Comm Studies Faculty Receive Top Awards

Every year one of the most enjoyable college events is the college’s annual meeting. During the annual meeting, all of the departments in the college join together to review the previous year’s success and to preview some of the expected events of the upcoming year. Perhaps one of the most important parts of the annual meeting is when CCIM Dean Roger Lavery takes a few moments to recognize achievements of the college’s faculty, both at the university and college level. This year the Communication Studies department had six faculty members recognized for their contributions to the university and college.

At the university level, Dr. Beth Messner and Dr. Kathy Denker both received recognition for their numerous contributions. Dr. Messner received the Outstanding Diversity Advocate Award and Dr. Denker received the Lawhead Teaching Award. These awards are two of the most prestigious awards available through the university. Dr. Messner’s accolade recognizes her commitment to diversity through her service, research, and teaching. Through classes and immersive learning projects, Dr. Messner challenges her students to think critically and question the world around them through projects that include promoting tolerance through a 2005 seminar entitled, “Learning From a Legacy of Hate.” The project allowed students to gain a greater understanding of the detrimental effects as well as the prevalence of hate speech through a variety of means, including a trip to the Holocaust Museum. More recently, Dr. Messner led an Immersive Learning seminar called “Pathways Out of Poverty” where her students worked with local children to help provide them with an intellectual framework to increase their chances of achieving success. As anyone who has taken a class with Dr. Messner will tell you, these are just two examples of the many courses Dr. Messner teaches that promote learning about diversity.

The Lawhead Teaching Award recognizes faculty members who provide exceptional instruction in core curriculum courses. As the director of COMM 210 (the Fundamentals of Public Speaking) Dr. Denker instructs over 1,300 students a semester. Using technology such as the iClicker student response system and popular media clips, Dr. Denker actively engages students in Pruis’ 500 seat lecture hall. Dr. Denker’s dynamic stage presence and ability to connect with her students make her a beloved faculty member on the Ball State campus. In addition to using the iClicker system to ensure that the students enrolled in COMM 210 are actively learning and retaining the course information, Dr. Denker is also an excellent instructor and mentor for the 35 graduate teaching assistants who lead breakout sessions that accompany the COMM 210 large lecture. With so many students enrolled in the course and so many GTA’s leading discussion sections, ensuring consistency in content and grading standards across every section is no easy feat. The department is very proud that Dr. Denker’s tireless efforts to continually improve the COMM 210 experience for students has been recognized by the university through this award.

In addition to the two university awards, Dean Lavery also recognized four of the department’s faculty members with college awards. Dr. Laura O’Hara received the Dean’s Faculty Award, which honors one faculty member for their contributions to their department, the college, and their field. Dr. O’Hara is a favorite of both students and faculty. Known for her kindness and dedication, Dr. O’Hara is always the first person to volunteer, no matter how much else she is already doing.

Words of appreciation were given to Dr. Jen Bute and Mr. Jason Maldonado, the two alumni recipients of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Bute received her second third grant, from the Indiana Department of Health, to study journaling for underserved pregnant and parenting adolescents. In addition, since graduating from the University of Illinois in 2007, Dr. Bute has won four top paper awards from the International Communication Association and National Communication Association. Dr. Bute is also a prolific researcher, with numerous journal articles and book chapters in her young career.

When asked, Dr. Bute modestly gives much credit for her success to the Ball State Communication Studies department faculty: “I am truly humbled and honored. As I mentioned in my thank you letter to the department, the training and guidance from mentors like Glen Stamp, Laura O’Hara, Marcy Meyer, Beth Messner, Peggy Fisher, and Duane Diehrich instilled in me a love of learning and deep respect for my discipline, and ultimately encouraged me to pursue a career in academia. Without them, I would not be where I am today.”

see FACULTY AWARD | page 2

Jen Bute and Jason Maldonado Honored with “Distinguished Alumni Award”

By AnnaBeth M. Fish

Every year as part of the Departmental Annual Spring Awards Ceremony, the department recognizes two alumni for their achievements and contributions to the department, as well as in their chosen fields. The 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards recognized Dr. Jen Bute and Mr. Jason Maldonado.

Dr. Bute completed her bachelor’s and master’s at Ball State, with the latter being earned in the Communication Studies department. After leaving Ball State, Dr. Bute worked in Human Resources for four years before matriculating to the University of Illinois where she finished her Ph.D. in 2007. She is currently a professor at IUPUI.

During her time in academia Dr. Bute has made many contributions to the field through her work with gender and health communication. Most recently, Dr. Bute received her third grant, from the Indiana Department of Health, to study journaling for underserved pregnant and parenting adolescents. In addition, since graduating from the University of Illinois in 2007, Dr. Bute has won four top paper awards from the International Communication Association and National Communication Association. Dr. Bute is also a prolific researcher, with numerous journal articles and book chapters in her young career.

When asked, Dr. Bute modestly gives much credit for her success to the Ball State Communication Studies department faculty: “I am truly humbled and honored. As I mentioned in my thank you letter to the department, the training and guidance from mentors like Glen Stamp, Laura O’Hara, Marcy Meyer, Beth Messner, Peggy Fisher, and Duane Diehrich instilled in me a love of learning and deep respect for my discipline, and ultimately encouraged me to pursue a career in academia. Without them, I would not be where I am today.”

see ALUMNI AWARD | page 3
Speech Team Places 7th at NFA

The members of the Ball State Speech Team have much to be proud of upon closing their season last semester. In April, 13 students traveled to Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia to compete at the 2013 National Forensics Association’s national tournament. Competitors included: Lauren Chapman, Berkley Conner, Bri Kirkham, Louis Lin, Marcia McGuire, Meg Moshe, Bree Nelson, Andrew Neylon, Kathryn Overn, Huy Pham, Kate Roesch, Lauren Seitz, and Kate Shaffer. Earning individual accolades were members Meg Moshe and Andrew Neylon. Moshe was a semi-finalist in Persuasive speaking, while Neylon was a semi-finalist in Informative speaking, earned 4th place in Extemporaneous speaking, and won a national championship in Impromptu speaking. As a team, Ball State earned 2nd place in Division 1, as well as 7th overall; the team’s best finish since 2005. Bradley University won the tournament, followed by Western Kentucky, University of Texas (Austin), Illinois State, Eastern Michigan, North Central, Ball State, Miami University, University of Wisconsin, and University of Northern Iowa, respectively. A total of 78 schools were represented at the tournament.

The Ball State Speech Team will kick off its 2013-2014 season at the University of Indianapolis on September 21. Last year, the team was coached by Mary Moore, Ashley Coker, Michelle Colpean, Mike Catlos, and Jon Conway. This year, after the graduation of Catlos and Conway, the team welcomes new coach, Arthi Chandresakaran.

Left to right back row: Lauren Chapman, Lauren Seitz, Marcia McGuire, Andrew Neylon, Kate Roesch, Huy Pham, Louis Lin.

Left to right front row: Kate Shaffer, Meg Moshe, Bree Nelson, Bri Kirkham, Kathryn Overn, Bri Kirkham, Kathryn Overn.

FACULTY AWARDS | continued from page 1

Whether it is volunteering to serve on a university committee, covering a course that she’s never taught, or helping department social events, Dr. O’Hara is always willing to help and always has a smile on her face. In honor of receiving the Dean’s Faculty Award, Dr. O’Hara will be the keynote speaker at the College’s Spring graduation ceremony.

Nicole Johnson, Assistant Director of the Debate team, won the College’s Professionalism Award. Since starting with the Debate team, Ms. Johnson has helped lead the team to victory in many competitions nationally and internationally. Thanks to Ms. Johnson’s tenacity, the Debate team traveled to Berlin, Germany to participate in the International Debate Tournament as judges and participants. Under Ms. Johnson’s leadership, the pair of students chosen to represent the Ball State team beat more than 1/3 of their competition and internationally. Thanks to Ms. Johnson’s tenacity, the Debate team traveled to Berlin, Germany to participate in the International Debate Tournament as judges and participants. Under Ms. Johnson’s leadership, the pair of students chosen to represent the Ball State team beat more than 1/3 of their competition— a feat that is especially impressive when one considers the scale of the event (387 teams from 82 countries) and, more impressively, that both of the debaters were novices in the British Parliamentary style used in the competition. In addition to leading the Debate team to many victories, Ms. Johnson also made sure that the BSU Debate team was able to give back to the university and Muncie community by hosting several workshops and competitions with local high schools and community agencies.

As many people know, the BSU Speech Team was outstanding last year, which included placing 7th at the NFA National Tournament. This is largely due to the tireless dedication of the Speech Team’s coaches, Mary Moore and Ashley Coker. To recognize their excellence in coaching as well as in the classroom, Mary Moore and Ashley Coker both received the College’s Teaching Award. In addition to their work with the Speech Team, Ms. Moore and Ms. Coker both routinely receive some of the highest ratings on student evaluations. It is no surprise that students love both of these individuals who are always willing to help their students, no matter how much other work they are juggling.

The Communication Studies department is always proud when their faculty receives commendation, and of course, for every award there are always other professors in the department who are as equally deserving of recognition. There is no doubt that the strength of the Communication Studies department truly lies within the very talented faculty.
Social Network with BSU Comm

Have you been looking to connect with the Department of Communication Studies in all areas of your life? Well, some recent developments are making that possible! Instead of just employing social media experts in the classroom and teaching successful social media techniques in lectures, our department has decided to practice what we preach and actually establish a strong social media presence! As of August, our department has both a Twitter and Facebook account. While we are lucky enough to keep in close contact with all of our students and many of our alumni, we realize the benefit of maintaining these social media sites as well. In fact, a recent Wired article claims that social media sites are great at creating and maintaining a community of current and former students that is informed and updated. That is our hope for both of the pages. We plan to use Twitter and Facebook for keeping our current students up-to-date on departmental happenings, deadlines and announcements. We think alumni will enjoy keeping abreast of departmental events and we hope they will chime in with updates of their own. We love to hear about the successes of our alumni. And we know all students—current and former—will enjoy the informative articles about communication found on the sites. The professors in us can’t resist a teaching moment! Please take a minute to search for us on Facebook (Ball State Department of Communication) and follow us on Twitter (@BSUCOMM). As always, we’re open to feedback so if you have any ideas for the sites, please email Kristen McCauliff (klmccauliff@bsu.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

Jason Maldonado first came to Ball State University as an undergraduate because he saw a mutual opportunity for himself and the speech team. During his time at Ball State, Jason proved to be a valuable asset to the Speech team, where he won many accolades for his excellence. Jason credits much of his post-graduate success to his tenure on the Speech team, because his involvement with the team taught him the importance of dedication and critical thinking skills, as well as a competitive spirit that has helped him rise to the top in his career since graduating from Ball State with his master’s in 2008.

Currently Jason is the Social Strategy Planner for Home Depot. The Home Depot Digital Marketing team is small, which means that Jason is roughly responsible for a third of all of the company’s digital marketing strategies. His responsibilities include developing corporate digital strategies, constructing social business plans, and executing the company’s social media plans.

Although Jason has been incredibly successful in his career since graduating, he is not one who clings to the spotlight. As Jason recently said, “To me, accomplishments are relative. Have I been nominated and won awards at work? Yes. However, what matters to me is that I am the first of my family to graduate college, and certainly the first to get a graduate degree. The biggest accomplishment is that I can give back to my family and maybe push us into a more comfortable lifestyle.”

Like Dr. Bute, Jason also gives credit to the Ball State faculty members for his success, particularly Mary Moore, the coach of Ball State’s nationally recognized Speech team. When speaking of Mary, Jason says, “I have been privileged to work at great companies and meet brilliant minds since leaving Ball State University, which has taught me that truly great mentors are hard to find. Mary has a brilliant and rare mind. Her mentorship style is honest, insightful, valuable, and, more than anything, caring. As an educator, her teachings as the head coach of the Speech Team have been crucial in allowing me to rapidly grow my career and comfortably sit among c-suite elite, knowing that I deserve to be there, representing Ball State University, representing my family, and representing me.”

As highlighted above, this year’s recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards are both making great contributions to their chosen fields. Although both individuals have chosen different career paths, both credit their success to their time spent within the Communication Studies department, and are exemplars of the department’s commitment to excellence.

Left to right: Beth Messner, Jason Maldonado, and Jen Bute
May 2013 Departmental Annual Spring Awards Ceremony

In May this year the department recognized the following students for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Outstanding Junior Award- Highest GPA: Kayla Elliot

Rising Star- Recognizes a new major in the program who has a strong academic record and holds promise to become a role model for his/her peers: Sarah Cohen

Outstanding Senior- Given to a senior who has made significant contributions to the department during his/her academic years, including departmental citizenship and scholarship: Shaniece Thorpe

Outstanding Teaching Assistant- Acknowledges the graduate student who has worked to develop their own teaching, went above and beyond in course development, and achieved outstanding reviews of their teaching from all parties: Meg Tully

Outstanding Researcher- Acknowledges the graduate student who has achieved excellence in their research, noted in both departmental work and also in presenting professional research: Karen Morgan

Outstanding Professional- Acknowledges the graduate student who has gone above and beyond in achievements on the professional track: Elena Chudnovskaya

Outstanding Service- Acknowledges the graduate student who has continually given of themselves to the department, university, and/or their profession through service work: Morgan Summers

Outstanding Graduate Student- Acknowledges the overall outstanding graduate student, primarily based on overall academic achievement: Meg Tully

Outstanding Graduate Student Colleague: Scarlett Hester

Distinguished Alumni Awards- Nominated and selected by the faculty based on their contributions to both the department and to their professional field: Jen Bute & Jason Maldonado

Richard G. Nitcavic Departmental Involvement Scholarship and Richard G. Nitcavic Diversity Scholarship: Andrew Neylon

Richard G. Nitcavic Diversity Scholarship: Teresa Trauner

Donald P. Knott Scholarship: Allyson Gruell

Donald P. Knott Scholarship: Sara McInerney

Donald P. Knott Scholarship: Keagan Vaughan

Donald P. Knott Scholarship: Jennifer Zarate

World Tour Initiative Scholarship: Aaron Dicker

Richard G. Nitcavic Graduate Student Scholarship: Caleb Green & AnnaBeth Fish

Excellence in Individual Events: Andrew, Neylon, Berkley Conner & Huy Pham.
Training week was an excellent opportunity as an incoming graduate teaching assistant. With me being from out-of-state and not having a clue what I was in for, having a full week of training really prepared me for the first day of class and beyond. I especially enjoyed the micro-teaching session that we worked with in our mentor groups throughout the week. This gave me an opportunity to put what we had been talking about throughout the week into action and really gave me an idea of what my teaching style would be.

Another unexpected benefit of training week was the relationships I developed with everyone in the department. I had assumed that making friends may be a challenge, but I am grateful that I was proved wrong. Everyone in the communication department was so welcoming and inclusive, that it was really easy for me to be myself and open up. I am really happy that I have made so many friends in such a short period of time.
Events

SEPTEMBER
Saturday | 21
Individual Events Tournament
University of Indianapolis

Saturday | 28
CCIM Dean’s List Ceremony
Emens Auditorium, 9:00 AM

Saturday – Sunday | 28 – 29
Individual Events
Miami / BSU Swing Tournament

OCTOBER
Saturday – Sunday | 5 – 6
Individual Events
ISU Swing Tournament

Friday | 11
Bullpen Homecoming Party
LB 300, 12:00 p.m.

Saturday | 12
Homecoming
BSU vs. Kent State, 3:00

Friday – Saturday | 11 – 12
NEDA Debate Tournament
Anderson University

Saturday – Monday | 19 – 21
Individual Events Age of Aquarius Tournament
Ball State University

Friday – Saturday | 25 – 26
NEDA Debate Tournament
University of Dayton

Saturday | 26
Individual Events Tournament
Purdue University

COPYRIGHT © 2013
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
2000 W. University Avenue
Muncie, IN 47306
800-382-85540 and 765-289-1241

SUBMISSIONS
Content, photos, and calendar events can be sent to:
amfish@bsu.edu

COMMUNICATION STUDIES
David Letterman Communication and Media Building
Room 351
2000 W. University Avenue
Muncie, IN 47306

Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Phone: 765-285-1882
E-mail: commstu@bsu.edu

May Commencement
Graduate Class of 2013

BSU Faculty Tailgating
Kathy Denker &
Kristen McCauliiff