IE Team Places 10th at NFA

The Ball State individual events (speech) team had an incredible post season. Last April, the BSU speech team finished an already remarkable year with a 10th place finish in the Open division at the National Forensics Association national championship tournament at Ohio University. Competing against 78 teams from across the country the cardinals earned a 2nd place finish in President’s Division I, losing the division championship to Northwestern University. This was BSU’s first appearance in the top 10 since 2006 and demonstrates the hours of dedication and sacrifice team members and coaches spent during the 2011-2012 season. Twelve students represented Ball State at that national tournament: Freshmen Lauren Chapman, Berkley Conner, Matthew Marshall, Kathryn Overn, Huy Pham; Sophomores Andrew Neylon, Kate Roesch, Kate Shaffer; Juniors Meg Moshe, Bree Nelson; Seniors Michelle Colpean, Niccole Fortunato. The team results were a rewarding experience as Conner explains: “For me, it (NFA) was the proudest moment of the year. Being able to take pride in such an accomplishment with some of the most talented and hardworking people I’ve ever met overwhelmed me with elation.” While all members contributed to team points, two students advanced beyond preliminary rounds at the tournament. Andrew Neylon placed 2nd in informative speaking out of 175 competitors and placed 5th in impromptu speaking out of the 187 speakers and advanced to quarter-finals in dramatic interpretation. Huy Pham advanced to quarter-finals in poetry interpretation. Neylon’s final round experience is a special memory from NFA, “Being in a National final, and the energy surrounding it, is something I will always remember and turn to when I need confidence.” The first tournament of the 2012-2013 season was September 8th at the University of Indianapolis. While everything that happened last year was amazing, we are looking forward to outdoing ourselves!

James Atkins & Eric Fenstermaker Honored with “Distinguished Alumni Award”

By Laura O’Hara
Associate Professor

Each year at the Annual Spring Awards Ceremony, the Communication Studies Department names two distinguished alumni, who are recognized for the outstanding contributions they have made to the department and to their chosen careers. In April, 2012, Mr. James D. Atkins and Mr. Eric L. Fenstermaker were recipients of this award.

James Atkins completed his Bachelor’s degree in Interpersonal Communication in 2009 and his Master’s degree in Organizational Communication and Professional Development in 2011. Since graduating, James has put the skills and theoretical knowledge gained from both of his degrees to excellent use in his role as the Assistant Director of Ball State’s Office of Admissions, where he is spearheading a successful new initiative to increase undergraduate enrollment of students from the east coast. Focusing his efforts specifically in New Jersey, Atkins’ successful recruitment efforts have included visits to 65 high schools and 29 college fairs in the Garden State, with more than 1,000 face-to-face meetings with prospective students. As James noted recently, “In my job, I don’t just represent me. And I don’t get to choose when I’m ‘on.’ As an ambassador for BSU, I represent the university 24/7 for months at a time, talking to prospective students and their parents, high school counselors,

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Dr. David W. Shepard Dies

Dr. David Shepard retired from Ball State University in 1987, as a Professor Emeritus of Speech Communication after 33 years of service. Dr. Shepard was also the Director of the nationally renowned Debate Team. The following was taken from the obituary in the Muncie Star Press.

MUNCIE - Dr. David W. Shepard, 90, passed away Tuesday evening, August 28, 2012 at I.U. Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

He was born on January 10, 1922 in River Falls, Wisconsin, the son of Charles E. and Edna (Wallace) Shepard. Dr. Shepard served his country in The United States Marine Corps during World War II, stationed in the South Pacific. As a Tech Sergeant, his assignments included bomb site mechanic and auto pilot mechanic. He was awarded the title of Marksman.

A noted Parliamentarian, he has to his credit three published books and numerous journals in the area of Parliamentary Procedure. Dr. Shepard also published works in Public Speaking, the Lincoln-Douglass debates, and several satirical short stories. He served as a consultant for the National Rifle Association on the Second Amendment, and was a member of the Muncie Rifle and Pistol Club for many years, also serving on the board of directors.

He was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-two years, Margaret C. Shepard earlier this year; his parents and his brother and sister.

Private graveside services with Military Rites by The United States Marine Corps was held at Beech Grove Cemetery and The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory.

Collaboration gains recognition

By Tynesia Ross
Graduate Assistant

The collaboration between SCORE and Ball State University was recognized in New Orleans at the National Leadership Meeting in August.

According to Bob Anders, the Co-Chair of the Anderson/Muncie Chapter of SCORE, Ball State and SCORE were awarded a new award for outstanding service in the community. SCORE is an all-volunteer group of mostly retired persons who help create and maintain small businesses.

“I was part of a team of SCORE Chapter 519 volunteers that worked with Dr. Peggy Fisher and her BBC students to establish a SCORE branch of our Chapter in Muncie,” Anders explained. “The significance of the award is that it is the first time in the almost fifty year history of SCORE that a University student group worked with a SCORE Chapter to establish a Branch.”

Anders attributes the success of the project to Dr. Fisher who came to him with the idea to start a chapter. “The students and Peggy did all the heavy lifting in finding the mentors and the clients for them to counsel...we provided direction and oversight.”

The significance behind this award was that this was the first time this award was given. Anders further explained that The National Score Office in Washington was so impressed by what the students did that they created the award as special recognition of the effort.

FIND OUT MORE:
If you are interested in finding out more information on SCORE, please visit http://scoreanderson.org/
Orientation Week

By AnnaBeth Fish
Graduate Assistant

As a first year graduate student, there are a lot of changes you go through, whether you’re coming straight from an undergraduate program or returning to school after taking a break. For some first year students, coming to grad school has meant learning a new campus and all of the campus’s quirks. For those who did their undergrad at BSU, it’s meant redefining their status from undergrads to grad student and teaching assistant, and negotiating relationships with professors. So regardless of what has brought us to the grad program at BSU, there has been a lot of change for all of us. For me, it’s meant moving to a new state to a school with a student body that’s about 30 times the size of my undergrad, which seemed pretty overwhelming before orientation.

Our orientation/training week started with a social gathering in the evening on Sunday August 12th, which provided a chance for new and returning graduate teaching assistants to mingle with some members of the faculty and staff while enjoying pizza. This kickoff event led into three days of intensive training and preparation for teaching Comm 210 lab sections.

Training week is probably best described as a Comm 210 boot camp as it gave us a chance to get familiar with the course content, the policies and procedures, as well as to be socialized into the department. Although the days were long and sometimes intense, we still had a lot of fun. Training week wrapped up with a department gathering Friday evening at Dr. O’Hara’s home. The best part about orientation/training week is that it really gave us a...

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Often summer conjures images of lazy days relaxing by the pool, sleeping late, or heading off for vacation. However, many enterprising Communication Studies majors were busy honing their communication skills in a variety of excellent internships. Here is what some of them were up to!

Maggie Brown (Interpersonal Communication option) interned with Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) at the national headquarters in Orlando, FL, working with CRU staff from all over the world. Maggie’s biggest duty included organizing the vast amount of promotional materials to be shipped to CRU organizations globally, but she also put her interpersonal communication skills to great use every day dealing with the many CRU staff and vendors.

Jordan Habayeb (Organizational Communication option) interned at Loyola University in Chicago, in Housing and Residence Life. Working as a coordinator for a residence hall housing high school students, Jordan planned events and trips for the students, helped them with their coursework, and led programs on public speaking. Jordan notes that his major served him well during the internship—not just in terms of his ability to provide public speaking workshops, but also in terms of his ability to relate appropriately and effectively with students from all over the world.

Kimberly Holmes (Interpersonal Communication option) combined her love of human communication and fashion as a store management intern at Maurice’s in Muncie, IN, where she used conflict management skills, interpersonal skills, and group decision-making skills during interactions with co-workers and clients. Kimberly’s duties extended well outside of “store hours,” as she built networks with other retailers in the Muncie community and was instrumental in planning a number of fund-raising events in which Maurice’s took part.

Rachel Marten (Interpersonal Communication option) interned with a sports ministry called Athletes in Action at their world headquarters in Xenia, OH. Working in the Campus Partnerships department, Rachel helped the organization realize its mission of developing new, student-operated athletic ministries across the country. The internship, which required Rachel to use tremendous organizational and persuasive skills, was a challenge. However, Rachel enjoyed it so much that she hopes to work with Athletes in Action professionally when she graduates.

Haley O’Donnell (Interpersonal Communication option) interned at INDY COZ, a start-up event-planning facility in Castleton, IN. Haley performed a variety of marketing duties to promote the new business and worked as an assistant event planner for a number of large weddings. She notes that her persuasion and intercultural communication skills helped this fledgling organization achieve great success during their first summer in business.

Kaitlyn Shedd (Organizational Communication Option) put her training skills to the test at the Tippecanoe County Assessor’s office this summer, where she taught organizational members various computer programs. The work was quite challenging, as most of those in her audiences were from backgrounds with which she was unfamiliar. However, Kaitlyn credits her major with giving her the many skill sets to communicate effectively with these various groups. In fact, the members of the Tippecanoe County Assessor’s office were so pleased with her that they threw her a party on her last day and invited her to work for them after she graduated from BSU!
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experience for those fortunate enough to have him as an instructor. As Eric notes, “there are few things more enriching in life than to help someone be better at something they truly dislike (i.e. public speaking).”

Although Eric works full-time as a Commercial Credit Analyst at First Merchant’s Bank in Muncie, IN, his avocation for teaching is clear, as is evidenced in his philosophy that “[t]eaching is far more than giving information to an audience. Teaching involves molding the future leaders of society to do something great with their lives.” Eric’s love for teaching is obvious and has served our department very well, as is confirmed in some of the remarks his students have made about their

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chance to start finding our place within the department. For me, it helped me learn that while BSU is a big school, the Comm department offers all the best

parts of a small school experience—one-on-one attention from professors and a tight-knit group of students that understand what you’re experiencing.

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| Editor and design | Tynesia Ross, Graduate Assistant
| Advisors | Glen Stamp, Department Chair
Laura O’Hara, Associate Professor

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BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
2000 W. University Avenue
Muncie, IN 47306
800-382-8540 and 765-289-1241

SUBMISSIONS
Content, photos and calendar events can be sent to:
bsucommstudies@gmail.com

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