For Sarah Kwak (MA 2009), a position in the field of Residence Life offers numerous opportunities to make an impact on students and to network with other professionals. Kwak, who earned a Master’s degree in Organizational and Professional Communication Development, works at Maryville University of St. Louis, a private school of approximately 3500 students.

In her position as Assistant Director of Residence Life, Kwak co-supervises a staff of 15 undergraduate Resident Assistants, directly supervising five of them. She provides her staff with professional training and assists them in developing educational programming. She also has administrative responsibilities, supervises a desk staff, and addresses student disciplinary problems.

Kwak credits her previous experience as an Assistant Residence Hall Director at Ball State University and her skills as a communicator for her ability to manage what often is a very demanding job. As a communicator, she is constantly adjusting her approach so that she can better “talk to people on their level.” For example, when she is counseling a resident, she uses different communication.

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Dr. Laura O’Hara | Lambda Pi Eta sponsor

Lambda Pi Eta hosted the second annual Pie Your Professor event outside the David Letterman Communication and Media Building in September. The event, sponsored by the national communication studies honor society Lambda Pi Eta, raises money that goes to support the Delaware County Foster Child holiday party in December. This year’s donation total of $315 topped last year’s total by over $50.

Lambda Pi Eta sponsor Dr. Laura O’Hara said the process of organizing Pie Your Professor begins with an e-mail which is sent to all Communication Studies faculty members. O’Hara said between 8-9 faculty members “willing to get a pie in the face” responded this year, including College of Communication, Information and Media Dean Roger Lavery.

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The Department of Communication Studies student group COMM Club sponsored the first ever kickball tournament this year as a fund-raiser to support former CCIM financial officer Denise Earehart. Over $500 was raised during the event, which also featured a raffle of gas cards, theater tickets and t-shirts. The proceeds were donated to Earehart to help pay for cancer treatments.

The COMM Club executive committee created the fund-raising event based on publicity officer Devanny Kuhn’s suggestion of holding a kickball tournament. Devising a plan that would combine involvement from students and faculty, the committee sent invitations to departmental alumni, faculty, students and student groups as well as other departments within CCIM.

Over 40 people were involved in the tournament, including the four competing teams from Brayton-Clevenger, Lambda Pi Eta, COMM Club and a Communication Studies faculty team. Dean Lavery served as umpire of the event, which took place on the field hockey field by Scheumann Stadium.

COMM Club plans to sponsor another tournament next year and hopes the tournament, as well as helping another person in the community, becomes an annual event.
SCORE Ambassadors build local program

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

Muncie SCORE Ambassadors is a Department of Communication Studies Immersive Learning project through the Building Better Communities program that originated in the spring of 2010.

“We discovered through conversations with people at the Muncie Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center, and with retired members of the community that there are a number of retired professionals who want to stay involved,” project sponsor Peggy Fisher said. As a way to facilitate involvement, the creation of a local SCORE program was discussed. SCORE is part of the Small Business Association (SBA), a government sponsored program that provides mentoring for small and start-up businesses.

Working on the SCORE project this semester is an interdisciplinary group composed of nine students, including three Communication Studies graduate students.

“It’s definitely a student-driven group,” said graduate student Bao Ta. “Peggy sponsors us, but she has been flexible in letting us take over. It’s a very different dynamic from learning in a classroom.”

“My philosophy is that it’s a learning experience,” Fisher said. “Some things work, some things don’t, but you can always learn from the experiences.”

According to Fisher, the goal as SCORE Ambassadors is to “lay the groundwork for a Muncie SCORE branch. We are facilitating the start-up, but then will turn it over to our sponsoring chapter in Anderson after the spring semester. We will have volunteer counselors in place, and will have marketed the new branch to local small businesses and interested individuals who are considering starting a business here in town.”

“We started off slow, getting to know the project and people involved,” said graduate student Emily Esmail. “(Now) we’re starting to get into the thick of things.”

Esmail explained the immersive learning class is divided into two teams: a recruiting team and a marketing team.

“We’re currently trying to recruit volunteers and trying to create a Muncie branch of SCORE,” said Ta, explaining that the Muncie SCORE Ambassadors is currently sponsored by the Anderson SCORE chapter.

“Half of what we do is to recruit volunteers who can counsel and help people who are interested in starting up a business, or people who already have a business and want help to improve,” Ta said.

Graduate student Seth E. Davis stated, “We’re hoping the program can help kick-start the next Muncie business boom.”

SPEECH TEAM | tournament results

The speech team competed at the A-K-Rowdy Swing at the University of Akron October 9-10. The six students who competed earned the following awards:

A-K-Rowdy (part one)
Saturday, October 9
1 Informative Speaking
Niccole Fortunato, 3rd place
1 After Dinner Speaking
Andrew Neylon, 1st place
1 Novice Impromptu Speaking
Andrew Neylon, 1st place
1 Impromptu Speaking
Michelle Colpean, 2nd place
1 4th place team trophy

A-K-Rowdy (part two)
Sunday, October 10
1 Informative Speaking
Niccole Fortunato, 6th place
1 After Dinner Speaking
Andrew Neylon, 1st place
1 Persuasive Speaking
Andrew Neylon, 1st place
1 Impromptu Speaking
Michelle Colpean, 2nd place
1 3rd place team trophy

INTERMISSION — Speech team members Alyssia Haymond, Whitney Scott, Andrew Neylon, and Michelle Colpean take a break during a recent competition.
The month of October was busy for Dr. Beth Messner. She delivered two presentations to the Ball State community on the topic of hate speech, a powerful form of rhetoric that she asserts is “spread through the internet and political debate, from the pulpit and street corners, and across the dinner table.” On October 14, Messner spoke at a brown-bag lunch sponsored by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. This presentation, entitled “Defending Segregation: Musical Responses to the Civil Rights Movement,” discussed a brand of country music that arose during the 1960s and 1970s in response to the civil rights movement. The music encouraged Southerners to resist efforts to bring racial equality to the South and to maintain its traditional system of White privilege. Some of the music was highly confrontational and contained blatant themes of racism and violence. Other songs contained more subtle political and social critiques. Messner’s presentation was based on research conducted by she and several colleagues and published in the Journal of Music and Society. On October 26, Messner delivered a second presentation entitled “Voices of Intolerance” to approximately 80 members of the Ball State community. She discussed the nature and function of hate speech and the tactics used to spread hatred. She argued that while hate speech often is associated with the “ugly underbelly of society” and historical events in the past like the Holocaust, it is commonplace in contemporary society as well. She pointed to examples provided by the Rev. Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church (Topeka, Kansas) and Tom Metzger’s “White Aryan Resistance” group (Warsaw, Indiana). She encouraged students to recognize that hate speech comes in many forms and levels of severity, from offensive jokes and cartoons to acts of hate-motivated intimidation. This presentation was the first in a series of seminars sponsored by Ball State’s Office of Institutional Diversity. It also was broadcast to students in a health science class at IPFW.

Day finds voice in research through performative writing

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

A union of personal experience with a performance writing class at the University of South Florida in Tampa was the catalyst for Angie Day’s start in research.

Day, an assistant professor of Communication Studies at Ball State University, explains performative writing as “the manipulation of the structure of the text so the reader has to work when reading ... it’s a performance in itself.” “Performance writing is couched in performance theory, which looks at how lives are social performances,” Day said. “We perform and embody and feel these things (in the writing). It’s more than going through the motions.”

Day currently has two performative writing articles in the process of being published. Each text focuses on topics both of interest to her and based on personal experience.

Hide and Seek: Exploring Connections Between Embodied Rhythmic Associations of Experiences and of Stories addresses the lack of social discourse concerning sexual abuse and sex itself. The work is a compilation of stories of abuse Day collected, as well as her personal experience, and is due out in December.

You Have a Gift to Hear: A Performative Text Exploring Embodied Sexual Harassment is anticipated to be published in spring 2011. The work focuses on

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The College of Communication, Information, and Media held its annual Dean’s List Reception in Emens Auditorium on Saturday, October 16, 2010. The ceremony honored students within the college who displayed academic excellence during the 2009-2010 school year. Nineteen Communication Studies majors were recognized for their efforts: Stephanie Amato, Andrea Antoon, Lisa Cappa, Renee Cirone, Rachael Clark, Lauren Criswell, Tayln Cox, Brendan Durkes, Rebekah Fehrman, Katie Foltz, Jade Graves, Jordan Kehl, Laura McCaffrey, Erin Popplewell, Rachael Sexton, Nick Shipe, Paige Vandoski, Elizabeth Whited, and Chelsea Zwepink.

To merit a place on the Dean’s List, these students earned at least a 3.5 G.P.A. for 12 credit hours of course work during a regular semester or for 6 credit hours of course work during a summer term. In addition to honoring these talented students, the reception featured special guest speaker Johnny A. Smith, Jr. Smith, a 2003 alumnus of the Journalism/Public Relations program, is currently the Systems Manager of Public Relations for St. Vincent Hospital and serves on the Board of Directors for the Madame Walker Theatre, the Peace and Learning Center, and Saving Orphans through Healthcare and
Events

NOVEMBER | 3
Vernon C. Schranz Distinguished Lectureship in Public Relations speaker
Lisa Baird, Chief Marketing Officer for the U.S. Olympic Committee, 8:00 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom

THURSDAY | 4
Women’s Basketball vs. St. Joseph’s (exhibition) 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY | 5, 6, 7
Individual Events Team will send half the team to Bradley University in Peoria, Ill to compete in the Norton Invitational. The other half of the team will travel to a tournament at Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Debate Team will travel to a tournament at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

SATURDAY | 6
Football (Youth Day) Akron, 1:00 p.m. kickoff

The Broad Ripple High School Debate Class will be on campus as part of the Forensics Immersive Learning initiative. While here, they will participate in a debate tournament.

FRIDAY | 12
Women’s Basketball vs. Indiana, 7:00 p.m.
Football at Buffalo, 6:00 p.m. kickoff

SATURDAY | 20
Football vs. Northern Illinois, noon kickoff
Men’s Basketball at Butler, 2:00 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Evansville, 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY | 23
Frusday - Classes meet according to a Friday time configuration.

KWAK | continued from page 1

skills than when she is addressing a student who has violated the discipline policy. She specifically points to the importance of reading students’ nonverbal behaviors to learn “what they’re not telling me.”

One of the advantages to Kwak’s position is that it allows her flexibility to tailor some of her leadership responsibilities to fit her personal interests. For example, since arriving at Maryville University, she has become a member of the university’s Student Success Team and Staff Leadership Team. The Student Success Team surveys Maryville University students to determine how the institution can better address their needs and maximize their potential for success. As a member of the Staff Leadership Team, Kwak works with other staff members to organize and implement projects that will benefit the campus. Currently, the team is developing customer service standards and strategies for all university staff, including student employees.

Kwak also engages in service to the larger community. She currently is an officer in the St. Louis Area College Housing Association. She also has become a certified Instructor for the Rape, Aggression, Defense Systems (R.A.D.) program. In this capacity, she teaches women self-defense techniques.

Perhaps the most challenging part of Kwak’s job is “finding balance.” Her position requires her to work and live on the Maryville University campus. While this is convenient, it also means that she is very accessible and must be ready to respond to situations at all hours of the day and night. To strike a better work-life balance, Sarah has joined the St. Louis Volleyball Team, an activity that she calls “refreshing and re-energizing.”

Kwak’s skill at “finding balance” was forged during her time as a graduate student and most tested while writing her thesis. According to Kwak, this was “probably one of the most stressful and rewarding parts of my Ball State experience. With a great deal of support and encouragement from a phenomenal advisor [Dr. Carolyn Shue], I acquired the motivation and discipline necessary to balance my academics with my assistantship and still make time to research and write.” Kwak’s efforts were well rewarded. Her thesis, entitled There’s No “I” in Team: A Study of Physician-Nurse Dyads in the Healthcare Setting, earned the Ball State University Alumni Association’s Distinguished Thesis Award.

While Kwak enjoys her position in Residence Life, she hopes to pursue a slightly different path in the future. She aspires to work in marketing and communications, a field that is hands-on, creative, and would allow her to routinely interact with others. Ideally, she would find such a position on a college or university campus, allowing her to remain in the environment that she loves.

DAY | continued from page 4

Day’s experience of dealing with sexual harassment while in graduate school.

Day is currently working on two research studies. One project focuses on the dynamics and tensions that develop between family members who work at a family business. The other project addresses emotional discourse among single fathers who participate in online discussion forums, specifically looking at gender and power.

Day said she finds the process of sharing personal experiences through her work challenging yet rewarding.

“When someone comes up to you to tell you your writing has helped them and allowed them an outlet to discuss that... It’s probably the best feeling,” she said.