

COMMentary

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A Time to Shine

By Maggie Doyle
Senior

The busiest time of year has arrived—final projects, final exams, finding summer jobs and, for some, graduation! During this busy time, the Department of Communication Studies took a break to host its annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony. This event celebrates the achievements of students, alumni and faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the department.

The ceremony took place in the Ball State University Museum of Art on April 23. Prior to the ceremony, participants

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See page 4 for more photos from the Awards and Recognition Ceremony.

gathered to share hors d'oeuvres, chat with visitors, and reminisce about the year.

The main awards ceremony, in which graduate and undergraduate awards and scholarships were given, was held in Recital Hall.

During the main ceremony, a number of graduate students were recognized for their achievements. The Outstanding Graduate Student Award, as well as the Outstanding Researcher Award, went to Mike Bergmaier. Mike was honored to receive these awards and said, "I would say that the best part about researching in graduate school—especially in this program—is that you get to focus on whatever interests you."

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Professional Development Award went to Christine Thompson. The Outstanding Teacher Award was given to Kendra Tarr.



Submitted Photo

ALUMNI HONORED — Stephanie Walsh receives the Outstanding Senior Award at the Department of Communication Studies annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony in April.

Aaron Estabrook received the Outstanding Service Award.

Estabrook said that service "shows you are willing to go beyond what is expected and that you care about others. Helping others is a passion of mine, from working as a volunteer high school football coach at Muncie Southside to creating a speech

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A Passion for Animals

By Beth A. Messner
Associate Professor

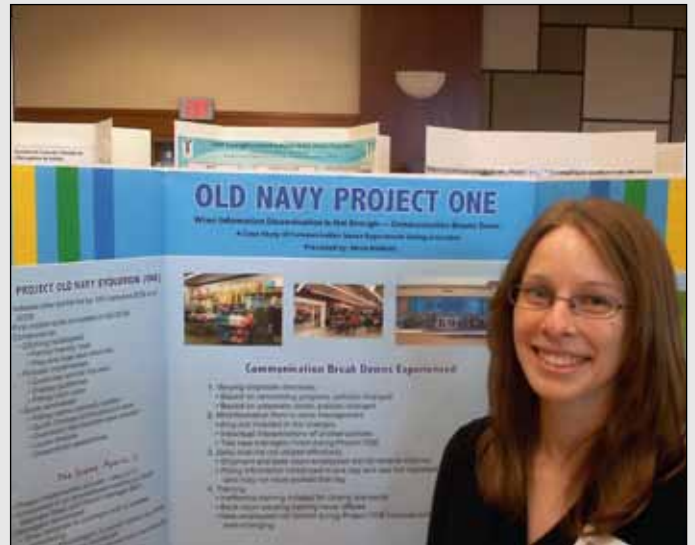
As Phil Peckinpaugh (B '08) explains it, he has "always had a passion for animal welfare." This passion has led him down a path filled with many challenges, a lot of personal satisfaction, and a multitude of furry friends. Phil is the Executive Director of ARF, the Animal Rescue Fund of Muncie, Indiana.

While Phil jokingly refers to himself as the "Chief Pooper Scooper," his job is very serious—lives depend upon it. ARF is a no-kill shelter that offers abused, neglected, and otherwise unwanted animals a safe home, medical care and love until new, permanent owners can be found for them. The shelter currently houses 65 dogs, 55 cats, and a pot-bellied pig named Chet.

Working at ARF initially was not part of Phil's lifeplan. Immediately after his graduation from Ball State University, Phil accepted a position as a stock broker. However, he quickly discovered this job did not really suit him. At the same time, ARF was looking for an Assistant Director. Given his love of animals, an internship experience in a well-respected nonprofit organization, and academic emphasis in Communication Studies, the position seemed like a perfect fit. Apparently the ARF Board of Directors thought so as well. Only three months later, they hired Phil again, this time as the Executive Director of the organization.

see **ARF** | page 10

Students participate in Symposium



Photos by Glen Stamp

BSU event is an opportunity to share work, help educate others

Jessica Choquette (left) and Marie Hoffman (right) participated in the Student Symposium in March. The Symposium was the second for Choquette, who presented her project at the CCIM Kaleidoscope Symposium in February.

Entitled *The Dismissal of the Juarez Femicide*, Choquette's project focused on "the media framing and cultural dismissal of violence against women." Choquette said she submitted the project "because of its overall message and understanding of a new humanitarian event."

Hoffman's presentation used an autoethnographic approach to address Old Navy's communication problems

during Project Old Navy Evolution (ONE). "I examined how the top-down information dissemination structure distorted messages," said Hoffman, who was an employee at Old Navy during the innovation.

The decision to participate in the Symposium, Hoffman's first at Ball State, was made because Hoffman regarded it as "a good opportunity to share my work My project was an autoethnography. Many of the participants and other visitors who stopped by enjoyed my analysis of the situation."

Hoffman said her experience at the Symposium was positive and she would recommend it to others, especially to non-rhetorical students.

Collective culture of Slam Poetry attracts graduate student

Over the course of this semester, graduate student Heather Chaulk has been writing, learning, and embedding herself in the Slam Poetry culture.

Chaulk traveled to a national tournament to observe how the system works. Through this event she "met new people, made a plethora of great friends and strengthened her writing in abundance."

After three weeks of intensive writing and memorization, Chaulk was offered a opportunity as the wild card to try and compete for a spot on the Indianapolis Slam Team.

"Being offered the wild card spot be-

cause of my work ethic, after only three weeks, was already a honor and grand gesture from Corey Ewing and Adam Henze who are in charge of the Indianapolis chapter," Chaulk said.

The Indianapolis poetry slam took place in March at Locals Only in Broad Ripple. The competition featured the 12 competitors who won Slams throughout the year (one each month) and who accumulated the most points in competition among the 45 poets who competed throughout the year. Chaulk placed 5th in the competition, securing her a place on the Indianapolis Slam Team.

Chaulk started as an alternate but has been moved to a permanent spot on the team. To prepare for the season, which starts in August and goes until April, Chaulk said the team practices three times a week. Their first event in August will be the National Slam in Boston.

It's really therapeutic," Chaulk said of her experience. "There is very open communication—there is diversity not found anywhere else. It's a collective culture; we all share stories and are supported. It's very open to whoever wants to let their voice be heard."

AWARDS | continued from page 1

competition that helps the local community ... I am very proud of this award and it is nice to be recognized for helping others.”

Two graduate students received the Graduate Colleague Award—Paul Sommer and Leland Fecher. This award is voted on by other graduate students to recognize colleagues who have been particularly helpful and supportive.

Along with the graduate awards, three undergraduate awards were presented. The first of the awards was the Rising Star award which recognizes a new major in the program who has a strong academic record and who holds promise to become a role model. This was given to Katherine Higginbotham. She was honored to receive this award and said she enjoys being a part of this department because, “I love how small it is, and how the professors really get to know the students. They are all very welcoming and do their best to help when you need it”.

The other awards are given to Outstanding Senior and Outstanding Junior of the year. The Outstanding Junior Award was given to Katherine Herbert. The Outstanding Senior Award was given to Stephanie Walsh. Stephanie, who is graduating in May, contributes her success to a supportive Communication Studies department. “I have always found I am most motivated to perform my best in school when I feel valued, respected, and challenged by my teachers. Our amazing faculty does all that and more. I am honored that this group I admire so much found me worthy of this award,” she said.

In addition to these awards, a number of students received scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year. The Donald P. Knott Scholarships were awarded to Patrick Alyea, Tessa Barnard, Leanne Fabellar, and Mary Kopecky. These scholarships recognize students for their academic achievements. The Richard G. Nitcavic Diversity Scholarships were awarded to Michelle Colpean and Leanne Fabellar for their efforts to promote tolerance and acceptance of difference. The Richard G. Nitcavic Involvement Scholarships went to Lisa Cappa, Stephanie Amato, Niccole Fortunato, and Michelle



Submitted Photo

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED — Nancy Williamson and Kelly Young receive the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award from Beth Messner. Look for more information about our Distinguished Alumni in the September 2011 issue of *COMMENTary*.

“I have always found I am most motivated to perform my best in school when I feel valued, respected, and challenged by my teachers. Our amazing faculty does all that and more.”

Stephanie Walsh | Outstanding Senior Award Recipient

Colpean. To receive this scholarship, students made significant contributions to student organizations within the department. The World Tour Initiative Scholarships are for students who plan to study abroad. These were given to Jessica Choquette, Kristina White, and Mary Kopecky. Finally, the Richard G. Nitcavic Graduate Student Scholarships were awarded to Jessica Choquette and Megan Burkett, first-year graduate students who demonstrated scholarly excellence.

Several students also received scholarships for their involvement and achievement on the Speech and Debate Teams. Speech team scholarships were given to Michelle Colpean and Andrew Neylon. Debate Team scholarships were awarded to Mark Rose, Kellie Snyder, and Rachel Harned.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni

Awards were given to Kelly Young, Assistant Professor of Communication at Wayne State University and Nancy Williamson, the Educational Research Manager for Astral Industries.

One award is given to a faculty member each year as well. This year’s faculty award was given to Katherine Denker for her service to the department. According to Denker, “It has been a real honor to receive the service award from a department that overall exemplifies a commitment to our students, university and professional community.”

All of the recipients of these awards and scholarships were recognized at this fun-filled event. It has been a busy year for students and faculty alike, but most definitely a successful one. Congratulations to all of the students and faculty for such a wonderful year!

Awards and Recognition Ceremony

Submitted Photos

HONORS AND FESTIVITIES — (1) Haley Armstrong and Andrew Neylon, members of the Individual Events team, entertain the ceremony audience with their Duo Interpretation performance.

(2) Senior Brendon Durkes and his mom watch the ceremony.

(3) Faculty, students and guests gather for the department's 2010-2011 Awards Recognition Ceremony in Ball State's Museum of Art.

(4) Graduate Student Award winners Aaron Estabrook, Paul Sommer, Christine Thompson, award presenter Kathy Denker, Kendra Tarr, Jessica Choquette and Kristina White.





Submitted Photo
SEEING RED — Participants in the April “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event donned red heels and strutted their stuff along McKinley Avenue. The event promotes awareness of sexual violence.

COMM 340: Marching against sexual violence

On April 7, 2011, men wearing red, three-inch high, stiletto heels marched in front of the David Letterman Building to take a stance against sexualized violence. Despite the cool weather, more than 100 registered participants came to support Ball State’s second annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event, an international march against gendered violence. Students currently enrolled in the Department of Communication Studies “Leadership Communication” class helped to organize the event in conjunction with Ball State University’s Office of Victim Services.

Course instructor Angie Day believes the class project provides students with practical leadership experience and emphasizes the importance of community service. With aching feet and pinched toes, participants cheerfully (but not necessarily gracefully) competed in limbo competitions and relay races in addition to marching in heels. The fun atmosphere helped to create awareness about the serious issue of violence against women. More than \$45.00 also was



Submitted Photo
HELPING HANDS — Members of COMM 340. **Back row:** Angie Day holding Nevin Miller, Peggy Carnes, Jason Hess, Clayton Judd, Mitch Miller, Mary Conley, Katie Foltz, Lydia Lengel and Brandon Hess. **Front row:** Anna Miller (purple coat), Emily Deitch, Kortnie Kammeyer, Mary Goris, Ashley Keeling, and Paula Truex.

raised to help the Office of Victim Services buy care kits for victims of violence and abuse.

Angie Day contributed to this article.

AFTER GRADUATION ...

Probably the most asked question of any graduating senior is “what do you plan to do *after* graduation?” Here are a few responses from Communication Studies students on their post-graduation plans.



DANIEL IFFT
Organizational
Communication

Daniel's Plans: Daniel will be moving on to grad school after graduation in hopes of coaching a college football team someday.

MAGGIE DOYLE
Organizational
Communication

Maggie's Plans: “I am moving onto the Aveda Fredric’s Institute in Castleton, Ind. after graduation. I will be there for one year and in five years I hope to be in a management position in a salon and someday own my own Spa in Indiana, or wherever a future family takes me.”



ASHLEY KOHR
Organizational
Communication

Ashley's Plans: “I want to be working as part of the sales team at Lexis Nexis in Dayton, Ohio.

In five years I would love to either still be working for Lexis Nexis, or another major company in either Chicago or New York.”



JOEL FRANZ

Interpersonal Communication

Joel's Plans: “I am either working in Indianapolis for Blackbaud CO, working with NGO’s, moving back to Baltimore, or moving to Norwich, UK, to start an internship with my editor. I intend on being a full editor or publicist for a publishing house in five years. That or going to grad school to start my Ph.D.”

LAUREN CLEAVER

Organizational Communication



Lauren's Plans: “My immediate plan after graduation is to move to Indianapolis and work for Republic Services as a Human Resource Representative. In five years, I see myself as being in the same organization but advanced to a higher level of the company.”

NICHOLAS ARMOGIDA

Public Communication

Nicholas' Plans: “I will be home for the summer then abroad teaching English, though I am not sure of where that will be yet. In five years I plan to retire, but if that doesn’t work I’d like to work for a non-profit.”

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MILES GRIFO
Organizational
Communication

Miles Plans: Moving back to Ohio in search of a job, excited to be graduating.

STEPHANE WALSH
Organizational
Communication

Stephanie's Plans: "I have a second major in Spanish. I am unsure of my plans after graduation, and that is okay by me. I just hope to work in the entertainment industry one day."



BETHANY PLANTON
Interpersonal Communication

Bethany's Plans: "I will be getting married & working in Tuscaloosa, Alabama probably as a personal assistant in a department at the University of Alabama for a little while. I hope to be event planning for a nonprofit organization."



ERIN POPPLEWELL
Organizational
Communication

Erin's Plans: "I am going to be moving to Lafayette to start my job as a management trainee for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

I would really like to be in an upper management position specifically tied with sales someday."

KATIE DUKES
Organizational Communication



Katie's Plans: "Immediately after graduation I will be finishing my internship at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino in Anderson. I started in mid-March and will be here through mid-July when standardbred racing ends. After that I have nothing set in stone. In five years I hope to have a job in marketing within some sort of tourism attraction or county tourism office."

JAMIE MADNANSKY
Organizational Communication



Jamie's Plans: "After I graduate, I will be moving home to Chicago to hopefully work as a corporate event coordinator at a hotel, museum, or company in Chicago. In five years, I hope to have a successful job in the event planning industry!"



Submitted Photo

TEAM RECOGNITION — Members of the Ball State Speech Team display awards they earned at the National Forensics Association National Tournament. Front row: Bree Nelson, Meg Moshe, Michelle Colpean and Kate Roesch. Back row: Haley Armstrong, Andrew Nelyon, Eric Roesch and Niccole Fortunato.

Speech Team finishes 7th at NFA Nationals

The Ball State University Speech Team placed 7th in Division I competition at the 2011 National Forensics Association National tournament in April. The only team from Indiana to place, Ball State earned a 20th place finish overall. Over 1,200 competitors from 98 colleges and universities participated in the tournament, which was hosted by Illinois State University.

“We are very excited about our 7th place finish at NFA,” said Director of Individual Events, Mary Moore. “It has been five years since we have competed in Division I, so to return with a top 10 finish was more than we could have asked for.”

Other schools competing in Division I included Northwestern, Florida State, Northern Illinois University, and California State University, Long Beach.

Competition at this level can be daunting, not only because of the number of schools participating, Moore explained, but also because team members need to perform well multiple times in multiple events. According to Moore, the experience team members gain at this level is worth it.

“As a young team, competing at NFA helps build our reputa-

BALL STATE RESULTS:

- Sophomore Haley Armstrong and freshman Andrew Neylon advanced to quarterfinals in Dramatic Duo Interpretation.
- Overall 20th place finish as a team.
- Division I 7th place finish as a team.

tion by providing exposure for our students. It is a great learning experience for the students in attendance because they can watch students from all over the country and gain insight into both technique and style,” she said.

As Moore said, the team is young and has learned a great deal this year.

“We have had a great season—we competed at 19 tournaments this year and placed at eight. This was a rebuilding year, but you wouldn’t know it if you looked at our trophies!” Moore said. “We have a great group of committed, talented, enthusiastic students returning, so I am expecting great things for next year.”

Year in Review

Student
groups

LAMBDA PI ETA OFFICERS

Outgoing 2010-2011 Officers

President: Jamie Mednansky
Secretary: Stephanie Walsh
Treasurer: Danielle Minton
Historian: Lauren Cleaver
Technology Chair: Leanne Fabellar

New 2011-2012 Officers

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

COMM CLUB (NCASC)

Outgoing 2010-2011 Officers

President: Maggie Doyle
Vice President: Erin Popplewell
Secretary: Kortnie Kammeyer
Publicity: Devanny Kuhn
Events: Ashley Keeling
Treasurer: Crystal Lane

New 2011-2012 Officers

President: Devanny Kuhn
Vice President: Michael Hole
Secretary: Lisa Cappa
Publicity and Events: Ashley Keeling
Treasurer: Crystal Lane

COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (CPN)

Outgoing 2010-2011 Officers

President: Lisa Cappa
Vice President: Chad Allen

New Officers — To Be Announced

COMMENTary

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Maggie Doyle, Senior

| ADVISORS |

Glen Stamp, Department Chair
Beth Messner, Associate Professor

DEBATE TEAM WINS 4TH STRAIGHT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011
MUNCIE SCORE AMBASSADORS

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS MEMBERS



APRIL 2011
LEE HORN AWARD
RECIPIENT

CCIM DEAN'S LIST CEREMONY



SEPTEMBER 2010
SUPER PARTY

OCTOBER 2010 DEPARTMENT HISTORY



NOVEMBER 2010
PIE YOUR PROFESSOR

SPEECH TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



MARCH 2011
KALEIDOSCOPE SYMPOSIUM



DECEMBER 2010
BUCKET SPEECH

As the Executive Director, Phil's duties are many and varied. Ultimately, however, he describes his chief responsibility as "making sure the operation runs smoothly." This means that he can be engaged in fundraising one moment and dealing with animal intake in the next. He routinely handles phone calls from the public, works with community members to facilitate ARF's community outreach program, helps coordinate volunteers, manages donor relations, and occasionally wields a pooper scooper.

The demands of Phil's job can be quite challenging; he is on call 24 hours a day and often does not come home from work until late at night. As the father of a young child, Phil recognizes that this "takes a toll" on his family. This means that Phil's time management skills are of vital importance. Turning away animals in need of assistance also is one of the hardest parts of Phil's job. Because the shelter has limited resources, they are not able to accept every animal that is brought to them. This heartache is tempered by those moments in which Phil "sees an animal that has had a horrible life enter into a new home with a loving family."

Phil draws on a number of his collegiate experiences to fulfill his responsibilities. While a student at Indiana State (prior to transferring to Ball State), Phil was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. In his words, he "gained valuable

experience through Sigma Chi in networking and fostering relationships with alumni." This has greatly facilitated his ability to enhance and maintain ARF's network of volunteers, donors, and other supporters. His work as an Intern at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial in Washington D.C. gave him tremendous insight into the "level of commitment it takes to run a successful non-profit." He also gained experience in marketing, branding, and fundraising through this internship. Finally, Phil notes that his coursework in conflict management has been instrumental in helping him effectively deal with the various conflicts he addresses on a daily basis.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that Phil and ARF have faced since he became Executive Director resulted from the floods that Muncie experienced earlier this Spring. The flooding was so severe in the ARF compound that all of the approximately 100 animals had to be rescued from fast-rising water. All of ARF's buildings were damaged and supplies for the animals were destroyed. In all, there was over \$ 150,000 of damage to the facility. Thankfully, foster homes were found for all of ARF's residents, many of which became "forever homes." The community also rallied to support ARF by donating food, cleaning supplies, bedding, building materials, money and many volunteer hours. While the shelter has



Submitted Photo

MAN'S BEST FRIEND — Phil Peckinpaugh with his friend Auggie, an abused animal who found a loving home through ARF

reopened, ARF is still recuperating from this devastating experience. According to Phil, "We are getting closer and closer everyday to being back to where we were before the flood. When we are back, we will be bigger and stronger."

Despite setbacks such as this, Phil loves his job. As he says, "It is an absolute treat to work with animals every day; it lightens the mood during intense times and keeps every

moment interesting." His passion for his work is evident in the growth that ARF has experienced since his arrival. However, he realizes that his job is not for the faint of heart. To students interested in non-profit careers such as his, he offers this advice: "Make sure your heart is deeply invested in the cause, and be ready for the amount of time and commitment that it takes to be successful."

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