includes the library, computer lab, tutoring labs, plus distance learning, for the Teaching & Learning Institute for faculty and the Office of Professional Development for staff. She was elected to the position of Board President for NEFLIN (Northeast Florida Library Association) and Board member for Florida Library Association.

Christine Davis (PhD 2005) co-authored articles this year in Brain Injury, and Election Law Journal. She also co-authored an article in Qualitative Communication Research, which used a fictionalized account of Nancy Drew to examine social support and breast cancer (what would Nancy Drew and chums do if she had breast cancer?). Her chapter, “The social construction of hope through strengths-based discourse in children’s mental health systems of care” is forthcoming in M. Pitts & T. Socha’s 2012 book Positive Communication in Health and Wellness. The 2nd edition of her Straight Talk about Communication Research Methods textbook (co-authored with H. Powell and K. Lachlan) is forthcoming this year. The book from her dissertation, Constructing Hope: Inside Team Care in Children’s Mental Health will be out from Left Coast Press this spring.

Angie Day (PhD 2008) is an Assistant Professor at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Angie was honored with the 2011 Creative Expression Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender for her article, “You Have a Gift to Hear: A Performative Text Exploring Embodied Sexual Harassment,” published in the November, 2010 issue of Qualitative Inquiry.

Laura Ellingson (PhD 2001) recently was promoted to the rank of full Professor at Santa Clara University. She currently serves as Director of the Women’s & Gender Studies Program while continuing to conduct research in both health communication and extended family relationships. Her co-authored book (with Patty Sotirin), Where the Aunts Are: Family, Feminism, and Kinship in Popular Culture, will be published by Baylor University Press in Spring 2013. She lives with her partner Glenn and her cats Westley and Buttercup in San Jose, CA.


Larry Flegle (BA 1975) has been nominated for induction into the Florida Radio Hall of Fame. Larry has worked with a number of AM and FM radio stations and became co-owner of WBTG-FM in Sheffield, AL. Today,
he is an instructor for American Public University System and runs Classic Rock Radio online for American Military University in Charles Town, WV; the Internet Radio for the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association; and the Hall of Fame and Cowboy Gospel Radio online. In addition, he is on the air Monday through Friday as an afternoon weathercaster for 25 over-the-air radio stations around the US on the Radio Forecast Network.

Larry Flegle

Elissa Foster (PhD 2002) has been appointed Associate Professor in the College of Communication at DePaul University in Chicago, IL. She will direct the M.A. program in Health Communication. Elissa was also selected as the 2011-2012 recipient of the Aesclepius Award, given annually to one faculty member for excellence in teaching in Family Medicine at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, PA.

Brian Johnston (PhD 2011) is teaching full-time at Indiana State University with courses such as research methods, introduction to communication, and communication and popular culture. He received his first teaching award last year and says that, though unexpected, it serves as an ongoing source of inspiration as he looks forward to the years to come. He also reveals his penchant for deconstructionism in this photo of his working on the paneling of the Terre Haute home he shares with Samantha and their young son, Oliver.


Slavica Kodish (PhD 2004) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Organizational Communication and related areas (professional and corporate communication) at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO.

Keith Macksey (MA 1981) is the Engagement Leader for Convergency Partners in Kirkland WA. He reports that he still quotes from Ken Cissna’s research about confirmation/disconfirmation in the corporate courses that he designs and leads.

Jim McDaniel (MA 1992) recently retired after more than 35 years as the Community Services Director of Plant City. According to the *Plant City Courier*, McDaniel is “proud of many projects, particularly the construction of the 11-acre Samuel W. Cooper lake and park…With his oversight, the city bought about two dozen homes that were razed to make way for the park and lake. The lake retains storm water and has eliminated serious flooding that previously plagued the neighborhood.”
Penny Phillips (MA 1999) retired from USF on September 1, 2011 after nearly 28 years of service. Penny retired with a total of 35 years in the Florida Retirement System, having worked with the Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services from 1976 to 1983. She started employment with USF in November 1983 and held a number of positions within Human Resources, serving as an Employee Relations Consultant for the past 14 years. She received USF’s prestigious Outstanding Staff Award in 1992 and again in 2005. Penny graduated from USF in 1999 with an MA in Communication and was bestowed the department’s James E. Popovich Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in the master’s program. She hopes that retirement will afford her more time to pursue her interest in writing.

Penny Phillips

You can learn more about her work at: CinemaServesJustice.com.

Jillian Tullis (PhD 2009) was recently reappointed at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she’s an Assistant Professor. In the past year, Jillian published a number of manuscripts, including two articles in Health Communication (one co-authored with USF’s Lori Roscoe). Jillian was also awarded a Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Grant, which will allow her to bring two speakers, Dr. Tony Adams (PhD 2008) and Dr. Tasha Dubriwny to campus to talk about their recent books. Jillian’s been taking advantage of all that Charlotte has to offer, including attending the Democratic National Convention and collecting data focusing on communication about women’s health issues this election season. She had celeb sightings that week, including Bill Clinton, Pitbull, Jessie Jackson, Tom Brokaw, Ashley Judd and First Lady Michelle Obama to name a few. Jillian is pictured above (right) with colleague Maggie Quinlan and the actress Rosario Dawson.

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Linda Vangelis (PhD 2006) has accepted a position with the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Shirlan Williams (PhD 2007) and her family welcomed a daughter, Ada, June 27th, 2012. Shirlan continues teaching international students in the INTO program here at USF. [This section of Rapport was compiled by Jay Zalinger]

Natalie Salmon (BA 2002) finished her MA in Social-Organizational Psychology from Columbia University (2007), and she is currently working at Colgate-Palmolive as an HR Manager.

Blake Scates (MA 2009) is a management analyst with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Washington, D.C.

Lisa Tillmann’s (PhD 1998) recent scholarship has taken the form of documentary film. Her project, Off the Menu: Challenging the Politics and Economics of Body and Food, recently screened at the Central Florida Film Festival: http://www.centraffloridafilmfestival.com/ and her most recent piece, Remembering a Cool September, screened at the 2012 Global Peace Film Festival: www.peacefilmfest.org.

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Notes from the Undergraduate Director

Lori Roscoe  
Associate Professor

All is well with the Undergraduate program in the Department of Communication! I am delighted to have Dr. Chris McRae, who is also the faculty sponsor of Communication Council, and Dr. Aisha Durham, who is new to our faculty this year, as members on our Department's Undergraduate Committee.

Leslie Tod, our Academic Advisor, was promoted to Lead Advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in addition to providing excellent advice to our undergraduate students, has additional responsibilities training and supervising six other academic advisors in our College. Leslie was recently awarded the Region 4 National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Excellence in Advising award! Only one award in given in this category and the region covers the southeastern United States. We are very proud of Leslie’s accomplishments and lucky to have her in the department. Leslie was also awarded a scholarship to attend the NACADA National Conference in Nashville, and will be presenting a paper there.

I am the faculty advisor for our growing and enthusiastic Lambda Pi Eta Chapter, which is the National Communication Honors Society. We inducted 18 students in April 2012, and our ceremony featured the introduction of a new ceremonial sword, thanks to the imagination and creativity of last year’s Co-presidents, Sean Lockhart and Courtney Warters! Our Communication Council was larger than ever last year, and our students participated in various campus activities, as well as hosting career and social events in the Com department. Com Council was led by two of our outstanding undergrads, Cristin Cotton and Sean Lockhart, both of whom graduated in Spring 2012.
News from the Graduate Director

Jane Jorgenson
Associate Professor

2012 has been an outstanding year for the graduate program as students and faculty worked together to create a supportive and fun learning environment. Since our last newsletter, three doctoral students defended their dissertations: Rachel Binns Terrill, Carly Geiseler and David Steinweg. At the Master’s level, five students completed degrees: Jill Potkalesky, Robyn Handy, Jennifer Whalen, Megan Pugh, and Kari Goetz. Congratulations to all! Meanwhile, our students continue to do us proud with their academic successes and career achievements. They presented papers at regional, national and even international conferences, and published their work in peer-reviewed journals. Several garnered awards for their outstanding teaching.

I am also pleased to report that it has been an excellent year for graduate student recruitment. Last November, we made a splash with our booth at the NCA Graduate School Open House in New Orleans, where dozens of prospective applicants stopped by to meet our faculty and students (they also picked up free wildflower seed packets stamped with the USF logo). More than 50 students from throughout the U.S. and abroad applied to our PhD program, and the Master’s program received another 30 applications.

Six doctoral students survived the stiff competition and entered the program this fall: Krystal Bresnahan, Lindy Davidson, Kari Goetz, Nathan Hodges, Nancie Hudson, and Jennifer Whalen. We are also joined by five outstanding new students in the Master’s program: Ariane Anderson, Rob Bruce, Aphrodite Kocieda, Kyle Romano and Lisa Spinazola. As the department changes and grows, so does our office. In March, we welcomed Edgardo Valentin as our new program assistant.

I’m looking forward to catching up with our alumni at NCA in Orlando this November. And if you won’t be at the conference, you can always find news updates about our students’ accomplishments on the graduate program page: http://communication.usf.edu/graduate/

Meet Edgardo Valentin…

We are delighted to welcome the newest member of our staff, Edgardo Valentin, who joined the department as graduate program assistant in March. Edgardo is no stranger to USF. He comes to us by way of the Office of Admissions, where he worked as an application evaluator. He brings unique and valuable skills to the department, especially his background in working closely with applicants and their families.

In his ten years at USF, Edgardo has worn different hats as both a staff member and student. He recently finished his Bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and has been learning Arabic. He plans to pursue further study in global sustainability and hopefully travel to Lebanon someday. Edgardo says his secret to balancing work, school, and life is organization. And he has advice for graduate students about how to make the most of their time at USF: “Think what you love to do, and follow your passion!”
New faces
David Steinweg: New Visiting Instructor
Congratulations, Dr. FUNKENSTEIN!!

By Emily Ryalls

After interviewing the department's newest Visiting Instructor, David Steinweg, one thing became very clear: Dave's life revolves around music. According to Dave, it has for many years. Initially following what he calls his "RockStar dream," Dave eventually decided to integrate music into his professional career, a career that has seen many variations. Since deciding to make music performance a hobby, Dave has run sound reinforcement for live bands, recorded artists in studios, participated in almost every aspect of film sound, and taught courses on music production, appreciation, and analysis. These led to Dave's decision to pursue academic explorations of music.

Dave's academic career began in southwest Missouri where he attended Missouri State University, earning a BS in Media Studies in 2004. Taking six years to finish his BS, Dave began college as a music performance major (drumset), switched to computer science, then to creative writing, electronic production, and found himself in the Mass Media department, formally declaring music as his minor. Dave's BS degree focused on audio production for film and music, which led to his first film production job.

Dave went on to work as part of the on-set sound crew on three films. Dave says he "liked the challenge" of film sets, where there are always problems to solve and technical decisions to make. Dave explains that he has always been technically savvy, and he enjoys the construction and manipulation of machines and equipment. Although he enjoyed the work, Dave says he "absolutely hated the politics, egos, and overall drama" associated with on-set film production, so, after the films wrapped, he decided to return to Missouri State and pursue a Master's in Communication.

Music was of primary import during Dave's MA program; his thesis focused on popular music and interpersonal attraction. The work was completely quantitative in nature, relying on ANOVA's, ANCOVA's, and regression models for its data. According to Dave, he really enjoys the insight that quantitative research brings to understanding a phenomenon; however, he also desired a more humanistic way to understand communication, a desire that manifested in USF's doctoral program where his dissertation focused on musical improvisational performance. Specifically, Dave studied a local Grateful Dead cover band at Skipper's Smokehouse. Dave says the ethnography was "interesting, informative, and extremely productive. I was able to develop a great understanding of how communities organize and provide support to people in the local environment."

When I ask Dave about his teaching, he describes his pedagogical approach as "open and honest. I'm here to facilitate and help design courses that will help students understand and be aware of communicative aspects in both academic settings and everyday settings. It is my hope that students not only learn from my classes, but are also able to apply the knowledge in everyday experiences and activities."

Having only recently successfully defended his dissertation, Dave says that he is still getting used to having to write his name with "Dr." in front of it, but his life-long friends have helped by renaming him "Dr. Funkenstein." Please join me in congratulating Dr. Funkenstein!
In conversation: Assistant Professors Aisha Durham and Jason Zalinger  
Storyworlds, Digital Archives, and Black Popular Culture

Our research …

**Jay**: I study how technology shapes your life story. I explore personal digital archives and the narratives and narrative elements embedded in them. How many emails, chats, texts do you have? Which ones are heated, *emotional*, important to you? How would you even find them? What do they say about you? If you looked back at your digital history, what patterns would emerge? What self-knowledge is lurking in your archives? What could you learn from someone else's archive if you had access? Those are the basic research questions I ask.

I was an English major to begin life, and I've always loved literature and stories. My Master’s program opened my eyes to the powerful role technology plays in shaping our daily lives in obvious and very subtle ways. As a PhD student, I ended up combining my love of stories with my interest in technology, and what I ended up with was this crazy idea that our personal digital archives are a new kind of personal storyworld. What is very interesting to me is that this multi-authored storyworld changes as technology shifts. When Gmail’s designers change the interface, it changes the shape of your digital storyworld. If you were writing a letter, Google could not change the paper! But they can change the screen, so to speak. From the time we wake up until the time we go to bed we tell and listen to stories. So, it’s really important to me that we pay attention to the way these “narrative systems” such as Gmail and Facebook shape the our life stories because the stories we tell and our told literally shape our reality.

**Aisha**: My research covers contemporary Black popular culture. I weave stories from media with lived experience to describe the moments when the real Black female body and the imagined one meet. For Black American women from the post civil rights or the hip hop generation, media are one site where the interplay between symbolic and material reality unfolds. Hip hop is a cultural space where Black women are seen but not heard. For me, the role of the Black female body in hip hop is indicative of the larger social role that Black American women have performed historically. We are called up to stand-in—to represent—difference but our distinct interests and concerns remain ignored in the public sphere or muted in the national popular. I am interested not only the ways Black women make sense of controlling images or power-laden stereotypes, but I am interested in understanding how this outsider-within status in made common-sense in multiple spheres of social life.

Looking ahead…

**Jay**: My plan is to turn my dissertation into my first book. I'm currently working on doing some more interviews and tweaking my book proposal. My next project will be what I consider part two of this line of inquiry. I want to write about “digital remains,” meaning, what happens to all of your personal digital archives once your dead? There are lots of very challenging ethical and legal
questions about this topic right now. However, I'm interested in the personal, the emotional. I want to interview people who have recently lost someone who possessed a large personal digital archive, and I want to know how that person's loved ones deal with all of this “data.” When we die, do we want someone to read through our archives? Should we read through them? If we do read them, what do we hope to find? How will it influence the process of grieving? To me, these are important questions that have no answers right now. There is almost no research on digital remains, and I sincerely hope I can contribute something useful!

Aisha: My interest in representations has introduced other questions that are transnational in focus. For example, I want to explore what meanings are carried over or lost in cultural translation when Black American female bodies—real and imagined—travel? One study might explore how international hip hop audiences describe Black women in music videos, particularly those videos from the American South. This study might point to the global impact of regional representations as well as the cultural significance of American hip hop in defining Black womanhood abroad. Another study might address the symbiotic relationship between American hip hop images and transnational commercial sex industries. This emphasis in cultural traffic has been critical to the development of hip hop feminism, which seeks to dismantle gender exploitation. We can talk about symbolic violence in hip hop music videos. To be clear, this is important. We live with the legacy of minstrelsy that was strategically deployed to disenfranchise, dehumanize, and terrorize Black Americans. I want to expand my previous discussions about representations and situate them within larger ones about the global commodification of Black sexuality in commercial sex industries and through new media technologies as well as new notions of sexual desirability defined by the hip hop dreamworld.

The last, nice thing someone did…

Jay: For my birthday, someone very special to me who lives far away, sent me a video “card.” When I woke up in the morning, I reached for my phone, which is a whole new and strange social practice, but there I was in bed, and I checked my email, and there was this smiling, happy person in this video wishing me a happy birthday, and I sat there in bed smiling, too. Of course, in the back of my mind, I thought this is now part of my personal digital storyworld! This is not just data. This is my research! This is my life in the machine!

Aisha: This afternoon a loved one called to ask, "How is your day?" The difference between a loved one and any old one is the former waits with an open heart to hear the answer.
In conversation: Associate Professors Chaim Noy and Art Ramirez
It’s all relational…

About ourselves…

Chaim: I was born in Jerusalem, Israel, where I spent most of my life, married my wife Orly, and had my children, Noa (13) and Yael (9.5). Besides travel and tourism, the occasions where I left Jerusalem were during my parents’ sabbatical leaves (when I was a child), and later during two fellowship tenures, both of which I spent in the Philadelphia area. I graduated from the Department of Psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (I dreamed of being a Freudian psychoanalyst…), but I found academic psychology to be overly positivistic. So during my studies I took classes in communication, anthropology, and sociology, and for a few years I was an academic nomad.

Art: The idea of becoming a college professor is somewhat foreign to my family. Neither of my parents achieved higher than an eighth grade education, and neither of my siblings advanced beyond a high school education. Add to the mix growing up in the inner city (Chicago), and you do not have exactly a textbook case for becoming a professor. Nonetheless, I earned my B.A. and M.A. in Communication & Theater from the University of Illinois at Chicago and my Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Arizona. My graduate education is actually well-rounded and a bit of a potpourri: My masters advisor was a rhetorician, and my doctoral advisor was the most published woman in nonverbal communication—go figure!

Interest in communication as a field…

Chaim: In my dissertation I inquired into how young Israelis tell travel stories upon their return from a long haul trip in Asia and South America, which in Israel is a common rite of passage. It was in the subfield of “narrative psychology.” Although I was interested in the travelers’ personal (psychological) experiences, I came to see that these experiences are not “in their heads”, but rather in the moments and vicissitudes of our (interview) interaction. Dialogue, interaction and eventually performance is where I came to view – and still do – the place of society and psychology as well as culture, in its both collective and intimate appearances.
Art: My interest in the field started as a result of my first course in interpersonal communication. The content piqued my interest and made me start thinking about relationships and people in a new manner. My main memory of the course was thinking that this area was something that I could enjoy and develop into a profession. The growth of the Internet as a social medium only strengthened my interest and has provided a new direction for understanding these same things [relationships, people].

USF - How? Why...

Chaim: Yes, this is very easy and can be found in text of the ‘call for the position’ that was advertised by the Department a year ago. It seemed to be describing my research interests and pursuits precisely. I also knew (and knew of) Carolyn and Art, and the Faculty’s research interests were extremely interesting and touched on my own fields of interest. So there you have it.

Art: I began my USF career on the then Polytechnic [now Lakeland] campus in the College of Applied Arts & New Media. When the campus was dissolved by the legislature I was shifted to the main campus. I am still in the process of learning about my new home as I am still doing my primary teaching on the Lakeland campus to help students complete their degrees.

New projects...

Chaim: I am actually still very much in the process of the huge move that my family and I have undergone. It is sometimes referred technically as “relocation.” I have not yet returned to my ‘course of (academic) action’, and my energies are focused on settling my family in Tampa and myself within the Department. I look forward to resuming my varied research interests in narrative and ethnography, interactional and mobility studies, and to do that in the Tampa Bay Area.

Art: Despite of all of the craziness that took place over the last year (birth of our first daughter; wife transferred to Tampa; earning tenure at a previous institution; new position at USF Polytechnic; subsequent dissolution of USFP), I have attempted to maintain my research activities. Well, my primary research interests are in the interpersonal aspects of computer-mediated communication (CMC). My current research focuses on two related areas. First, I examine how meeting and/or collaborating with another via online tools influences the initial face-to-face meeting. I have been focusing on aspects such as how the relational communication and impressions are altered by these meetings. Second, I have been investigating how seniors are using social media, especially how they have been using social network sites to reconnect with others from their past. My plan is to eventually connect their use of the sites with health outcomes to assess whether seniors are deriving any benefits. In addition, I co-authored a paper that will appear on the Top Paper panel for the Human Communication & Technology Division of the upcoming National Communication Association Convention in Orlando. I also recently completed a book chapter with one of my former graduate students on Internet addiction in China, which we hope to develop further into a book that will be published in both English and Chinese; we are now discussing this with several publishers.

Personal interests (experience so far)...

Chaim: I have been training in a Japanese Martial Art called Aikidō for many years. I’d love to resume training (there is a great Dōjō or practicing hall on campus), and in this way too to get to know people from USF as well as make new friends here.

Art: I earned my undergraduate degree on a baseball scholarship, so I follow the sport closely. You would never know it by talking to me, but I am a huge fan of Broadway theatre. My wife and I love finding little “hole-in-wall” or out-of-the-way places that have great food.
Improvisational Music Performance: On-Stage Communication of Power Relationships

David Steinweg

This project explores how musical improvisational processes come into being through interacting discursive power relationships that are embodied and enacted through performance. By utilizing the concepts of framing and performativity I am able to show how discursive power constitutes the performance of improvisational music. To exemplify this theory, the project presents a case study examining a Grateful Dead cover band named Uncle John’s Band that performs at Skipper’s Smokehouse in Tampa, FL.

Using an ethnographic methodology, the project articulates the dominant discursive power relationships that constitute Uncle John’s Band’s improvisational performances. The dominant discursive power relationships revolve around the lived philosophies and performance style of the Grateful Dead as embodied and communicated through performance by the members of Uncle John’s Band. Dominant discursive power relationships also form among audience members as well as the staff at Skipper’s Smokehouse. All of these power relationships constitute the performance of improvisational music. In a reflexive turn, the project also offers a re-articulation of ethnography through the tenets of improvisation. Finally, the project presents conclusions concerning the nature of researching improvisational music performance and some future directions for this study.
Leaning Back with the Chair

Comings and Goings

- First, we were approved to conduct two searches last year. We had been searching for two years for a senior faculty member who did interpretive, qualitative, and ethnographic work in communication and were delighted this year to be able to hire Chaim Noy, previously a senior lecturer at Sapir College in Israel. He comes to us as an associate professor, and you can meet Chaim here. In addition, we had a second search for an experienced assistant professor in one of the same areas or in media studies, and we were pleased that Aisha Durham agreed to join our faculty, having served three years as an assistant professor at Texas A & M University. You can meet Aisha here.

- Then, the closing of the USF campus in Lakeland over the summer brought us two unexpected gifts of new faculty. Artemio (Art) Ramirez, who came to USF in Lakeland in August 2012 as an associate professor, joined our Department at the same rank. Most recently, Art served at Arizona State University where he was tenured and promoted to associate professor. You will find a story about him here. In addition, Jason (Jay) Zalinger had been hired at Lakeland to begin in Fall 2012—the only hire the campus completed prior to beginning of the turmoil on the campus. He comes to us from completing his doctoral work at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. You can learn more about Jay here.

- We have a new staff member in the Department, Edgardo Valentin, who joined us as an Academic Program Specialist to work with our graduate programs and students. He came to us from USF’s Admissions Office where he worked since 2002. Since arriving in the Department, he also graduated from USF with a BA in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences.

- Two of our post doctoral scholars who we have enjoyed the past two years moved on to other pastures. Carolina Webber is assistant professor at the Stark campus of Kent State University and Karen Greiner accepted a position as a visiting assistant professor in the Communication and Development master’s program at Ohio University. We are pleased that Manoucheka Celeste and David Morris are staying on with us for another year.

- Finally, we want to congratulate Lori Roscoe and Mariaelena Bartesaghi on being promoted to associate professors last summer, and we welcome them to the ranks of the tenured faculty.

This year, not only are we in the hunt for another cohort of post doctoral scholars, again within the general theme of “Global Change in a Dynamic World,” but we have
been authorized to search for an experienced assistant professor or an associate professor in interpersonal and relational communication, perhaps someone who works in applied communication, dialogue, and/or ethics. More information about these positions is available from the Department website: http://www.communication.usf.edu. We hope all of our alumni and friends will help us find these future colleagues.

Department Events

We enjoyed three major lectures during the year, including our two annual lectures:

- In early April, writer and cultural anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson spoke on intergenerational communication, aging, and her recent work on raising consciousness of the changing life cycle. Professor Bateson is professor emerita of anthropology and English at George Mason University and visiting scholar at the Center on Aging and Work/Workplace Flexibility at Boston College. She is the author of several books including With a Daughter’s Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, Composing a Life, and most recently, Composing A Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom.

- François Cooren, professor of communication and chair of the Department of Communication at the Université de Montréal delivered the 2012 endowed Grazier Lecture during the annual Communication Day celebration in April. His title was “Why Matter Always Matters in Organizational Communication: Animation, Incarnation, and Ventriloquism.” You can find a story about Communication Day and the Grazier Lecture here.

- Last month, Daniel Makagon (PhD 2001) delivered the third annual Alumni Lecture, "Digital Mapping and the Sonic City. He also met with graduate students and with Mahuya Pal's graduate Organizational Communication course. Makagon is an associate professor of communication at DePaul University.

Other visiting faculty who lectured here during the year included Tim Havens, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies and the Program in African American Studies at the University of Iowa, who spoke on "Minority Culture and Media Globalization: Television Viewing as Cultural Journey," Mark Orbe, professor of communication at Western Michigan University, who spoke about his new book Communication Realities in a “Post-Racial” Society: What the U.S. Public Really Thinks about Barack Obama (Lexington Books), and Madhavi Murty, visiting faculty member at Yale University in the South Asian Studies Council, presented a lecture on “Of Hip Hop Bling and Punjabi Bhangra: Gender and Modernity in the New Times.”

Awards and Kudos

Two faculty published books this year: Garnet Butchart’s Philosophy of Communication (co-edited with Brianlke Chang) appeal red with MIT Press and Abe Khan’s Curt Flood in the Media: Baseball, Race, and the Demise of the Activist Athlete was published by the University Press of Mississippi.

The first three issues of Qualitative Communication Research, a new journal from Left Coast Press, appeared under my editorship.
Faculty and staff also earned a number of significant awards during the year:

**Carolyn Ellis** received the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award in Qualitative Inquiry from The International Center for Qualitative Inquiry. The award is conferred annually to a member of the qualitative and ethnographic community for lifetime contributions to the methods, theory, practice, and dissemination of qualitative inquiry.

**Art Bochner** was named Distinguished Scholar by the National Communication Association. NCA Distinguished Scholars are elected by previously named Distinguished Scholars and the award honors a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study of human communication. The award will be presented at the NCA convention in Orlando.

**Leslie Tod** was named the Primary Winner of the 2012 Excellence in Advising Award from Southeast Region of the National Academic Advising Association. She was recognized during the Awards Luncheon at the regional NACADA conference in Miami.

**Anne Copeland** received the March 2012 Quiet Quality Award, given each month by the USF Staff Senate to a USF staff member whose “dedication to co-workers and students … make the University of South Florida the ‘University of First Choice.’” In the photo above, Anne is flanked by presenter Yvonne Frank (left) and nominator Carolyn Ellis (right).

**Leaning Way Back**

This was my second professional position—after receiving my Ph.D. from the University of Denver in 1975, I worked for four years at Saint Louis University, and joined this faculty in 1979. Thus, I am in my 38th year of fulltime teaching and research.

As many of you know, I am retiring from USF in December of this year, and so this will be my last Chair’s column in Rapport. I was asked to reflect a little on my years here—a “trip down memory lane” was the request—and to contemplate the future of the Department as well. The first of these is difficult due to the years and a memory that is both fading and selective; worse, the other seems impossible.

I think first, of course, of my many fine colleagues over the years, some of whom passed through quickly and others of whom spent significant portions of their careers here. I learned from all of them but I think now especially of those from my early years in the Department, most all but forgotten around here, who helped teach me the ropes about university, departmental, and professional life, and others with whom I’ve shared a department life for three decades. When I think of my earliest colleagues here—those who preceded me to the Department—I remember Keith Jensen, who died much too young, and Jack Sisco, department Chair for my first years here. Dave Carter, Ray Schneider, Jud Newcomb, and Dave Smith are important in my thoughts as is the recently deceased Barney Downs. The departures of faculty over the years were both losses and opportunities. And of course, others who arrived shortly after I did have stayed in the Department, and we have made our professional lives here together—Navita James, Loyd Pettegrew, and Art Bochner.

I think, too, of the big and consequential decisions we made—when Jack Sisco stepped down as Chair to move on professionally and we selected Art Bochner as the next Chair, the lengthy and discussion-filled decision to pursue a Ph.D. program for the Department, and the selection of an external Chair who didn’t fit here and departed early. Of course, the many searches and hires were fateful in shaping the Department we have become, and the very few cases in which colleagues did not achieve tenure were difficult and painful and yet formative of me and the Department. We have improved the quality
of the programs in the Department—all of them—the quality of the scholarship in the Department, and its national visibility.

The Department was also shaped significantly over the years by decisions and events outside of our purview. I think especially of the gradual transition that USF made into a nationally prominent research university, which we were largely ahead of, and the move from Cooper Hall to the Communication and Information Sciences building, which provided a significant and important upgrade in our facilities, though we left behind the Reading Garden that honored Ginny Bulger, a staff member we lost so unnecessarily.

I recall various events and milestones in my own career here—being asked as an untenured assistant professor to assume the Editorship of the Department’s journal, the Journal of Applied Communication Research after Jensen died; being tenured and later promoted to professor; serving as the Department’s first Director of Graduate Studies for nearly a decade, from before we began developing the doctoral program to the graduation of our first doctoral student. And, now, serving as Chair for the past six plus years has been the highlight and capstone of my life in the Department.

Of course, the personal side of my life has undergone similar transitions. Susan and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary this month. I remember our then office manager Sharon Smith putting an announcement on my office door when Susan’s and my first child was born—it welcomed “Carolyn Jeanne, a baby woman,” I believe it said, and contained the details of her birth. Now, both Carrie and her younger sister Jennifer have graduated from college and are out in the world.

**Attempting to Peer Forward**

Seeing the future is more difficult. These are tough times for USF, for higher education generally and especially in Florida, and for higher education in the liberal arts, the humanities and humanistic social sciences. I won’t belabor any these issues, but life in the Department of Communication in the years ahead will be influenced by much that happens in the state and the country including decisions about funding higher education; the orientation toward education as liberal or tied primarily to securing employment; the role of assessment and accountability; the tendency of government and politicians to interject themselves directly into higher education; developments in teaching and learning, what these are going to mean and how they will occur; how scholarly research is going to be valued (including research that does not require sizeable external grants), and many others.

But much, of course, depends on the decisions and actions of the Department—of its faculty and its leadership—in meeting the important challenges that maintaining a high quality department requires:

- Perhaps the most important challenge is the continuing one of selecting and retaining the highest quality faculty in a dramatically changed situation from what it was when I began. USF has become a major research university and our Department now grants the doctoral degree, which require that the faculty be highly productive in scholarship, both quantitatively and qualitatively. I hope the faculty of the future will not be afraid to hire faculty who are even better than they are.

- Another set of challenges will revolve around maintaining our national visibility and high level of research productivity as we transition to a new generation of faculty; continuing our reputation for high quality teaching, undergraduate and graduate; and placing our doctoral graduate in significant tenure track positions in academe and in important positions outside academe, without which we will not continue as a nationally respected program in the field.

- A third challenge will be to maintain the collegiality that has been one of the hallmarks of this Department for
more than three decades by managing the tension between pursuing excellence in one’s individual teaching and research and doing the many daily acts that are necessary to maintain community and collegiality.

- Another challenge will be to be sufficiently responsive to USF’s ever-changing priorities and strategic plans, yet appropriately and carefully (and strategically) to resist those pressures on occasion.

Some of the issues that I expect the Department will face in the foreseeable future include:

- Size of the faculty — I expect the faculty can and will continue to grow somewhat, probably topping out at or below 25 full-time faculty, unless USF’s current commitment to remain at about 40,000 students with 80% undergraduates changes.

- Areas of emphasis — Although these are impossible predict, I believe that departments are best that they build and maintain areas of genuine strength and that are responsive to developments in the field and society (and university).

- Program priorities — In recent years, we rebalanced our earlier focus on developing the doctoral program with attention to the undergraduate program, curriculum, and experience. The relation between the graduate and undergraduate programs will be a continuing concern, and of course, all of our programs—BA, MA, and PhD—must be and remain excellent.

- Funding — The Department has, until now, largely eluded the push to secure significant external research funding. Will our niche and our aspiration—to be a world leader in the conduct of first-rate interpretive, qualitative and critical research that makes a practical difference in the world—continue to shield us from that push, will the need to secure grants cause changes in the direction and emphases of the program, or will the Department learn to pursue external funding in ways that are consistent with the niche we have developed.

All in all, it has been another very good year for the Department, with important contributions in research, teaching, and service from many quarters. I hope you enjoy the 6th edition of Rapport. I am grateful for Mahuya Pal and Ambar Basu editing Rapport another year. Please check the news section of our Web site (http://communication.usf.edu/news/), which we regularly post far more news than fits here. Also, please consider “friending” the Department on Facebook (www.facebook.com/USFCommunication).

We hope you’ll be able to join us for USF’s NCA party in Orlando. It will be Thursday evening in my suite in the Dolphin Hotel—ask for it. You’ll find your invitation here.
What was I thinking? Certainly becoming Chair was not in my life plan for the next three years. I assumed that I’d keep teaching and writing—and finish my book with Holocaust survivors—and then begin gradually to slide my way toward retirement. Not retirement from scholarship, mind you, but retirement from the university, one where I envisioned having more time for writing and research, lying on the beach, playing with my dogs, traveling, tending flowers, and hiking in the North Carolina mountains. I thought I might even have time to read a novel or two.

So how did I get from that pleasant fantasy to spending the next two and a half years as Chair? I owe it primarily to Ken Cissna, who shocked us all when he decided to retire. The thought of Ken retiring is as unimaginable to me as the thought of my becoming Chair. Ken lives and breathes the university and department and is a permanent fixture around USF. I have come to refer to him as Poppa Ken, because as Associate Chair I now have a front row view of all he does. I always appreciated how well he took care of us, but it turns out I didn’t really have a clue about all the things he does behind the scenes. Suffice it to say, he’s thinking about us and our needs most of every day, and he doesn’t shy away from getting his hands dirty—whether it’s moving furniture, designing new space, toting a load of our published books to an expo, picking up trash and cleaning up after us, buying bagels and lunches for faculty meetings and worrying about our individual dietary needs, taking photos and providing text and updates for the website, encouraging us to apply for awards and then writing recommendation letters for us. There is no way I can fill his big shoes, not his beach sandals (and certainly not his mountain hiking boots).

But there are other reasons I am headed to the Chair’s office. (Yes, it has more windows and more space for my growing files and book collection, and a beautiful view of the parking lot.) When presented with the opportunity to become Chair, I began to consider all the Department of Communication has meant to me. I have been in the Department for 16 years, more than half of my career, having moved from Sociology in 1996, and I have never looked back. Our Department made me feel at home immediately and the discipline of Communication welcomed me with open arms. I feel like a “native” now, not a visitor—really, I never have felt like a visitor. I have so enjoyed being part of this Department, coming to work each day, and watching our qualitative, critical, and interpretive program grow and change. I feel so proud at NCA when people talk about USF with stars in their eyes. But I know why they do it. I feel it too. We have something special here, a department that has heart and soul—and a department that has my heart and soul.
As a senior professor, I felt it was time to give more back to the Department that has provided me so much. I wanted to jump in and assist during what I see as a period of transition and opportunity for change and growth. It's an important time for us to put our energy into figuring out who we want to be in the next phase of our Department's life. As you probably know, public universities receive a lot less state funding than they used to, and we are being asked to do more with less, and be accountable for how we spend the resources we have. It is a difficult time economically, but also an exciting opportunity for taking our temperature and leading the way into the future. Through all the economic downturns of the last few years, somehow we have continued to flourish. This year alone, we have four new faculty, we’re searching for a new faculty member in interpersonal communication, and we have been promised a new line next year. Our proudest accomplishment concerns our graduate students, those who have graduated and now hold faculty and other positions, as well as those currently completing their degrees. Just take a look through this newsletter at all the activities and awards and you’ll know why we are smiling. As well, we are proud of our staff, who are the heart of the department, providing a cheerful and helpful environment in which we can work.

Now I hope to lead the way into a future that will be as successful as our past—if not more so. I am honored to have been elected by my colleagues as the next Chair of this thriving department. One of my goals is to have closer relationships with our alumni, so stay tuned all of you. Feel free to send me an e-mail if you have suggestions or comments about anything going on here or in your life. We hope to find ways to be more in touch with you in the coming years and to create a space designated for you in our building, so that you will come to visit more often. I look forward to working with all the wonderful colleagues and students in our department and all of you who are connected to it, as well those in our university community and discipline of communication. But most of all I am happy to have many more years with students, the university’s lifeblood, and my lifeblood as well.

Retirement? Not for me; not yet. What was I thinking?
Bits and bytes

Conducting community-based research: My experiences as graduate research assistant with the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-Life Studies

Patrick J. Dillon

As I completed my master's degree at Central Michigan University in the spring of 2009 and decided to enroll as a doctoral student at USF, I was often met with variations of the same question from friends and colleagues, “So why’d you pick USF?” There were certainly many ways of answering this question, but my answer was almost always the same, “I want to be part of a department that values community-based research aimed at promoting social justice.” The weather is a nice perk, but as a pale-skinned redhead, the sun is not exactly my friend.

Over the past year, I have been fortunate to engage in exactly the type of research that originally led me to Tampa. Following in the sizeable footsteps of department alumni, such as Cris Davis, Elissa Foster, and Jillian Tullis, I have spent the last year working with the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-Life Studies to complete my dissertation study. Under the guidance of Dr. Lori Roscoe, I applied for and received funding to complete my project, which seeks to address disparities in the cost and quality of end-of-life care by working with African American hospice patients and their family members to find ways of promoting decisions about hospice care.

In partnership with a local hospice organization and a comprehensive cancer center, I have traveled across the Tampa Bay area listening to hospice patients and bereaved family members’ stories about their experiences with hospice and talking about ways of improving this process. Like others who have worked in this setting, however, I soon realized these experiences would move far beyond collecting research “data.” During the past few months, I have had the privilege of strolling along Indian Rocks Beach while a daughter reflected on her father’s last days under hospice care, eating the best eggs I have ever had at the kitchen table of a patient who told me how her family made her “last birthday” the best one yet, and crying in the back of a crowded church as a family celebrated the life of the first patient I visited.

Through these experiences, I gained insight into the experiences of hospice patients and their families. I have worked closely with these individuals to identify practical ways of incorporating community participation and patient/family stories into hospice promotion efforts. Through my affiliation with the Center, I will have the opportunity to share these findings with my partner organizations and a variety of other local area health organizations. I have also gained valuable experience conducting research within institutional settings.

No experience is perfect, and I have experienced my share of frustration during the past few months. Despite these challenges, however, I feel fortunate to be part of a department (and university) that promotes research aimed at promoting social change.

I spoke with one of my former professors on the telephone this morning. Near the end of our conversation, she asked, “Now that you are getting close to finishing, do you feel you made the right decision in choosing USF?”

“Absolutely,” I said, smiling.
Carrying through a new conversation on university funding metaphors
Travis Thompson

In accepting the offer to write a piece for our annual newsletter on what it’s like to be both a doctoral student and a full-time member of the university’s administration within the Provost’s Office, I struggled with the seeming choice between primarily writing from a student perspective or an administrative perspective. Luckily I was reminded that even among a binary choice between either/or a third choice exists: that of both/and. So, with the caveat that I don’t claim to officially represent any particular perspective here (except of course my own), I hope to re-present and integrate ideas, which merit interest from both perspectives.

Of what consequence will be the university’s struggles in grappling with our present-day economic challenges? Though this question (and many more) remain open today, conversations around answering this question have already begun and the time to have a meaningful say may soon be past. Much energy, time, and persistence is required to turn a ship as large as higher education, though the last five years of budget cuts by our state legislators have done more than just turn our ship: they have already begun to significantly alter our university’s course. With the seeming stroke of a pen on a signatory line we’ve seen such sweeping change as the closure of a university (USF Polytechnic), the opening of a university and the creation of a campus (Florida Polytechnic University and Florida Virtual Campus, respectively), and a $36 million budget cut for USF that’s now expected to come out of recurring funds (rather than one-time as previously promised). With USF taking more than a 30% reduction in recurring state funds over the last five years, how much more can be shed before that which constitutes USF is in jeopardy? If we are to avoid having that question answered for us (and what question doesn’t already provide the framework under which it is to be answered?), I believe we should earnestly consider the opportunity to carry through (meta-phor) those portions of our scholarship and research which speak most to change and fold those back into the ways we model our conversations on these challenging issues.

With the legislature’s intense interest in moving to a performance-based funding model and USF’s recent announcement that our university will soon rebase its entire budget by developing new budgeting and resource allocation processes, I propose that all university communities would benefit by entering the existing dialogues on these challenging topics while also opening up new conversations. One possible way forward in all these conversations is to bring about change through an active shift in the terms of the conversation. If the legislature’s current theory is that performance-based funding will right the higher education ship - and if as communication scholars we are conversant in creating, defending, engaging, and critiquing theories on scholarly fronts - what is to prevent us from putting into practice those same aptitudes in other conversations such as performance-based funding? I propose we begin the dialogues together by asking questions that matter (to all observers) and which uncover those differences, which make a difference (of/for all observers). In that spirit I’d like to propose a point of entry in our question-asking conversations: if this mechanical, Tayloristic metaphor of and for higher education is not the appropriate model, how can we theorize and practice a new metaphor which accounts for our present-day situation? What might that metaphor look like and who would be our conversational partners in creating it?
Improv@USF is the department’s newest official USF student organization within Student Government. Its purposes are to recruit, promote, and teach the art of improvisation. All majors are welcome and no experience is required to be a member. As a student organization, Improv@USF practices and performs at community functions, attends events that support the USF community, and actively promotes performance in all areas of study and collegiate life.

Improv@USF emerged from Post Dinner Conversation, an Improvisational Lab Production Group that gave several performances last year.

The officers of Improv@USF include President - Hannah Prince; Vice President - Sarah Schmidt; Treasurer - Murphy Barthe; and Advertising Chair - Warren Buchholz. Doctoral student Nicholas Riggs serves as Faculty Advisor. Improv@USF meets Mondays and Fridays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in room 3020 of our Communication and Information Sciences building.
Ken-versation: Dialogue on Ken!

Current students

Our dialogue about dialogue in the dialogue seminar made my head spin at times, but was well worth my time! - Anonymous

Captain O'Captain, may your next adventure be filled with health, happiness, and great wealth. Safe journey! - Anonymous

Thank you for introducing me to several world changing scholars: Buber, Rogers, and Laing to name just a few. I will forever carry them in my academic tool kit and all of your words of wisdom from the last three years. I wish you all the best! –Blake Paxton

You give good dialogue. - Anonymous

Thanks for the memories. - Anonymous

When I visited USF campus, before deciding to accept my GA offer, I met with Dr. Cissna to ask questions about the program. Our meeting turned into a conversation about my research, my goals, and my future. That’s when I realized this was the right program for me. When the director of the program was more interested in the desires of the students rather than the image of the department it gave me the answer I was looking for. Thank you Dr. Cissna for making a wonderful first impression and for helping me to get where I belong. I’m looking forward to an awesome future at USF—and I wish you could be here to share it! Thanks again! - Anonymous

Your guidance and support of the department of the department has made USF a great place to be! - Anonymous

Thank you so much for your support and guidance in the last five years. Best wishes for your retirement. - Amanda Firestone

I’ve always been unbelievably grateful for not only the wisdom you’ve passed to me in class and the grace you’ve embodied as a mentor and a friend, but for the opportunity you gave me right from the start. I wouldn’t be the person I am today without that chance to teach with Navita in my first semester as an MA student, and I wouldn’t be the person I am without your guidance through the philosophies of dialogue. I hope you enjoy the cabin—the fresh air—and look forward to conversation for many years to come. Cheers. - Nicholas Riggs

Your attention to detail, reliability, and consideration for others are attributes that not only make a fine department chair, but a wonderful person, scholar, and teacher. Thank you for setting an example for others to strive for. Your presence at USF will be greatly missed. - Tasha Rennels

Since I have been at USF Dr. Cissna has been an astute and profound leader and instructor. He takes the time to acknowledge the students that he interacts with and really makes us feel like we are welcome. As a department chair, he has been a role model for those of us seeking administrative positions, and as an instructor he has encouraged conversation, communication, and dialogue. Having Dr. Cissna as a member of my committee for my master’s degree challenged me to become a better scholar, but he also stood behind me and encouraged my growth. Imagining passing by his office without seeing him in there is difficult, because he has been such a profound mentor and a kind human being, though I’m sure that he will remain a part of our academic and personal endeavors. I appreciate the invitations he has extended to my peers and me to become better scholars and I also appreciate the ways in which he has
encouraged our department, as a whole, to grow. Not only does he encourage the attendance of our community for academic and social events held by the department, his emails reminding us of guest lecturers and notable articles make us all better scholars. He has always been present for student-run events and I will never forget that he came to see me present at the Qualitative Inquiry Conference. Knowing that he took an interest in my research and endeavors as a scholar meant so much. Dr. Cissna, you will truly be missed but a big hug and a thank you for being there for me. You have set the bar for our department and for those of us who continue with research and education. There are not enough thanks in the world for all that you have done. You rock!! – Jennifer Whalen

Former students

Linda Vangelis

I first met Ken the summer of 1999 when I flew to Tampa to look for an apartment before starting my Ph.D. program at South Florida. He offered to let me stay with his family while I was in town. He was generous that way, always thinking of others. Ken was a great support for me during my Ph.D. program. I remember the time my dissertation IRB application was flagged for a full board review. I panicked. Ken helped me draft a response to their list of questions and stood with me when I met with the full board. I wouldn’t have made it through that meeting successfully without Ken’s help. He knew just how to frame answers to their questions, and how to explain my qualitative research project to a group of quantitative researchers.

He also helped me with many issues not directly related to my academics. There was the time I needed to see an endocrinologist. His wife put me in touch with one. When I needed an operation, he offered to drive me. When my apartment was tented, he let me stay at his home. He advised me through the job search process, listening to my observations and concerns after each interview. He also loaned me money, so I could pay for airline tickets in advance.

I sometimes wonder what our lives would be like if no one acknowledged us. Ken has acknowledged me and many of us. He has nurtured us through our academic careers and beyond. He has provided a space for us to grow in our work and personal lives, and with each other. When I think of the term “dialogue,” I think of Ken, as the term fits him perfectly.

Ken has made a great impact on my life. I am sad that he is leaving; yet I am comforted to know that I will continue to remain in dialogue with Ken in the future.

Linda (right) with Ken and Linda’s mother after she received her PhD degree in 2006. Photo courtesy Linda’s brother Jim.
If asked to talk about Interpersonal Communication, I usually state, “I need it, you need it, everyone needs it.” People give me a strange look as I do not give an appropriate example. But I do have a model: Dr. Ken Cissna. He brings interpersonal communication to a new level as he teaches, writes and lives the core of dialogue. Let us consider how Ken fits each category.

Ken has won awards for teaching. He always expects the best from his students and the students were proud to produce their best work for him. Looking through my course notes for Communication as Dialogue, they seem skimpy. However, I recall deep discussion and leaving the classroom with new ideas and insights. There was a concentration in the course on Martin Buber. Ken’s enthusiasm for Buber’s philosophy was such an inspiration that I have shared something about Buber with every class I have taught since that time. I also was introduced to Nel Noddings who stated, “The purpose of dialogue is to come into contact with ideas and to understand, to meet the other, to care. I may feel what the other feels even though I reject what the other believes – I am reconnected to the other in basic caring.” These words sound like Ken Cissna to me!

Ken is a prolific writer, he has authored articles, books as well as edited journals and so it comes as no surprise that both Florida Communication Association and Southern States Communication Association awarded Ken with Scholar of the Year. When Text of Martin Buber – Carl Rogers Dialogue: A New Transcript with Commentary by Ken and Rob Anderson was published, it was translated to Japanese. I had this vision of Japanese readers without shoes sitting around low tables discussing Buber and Rogers and had to smile at the scenario, but had to give the authors credit for reaching scholars around the world.

While his scholarly accomplishments are impressive, Ken’s most outstanding characteristic as a professor was his caring behavior, most obviously manifest in his dialogue with students and colleagues. I first knew Ken when we served on the FCA Executive Board. Ken expressed care when he spent time assisting another officer who had inherited a difficult problem. Of course, Ken never told anyone of his offering of time and effort. I found out about the situation years later. Another example is when Ken had a difficult hurricane year; his house in Tampa and summer home in north Georgia; both experienced extensive damage. Yet, he still took time to show compassion for students with their problems while trying to face his own. These examples are just a few of the many times Ken has assisted students, colleagues, and others.

Ken was my advisor for the doctorate and I was perhaps a special case as I was not only the oldest student the department ever had but when I graduated was the oldest student in the ceremony as announced by the USF president. Ken uses the terms disconfirmation, rejection and confirmation in his writings. In the academic community, I sometimes experienced the first two attitudes due to ageism. But never from Ken! He only gave me confirmation! True, I had lots of rewrites in my dissertation but always with caring encouragement.

Ken Cissna teaches, writes, and lives as the educator described by Martin Buber in The Knowledge of Man. “The educator whom I have in mind lives in a world of individuals, a certain number of whom are always at any one time committed to his care. He sees each of these individuals as in a position to become a unique, single person, and thus the bearer of a special task of existence which can be fulfilled through him and through him alone.” Ken has touched many of us and we have been given the opportunity for a special task of existence. May we live up to the model of Dr. Ken Cissna and his expectations for each and every one of us.

Violet Asmuth with Ken at the Florida Communication Association convention 2005
Colleagues

Old friends…

Art Bochner

I was shocked last March when Ken Cissna announced at the end of a faculty meeting that he had decided to retire. Since the day I arrived on campus in 1984, I have thought of Ken as the heart and soul of our department. What would we do without him? He'll always been here for me, for us. I'd assumed he'll always be here. My instinct was to try to talk him out of it. But then I realized that Ken Cissna is not the sort of person who makes an impulsive decision. I was going to have to accept it and move on.

Most people know Ken as our detail person, the guy who makes sure all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed; the person who knows all the rules of the APA reference style guide; the individual who pays attention to process. These things will be missed. But they aren't the only things. Not by a long shot. I know Ken as the friend who sat with me during a long, long day, while my mother was having a serious operation; and who always took care to ask how my mother was doing and how I was doing during the last years of her life. I know Ken Cissna as the friend (and colleague) who encouraged me to submit my materials for local and national awards and took the time and effort to write hyperbolic letters that embellished my credentials. Thanks Ken, I needed that! I know Ken Cissna as the Chair whose door was always open to me and whose ears were...
always ready to listen closely whether he agreed or disagreed with my opinions. He taught
dialogue and he was unwavering in his desire to promote it.

I also know Ken as a person with a passionate love for and attachment to USF and to our
department of communication. He was my strongest ally during the years we plotted and
schemed to get approval for the Ph.D. program. He has watched over, nurtured, and helped to
strengthen the department and all of its academic programs. I’ll miss Ken’s enthusiasm and
uninhibited cheering on behalf of USF football and basketball as well as his unapologetic
commitment to high academic standards for all of us including himself. I may miss Ken’s steady
and reliable leadership, but I can take comfort in the knowledge that we are, as Paul Simon might
say “old friends” and our “memory brushes the same years…time it was and what a time it was.”

Thirty-something years: Remembering Ken Cissna

Loyd Pettigrew

My first encounter with Ken Cissna probably predates any of the other faculty in our department.
It goes back to 1976 and to a doctoral honors conference somewhere in the Midwest that time
has erased from my memory. He was a graduate student at the University of Denver and I was
one at the University of Michigan. We were both reading Paul Watzlawick, R.D. Laing and
Gregory Bateson and were thrilled with the whole movement toward therapeutic communication.
We would see each other occasionally at SCA (now NCA) conferences after that. He would go on
to Washington University in St. Louis and I would go on to Vanderbilt in Nashville, seemingly in
different corners of the academic world.

Fate would guide him to Tampa and USF two years before me. When I interviewed for a job, Ken
was his usual precise and fully-engaging self. We came to find out that we were both competitive
swimmers and thus had a taste for masochism. We discovered we were both from California and
that he had found his childhood sweetheart and was going to marry her (Susan still is his
sweetheart!).

Through the years Ken would help the Center for Organizational Communication I directed, do
training and development for companies. We took a side trip to Napa with our wives after an SCA
convention in San Francisco, having discovered our mutual love for the California grape (what
else would you expect from two California boys). He introduced me to V. Sattui winery and their
great reds. He took up swimming again after the new USF Recreation Center was built USF and I
stayed away from the pool because it looked too much like work.

We saw friends/colleagues come and go in the department as happens in academic life. Ken
became one of the leading scholars world-wide in dialogue and all things dialogic. He went on
sabbaticals and then on to chair the department. The department grew and prospered with him as
our head.

I turned around to look at thirty-something years that we have been friends and colleagues, and
now he is retiring. I will miss him very much. Hell, we’ll all miss him very much! The department
will replace him, but we won’t ever be able to replace him…and Ken will get on with his life up in
the mountains with his childhood sweetheart, Susan. It’s been a good ride we have had together.
Thank you, Ken!
Ken receives the NCA Gerald M. Philips award for Distinguished Applied Communication Scholarship from Art in 2008; (right) Cris Davis (Ph.D. 2002) introducing the spotlight panel at the SSCA in 2008 honoring Ken. Panelists include Slavica Kodish (Ph.D., 2004), Vi Asmuth (Ph.D., 2004), Peg Ostrenko (Ph.D. 2002), Michael Arrington (Ph.D., 2002), Chuck Grant (Ph.D., 1997—obscured), and Linda Vangelis (Ph.D., 2006). The panelists spoke about the impact Ken has had in teaching, mentoring, and scholarship in the area of Dialogue. They also shared stories about Ken and the influence he has had on their lives and careers.
Our party is no Mickey Mouse affair

Thursday, 15 November
6-7: Faculty, Students & Alumni
7-8: Friends of the Department

NCA 2012
Location: Cissna Suite in the Dolphin Hotel

Please join us in welcoming our new colleagues

Aisha Durham (PhD University of Illinois), assistant professor. She is the co-editor of Home Girls Make Some: Hip Hop Feminism Anthology (Parkin Publishing, 2007) and Globalizing Cultural Studies: Ethnographic Interventions in Theory, Method & Policy (Peter Lang, 2007).

Chaim Noy (PhD Hebrew University), associate professor. He is the author of Narrative Communities: Voices of Israeli Backpackers (Wayne State University Press) and co-editor of Israeli Backpackers: From Tourism to a Rite of Passage (State University of New York Press).

Artemio (Art) Ramirez (PhD University of Arizona), associate professor. His articles in such journals as Journal of Communication, Communication Monographs, Communication Research, Human Communication Research, and the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships address the interpersonal aspects of computer-mediated communication.

Jason (Jay) Zalinger (PhD Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), assistant professor. His interests are in storytelling, personal digital archives, and technology, and he has published in Information, Communication & Society, and has a chapter forthcoming in Online Research Methods in Urban and Planning Studies (IGI Global).