

# COMMentary

October 2011 | Volume 2 | Issue 2

## COMM Club Kickball Fundraiser: Part 2

By Glen Stamp  
Department Chair

For the second year in a row, the Department of Communication Studies student group COMM Club organized a kickball fundraiser to support Denise Earehart, former budget director in the CCIM Dean's office. Denise is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. Six different student and faculty teams participated: "American Advertising Federation ("AAF"), "Lambda Pi Eta," "COMM Club," "Communication Studies faculty" (the "Fac Attack"), "Dirty S. McKinley," and "Newslink." Including entree fees and raffle items, the money raised totaled \$300.00.

The games were valiantly fought, if not entirely competitive. In the first game, for example, "AAF" beat the "Fac Attack" 12-0. When asked after the game about the "Fac Attack's" play, "AAF" player Jacob Eaton responded kindly, if not entirely truthfully, "we respect our opposition." Similarly, the "Fac Attack's" best player, Brian Mann (faculty member Kendra Tarr's significant other), who also happened to be the only "Fac Attack" player not on faculty, indicated "it was hard to keep up with my teammates." Mann, however, seemed to keep up just fine by making most of the plays in the



Submitted Photos

**TOP** — Team Dirty S. McKinley wins kickball tournament.

**BOTTOM** — Members from team Fac Attack Kristen McCauliff and Brian Mann.

field, thereby helping the game from getting completely out of control. (It should be noted that both Glen Stamp and Laura O'Hara declined to play, each stating they had a "leg injury." While it is doubtful their athletic prowess would have made much of difference, the validity of their respective injury claims was greeted with much skepticism.)

Due to a lack of players, "Newslink" and Lambda Pi Eta" combined their forces into one team. In addition, referee Michael Hole, who is also a member of the COMM Club student group, split his duties by both refereeing and fielding for the "COMM Club" team. This was very helpful as he made many of

see **KICKBALL** | page 5

## Alumni Establish "First Day Scholars" Fund



Submitted Photo

**GRADUATE ALUMNI** — Christine Thompson, James Atkins, and Kelley Stedman have initiated the "First Day Scholars Fund" for graduate student scholarships.

By Beth Messner  
Associate Professor

Three recent alumni of the department's Masters' program have united to create a new scholarship for Communication Studies graduate students. James Atkins (B'09; M'11), Christine Thompson (M'11) and Kelley Stedman (B'98; M'11) are establishing the "First Day Scholars Fund" to assist beginning graduate students. Glen Stamp, Chair and Graduate Director of the Department of Communication Studies, is grateful for their efforts: "Starting this fund is such a wonderful and meaningful gift . . . Through this scholarship, the generosity of our MA alumni will help to support future graduate students in our program."

The premise behind the "First Day Scholars Fund" is rather simple. James, who conceptualized the effort, explains: "Upon graduating and accepting our first job, alumni will donate our first

see **SCHOLARSHIP** | page 4

**SARAH DEWITT (B'11)** - has joined the Ball State University staff as the Commencement Coordinator. With the Summer 2011 commencement under her belt, she is moving full speed ahead toward December's Commencement activities!

**JASON MALDONADO (B'06; M'08)** - is a Senior Account Executive at Edelman, a global public relationship firm, in Chicago, IL.

**ABBIE ALSENE (M'07)** - is the Coordinator of Student Engagement at Marshalltown Community College in Marshalltown, IA and working toward a doctorate in the Higher Education Administration program at Illinois State University.

**WEN-CHIA CHANG (M'06)** - is pursuing her Master's degree in the Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation (ERME) program at Boston College.

**DONALD PETERS (B'01; M'05)** - is a Lecturer and Director of Debate in the School of Communication at Illinois State University. He is also ABD from Wayne State University and working on his dissertation. In addition, his team won the faculty/staff bowling league last spring.

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If you are an alumnus of the Department of Communication Studies and would like to contribute information about yourself for a future issue of COMMENTARY, please contact Glen Stamp at: [gstamp@bsu.edu](mailto:gstamp@bsu.edu) or Beth Messner at: [bmessner@bsu.edu](mailto: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.

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**Editor's Note**

Alumni notes are based on information received from the Alumni Association and individual e-mails. The Department of Communication Studies apologizes for any omissions or changes that have occurred since receiving this information.

## Making One Community Better at a Time

By Nathan Erwin  
Student

This fall, a group of Ball State Students, supervised by Dr. Peggy Fisher, are working with the CASA organization as part of the Building Better Communities program (BBC). CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Its mission is to seek refuge and alternative living programs for abused and neglected children.

The CASA group is comprised of 11 members, whose majors encompass multiple departments. This group is seeking to aid CASA in expanding their volunteer pool, improving their training program, and also helping them create an event

**FIND OUT MORE:**

Students interested in participating in the BBC Fellows Program should contact Dr. Fisher at [pfisher@bsu.edu](mailto:pfisher@bsu.edu).

during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Dr. Fisher believes she has selected the best possible students for this program, although she did have to turn some

away. "Selecting students was challenging since I had so many qualified applicants," says Fisher. Dr. Fisher has set high standards for this highly qualified group: "I expect hard work, enthusiasm, initiative, adaptability, a sense of humor, respect for all, and a learning attitude."

Through this project, Shae Robison, a senior Social Work major, hopes to "gain knowledge, experience, and skills that could help me with my future career." More specifically, she is enjoying "working with an organization in my interest area



Submitted Photo

FROM LEFT- Amy Payne, Kaitlyn Shores, Jeff Hansard, Cesalie Black

while learning professionalism."

Caroline Davis, a senior History major, is looking forward to helping the children involved in CASA: "I had never heard of CASA before I applied to this program, and when I started reading about what CASA does, and how much help they truly need, it pulled at my heart strings."

The BBC Fellows have learned a great deal so far. Anthony Hosier, a junior Public Relations major, has learned that, "there are so many hard working people out there working for good causes. It really motivates you to give . . . your all when you meet these people at CASA and see how much time and effort they put into their job. I feel that it is my responsibility to try my best and do whatever I can to help CASA." Those who were highlighted in this article are just a few of the many who have chosen to make a difference in their community. Answer the call; help to build a better community for everyone.

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## "Career Fair Know How"

By Nathan Erwin  
Student

The annual Fall Career Fair was held in Worthen Arena on Weds., Sept. 14, 2011. Hundreds of students thinking about getting a job visited with over 100 potential employees and internship recruiters at this year's Fall Fair. This included a number of Communication Studies majors.

The businesses represented at the fair are looking for the best and the brightest

to hire. Convincing them to hire Communication Studies majors all begins with preparation. Brendan Durkes, (Senior, Public Communication major) shared his thoughts on how he prepared for the career fair this fall: "the important thing is to gather enough information so you are not simply wandering aimlessly about with resume in hand." Brendan and others agree



# CCIM Dean's List Ceremony

The College of Communication, Information, and Media held its annual Dean's List Reception in Emens Auditorium on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The ceremony honored students within the college who displayed academic excellence during the 2010-2011 school year. 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.

Over 70 Communication Studies majors were recognized for their efforts. Students named below made the Dean's list for at least one of the following semesters:

Fall 2010, Spring 2011 or Summer 2011. The students names are: *Patrick Alyea, Nick Armogida, Tessa Barnard, Samantha Borntreger, Clarissa Bowers, Abigail Brock, Mary Brown, Erin Bunger, Lisa Cappa, Margaret Carter, Renee Cirone, Rachael Clark, Carly Colgan, Tayln Cox, Lauren Criswell, Candis Cruse, Morgan Cullingham, Sarah DeWitt, Alexandra Donaldson, Brendan Durkes, Larry Eddington II, Kayla Elliot, Sarah Ellison, Leanne Fabellar, Niccole Fortunato, Kathleen Gallagher, Sanovia Garrett, Brenda Gonzales, Caleb Green, Allyson Gruel, Kyle Hawkins, Ian Hiatt, Katherine Higginbotham, Daniel Ifft, MacKenzie Imbro, Kortnie Kammeyer, Danielle Kelly,*

*Kendra Kimbrel, Mary Kopecky, Jill Krieger, Devanny Kuhn, Crystal Lane, Chelsey Lloyd, Shadeh Marcus-Parker, Laura McCaffrey, Jamie Mednansky, Frances Mueller, Haley O'Donnell, Mollie O'Rourke, Nathaniel Pace, Kristin Powell, Kayleigh Rayburn, Sarah Rowland, Lindsey Salerno, Alexis Schaefer, Julie Schiappa, Kaitlyn Shultz, Kristen Seidner, Rachael Sexton, Lauren Thomas, Shaniece Thorpe, Bethany (Planton) Turner, Paula Truex, Paige Vandoski, Lisa Vitkin, Stephanie Walsh, Taylor Walt, Dustin White, Elizabeth Whited, Christopher Wine-land, Kim Yapelli and Chelsea Zwepink.*

## Brendan Durkes: *The Business of Writing*

By Beth Messner  
Associate Professor



While most Communication Studies majors spend their college years writing speeches and research papers, Brendan Durkes has found another outlet for his writing talent. Brendan, a senior Public Communication major, has established a budding career as a commentator of thriller fiction.

Brendan's interest in storytelling was apparent at an early age. He loved to read and frequently made up and "performed" stories. While interested in several different genres of literature, the excitement, adventure, and suspense of crime fiction captivated him.

Brendan's first published work was actually an adaptation of a paper that he wrote for COMM 412: Rhetorical Criticism. The article, entitled "The Success of 'I, the Jury,'" examined the success of novelist Mickey Spillane, creator of the Mike Hammer character and one of Brendan's favorite authors. An avid reader of the British Crime Time web magazine, he cold contacted them to see if they would be interested in the story. Much to his delight, they agreed to publish his article in Spring 2010. He was even more delighted to learn that Max Allan Collins, a close friend of Mickey Spillane, enjoyed his article. The article has since been revised and reissued by *Pomp and Circumstantial Evidence*, a newsletter published by *Magna cum Murder*, a crime fiction convention.

In the past year, Brendan also has written two articles for *Crime Spree* magazine. The first, which is already published, is entitled "Footprints: The Spider, Master of Men!" It discusses "The Spider," a pulp fiction hero from the 1930s. The second article will be published in the November/December issue of *Crime Spree*. Brendan originally contacted *Crime Spree* to see if they would be interested in publishing his review of Robert Bidinotto's crime novel entitled *HUNTER: A Thriller*. However, they

see **DURKES** | page 6

## SPEECH TEAM | tournament results

By Mary Moore  
Director of Individual Events

The BSU speech team traveled to Western Kentucky University on September 23-25 to compete at the Ohio University portion of the Fall Fiesta Annual Speech and Debate Tournament.

BSU finished 4th out of 19 schools competing at the tournament. The team traveled 12 students and 4 students received individual awards:

- Andrew Neylon**, sophomore  
*2nd place, Impromptu Speaking*  
*6th place, Dramatic Interpretation*
- Meg Moshe**, junior  
*3rd place, After Dinner Speaking*
- Matthew Marshall**, freshman  
*Top Novice, Informative Speaking*
- Lauren Chapman**, freshman  
*Top Novice, Extemporaneous Speaking*

**EVENT:**  
Join the Speech Team at their next tournament on October 14th and 15th at Ball State.



*Submitted Photo*  
**FRONT ROW** – Emily Atkinson, Bree Nelson, Niccole Fortunato, Meg Moshe, Michelle Colpean, Kathryn Over, Kate Shaffer, Lauren Chapman.  
**BACK ROW**– Kate Roesch, Andrew Neylon, Hanzheng Lin, Matthew Marshall.



## Faculty Feature

By Liz Spangler  
Student

In a small, easily overlooked office on the fourth floor of the Arts and Communication building is the AC Advising Center, run by Carma Shawger, the Academic Adviser and Assistant Faculty Adviser for Arts and Communication. She deals with any major within the colleges of Communication, Information and Media and Fine Arts. She also advises the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology because they are located in the same building.

One of the main things Shawger does is make sure that students are ready for graduation. When a student applies the semester before they plan on graduating, the record gets flagged for review. If they don't seem like they are on the right track for graduation requirements, Shawger will send a letter to the student telling them what requirements they still need to fulfill.



Shawger

Another thing Shawger does is deal with transfer credits. After sending a transcript to the Admissions office, a student would need to call Shawger to be able to get substitution credit. She can only give credit for classes within their major or core curriculum. If the student has a second major or a minor outside of the colleges that she deals with, they would have to talk to someone in that concentration's advising center.

The last thing that a student can take care of within the AC Advising Center is adding or dropping a major or minor. It's a short form that only takes a couple minutes to fill out. Only a major within arts or communication can be added in this office, but almost any minor can be added. The only exceptions are minors that require an application process, such as marketing or leadership and for those, the student must bring approval.

The Arts and Communication Advising office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located in AC414.

## SCHOLARSHIP | continued from page 1

day's salary back to the department as a "Thank You" for guiding us in the pursuit of our Master's degrees." "First Day" scholarships will be given to selected incoming graduate students to assist with the expenses associated with their graduate studies. While most graduate students receive stipends, they must still cover the escalating costs of university fees and expensive textbooks. Christine reflects on her own experience: "Even with all of the financial help through my Graduate Assistantship, those mandatory fees sneak up on you! This type of scholarship would have allowed me to [avoid] . . . another loan for graduate school. More importantly, a scholarship like this would have communicated to me the strength and support of our alumni network and would have excited me as I began my journey becoming part of this department."

Giving back is important to James, Christine, and Kelley. Each of them view the "First Day Scholars Fund" as a way of extending and amplifying the community spirit that they found in the department as students. Kelley notes that "on graduation day, you can often hear graduates joking

about the donation card received inside the diploma jacket. . . . Giving back through this fund feels more personal and effective. . . . My donation will make a difference to students [who are] part of a community that contributed to my success." This notion of supporting their community is particularly meaningful to them since all three have recently received their "first day" positions at Ball State University. Both James and Christine have been hired as Assistant Directors of Admissions for the Office of Admissions. Kelley is now the Research Operations Manager for Ball State's Social Science Research Center.

James, Christine, and Kelley encourage other alumni of the Master's program, particularly recent alumni, to join them in donating their "first day" salaries. These one-time donations are tax deductible and will greatly benefit incoming graduate students. Checks should be made out to the Communication Studies "First Day Scholars Fund" (add #08315 to the memo line) and mailed to the Office of University Development, AL 249, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

## CAREER | continued from page 2

that a resume is the best way to outline your skill set, as well as show potential employers that you are a marketable employee. Chelsey Lloyd (Senior, Interpersonal Communication major) has attended two career fairs in the past and had high expectations for this one: "I expected to network with elite businesses, discuss internship opportunities, and gain valuable knowledge regarding particular businesses." Chelsea's expectations were definitely met. She would suggest that all upperclassmen attend: "It is great way to practice ones professional skills and the appropriate ways to network."

Seniors graduating this Spring and Summer are encouraged to attend the Spring Career Fair which will be held in February. Remember that it's never too early to start preparing!

### FIND OUT MORE:

Students interested in finding out more information should contact the Career Center at [careercenter@bsu.edu](mailto:careercenter@bsu.edu).

## It's a bird, it's a game, it's Homecoming

By Liz Spangler  
Student

This year may have been a record year for Homecoming nominees from Communication Studies. Of the 155 total nominees in the four categories (Student Homecoming Queen, Student Homecoming King, Faculty Homecoming Queen and Faculty Homecoming King), nine were faculty, staff or students out of the department.

The faculty finished well this year with Trevor Nash and Kathy Denker finishing in the top 10 and Denker taking the Faculty Homecoming Queen prize.

Denker had been nominated last year and finished in the top 10.

"I made the top 10 last year, so I thought I might make it again this year. I wasn't expecting to win though; it was a nice surprise," said Denker. "I was on the stage at the talent show when I found out. I actually couldn't really hear because Emens has a horrible echo."

Since winning, her office door has been decorated by colleagues with signs declaring her queen.



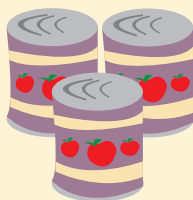
Submitted Photo

**TALENT SEARCH** — Faculty Homecoming Queen Kathy Denker gets crowned during Homecoming Week.

### A Look at the Week of Events

#### Monday :

Canned Food Drive  
Residence Halls Scavenger Hunt  
Opening Day Games and Dance Party



#### Tuesday:

Faculty/Staff Breakfast  
Residence Halls Dinner  
Talent Search  
Faculty/Staff Royalty Coronation



#### Wednesday:

Ball State Saves the Day! Community Service Day  
Blood Drive



#### Thursday:

Air Jam  
Royalty Coronation



#### Friday:

Bed Race  
BSUAA Alumni Awards Dinner  
UPB Friday Night Filmworks



#### Saturday:

Parade  
Alumni Pregame Rally  
Football Game



**KICKBALL** | continued from page 1

the plays. For example, in one inning, he made all three outs in the field. Lisa Cappa also made a nice catch in the outfield while Kyle Hirtz made the play of the game with a spectacular one-armed catch.

Ultimately, "Dirty S. McKinley," a group of students who bonded through both public speaking classes and living arrangements, prevailed and won the tournament and the vaunted trophy. Win or lose, everyone who participated had fun, with the satisfaction of knowing that the money raised by their play was going to a very good cause.

### Communication Nominees

#### Students

Lauren Criswell—**Theta Chi**  
Brenda Gonzalez—**Latino Student Union**  
Jordan Habayeb—**Woody/Shales Hall**  
Taylor Walt—**St.A.R.T.**

#### Faculty/Staff

Kristen McCauliff  
Christine Edgeman  
Peggy Fisher  
Trevor Nash—**Top 10**  
Kathy Denker—**Faculty Homecoming Queen**

## OCTOBER

FRIDAY | 14

**42nd AGE OF AQUARIUS Swing Tournament**  
BSU, TBA

**NFA LD Tournament**

BSU, TBA

SATURDAY | 15

**42nd AGE OF AQUARIUS Swing Tournament**  
BSU, TBA

**NEDA Tournament**

BSU, TBA

**Football versus Ohio University**

ATHENS, OHIO, 3:30 P.M.

SUNDAY | 16

**42nd AGE OF AQUARIUS Swing Tournament**  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY | 22

**Football versus Central Michigan**

SCHEUMANN STADIUM, 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY | 29

**Football versus Western Michigan**

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 2:00 P.M.

## NOVEMBER

TUESDAY | 1

**David Letterman Distinguished Speaker**

presents Bob Dotson on Narrative Storytelling  
PRUIS HALL, 7:30 P.M.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY | 4-5

**Debate Team Parliamentary Tournament**

BSU

MONDAY | 7

**COMM Club Meeting**

LB TBA, 7:00 P.M.



## COMMENTARY

OCTOBER 2011  
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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](mailto:bsucommstudies@gmail.com)

DURKES | continued from page 3

## Given his admiration for the journalist, editor, and lecturer, and now a self-published novelist, he jumped at the chance.

Beth Messner | associate professor

instead offered him the amazing opportunity to actually interview Bidinotto for the article. Given his admiration for the journalist, editor, and lecturer, and now a self-published novelist, he jumped at the chance.

While Brendan enjoys writing about thriller fiction, and aspires to write thrillers himself someday, he also has participated in a different kind of professional writing project. As a minor in Management, he has been involved in a collaborative project with Dr. Cecil Bohanon (Dept. of Economics) and Dr. Michael Goldsby (Exec. Director of the Entrepreneurship Center). Together they wrote a paper presented at the Association of Private Enterprise Education conference in 2010. The paper compared and contrasted two films: The Acton Institute's "Call of the Entrepreneur" and Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead." The paper was well received. Since the presentation, the three have been further developing the paper to focus on fictional cinematic portrayals of entrepreneurship in three films: "The Fountainhead," "East of Eden," and "Mildred Pierce." This article is being considered for publication by The Journal of Markets and Morality. It also inspired an on-campus Entrepreneurial Film Festival held in September, 2011.

At first glance, Brendan's writing

projects seem to occupy two different worlds. However, he sees them tied together by two common themes. First, both feature heroes. The heroes of crime fiction, such as Mike Hammer, are admirable because they stand up for what they believe in and overcome obstacles to fight for justice. Brendan sees a similar type of heroism in the entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs take on great challenges in establishing their own businesses and often overcome tremendous obstacles in their drive to create products, achieve their goals, and make a profit. Brendan also sees another tie between the world of writing and the world of business. To him, contemporary writers aren't simply artists. To be successful, they also must have a head for business. This is particularly true of self-published authors such as Bidinotto. Self publishing allows writers to circumvent the publishing industry and take control over the process through which their art reaches the public. Bidinotto has met with great financial success having done so himself.

After graduation, Brendan envisions himself with a long, successful career in management. But he also would like to continue pursuing his passion for crime fiction. Ultimately, he would love to merge his passion for writing and business into a career.

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