Word from the Chair

David Payne, Interim Chair

Greetings from the home office! We are maybe a little slow in getting things to you this year, as there is a lot that is new. As you probably already know, Carolyn Ellis stepped down from the Chair position this summer to rejoin her first love, WRITING (see below, new book and two more under contract!).

Well, as Aristotle said, “Nature Abhors a Vacuum!” So badly, it seems, that I was sucked into the Chair job without a clue. There is actually a lot that I like about it…. But there is a LOT of it. At any rate, I am serving as Interim Chair, and somehow we will muddle through.

This issue of Rapport is devoted to our Alumni. We asked to hear from you, and below we post the replies. We made NINE new Ph.D. alumni this year---listed below---the most of any year since the Ph.D. program was established. Alumni have been on our minds for other reasons too. Early this summer David Lee became the 100th Ph.D. awarded by this department since our first graduating class of 1995. Since then we have awarded 6 more, putting us up to 106.

If you’ve not been to the Department website to look at the list of dissertation topics there, I highly recommend it. To me, it does more than remind me of the people with whom we’ve shared this life-changing journey, and more even than represent the hard work they did to complete the degree. To me, it testifies to the diversity of ideas, the things we care about, the possibilities of Communication study, and the community of scholars we have been as a Department these last 25 years.

So, to the Alumni—I hope we hear from more of you, and promise you will hear more from us in the near future. I hope to see many of you at NCA this week (party Thursday night!) and next April for SSCA (stay the week and come to CommDay 2015, April 17). Do make sure and keep us updated on your email addresses, and send news of your lives, doings, and travels. Encourage others you keep in touch with to do the same.

By the way, keep up with what the current students (and faculty) are doing by visiting our website.
Communicating Scholarship

Alumni Lecture – Our Students Return!!

Narratives of cultural preservation were the topics of Janna Jones' presentation of this year's Distinguished Alumni Lecture on Oct. 8. Janna's lecture and the following conversation with faculty and students surveyed how cinematic preservationists and archivists draw upon and influence culture.

She received her PhD in 1998 and her dissertation was titled *The downtown picture palace: The significance of place, memory and cinema*. Janna is now a professor at Northern Arizona State University's School of Communication.

**It was a great year in terms of graduating new communication scholars!**

**Summer Cunningham.** *Love and (M)other (Im)possibilities.*

**Ellen Klein.** *Changing Landscapes: End-of-Life Care and Communication at a Zen Hospice.*

**Carolyn Day.** *The Rhetoric of Corporate Identity: Corporate social responsibility, creating shared value, and globalization.*

**Colin A. Forde.** *Emergency Medicine Triage as the Intersection of StoryteLLing, Decision Making, and Dramaturgy.*

**Barbara Bennington.** *Crisis Communication: Sensemaking and Decision-Making by the CDC Under Conditions of Uncertainty and Ambiguity During the 2009-2010 H1N1 Pandemic.*

**Amanda Firestone.** "*Is That What You Dream About? Being a Monster?": Bella Swan and the Construction of the Monstrous-Feminine in The Twilight Saga.*

**David Lee.** *Informing, Entertaining & Persuading: Health Communication at The Amazing You.*

**Kristen Blinne.** *Communication as Yoga.*

**Shelby D. Forbes.** *Organizing Disability: Producing Knowledge in a University Accommodations Office.*
**Alumni Notes**

**Sarah Theresa McGhee** is the Post-Doctoral Scholar at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in the Academic Affairs cluster. The focus of her efforts is on improving the performance of organizations in the academic health enterprise. Her scholarship focuses on developing a greater understanding of the organizational culture of academic medicine and science. This includes analyzing data from the vast resources of the AAMC, participation at professional meetings and conferences, onsite fieldwork at member organizations, and the development of reports, manuscripts presentations, training materials and curricula.

**Jennifer Whalen** successfully defended her PhD qualifying exams this summer, making her a doctoral candidate while she was working with Innovative Research at USF and Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi to develop an online communication course. She also published a piece, "Communicating to escape: A look at involuntary hospitalization" in *The Journal of Medicine and the Person*. She continues to serve as faculty advisor for three undergraduate student organizations on campus, including T.W.L.O.H.A., Love and Romance Club, and Young People Revolution and was voted into the position of Florida Communication (FCA) Vice President for the 2014-2015 calendar year.

**Kari Goetz** is the Director of Marketing at the Tampa International Airport. Always an ethnographer, she encourages her team to story the different elements that embody travel and traveling and to discover the narrative of those around them. She also teaches Improvisation in Business Organization at the USF Muma College of Business. Her mission is to fill their minds with mischief, inspire them with subversion, and hopefully create a better workplace - somehow.

She still performs and most recently directed for Jobsite Theater where many Communication students find refuge. In April of 2013, she married her best friend of 20 years, and in June of 2014 they added their menagerie of dogs and cats with a beautiful baby boy that they named Porter.

**Roger Pippin** is the senior communications consultant for Acentia Consulting, which has the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta as their primary client. He also teaches workshops on Crisis and Emergency communication to faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and other government agencies. He recently attained certification as a yoga instructor and plans to open a yoga studio/martial arts dojo with his wife Barrett.

**Tony Adams** received tenure and promotion at Northeastern Illinois University this year and then became Chair of the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre. He also published two books: *On (Writing) Families: Autoethnographies of Presence and Absence, Love and Loss* (Sense Publishers, 2014; co-edited with Jonathan Wyatt) and *Autoethnography* (Oxford University Press, 2015; co-authored with Stacy Holman Jones and Carolyn Ellis). His next book project will interrogate the idea of forgiveness, particularly how lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer persons and their families (refuse to) reconcile homophobic beliefs and actions.

**David Purnell** is Assistant Professor of Communication at Mercer University, Penfield College in Atlanta. He has been submitting articles and will be presenting at NCA and Southern States in Tampa. Other presentations in the works include *Autoethnography Here and Now* at San Angelo State, San Angelo Texas as well as International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois.
Virginia “Gin Kohl” Lieberman commutes between Florida and Oslo, Norway as Project Resource Manager for the Evolution Institute – a think tank concerned primarily with Quality of Life issues and metrics. She has attained certification as a Humanist Celebrant from the American Humanist Association which guides her work in helping couples and families celebrate lives, current and past.

Robin Boylorn is an Assistant Professor of Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication at the University of Alabama. Her book, *Sweetwater: Black Women and Narratives of Resilience* received its third award, the 2014 Outstanding Qualitative Book Award by the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Robin was also selected as the 2014 Last Lecture Award Recipient at the University of Alabama. Her “last lecture” was entitled “Overcoming (In)Difference: Reflections on Empathy, Apathy and Diversity” and can be accessed at this link https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/last-lecture-series/id383700505.

She engages marginalized representations in popular culture with published book chapters and journal articles as well as the Crunk Feminist Collective weekly blog (www.crunkfeministcollective.com) and has accessed a larger audience, with a recent post being featured on Gawker.com.

Slavica Kodish is an Assistant Professor at Southeast Missouri State University and teaches Organizational Communication and Business and Professional Communication, among other courses. Her most recent publication is the article “Communicating Organizational Trust: An Exploration of the Link between Discourse and Action,” which was published in the *International Journal of Business Communication* in April 2014. http://job.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/04/2329488414525464.abstract

Emily Ryalls is an Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University with dual appointments in Communication and Gender Studies.

Honey Rand has been applying her communication skills for the past 18 years as owner of Environmental PR Group in Lutz, Florida. She says her company’s mission is “to promote people, projects, and policies that create economic vitality and environmental sustainability. We work around the US...for people we like and projects we believe in.” Honey is also the author of *Water Wars: A Story of People, Politics and Power* and is continuing her education with an undergraduate class in fiction writing.

Tim Simpson is Associate Professor of Communication and Associate Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Macau, where he has worked for the past 14 years. Tim was founding head of the Department of Communication at UM for 4 years after working at Ohio University for 6 years. Here is a link to his professional website: http://www.umac.mo/fss/comm/commsimpson.html

Amanda Hargen currently lives in Hudson, WI and besides learning about cold weather is building web sites as a freelance designer. Amanda plans a return to Florida to work at Redgrass Studios in Ellenton.

Lori West Peterson taught at University of Tulsa for six years before moving to St. Edward's University in 2001, where she is now a tenured Associate Professor of Communication. She is actively involved with St. Edward's University's global initiatives by leading study-abroad groups and teaching at partner institutions, including Asia Pacific University in Beppu, Japan. She is currently on her second tour at St. Edward's Angers, France campus. Lori and her husband Milo recently celebrated their 26th anniversary and have three children.

Anita Raghavan is a Parent Trainer and works with families and professionals in the field of disability issues with a not for profit state-wide organization called Families Together, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. She also volunteers with several organizations.
Lisa M. Tillmann is an activist researcher, social justice documentary filmmaker, and professor of Critical Media and Cultural Studies (CMC), a program she founded at Rollins College. Grounded in values of peace, equity, and justice, CMC examines the world’s most pressing issues and challenges and helps students envision ways to work toward change. On campus and in central Florida, Lisa has participated in numerous activist initiatives, many centering on civil rights. She authored the books, Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship across Sexual Orientation, and In Solidarity: Friendship, Family, and Activism Beyond Gay and Straight, produced the film Weight Problem: Cultural Narratives of Fat and “Obesity,” and co-produced the films Off the Menu: Challenging the Politics and Economics of Body and Food and Remembering a Cool September (about LGBT civil rights).

Rachel Silverman co-edited a book with Jay Baglia (also a USF alum) Communicating Pregnancy Loss: Narrative as a Method for Change has been published. Other USF alumni and contributors to the book are: Elissa Foster and Michael Arrington.

Nigel Malcolm chairs the Department of Communication and Philosophy at Keene State College in New Hampshire. He shares this link to his departmental website http://dept.keene.edu/comphil.

Tammy Jeffries is currently employed at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green Kentucky, Department of Communication, as an Assistant Professor, Minority Post-doctoral Fellow. She is teaching intercultural and interpersonal communication. She is using knowledge gained from USF by introducing the concept of World Cafe into her lessons and interdepartmental collaborations.

Beth Schenfelder is an associate professor in the Department of Communication at The University of Tampa.

Leanne Pupchek is Professor and Faculty Chair, Knight School of Communication, Queens University of Charlotte. She delivered papers to conferences celebrating the 50th anniversary of McLuhan’s Understanding Media (Toronto) and 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI (Ottawa.) Leanne is currently teaching Interactive & Digital Storytelling to MA students and looking forward to teaching Autoethnography next spring.

Joan Eldridge has been working at University of South Florida, St. Petersburg for the past 10 years. She is the coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences advising which includes 14 majors and 16 minors. Joan also serves on the Academic Programs Committee and is a member of the Undergraduate Council. This year she won a Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

John Reffue is approaching his 20th anniversary this January on the faculty of Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, where he serves as the college’s senior faculty member in communication. In the coming year, he will be working with HCC administration on a pilot program to improve applied communication in faculty hiring practices with a goal of spending a sabbatical year travelling to a variety of national conventions recruiting new faculty for HCC.
Faculty Notes

Mariaelena Bartersagli's has a recent article in *Communication Studies* which draws from her work on NCA grant on Reconstructing Risk in Public Policy Discourse, for which she will Chair a spotlight panel at NCA in Chicago. She was recently interviewed for the Italian news magazine *l'Espresso* about her work as a qualitative researcher in health settings and Senior Editor of the medical journal *Journal of Medicine and The Person*. Ambar Basu has been busy indeed as the new Graduate Director for the program, and is doing a tremendous job. Ambar continues as a Senior Editor for the Health Communication Journal, and will be doing a brief teaching gig in India where he and family will spend the holidays. Elizabeth Bell is seen in the Department for fleeting moments as she continues as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Keith Berry is hard at work on a new book about his research on “Bullying, Youth and Identity Negotiation,” and led an interdepartmental workshop in the College of Education on the topic. Art Bochner’s new book *Coming to Narrative* has been celebrated in a number of ways, including an invited lecture to Wake Forest. The book received the *NCA Ethnography Division’s Book of the Year Award*, and the division also acknowledged him for his *lifetime achievements* as an innovative scholar. Ken Cisna seems to be enjoying retirement far from the madding crowd, but keeps in touch on email and matters of departmental importance. Ken has a few writing projects with his long-time co-author Rob Anderson and we look forward to seeing him at NCA and at SSCA in Tampa this Spring.

Rachel Dubrofsky avoided one of the hottest Fall seasons in Tampa by taking a sabbatical in her home city of Montreal working on Book II. In October, she delivered a lecture for the Surveillance Studies Center at Queens University. With a great sense of timing, Rachel will return to Tampa in January now that the North has turned traitor cold. Aisha Durham has a lot to report including the publication of her book *Home with Hip Hop Feminism: Performances in Communication and Culture*. She continues her work on Beyoncé as an African American icon with the support of a *USF Creative Scholarship Grant*. Aisha has been appointed to the advisory board of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (Smithsonian) on a museum multimedia project called, the *Smithsonian Anthology of Hip Hop and Rap*. Eric Eisenberg continues his busy life and good works for all of us as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, It is rumored he has been so appointed for another three years, so we can breathe a little more easily for now. Earlier this semester, Carolyn Ellis spent almost two weeks in Johannesburg South Africa conducting workshops on autoethnography and interviewing in the Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management. She has a new book appearing soon, *Autoethnography*, co-authored with Tony Adams and Stacy Holman-Jones, and has two more books under contract.
Aubrey Huber is now a full time, continuing Instructor in the Department, and has taken over directing the Public Speaking course. All indications are strong that the new energy and fresh ideas in the program were badly needed. We should mention her collaborative work in producing the young Graham Huber McRae, who has charmed a few meetings on and off campus already. Navita James continues to provide leadership in the department and the University in diversity education, and nationally continues to chair The Episcopal Church Executive Council on Anti-Racism. Jane Jorgenson is taking a much deserved year-long sabbatical, resting up from her service as Grad Director, and pursuing research anew. Abe Kahn continues to fill the public sphere with his work on Curt Flood and sports, granting an interview with Marc Lamont Hill on Huffington Post Live in October. This Fall we welcome Marleah Dean Kruzel to the faculty, fresh from Texas A & M in the area of Health Communication Marleah is studying how communication and perceptions of communication between clinician and patients can affect health outcomes. As happy as we are to have Marleah, we are sad to be losing Michael LeVan after 14 years on the faculty. Michael has sought the greener pastures of Portland, Oregon, teaching for us on-line and skyping into meetings this year. Last year Michael received a Distinguished Service Award from the Performance Division of NCA. He will continue his work as editor of Liminalities, and he’s working on co-editing a book. I don’t think NCA or the USF family has heard the last of him. Chris McRae has been on family leave this Fall, co-producing the early works of Graham Huber McRae and we look forward to having him back full-time in Spring. Mahuya Pal will be part of a special panel at this year’s NCA looking at the important topic of Transnational Women’s Labor. She recently published an article co-authored with Jacob Jenkins on “Reimagining Sustainability.” David Payne became Interim Chair and so we know what he’s doing. Loyd Pettegrew continues to mesmerize large groups of students with tales of the real world. With two research papers under review and a recent book chapter in Consulting Matters: A Reader for Scholars and Practitioners, he remains undaunted by postmodernism and prays for surf.

Lori Roscoe continues her work with the Executive Committee of the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life Studies at USF. Lori will be recognized next Friday in Chicago as part of NCA’s Teachers on Teaching program. Fred Steier returns this Fall from a year-long sabbatical, spent mostly in his adoptive homeland Norway. Fred has recently worked with the Kettering Foundation, Dayton, OH, to help foster interdisciplinary and inter-university collaboration in the area of “Civic Science” – the role of scientists in a democracy. Jay Zalinger has recently landed a book contract for his work with digital life storytelling, while doing great work with our undergraduates in the internship program and helping them to shape a career plan from their work in communication. We appreciate the energy and zeal Jay is bringing to our undergraduate program.

If you have news to share or any questions or concerns, email Brad Stager at bstager@usf.edu and he will be happy to help you out. Please also come and visit us in Tampa! We’d love to see you.