Communication Connection
Summer 2018 Newsletter

A Year of Growth, Learning, and Change

Change is a constant in our lives. While change can be challenging, it also can facilitate growth and learning as we reflect on our core values and commitments. This past year has brought quite a bit of change. What’s clear is that the faculty, staff, and students of Communication Studies share a commitment to making a difference in their classrooms and communities; to growing understanding of diverse cultures; and to facilitating positive change.

This commitment to learning and growth are evident inside and outside the classroom. Whether going on study abroad opportunities, completing senior thesis projects, obtaining internships, competing on award-winning teams, or organizing community conversations, students are actively involved in a high-quality, engaging program that’s preparing them to succeed. At the heart of that program are the faculty who are committed to advancing knowledge through their teaching and research. The department is home to outstanding scholars and coaches committed to fostering learning, growth, and change.

As you read on, I hope you get a sense of the department’s commitment to building community, understanding culture, and facilitating change. You’ll also get to know about the new director of debate, Dr. Alex McVey; the upcoming celebration of Mr. Craig Brown’s 40th year in forensics; and more. Without a doubt, there is good work happening inside and outside the walls of Nichols Hall.

With appreciation,

[Signature]

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Engaging Student Learning

Classroom activities
When Dr. Woods was preparing to teach Rhetoric in Western Thought (COMM 330), she knew she wanted to help students engage with the material in ways that would resonate with them, develop skills they could use upon graduation, and tap into their inherently creative approaches to learning. Out of that was born a series of podcasts created by students using the theories and concepts they learned in class. Be sure to visit our website to listen to some of those podcasts. We know you’ll be as impressed by the discussion as you are with their cover art.

Engaging the University Community
Reflecting a commitment to engaged teaching, students from Dr. Shaffer’s Small Group Communication (COMM 326) and Dr. Woods’ Rhetoric and Social Movements (COMM 434) collaborated to host a community discussion about what it means to be part of the K-State community. Students built on what they learned in their courses to organize the event, develop background materials for discussion, and facilitate those discussions. The community discussion about family gave students a chance to see how course concepts were evident outside the classroom and how they could use the skills and ideas from their courses to create opportunities for community conversations in the future.

Senior Colloquium: Advancing Learning through Research
One of the hallmarks of the communication studies degree is the infusion of research. With organizations looking for employees who can think through situations methodically, interpret data accurately, and make informed decisions thoughtfully, conducting original research helps students develop in-demand skills and distinguish themselves and their degree from others. This year, with the mentorship of Dr. Lind and Dr. Pennington, students conducted original research on a wide range of topics, including campus censorship, student inclusion, the digital divide, and relationship maintenance. They then presented their research in poster sessions that showcased their knowledge of communication. Well done!
Internationalizing the Student Experience

As part of the department’s effort to foster understanding and appreciation of culture and communication, the department offers two education abroad experiences: the France and Spain program led by Dr. Soumia Bardhan, and the Japan program led by Dr. Soo-Hye Han.

France and Spain

Graduate and undergraduate students traveled to France and Spain with Dr. Bardhan this past winter as part of an intercultural communication seminar. Over the course of their two-week experience, students visited the Louvre, the Musée d’Orsay, the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Prado in Madrid, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, La Mezquita of Córdoba, and the Central Cathedral and Alhambra Palace in Granada. They also learned firsthand about intercultural communication by and the cultural histories of France and Spain.

Dr. Bardhan is lead this seminar again in January 2019. For more information, please visit the program site.

Japan

This summer, nine undergrad students spent two weeks in Japan as part of their Intercultural Communication course under the guidance of Dr. Soo-Hye Han. Students immersed themselves in Japanese culture, learned about its history and values, and engaged in intercultural communication firsthand.

Students visited Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. In Tokyo, students participated in the Leadership Communication course taught by Dr. Tim Steffensmeier and two other courses offered by the College of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University. In Hiroshima, students visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Miyajima Island, where they reflected on the differing narratives of war provided by the U.S. and Japan. In Kyoto, students visited important historical, cultural, and religious sites. They also participated in a Japanese tea ceremony lesson, where they learned from a tea master about the history, principles, and values pertaining to the centuries-old tradition. You can learn more about the program by visiting the program site.

“Being fully immersed in another culture so different from my own was eye-opening to say the least. It was a beautiful and unforgettable experience that has genuinely changed me for the better.”

– Japan study abroad participant.
Undergraduate Awards, Scholarships, and Recognitions

Student Recognitions
Several students were recognized for their outstanding research, talent, and hard work.

Scott Heise earned a Kirmser Research Award for outstanding undergraduate research. The award recognizes and promotes outstanding scholarship among K-State's undergraduate students. Scott received this award for his research, “Follower Behavior and Followership Identity: A Follower’s Perspective”. This is the third time in the award’s five year history that a Communication Studies major has won the award.

Calum Fletcher won first place in the collegiate division at the 32nd annual Japanese Language Speech Contest on in Chicago.

Miranda Moore was selected for Blue Key Honors Society.

Student Awards and Scholarships
Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the department supports a number of students with scholarships as recognition for their hard work and involvement in Communication Studies. This year, the following students received scholarships and awards:

Communication Studies Chair’s Student Excellence Award
Ashley Anderson, Taylor Thompson, and Callie White

Procter New Student Award
Grace Hunter, Marley Lowe, and Jessica Ricker

Howard Hill Scholarship
Olivia Madderom and Alexandra Parr

Thelma Woltersperger Holliday Scholarship
Calum Fletcher and Miranda Moore

Phil Anderson Leadership Award for Lambda Pi Eta
Callie White

Intro to Trial Advocacy to Top Trial Presentation Award
Ryan Kelly
Debate Team Researcher of the Year
Austin Rosencutter

Forensics Team Speaker of The Year
Logan Stacer

Mock Trial Team Attorney of The Year
Dakota Baccus

Mock Trial Team Witness of the Year
Elyssa Kohler

Another Outstanding Year for the Teams

Speech
The Kansas State University Speech Team placed 10th in the nation at the American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament, April 9, at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It's the 23rd time since 1992 that the K-State Speech Team has placed in the top 20. The K-State team was led by two students who earned their way into the finals in four events. Logan Stacer, senior in communication studies, placed second in communication analysis, fourth in informative, and fifth in poetry interpretation, finishing as the seventh overall speaker in the nation. Nathan Dowell, sophomore in history, placed second in extemporaneous. In addition, two Kansas State University students advanced to the quarterfinals, finishing in the top 24 of their events: Michelle Briggs, senior in psychology, advanced in the informative and poetry interpretation events, and Elliot Holcomb, senior in kinesiology, advanced in the persuasion and after dinner speaking events.

Debate
The Kansas State Debate team ended the year at the United States University Debate Championships with a total of 13 team points. This tournament represented a culmination of a year of hard work. They finished the year by debating whether foreign nationals should be able to own property that is not their main place of residence, regulating social media sites as public utilities, and whether-or-not the Democratic Party should prioritize globalization in their political platform. Coaches Calvin Horne and Marlene Pierce also broke as judges for out-rounds, placing them amongst the top rated judges in the country.
Mock Trial
The K-State varsity mock trial team finished their competitive year qualifying for the National Championship Tournament in Minneapolis, Minnesota in April. The two teams from K-State Mock Trial Club traveled to compete in regionals earlier in the year in Topeka, Kansas in March, where their outstanding performance qualified them for nationals.

"I am beyond proud of the team and all of the hard work they've put in throughout the season," said Dakota Baccus, president and senior in political science. "Thank you so much to the Office of Pre-Law Advising and the communication studies department for all they do for the team."

Celebrating Craig Brown’s 40th Year in Speech
This year will be Craig Brown’s 40th year working in speech! Craig has touched so many lives through this coaching and teaching. The stories are endless. In honor of his 40 years, the Communication Studies Department and K-State Speech will be hosting a celebration dinner on October 20th in the K-State Student Union. Please watch your email for more information about the event and to RSVP. We hope you can join in celebrating Craig!

Graduate Students Awards and Presentations
The graduate program is a central part of the department. Whether teaching public speaking, coaching students on the competitive teams, or collaborating with faculty on research, graduate students continue to move the department forward through their hard work and diligence. You can get a glimpse of that hard work through the awards students received and the research they presented throughout the year.

Awards
Goulden Graduate Teaching Award
Lindsey Milburn and Cassidy Stefka

Schenk-Hamlin Graduate Research Award
Jacob Miller

Dr. Colene Lind and Jacob Miller.
Research Presentations

Marlene Pierce and Calvin Horn presented their research at the 17th Biennial Wake Forest University Argumentation Conference, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Marlene presented her paper titled, Populism in Marine Le Pen’s Speech and Calvin presented his paper titled, "They're Not Soldiers. They're Guardians": An Analysis of Argument in a Police Shooting Trial.

Delta Wilson, Cassidy Stefka, and Jacob Miller presented their research as part of the Communication Studies – JMC Colloquium series. Delta and Cassidy presented their findings from their study "Gender Dynamics in the Islamic State's Propaganda." Jacob presented his paper "Environment as an Ideograph".

Noelle Doty and Kory Loden presented their research at the 2018 Central States Communication Association conference in Minneapolis.

Jakki Mattson presented her research as part of the Communication Studies – JMC Colloquium Series, K-State GRAD forum, Civil Rights Teach-In, and 3MT Competition; No Limits & MBLGTAC Conferences, Omaha; and Gender & Sexuality Research in Kansas Conference.

Faculty News and Notes

Welcome Dr. Alex McVey!
We are delighted to be welcoming Alex McVey as Assistant Professor and Director of Debate. Alex comes to K-State from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he earned his PhD in Communication in April 2018. Alex’s research specialization is in rhetoric and media studies. He has already published five articles and continues to pursue research in the area of race, rhetoric, and media. As director of debate, Alex brings a wealth of experience as assistant debate director and debate coach at a number of places, including Wichita State University and George Mason University. We’re looking forward to the debate program’s continued success with his leadership. To learn more about Alex’s work, you can visit his website at www.jamesalexandermcvey.com.

Best Wishes
We are deeply appreciative of how Dr. Riforgiate, Dr. Pennington, and Mr. Koehle have advanced the department and poured into their students. We wish them the best as they transition into positions at other institutions this fall.
Sabbatical Leave

Dr. Soo-Hye Han will be spending the upcoming year pursuing research and developing connections with other universities in Japan after being awarded a year-long research sabbatical. She will be conducting archival research in Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya as part of a larger research focus on minority voices in Japan. She also will be working to continue to strengthen the partnership between Kansas State University and Rikkyo University, providing more international opportunities for students at K-State and Rikkyo.

Faculty Awards, Grants, and Scholarship

Several faculty members were recognized for their research and teaching accomplishments this past year. To learn more about faculty research, please visit the research projects page on our website.

Research and Grants

Dr. Soumia Bardhan was awarded a faculty enhancement program grant for her study, “Understanding the Rise and Fall of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood – An Analysis of Global Identity, Cyber Rhetoric, and Culture.” She also was awarded a Big 12 Faculty Fellowship to develop a line of research in collaboration with Dr. Jacqueline Brinton (KU) on the meaning of jihad in a world that is increasingly globalized. Finally, she received top four paper recognition in the Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association for her paper, “Contextualizing Democratic Ideals into an Islamic Idiom? The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood’s Counterpublic Dynamics in Ikhwanweb”.

Dr. Greg Paul received a university small research grant for “Communicating Restorative Justice in the United States,” which is part of a collaborative book project on how restorative justice practitioners talk about, evaluate, and carry out restorative justice processes in the United States. He also won the 2017 Top Paper Award of the National Communication Association’s Peace and Conflict Communication Division for his paper, “A Theory of Planned Behavior Perspective of Victim-Offender Conference Participation Willingness.” It was the second year in a row he won this award.

Dr. Sarah Riforgiate received a top discussion panel recognition from the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division of the Central States Communication Association for her panel, “Narrative Pedagogy in the Classroom: Honoring Difference through Students’ Stories.”
Dr. Tim Shaffer was awarded the 2018 Early Career Award by the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) in recognition of his distinguished early career. This award recognizes his strong record of significant contributions to research and scholarship related to service-learning and community engagement. He also received funding from the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, the National Institute for Civil Discourse, and the Charles Koch Foundation to support his work on deliberation and civility in higher education and communities.

Dr. Heather Woods received a faculty enhancement program grant for her study, “The Rhetoric of Smart Home Technological Innovations.” Additionally, she was awarded a university small research grant provided for her project, “Smart Homes as Living Laboratories,” which continues her research on the roles and consequences of smart devices and the internet of things.

Teaching
Dr. Bardhan was awarded a 2018 Curriculum Development Grant from the Global Religion Research Initiative to support further development of the course, Religion and Communication in the Middle East.

Dr. Riforgiate was awarded the 2018 outstanding online teaching award by K-State’s Global Campus. The award recognizes her outstanding teaching efforts for COMM 465 (Communication and Conflict).

Supporting Students

Team Scholarships
A key ongoing departmental initiative is to develop scholarship support for students competing in forensics and debate. Participating on the teams enriches students’ educational experiences, helps them to develop valuable skills, and contributes to their personal growth. By the 2019-2020 school year, our goal is to offer $10,000 in scholarships to students on each of the teams. To contribute to the Continuing Forensics Excellence Fund, the Continuing Debate Excellence Fund, or any other fund, please click here.

International Education Scholarships
As part of the department’s commitment to internationalization and enhancing the student experience, we are working to provide scholarship support for Communication Studies undergraduate and graduate students to pursue the opportunity to study abroad. If you are interested in supporting students’ ability to grow their international awareness and intercultural competency, we would love to talk with you. Please email Greg Paul at gregpaul@ksu.edu or Jeff Haug jhaug@ksu.edu to explore this effort.