

COMMENTARY

April 2011 | Volume 1 | Issue 7

Jeff Hughes: Striving to be of Value

By Beth Messner
Associate Professor

Even when Jeff Hughes (B '02) was a child, he envisioned himself in a career in which he was "making a difference." As the Youth Pastor of the Oneighty program at Union Chapel Ministries in Muncie, Ind., his childhood vision has been realized.

Oneighty is a popular national program initially established by Rev. Willie George at the Church on the Move (Tulsa, OK) in 1995. In 1998, Muncie's Union Chapel Ministries created an Oneighty affiliate. This program is designed to reach out to young people and help them learn faith-based ways to deal with the challenges in their lives. In essence, the goal is to help young people turn their lives around 180 degrees.

Originally a student at Texas Tech University, Jeff arrived in Muncie in 1999 to complete a three-month in-

ternship with Union Chapel's Oneighty Youth Ministry. As his commitment to the program grew, he decided to remain in Muncie and transferred to Ball State University to complete his degree in Communication Studies. While studying at Ball State, he continued to serve Union Chapel Ministries as the Worship Leader for their youth program. He then became an Associate Youth Pastor when he graduated in 2002 and eventually moved into his current position as Youth Pastor in 2005.

In his role as Youth Pastor, Jeff wears many hats. His overarching duty is to help approximately 300 middle school and high school students use their faith to address difficult issues in their lives, including how to better relate to their parents and deal with the influence of social media. He encourages them to think through their actions

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Submitted Photo

MAKING A DIFFERENCE — Jeff Hughes applies his degree in Communication Studies in his current role as Youth Pastor of the Oneighty program at Union Chapel Ministries in Muncie.

Debate team wins 4th straight National Tournament

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

Debating on the subject of "legalization of marijuana for recreational use" proved no problem for the Ball State Debate Team as they captured their 4th consecutive title at the 2011 National Educational Debate Association National Tournament.

"I feel gratified," said coach Nicole Johnson about the team's win. "All that hard work really paid off." Johnson explained that students who participate

on the debate team do so on top of all other commitments and activities they are involved in. "This is an extracurricular activity for them, they have a full plate of activities all year round, and (the national) tourney is the be-all-end-all, especially for the seniors," Johnson said.

Pressure builds for the students not only in the weeks leading up to the tournament, but during the tournament itself. "Students debate for two days without having any clue as to how well

they are doing ... and they won't know until semifinals are announced," she said. According to Johnson, this year's tournament was fairly competitive and there was a "short period of time we weren't sure how we'd do."

Preparation was key for the team, as former team member and current graduate student coach Dallis Pike observed. "The way the team works together has changed over the years, but the success is consistent," Pike said. In the seven

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Alumni notes

ANDREA ROMO (M'07) is the Communications Specialist for Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pa. She has led many projects including the launching of a new website, unveiling a magazine, developing an overall communications plan, and much more!

MIKE POLITES (B '96, M '03) and his wife Holly and son Todd (19 months) welcomed another son into their family in December — Benjamin Marc Polites. The entire family is home together this Spring!

DR. SUZANNE ENCK-WANZER (M '95) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. She received her PhD from Indiana University.

If you are an alumnus and would like to contribute information about yourself for a future issue of *COMMENTARY*, please contact Glen Stamp at: gstamp@bsu.edu or Beth Messner at: bmessner@bsu.edu.

Please note the year you graduated and whether you received a Bachelor's or Master's degree and any information about current employment, involvement in the community, awards/honors, or other life events that you wish to share.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Department news

Roesch wins Lee Horn State Speaking Award

By Maggie Doyle
Senior

It's one thing for a student to become involved in extracurricular activities, but to be involved in one for four years takes tremendous commitment. Eric Roesch is the only current senior on Ball State's Individual Events Speech Team who has been on the team for all four years.

But this is not the only unique quality Eric brings to the table. He also recently received the Lee Horn Award from the Indiana State Individual Events Association. The award is named after Lee Horn, a speech coach from the University of Indianapolis who passed away in 2007. To be nominated for the award, one must demonstrate a true desire to help others while maintaining a positive attitude and a personal commitment to improve the team. The nominee also should be a giving person.

Mary Moore, the Director of Ball State's Individual Events Team, nominated Eric for this award because, "Eric is a positive, welcoming, and helpful person. He is here for all the right reasons." Ashley Coker, Assistant Director of the Individual Events Team, agreed, stating, "He is like a big brother to a lot of the other members of the team. He leads the others and wants the best for everyone on the team. No one deserved this award more than Eric did."

Eric is a double major in Philosophy and Business Administration. When he was a freshman taking COMM 210, his graduate assistant, Jason Maldonado, recruited him to the team because of the great speaking skills that he displayed in the course.

Initially, Eric said joining the team was something he was willing to look into but was unsure about. He attended Noblesville High School which did not have a speech team when he was there. Still, Eric followed Jason's suggestion and has loved speech ever since.

According to Moore, "Speech is something that isn't really as common



Submitted Photo

DISTINGUISHED AWARD — Senior Eric Roesch recently received the Lee Horn Award from the Indiana State Individual Events Association. Roesch is currently the only senior on Ball State's Individual Events speech team.

as some might think among the (Communication Studies) majors here. We have students from all across the board because anyone can really benefit from this type of activity." Eric agreed. He explained that "this is a great team to be on because it transfers well into other classes. Not only is it good for the individual by helping with writing and speaking skills, but it also helps you learn to work on a team." This type of work would be done in almost any course taken at Ball State.

As a double major, one might think that Eric has a hard time balancing his school work and the speech team. But when asked about it, he noted that this was an incorrect assumption. "You get out of it what you put into it," Eric said. "None of us are here because we have to be. It's all on a volunteer basis."

Eric's attitude not only earned him the

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Thesis work teaches grad students important lessons

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

As they make final edits and prepare to submit their theses, Communication Studies graduate students Paul Sommer, Mike Bergmaier and Brandon Bumstead collectively agree there is something to be learned from the experience.

"As I have had the chance to take different classes that have improved my writing and research skills, the thesis has also grown and benefited along with me," said Sommer, who suggested having an interest in the thesis topic makes it easier to put in long hours reading, researching, writing and editing ... and rewriting and re-editing. "It becomes easy to get tired of the research, the project and your own writing, but if it's something you're interested in, it makes it worth it."

Sommer's thesis is titled "Teacher/Student Interactions and Student Learning Outcomes" and examines "various teacher and student communication variables and how they relate to three different student learning outcomes." Sommer explained his goal is to "help better understand how our communication as a teacher or student can lead to higher levels of student learning."

Choosing a topic was difficult for Bergmaier, who changed his prospectus at his defense and decided to focus on the crisis rhetoric of three different political issues from three different Presidential administrations. "Rhetorical and political communication has long been an area of interest for me," Bergmaier said. "(Focusing) on fear and how politicians justify doing or not doing something based on fear. Those themes are common throughout all forms of discourse."

Bergmaier said his thesis writing experience taught him discipline. A tip on staying disciplined? "Get started as early as you can," Bergmaier offered. "If you are disciplined enough to write the prospectus and get it accepted early, you'll have no problem. If you have that topic and are ready to go, take advantage of it if you can."



Bergmaier **Bumstead** **Sommer**

Bumstead's experience was similar to Bergmaier's, with the direction of his thesis changing many times. "(Working on a thesis) is very much a learning process. Sometimes you'll write 10 pages that have to get chopped because (the committee and I) decide they don't fit anymore. It's a learning process in many ways," he said.

Aside from learning about thesis writing and the research process, Bumstead also learned a little about himself. "I've learned how far you can push yourself in terms of writing. I've also learned to manage my time better ... I've learned a lot in terms of research and about myself and how I need to function to make it all work," Bumstead said.

Bumstead's thesis examines gender ambiguity within athletics, with particular emphasis on how the media deals with cases of gender in athletics as the focus of his thesis. He examines how the media talks about the subject, specifically "special language and tactics that discipline those outside of a very easy to read gender."

As for the future of his work, Bumstead would like to see it be a part of a larger project. "Maybe a book project, but about the topic more generally and not necessarily confined to athletics," he said. "It's a good project to help develop my own interests and a good base of research to start with."

What does classmate Bergmaier plan to do with his work? "I'm so deep in it right now it's hard to tell," he confessed, though he did say there is a chance he will develop it in some way because "it is connected to areas I am interested in."

Sommer hopes to use his work in the future, either through continued research or with his teaching.

Speech team places 4th at Novice National Tournament

The Ball State Individual Events speech team placed 4th at the 29th Annual Novice National Tournament March 12 at the University of Indianapolis.

The victory was a combined effort between current team members and students enrolled in the Immersive Learning project. This was Ball State's second year participating at the tournament. The Ball State speech team will also attend the American Forensics Association national tournament and the National Forensics Association national tournament in April.

Complete results:

TEAM SWEEPSTAKES

4th Place: Ball State University

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES

3rd place: Andrew Neylon

PROSE INTERPRETATION

6th place: Kate Shaffer

5th place: Andrew Neylon

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

3rd place: Andrew Neylon

COMMUNICATION ANALYSIS

7th place: Kate Shaffer

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

National champion: Andrew Neylon

POETRY INTERPRETATION

7th place: Sarah Mendenhall

AFTER DINNER SPEAKING

4th place: Andrew Neylon

DUO INTERPRETATION

8th place: Sarah Mendenhall and Abby Brock

CommStudies student athletes know commitment

By Maggie Doyle
Senior

For many student athletes who are Communication Studies majors, their association with their sport began in childhood. They have since turned a childhood passion into a significant commitment. For example, Maggie Brown started playing soccer when she was 5 years old. Now she is on Ball State's Women's Soccer Team. While these athletes' commitment to their sport might not be a surprise to their Communication Studies classmates, the amount of effort they have to exert to balance sports with their academic and personal lives might be a surprise.

A lot of Ball State students have misconceptions not only about what a Communication Studies major does,

but also what student athletes have to deal with on a daily basis. According to Mackenzie Imbro, a member of the Ball State Women's Swimming Team, "other students do not realize the extra hard work and effort it takes to maintain good grades while performing on a team. We practice 20 hours a week." In addition to practice, the average student athlete has to incorporate a number of other activities into their day, including workouts, studying, meeting with coaches and extensive traveling.

According to Zac Jordan, a senior member of the Men's Football Team, "Time management for an athlete is a huge factor that not a lot of students understand. Being successful in school, our sport, maintaining a healthy

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"... there is a distinct elevation in the dedication of the team as a whole when we know that the national title is at stake."

Lauren Henry | Junior Debate Team member

years Pike has participated with the debate team, he has seen teams work independently and some that prefer to work together, the latter of which he claims as being the strength of this year's team.

"They really came together as a team ... really supported each other, which is the strength of this group. They pulled themselves up by their bootstraps after two weak tournaments early in the semester," Pike said. "Seniors took on leadership roles and everyone else supported the seniors."

Sophomore Elizabeth Hibbler agrees.

"I think that there was a lot more team collaboration. For instance, for all the other tournaments, I wrote my case with just my partner; but for nationals, the team also helped my

partner and I with a lot of input and ideas for arguments," Hibbler said.

According to junior Lauren Henry, preparing for each tournament is important, "but there is a distinct elevation in the dedication of the team as a whole when we know that the national title is at stake." Henry said in the final weeks before nationals the team "really pulled together" to card evidence and create organized responses to arguments they had heard throughout the semester.

Of her experience on the team, Henry said it is a great confidence builder. "(It's) a wonderful way for anyone who has anxiety about public speaking to gain confidence and to leave behind the fear that has prevented them from being the outgoing individuals that they always wanted to be."

DEBATE TEAM RESULTS

ALL-AMERICAN DEBATERS

Nick Shipe and Joel Franz

OVERALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1st place: Ball State University
2nd place: University of Dayton
3rd place: Duquesne University

TEAM AWARDS:

NOVICE CROSSFIRE

1st place team: Kassie Markovich and Shawna Vertrees
5th place team: Nicole Fortunato and Alyssia Haymond

NOVICE POLICY

1st place team: Alysha Hoffa and Mark Rose
2nd place team: Jessica Johnson and Christian Villarruel
5th place team: Rachel Harned and Cassie Lovitt

VARSITY POLICY

5th place team: Joel Franz

VARSITY CROSSFIRE

2nd place team: Kellie Snyder and Stephanie Amato
Semifinalist: Elizabeth Hibbler and Lucas Blauvelt
Semifinalist: Lauren Bade and Ky'lea Wright
Quarterfinalist: Nick Shipe

SPEAKER AWARDS:

NOVICE POLICY

1st place: Alysha Hoffa
2nd place: Mark Rose
3rd place: Cassie Lovitt
5th place: Jessica Johnson

NOVICE CROSSFIRE

2nd place: Alyssia Haymond
4th place: Kassie Markovich
Tie for 5th place: Shawna Vertrees and Katee Higginbothan

VARSITY POLICY

Tie for 5th place: Joel Franz

VARSITY CROSSFIRE

1st place: Lucas Blauvelt
2nd place: Kellie Snyder
4th place: Nick Shipe
5th place: Elizabeth Hibbler

Immersive class gains hand-on experience with speech teams

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

The Speech Immersive Learning class has had a successful, if intense, semester. The fifteen immersive students coached a high school speech team, hosted a high school speech tournament, and participated in the 29th Annual Novice National Tournament as part of the 4th place Ball State Speech team.

According to Ashley Coker, Assistant Director of Individual Events, the Speech Immersive Learning class is a three-fold program. First, the fifteen immersive learning students are expected to participate on the Ball State speech team. Second, the students coach and run practices for Broad Ripple High School Speech Team students, which this semester involved practices three times a week. Third, the

immersive learning students organize and host an area high school invitation-al tournament.

“Academically, it’s a good experience for immersive learning students to plan a big event, which is not much different than planning a wedding, except you don’t know who is coming until the week of,” said Coker. “Event planning, working as part of a group, organization ... they are all good experiences for communication students to have,” Coker said.

Currently in its third year, the Immersive Learning class worked with Burris in its first year and with Broad Ripple the past two. In addition to Coker, the five-member coaching staff includes Director of Individual Events Mary Moore, and graduate assistants Brandon Bumstead, Heather Chaulk and Shelley Kimrey.

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Lee Horn award, but also is what surprises coaches Moore and Coker about him the most. Moore said, “Eric has the best heart. He is not only the captain of the team, but he is a listener, a peer coach, a role model, and a reliable teammate. We are so lucky to have him.”

Eric said he was very humbled to hear these words from his coaches and to receive the Lee Horn award. He said that he could not have succeeded without his “super coaches, super team, and all of the great experiences” the team has had.

LAMBDA PI ETA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

President: Lisa Cappa
Vice-President: Kortnie Kammeyer
Secretary: Leanne Fabellar
Treasurer: Betsy Whited
Historian: Devanny Kuhn

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lifestyle, and keeping up with the social aspect of college all at once can be really overwhelming.” Devanny Kuhn, a junior player on the Women’s Field Hockey Team, agreed, adding that “Having to travel on the weekend and keep up with all the tests and homework can be difficult.”

Despite these struggles, the athletes also receive great rewards. For example, as Shaniece Thorpe, a member of the Women’s Soccer Team, explained, “Acquiring new and positive life changing experiences is a great reward. Also, building and developing meaningful relationships with my team members, coaching staff, and other student athletes.” Other athletes also view their teammates and coaches as their family, which is a bond many other college students may not get with their classmates and friends.

As Imbro said, “my teammates and coaches are my biggest reward through my sport. They are my family away from home.” Joshua Howard, another member of the Men’s Football Team expressed the same idea. “The bonds we make through football are ones that I’ll always have with me. They are my family and I’m going to miss that aspect the most when I leave

here,” Howard said.

While many of these students are in different sports, they can all relate to one topic — they all believe that their Communication Studies major helps them develop important skills. Jordan said he pursued a Communication Studies major because his advisor got to know him and his interests and suggested this as a possible major. He loves it because “communication is an essential key to any job. My interest in sales fit perfectly for a Communication Studies major and I could see how it would benefit my future if I was able to better my speaking ability and the way that I present myself.” Howard said he decided on Communication Studies as a major because “it helps me to open up more and I feel I have learned to communicate with a variety of people in a positive way.”

Brown contended her major “helps me learn how to effectively communicate with others and also more about myself and becoming a better leader in the process.”

Perhaps Imbro summed it up best when she said Communication Studies is a “fun, multi-dimensional major that everyone could benefit from.”

COMM Majors who are STUDENT ATHLETES

Mary Brown	Women’s Soccer
Justin Cruz	Men’s Football
Travis Freeman	Men’s Football
Torieal Gibson	Men’s Football
Suzanne Grossnickle	Women’s Basketball
Morgan Hammer	Women’s Field Hockey
Jordan Hansel	Men’s Football
Joshua Howard	Men’s Football
Maurice Hubbard	Men’s Basketball
Daniel Ifft	Men’s Football
Mackenzie Imbro	Women’s Swimming and Diving
Zachary Jordan	Men’s Football
Devanny Kuhn	Women’s Field Hockey
Molly Lawless	Women’s Outdoor Track
Jason Pinkston	Men’s Football
Kyle Raleigh	Men’s Baseball
Pierre Sneed	Men’s Basketball
Cory Sykes	Men’s Football
Shaniece Thorpe	Women’s Soccer
Marisa Weachter	Women’s Field Hockey
Kathryn Wilczynski	Women’s Softball
Justin Woodard	Men’s Football

Events

APRIL

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 11-15

National Student Employment week

MONDAY | 11

Night Before Nationals Showcase - Come support the Speech Team before they travel to the National Forensic Association National Tournament, 6:30 p.m., Pruis Hall.

WEDNESDAY | 13

Pulliam Awards 11:30 a.m., Cardinal Hall
Pulliam Lecture 8:00 p.m., Cardinal Hall

THURSDAY | 14

NFA National tournament, Illinois State University, Normal, Ill

WEDNESDAY | 20

Building Better Communities Showcase
4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Student Center Ballroom

SATURDAY | 23

Communication Studies Award Banquet

THURSDAY | 28

Legally Blonde the Musical 7:30 p.m., Emens Auditorium

FRIDAY | 29

Last meeting day for regular classes

MAY

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 2-6

Final Examination Period

FRIDAY | 6

Spring Semester Ends

SATURDAY | 7

May Commencement

Residence Halls close at 6p.m.

COMMeNTary

APRIL 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

| Editor and design |

Vicki Rosenberger, Graduate Assistant

| Reporter |

Maggie Doyle, Senior

| Advisors |

Glen Stamp, Department Chair
Beth Messner, Associate Professor

COMMeNTary is published monthly for the faculty, students and alumni of the Ball State University Department of Communication Studies. Any comments or suggestions should be directed to: bsucommstudies@gmail.com

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and potential outcomes and seek direction through scripture. The largest lesson he hopes they learn is that they can demonstrate their commitment to their faith by loving and serving others.

According to Jeff, there is “no normal day” in his job. During a typical week, he trains and supervises his staff of youth leaders; plans and implements programming; creates and delivers the Sunday message for the Oneighty middle-school participants; and provides counseling and support for both young people and their parents. One of the more sizable projects he currently is working on involves planning and fundraising for a two-week summer trip to Kazakhstan. During this trip, he and other members of his team will be working in an orphanage in conjunction with a humanitarian aid organization.

Jeff explains that communication skills are essential to his work. “I don’t think I could have picked a better degree for what I’m doing right now,” he said. His knowledge of organizational management and his skills in leadership, public speaking, and conflict management are useful on a daily basis. Jeff also notes that he must be very creative when communicating

as well. Like many young people, the students in his program tend to learn visually and kinetically. So, you can’t simply talk “at” them. Rather, you typically need to find memorable ways of demonstrating and of involving them in the learning process. For example, in a message that encouraged Oneighty members to improve their relationships with their parents, he designed an exercise around the acronym “R.A.F.T.” (i.e., Respect, Appreciation, Forgiveness, and Trust).

The most fulfilling part of Jeff’s work is when he sees his Oneighty members make a life change, “do a 180,” in response to such messages. Such good works help him realize one of his favorite quotations: “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value” (by Albert Einstein).

Jeff encourages current students who are interested in “being of value” through nonprofit work to “just get started. Get started right where you are.” He notes that there are many faith-based and youth-oriented service organizations all around Muncie that Communication Studies majors can contribute to while still in school. As he says, “Don’t wait to complete the degree” to invest yourself in your community and make a difference.



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

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