

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

something to talk about

interpersonal/organizational | rhetoric | performance

IN THIS ISSUE:

September 2014

- Study Abroad/Summer Comm Classes
- Faculty Spotlight
- UNT Debate/MGW
- Student Activities:
Lambda Pi Eta
NCA Future Pros
- Comm Masters
- Around Town & Other News
- Alumni News
- New Faces
- Looking Forward



COMM STUDIES IN PERU

Communication Studies students experienced Peru this summer to learn about disaster communication in a Maymester Study Abroad course.

Students and faculty alike described this trip as a life changing experience, "As a faculty member, this was easily one of the best experiences of my career," said Dr. Richardson. "It was great to get out of the classroom, and see up-close and personal, how culture, geography, disaster, and communication, interact with one another in one of the most special countries in South America."

SUMMER CLASSES

Dr. Lain's Zombie Rhetoric Class



In this photo the students were wearing gray ribbons for May being Zombie Awareness Month. This class explores the cultural figure of the Zombie and the force of its rhetoric. While deployed in numerous arenas and in multiple media, the figures roots and future inform its meaning and uses across different discourses. This course examines the way the Zombie is put into the service of different structural forces and made to speak for certain causes. Some of the Course Goals are anywhere from, "Know how to survive the coming Zombie Apocalypse" to "Synthesize evidence and critically evaluate the issues (critical thinking) related to a specific social controversy in order to formulate an argument."

Laura Oliver's Performance of Literature



Performance of Literature class this summer in 5w2. Our instructor, Laura Oliver, and her students in the last warm-up of the summer session. During this warm up each student starts off the circle with a fun movement or sound for the rest to impersonate.

Dr. Vaughn's Performance Methods Class



A glimpse into our Performance Methods summer class! This photo was captured in the workshop class for their final performances. Taught by the Amazing Dr. Holley Vaughn!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Suzanne Enck writes a chapter in Teaching Communication Activism Book.



Teaching Communication Activism: Communication Education for Social Justice. One of those chapters about infusing activism into communication courses is written by Suzanne, titled "Feminist Communication Activism Pedagogy—'Gender and Violence: Dominance, Resistance, and the Cultural Production of Meaning.'" The chapters reveal both benefits of and challenges involved in this new and important form of pedagogy that moves students from disconnected citizens to engaged change agents promoting social justice.

Dr. Enck also won the teaching excellence award from the UNT College of Arts and Sciences this month!

Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain re-joins the faculty in Fall 2014 as the Director of the Basic Course.



Dr. Anderson-Lain will also be teaching Communication Perspectives (3010) and the graduate seminar in Pedagogy and Communication (5085). We are happy to welcome Karen back to UNT after her sojourn in the corporate world.

Dr. Brian Richardson, UNT Leadership Fellow



Dr. Brian Richardson was selected as UNT Leadership Fellow for 2014-2015. UNT is committed to developing leaders capable of catalyzing and sustaining change. The UNT Leadership Fellows program, founded in 2008, supports individual and organizational skill building. Competencies such as increased self-awareness, confidence, broader thinking, relationship building, and interdisciplinary collaborations are a few of the key outcomes of the year-long program.

UNT DEBATE

MGW UNT Debate Summer Camp 2014



Mean Green Workshops a success for the eleventh year

Passing the ten-year mark did not slow down the Mean Green Workshops at all. This past June and July, the High School debate camp set a new high in enrollment of 384 students attending the workshop. The Mean Green Workshops remain the largest debate camp in the state of Texas outpacing UT-Austin, Texas A & M, and even Baylor.

This summer the Mean Green Workshops expanded on its already successful Lincoln-Douglas camp, directed by NFL Hall of Fame Coach Aaron Timmons director of the Greenhill School debate program, which attracts the best LD debaters from across the country. The camp expanded its Public Forum Workshop with the help of Cheryl Potts (a Texas Forensic Association Hall of Fame Coach) and Alumnus Chris Agee (now Director at Newman Smith). The Congress workshop continues to break new ground under the direction of Texas Speech Communication Educator of the Year Barbara Garner. We are very excited that the Individual Events Workshop has expanded under Robert Shepard, Creekview director and TSCA Secondary Educator of the Year, Bruce Garner, champion coach at Duncaville, and UNT Alumna Karen Gossett of Guyer. The Policy Debate Workshop takes advantage of Associate Director Louie Petit's expertise. 2014 saw the addition of a dedicated Middle School Camp led by Jason Sykes and Naomi Duru, a new curriculum offering for the camp.

Unfortunately, this summer also saw the passing of Jo Russell, retired coach of Edmund North in Oklahoma and longtime Mean Green Workshop administrator. Jo was one of our Dorm Mom's along with Kandi King and Sheryl Kaczmarek and literally thousands of students relied on her when they got homesick, needed

comforting, or needed a trip to the infirmary at UNT. Working in close quarters with the Mean Green Workshop staff summer after summer tends to make everyone like a large family. Losing a family member made for a rough summer in 2014. If you would like to remember Jo donations may be made to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art; Jo Russell Memorial Debate Fund, c/o National Speech of Debate Association, 125 Watson Street, Ripon, WI 54971; or The United Methodist Church of Nichols Hills.

Under the leadership of institute Director and Alumnus Jason Sykes, now coach at Southlake Carroll, the Mean Green Workshops have had enormous success. If you are interested in more information, visit us at <http://meangreenworkshops.com>. And if you are interested in attending the Teacher's Workshop, led by Hall of Fame Coach Glenda Ferguson, contact us at director@MeanGreenWorkshops.com.

-Written by & Photo Courtesy of Dr. Brian Lain

UNT Debate Retreat at the Pines Camp



UNT Debate Kicks off its season

UNT Debate kicked off its academic year with a retreat and workweek before the first day of classes. While the squad has had to forego that "retreat" part which had become a tradition of the 90's and 2000's, the team was once again able to spend 3 days together apart from civilization, but this year with showers. The Retreat in the Pines, yoga studio in Mineola, TX, was the destination, although the only one doing yoga was Associate Director Louie Petit.

There are also some big coaching lineup changes. This year the squad welcomes Steven Pointer to the Mean Green Debate scene. Steve was the Assistant Director of Debate at Gonzaga University since 2006. While there, the Northwest Rockies District named him the Critic of the Year for three years in a row. He coached numerous teams to a first-round at large bid to the National Debate Tournament, including a #4 Bid team and NDT semifinalist.

UNT Debate is also joined this year by two new graduate students who serve as assistant coaches: Brian Kersch and Matea Ivanovic. Readers will remember Kersch who graduated from UNT in 2014 who was a three-time National Debate Tournament qualifier. Matea Ivanovic comes to UNT from Idaho State University, where she was a champion debater and National Debate Tournament qualifier for multiple years.

-Written by and Photo Courtesy of Dr. Brian Lain

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Lambda Pi Eta

New officers announced for Fall 2014.



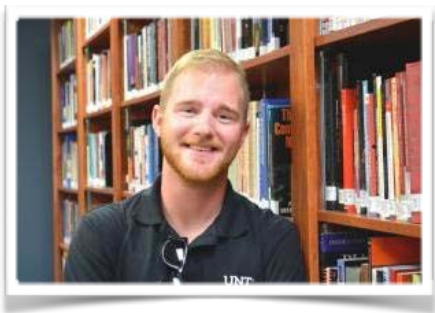
Rhett Richardson -President



Molly Franklin-VP Communications



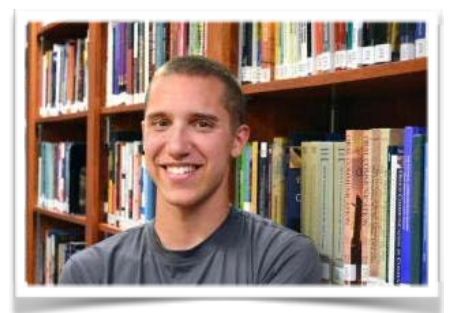
Taylor Bell-VP Finance



Cotton Hensley-VP Social Programming



David Hariss-VP Philanthropy



Austin Schubert-VP Academic Development

NCA Future Pros



NCA Future Pros kicked off this year with their Pizza Social at Crooked Crust Pizza. They had a great turn out and looked forward to learning about upcoming networking opportunities along with the free pizza!

COMM MASTERS

There were three new Communication Studies Master Students this September. After they successfully passed their comprehensive exams, we asked them what they were looking forward to after they graduate. Here are their answers:



On both ends of the spectrum (student/teacher), I have found purpose and possibility. My plans are to continue school and pursue a PhD that allows me to continue to focus on my research about the black community and more specifically, black women in America. I am also going to continue teaching in higher education because truly I have a passion to engage students in pedagogy that challenges their positionality in the world. -*Laura Oliver*

After graduation I intend to enter the workforce. I'm hopeful that I will find a job that is both enjoyable and stimulating. While I will miss my COMM family dearly, I look forward to reading for pleasure and maybe even picking up a hobby. A girl can dream, right? -*Courtney Horst*



I plan to return to the New York City area and am currently exploring job possibilities in events and public relations. -*Jenna Barclay*

AROUND TOWN & OTHER NEWS

Graduate Mixer Fall 2014



The Graduate Mixer at the beginning of the semester is always a perfect way to start by meeting up with the faculty and grad students. This year the students and faculty gathered at the Loophole (a popular hangout on the denton square.) Here the students were able to meet one of our newest faculty members Mark Hlavacik and grub on some great pub food!

Performance Studies ALS Ice Bucket Challenge



This is how performance studies does the Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS. Our Department Chair Dr. Jay Allison and Dr. Holley Vaughn team up to take on the challenge given to them by another performance professor Dr. Justin Trudeau. Bravo! Watch video of the challenge at www.communication.unt.edu.

Mean Green Fling 2014



Mean Green Fling is the event that kicks off the start of the school year at UNT! It is an opportunity for student organizations, campus departments and local vendors to showcase what they have to offer to new and returning students. This year we attended the event with our Comm Ambassadors Taylor Bell and Austin Schubert serving as the department representatives along with Dr. Holley Vaughn & Dr. Brian Lain.

-Photos courtesy of Dr. Brian Lain

ALUMNI NEWS



Jake Dionne, graduate Spring 2014, who is starting his MA program at Syracuse had some great news about some work of his that is getting published in a UNT publication. "Haze Him" was accepted for publication in The Eagle Feather. The issue will come out the first week in October with Dr. Megan Morrissey being mentioned as his mentor.



Congratulations to UNT MA alum, Beth Kaszynski, for winning 2nd place in the Brantlinger-Naremore essay contest in Cultural Studies at Indiana University where Beth is currently pursuing her PhD.



Congratulations to COMM alumna (MA class of 2010), Dr. Evette Allen, who just earned her PhD from the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education!

NEW FACES

We are so excited to welcome a new group of Teaching Assistants this semester!



LOOKING FORWARD

Look for our Newsletter next month for the October 2014 edition. Keep in contact with us through our website www.communication.unt.edu or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UNTCOMM.

Faculty Moving On

In light of the faculty members who have left us over the summer to move on to different adventures, please take a moment to write a few words about these amazing instructors and the impact they have had on your lives. Please send your kind words to commstudies@unt.edu and they will be featured in the October newsletter.



Dr. Kelly Taylor



Cindy Gordon



Dr. Shaun Treat



Dates to Remember:

UNT vs. British Debate: October 10th

Petit Jean Performance Festival: October 17th-19th

UNT Mean Green Homecoming: November 8th

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