

COMMENTARY

October 2010 | Volume 1 | Issue 2

Collaboration leads to published work

By Vicki Rosenberger
Graduate Assistant

Faculty members Dr. Laura O'Hara and Dr. Carrie Shue collaborated on a research project that was recently published in the National Communication Association (NCA) journal *Communication Education*.

Their work on *Diabetes and Low-Health Literacy: A Preliminary Outcome Report of a Mediated Intervention to Enhance Patient-Physician Communication* began in 2007 with data gathering. Working with the Muncie Family Practice Residency Program, O'Hara and Shue were able to concentrate on recruiting participants who have diabetes and had used the clinic for treatment. From a pool of approximately 400 patients with diabetes, O'Hara and Shue were able to recruit 100 participants for their study, which focused on an intervention for patients with diabetes and who experience low-health literacy.

In collaboration with a group of educators and researchers, a video intervention was developed to help the participants understand their disease and communicate more effectively with their physicians. Based on the data collected by O'Hara and Shue, the intervention was helpful and informative for some participants while others were prompted to consider behavior changes.

see **RESEARCH** | page 6

INSIDE

DEPARTMENT NEWS | 2 | STUDENT GROUPS | 4
ALUMNI NOTES | 2 | EVENTS | 6
FACULTY NEWS | 3

Being part of the solution

By Beth Messner
Associate Professor

Jenny Shea, a 2008 graduate of the Public Communication program, seems destined to pursue a career in the nonprofit world. As she reflects, "I always knew I wanted to be part of the solution to the social problems I was seeing in the world. Nonprofit organizations do that in a direct and caring way." Jenny works for the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), the largest nonprofit organization in the Washington, DC area devoted to fighting hunger and providing nutrition education (see <http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org>). The CAFB distributes over 23 million pounds of food each year through a network of approximately 700 partner agencies.

Jenny first joined CAFB as an AmeriCorps volunteer shortly after her graduation from Ball State University. In her initial position, she functioned as the Hunger Lifeline Coordinator. Part of her job involved connecting disadvantaged individuals with education and food assistance programs. She also designed operations



Submitted Photo

JOB PERKS — Jenny Shea (in center wearing green) and her colleagues pose with players from the Washington Nationals baseball team who volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank.

standards and developed and implemented training programs. Currently, Jenny is the Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator, a multi-faceted position in which she oversees and coordinates a massive food delivery program that provides fresh produce to 43 different sites in low-income communities across the metropolitan region.

Jenny describes her job as "three different levels of craziness." On a daily basis, she must find ways to logistically manage the efficient distribution of food, develop partnerships with other organizations, create and implement

JENNY SHEA alumni profile

policies and procedures, and deal with crises. From one moment to the next, she might be answering questions from a member of the CAFB board, collaborating with co-workers to quickly solve a problem, and personally helping a family in distress. Despite the tremendous challenges of her position, she says, "I know it's where I need to be." She is extremely fulfilled by her ability to address problems in her community in a tangible and concrete way.

see **SHEA** | page 6

JENNIFER (BERRY) TAYLOR (B'02) works for Walt Disney World managing the PhotoPass service. She married Rob Taylor, who originally is from England, in 2006.

JAYNE HENSON (MA '04) and a co-author recently had an article published in *Communication Quarterly*. The article is entitled *The Monster Within: How Male Serial Killers Discursively Manage Their Stigmatized Bodies*.

BRANDI FRISBY (MA '07) recently earned her PhD in Communication from West Virginia University. She is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky, specializing in instructional and interpersonal communication.

CRYSTAL MCGINNIS (B '07) is employed as a General Office Assistant for Capital Group.

ADRIENNE RINES (B '07) is working on her law degree at Ohio Northern University's College of Law.

JENNIFER PLUMLEE (B '08) is employed as a Bar Manager for Applebee's.

BROOKE LEISTER (B '09) is a personal Service Coordinator for FC Tucker Real Estate Company.

JANICE "JADE" METZGER (B '09) is a Graduate Assistant at Minnesota State University – Mankato.

KERI NIELSEN (B '09) is the Director of Alumni Affairs/Admissions Associate at Dunn School, Los Olivos, Cal.

KARLEY SMITH (B'10) has been hired as a Front Office Supervisor for the Omni Severin Hotel in Indianapolis.

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 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.

*B'08 refers to a Bachelor's Degree earned in 2008.



University Marketing and Communications

DEDICATION — The David Letterman Communication and Media Building opened in 2007. The addition fills a previously existing space between the Ball Communication and Robert Bell buildings.

A history of Communication Studies

By Beth Messner
Associate Professor

As most Communication Studies majors are aware, communication scholarship and practice is rooted in the ancient Greek exploration of rhetoric over 2500 years ago. However, the academic discipline that we now refer to as "Communication Studies" did not actually emerge until the turn of the twentieth century. Courses related to the study of "speech" were traditionally housed in departments of english. Ball State University's Department of Communication Studies had just such a past.

The earliest available references to the teaching of "speech" at Ball State University emerge from the 1929-30 bulletin for Ball State Teacher's College. This catalog indicates the existence of three courses devoted to "Reading and Speech," "Oral Expression," and "Formal Debating." After Dr. Alan Huckleberry joined the Ball State faculty in 1943, speech courses included "Interpretive Reading," "Speech and Dramatics," "Persuasion," and "Public Speaking." By 1945, the Department of English

also was offering areas of emphasis in english, journalism, speech, and speech correction.

From the mid- 1940's through the 1950's, many professors important to the development of the various speech-related programs joined the English faculty at Ball State. Among these were Edward Strother, a 1946 recruit who eventually became the first Chairperson of the Department of Theatre. Others included Richard Artes, who taught in the area of Speech Correction; Robert Robbins, who joined the faculty in 1952 to teach broadcast radio; David Shepard, hired in 1954, coach of Ball State's debate program for many years; and Richard Hoops, a 1956 recruit who became Chairperson of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. By the early 1960's, these and other faculty were teaching a variety of courses related to speech, speech pathology and audiology, theatre, and radio and television.

In 1965, Ball State Teacher's College was transformed into Ball State University

see **HISTORY** | page 5

Administrative Coordinator joins CS

As the new administrative coordinator in the Department of Communication Studies, Christine Edgeman wears many hats. Part of her responsibilities include



Edgeman

maintaining the department budget, ordering supplies, scheduling classrooms and assigning faculty and graduate assistants to those courses, providing students with on-line permission to register for classes and processing faculty payroll. Edgeman also supervises five student assistants and makes herself available to meet the needs of the department members.

Prior to joining the department

Edgeman was a secretary for the student services office in the Miller College of Business. About her current position, Edgeman said she likes the added responsibility of her new position. It allows her to have the autonomy and ability to make decisions and solve problems for faculty and students. Edgeman views the individuals in the department as “colorful threads that make an intricate design. I like being part of that design.”

Outside of work Edgeman is busy spending time with her two kids, and maintaining both her home and mobile home park business. When asked to share something interesting about herself, Edgeman stated that most people don’t know that she knows sign language and used to be an interpreter for her church.

Faculty, students prepare for upcoming NCA tournament

Students and faculty from the Department of Communication Studies are preparing for the 96th Annual National Communication Association (NCA) Convention which takes place in November.

According to their website, the NCA “advances communication as the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific and aesthetic inquiry.”

The following individuals are scheduled to attend the convention and make presentations on the following topics:

Faculty

I Katherine Denker: “Adding Interaction, Moments of Chaos, Learning with Adding Clickers to the Basic Course: Bridging the Space in Large Lectures with Student Response Systems”

“Maintaining and Negotiating Relationships and Reifying Traditions: Couples’ Co-constructions of Work-life Concerns”

I Kristen McCauliff: “Blogging Democracy in Iraq: An Analysis of Baghdad Burning”

Graduate Students

I Brandon Bumstead: “Interrogating Intersexuality: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Case of Castor Semenya”

I Aaron Estabrook: “It’s Only a Joke: A Rhetorical-Critical Analysis of Paul Mooney”

I Shelley Kimrey: “Bitch: A Theoretical Analysis”

I Paul Sommer: “Adding Interaction, Moments of Chaos, Learning with Adding Clickers to the Basic Course: Bridging the Space in Large Lectures with Student Response Systems”

FIND OUT MORE:

■ NCA is Nov. 14-17 in San Francisco

■ For more details, visit <http://www.natcom.org/>

FACULTY GAME NIGHT



Photo Courtesy of Kathy Denker

Department of Communication Studies faculty members Ashley Coker and Kristen McCauliff (on couch) join Mike Bauer (red shirt) and his daughter Alyssa (on couch), Mary Moore (green shirt) and Frank Gray (blue shirt) as they receive game instructions from Nicole Johnson (holding buzzer) at a past Faculty Game Night. Initiated by department chair Glen Stamp three years ago, Faculty Game Night is a chance for faculty members to mingle, release stress and have some fun.

Ball State hosts annual speech tournament

Ball State is host to Aquarius, the annual speech tournament for the Department of Communication Studies. The 41st annual event kicks off with the Lincoln Douglas debate on October 15 and continues October 16 with the speech (IE) portion. The event will be headquartered in the David Letterman Communication and Media

“The tournament is an opportunity for us to give back to the community that we respect and value.”

Mary Moore
Instructor and Director
of Individual Events

Building and students will be competing there as well as in Robert Bell, Arts & Journalism, Ball Communication and Whittinger Bussiness Building.

Established in 1969, Aquarius

is one of the oldest existing tournaments on the speech circuit. Students from approximately 20 schools across the country will be competing in this invitational tournament, along with first year members of the BSU team. Returning BSU members will be hosting rather than competing this year, helping with the department’s focus on hospitality over competition.

Preparation for Aquarius begins over the summer with first year members practicing and working with coaches while the coaching staff and returning members plan the tournament. On the administrative end, rooms must be reserved for competition, judges secured, schools invited, hotels reserved, parking secured, materials for competitors need to be made, a judges lounge needs to be prepared, trophies purchased and a theme incorporated. “Madmen” is this year’s theme and will be reflected in participants’ attire and the trophies.

“The tournament is an opportunity for us to give back to the community that we respect and value,” said Instructor and Director of Individual Events Mary



Photo Courtesy of Mary Moore

READY AND WAITING — Members of the 2009 Speech Team wait in the hallway of the Letterman Building before departing for a competition.

FIND OUT MORE:

WHAT

Aquarius is an annual speech tournament. This year marks the 41st event.

WHERE

Ball State University is host to this year’s tournament with events taking place throughout campus.

WHEN

Aquarius is scheduled for Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16.

Moore. “We hope the schools who attend are impressed with our attention to detail and our efforts to make their time at BSU full of good competition and companionship.” According to Moore, many Ball State alumni return for the weekend to help with judging.

Ashley Coker and Mary Moore contributed to this story.

SPEECH TEAM | tournament results

By Kathy Denker
Assistant Professor

The Ball State Speech Team competed in the “Forensic 500” Sept. 11 at the University of Indianapolis with the following results:

- Haley Armstrong
4th place, Informative Speaking
- Taylor O’Banion
7th place, Rhetorical Criticism
- Andrew Neylon
Top novice, 5th place
Impromptu Speaking
Top novice, 4th place
After Dinner Speaking
- BSU finished 5th place as a team

Other students who competed include: Michelle Col-

pean, Eric Roesch, Kate Roesch, Beka Fehrman, Haley Armstrong, Taylor O’Banion, and Andrew Neylon.

Choosing, researching, writing, editing, and memorizing two events in the first three weeks of school demonstrates commitment and desire. They are all off to a great start!

EVENT:

- The Speech Team competes Oct 2-3 at Illinois State University.



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

HISTORY | continued from page 2

by the Indiana General Assembly.

This development understandably brought about many changes campus wide. In 1965, faculty teaching in the area of “speech” left the Department of English and formed the Department of Speech and Mass Communication with Alan Huckleberry as department head. He was joined by 14 faculty members. Areas of study offered by the newly formed department were General Speech, Journalism, Radio and Television, Speech and Hearing Therapy, and Theatre.

Between 1967 and 1982, the various fields of interest in the Department of Speech and Mass Communication spun off into their own departments. The Center for Radio and TV (now the Department of Telecommunications) was formed in 1967. The Center for Journalism (now the Department of Journalism) was created in 1969. In 1976, the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology declared their independence. And, in 1982, shortly after the College of Fine Arts was formed, the Department of Theatre departed, leaving a newly restructured Department of Speech Communication. Alan Huckleberry and Edward Strother served as Chairpersons during the 1967-1982 transition years.

The Department of Speech Communication was chaired by Celia Dorris from 1982 until 1986. She was followed by Richard Nitcavic, who led the department until 2001. In 1996, under Nitcavic’s leadership, the department united with Journalism, Telecommunications, and the Center for Information and Communication Science to form the new College of Communication, Information, and Media. In 1998, the department’s name was changed to Communication Studies. Several years later, in 2001, Michael Holmes joined the department as Chairperson. He fulfilled this role until 2003 when he stepped into the position of Interim Dean of the College of Communication, Information and Media. He was succeeded by Glen Stamp who became Acting Chair of the department in 2003 and was elected Chairperson in July 2005.

Today, the Department of Communication Studies has 18 full-time faculty, 200 majors, 100 minors, and approximately 30 graduate students. Undergraduate students can pursue one of three areas of



University Marketing and Communications

APPEALING VIEW — The main hallway of the David Letterman Communication and Media Building resembles the narrow, vertical orientation of an old world village street. The balcony on the upper left side is attached to the Department of Communication Studies mail room.

emphasis in the program: public communication, interpersonal communication, and organizational communication. The graduate program has options in Communication Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and Organizational Professional Communication Development (OPCD).

In July 2007, this growing department moved from its original residence in the Art and Communication Building to the newly completed David Letterman Communication and Media building. This move allowed the department to physically join the other units in CCIM who are housed in the same or adjacent buildings. The new building

has provided Communication Studies with additional, state-of-the-art classrooms, facilities for the debate and individual events teams, a speech lab, a departmental library, a graduate bullpen that can accommodate 32 graduate assistants, and spacious faculty offices.

The history of the department reflects the history of the discipline in narrowing the area of emphasis to human communication while, at the same time, expanding the possibilities of how communication can be taught and what can be researched. The prospects for the department are bright as we move forward.

Events

OCTOBER

FRIDAY-SATURDAY | 1-2

Debate Team at Anderson University for debate tournament

SATURDAY-SUNDAY | 2-3

Speech Tournament at Illinois State University

SATURDAY | 2

Football at Central Michigan, 3:30 p.m. kickoff

WEDNESDAY | 6

Professional in Residence Career Panel

7:30 p.m. in LB 125

SATURDAY | 9

Football (Homecoming) vs. Western Michigan, noon kickoff

SATURDAY | 16

CCIM Dean's List Ceremony Emens Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.

Football (Family Weekend) vs. Eastern Michigan, 1:00 p.m. kickoff

MONDAY | 18

Professional in Residence N. Imamova 7:30 p.m. in LB 125

TUESDAY | 19

David Letterman Distinguished Professional Lecture and Workshop Series presents Dale Herigstad 7:30 p.m. at the Student Center Ballroom

FRIDAY | 22

Fall Break — no classes. University administrative offices open on Friday

SATURDAY | 23

Football at Toledo, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY | 30

Football at Kent State, 2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY | 3

Vernon C. Schranz Distinguished Lectureship in Public Relations speaker Lisa Baird, Chief Marketing Officer for the U.S. Olympic Committee, 8:00 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom

COMMeNTary

OCTOBER 2010
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

| Editor and design |

Vicki Rosenberger, Graduate Assistant

| 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

RESEARCH | continued from page 1

"It's a fascinating puzzle to be able to figure out what goes on with different phenomena," said Shue of her involvement in research. "I like learning, and research is hands-on learning. Instead of being a passive consumer you get to add to that dialogue (through research)."

O'Hara enjoys being an active part of the research community because "it keeps me abreast of new developments in communication theory and practice. It also helps me stay on top of recent developments in research methodologies."

Shue and O'Hara are currently teaming up on two projects. The first is a

book chapter on usability issues with the "electronic medical record" during physician-patient medical encounters. According to O'Hara, this chapter will appear in an upcoming book entitled, *Healthcare and Information & Communication Technologies*. The second project is a manuscript that was recently submitted to the *Western Communication Journal*. The article *A Simple Demographic Question: A Discursive Negotiation of Face When Asking the "Race Question"* is a result of the participant recruitment process from the *Diabetes and Low-Health Literacy* research Shue and O'Hara conducted.

SHEA | continued from page 1

For example, she was integral in establishing a mobile food pantry that provides fresh produce to needy military families from a nearby base.

The ability to think creatively is essential to Jenny's work. When serving people in crisis situations, she needs to problem-solve quickly and identify multiple ways to accomplish the same goal. This is especially important when called upon to work with limited resources. As she indicates, in a nonprofit organization like the CAFB, she often must decide how best to "do more with less."

According to Jenny, her background in Communication Studies and her involvement in immersive learning experiences provided good preparation for a career in the nonprofit world. She points out that she must communicate effectively to a wide variety of audiences, including board members, co-workers, potential donors, and clients. This requires well-honed public speaking, interpersonal, critical thinking, problem solving, and conflict management skills. From her participation in projects affiliated with Building Better Communities and the Virginia Ball Center, Jenny also gained real-world experience and developed her

"I always knew I wanted to be part of the solution to the social problems I was seeing in the world. Nonprofit organizations do that in a direct and caring way."

Jenny Shea | Ball State University Alumni

writing skills, particularly those related to grant-writing and developing persuasive messages.

As Jenny suggests, graduates with a degree in Communication Studies are well-suited for careers in the nonprofit world. Students can find a wide variety of organizations supporting a wide variety of causes, which are seeking employees with a variety of different skills, including communication skills. For interested students, Jenny has this advice: "Don't worry about specific careers, but think about what makes you happy and gets you excited. Focus on developing skills in those areas. . . . You'll find a career path that suits your interest." For Jenny, feeding the hungry has provided her with a great deal of self-satisfaction and has allowed her to be "part of the solution."

**COPYRIGHT © 2010
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



B A L L S T A T E
U N I V E R S I T Y

EDUCATION REDEFINED®