



# The Iowa Gazette



NEWS FOR ALUMS AND FRIENDS OF  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES

## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR – KRISTINE FITCH

Greetings from Iowa City, one of the top 100 best places to live in the U.S.!

You may have read by now that **Randy Hirokawa**, having served as DEO for seven years, left the University of Iowa in December of 2004 to become Dean of Arts and Sciences at the



at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Many of you will know that he grew up in Hawaii and still has family there, so in addition to an incredible career opportunity for him, he also got to go home. Randy did return to Iowa in April of 2006 to take part in two doctoral defenses, and reported that life as an administrator is good. He also sends his best wishes to all of you receiving this newsletter.

When I became DEO upon Randy's departure, it was with a genuine sense of awe. Stepping into a position of so much responsibility in a department with such a rich history and ongoing prominence in the field, how could it be otherwise? Although the pace of chairing duties has not allowed much time to contemplate the world from that angle since then, to write this greeting has brought it all back to me. Iowa is a special place, and has become so through the efforts and loyalty of a great many people—including, of course, all of you reading this. To be charged with safeguarding and advancing such an enterprise continues to be an honor and an opportunity.

I want to share some of the distinctive aspects of that opportunity with you. First, this perspective on the department and its place within the University of Iowa and the field has taught me how little I knew, even after 10 years here, about the talents and accomplishments of the students who have passed through and the faculty and staff who are here. At least once a week, one or more of the following happens:

- I hear from or about an alum who has done something extraordinary, in activities ranging from entrepreneurship to receiving a lifetime achievement award in scholarship to managing a political campaign to being appointed a state Su-

preme Court Justice.

- I receive word of a national or international award for scholarship presented to one of our current faculty or graduate students.
- I read about research conducted in this department brought to bear on issues of national concern.
- A current undergraduate writes or comes to talk about the internship or study abroad experience they have just completed, in terms so mouthwatering I wish I could be an undergraduate again (well, maybe not quite).
- Letters come from faculty and administrators across campus, thanking members of this department for their service to various University initiatives.

It is easily the best part of this job to be the recipient of so much good news, though I have almost stopped being surprised at the achievements of people associated with this department—they (you) do pretty much everything.

The hardest part might be saying farewell to friends who retire or leave to pursue other opportunities; somehow I feel that more keenly as DEO than I did as a faculty member. Shortly before Randy left for his new job, **Carol Schrage** retired as departmental administrative assistant after more than 30 years of service to the University. Although she's enjoying retirement immensely and often available for lunch, both her irreverent presence and her wise counsel are sorely missed. An award was created in her honor to recognize graduate students, staff and faculty who contribute to the community spirit of the department. This honor was shared in its inaugural year by faculty member **Bruce Gronbeck** and

graduate student **Rafael Cervantes**.

I must also take this opportunity to thank many people for their assistance during this transition. **Sam Becker** is editing this newsletter along with Bruce and will try to cut this sentence out, but he has offered unstinting encouragement and endless insight into the workings of the institution. It is hard for me to imagine taking on this job without his help. Any number of shoulders have come forward to share the burdens of the office, both the tasks and the emotions, and I appreciate every one of my colleagues for the support they have offered. Since I've taken up residence in the main office I have learned, repeatedly, that every department head is only as good as the support staff that teaches them, covers for them, and, well, supports them. To the extent that I'm getting it right, I really do owe it to Barb, Jean, Chris, and (our newest addition), Becky.

We hope you find this issue of the newsletter informative. Please keep in touch, we love to hear from you.

Please also remember how much we count on your support. These are lean, mean times for universities and your generosity makes many good things possible: The Samuel L. Becker Lecture, graduate student travel to conferences and workshops, support for undergraduate research, scholarships, and soon a chance to endow the Bruce E. Gronbeck Conference Room, marking his retirement after a hundred years at Iowa (err—33? I know it's a whole lot). You'll find a form at the end of this newsletter with information about where and how to direct your gifts. Thank you!

*Kristine*

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## NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

**Joy Hayes** has been waiting a hundred years or so—it happens often when a scholar writes for anthologies—for an essay to circulate publicly. It's finally out: her "National Imaginings On the Air: Radio in Mexico, 1920-1940" is available in Mary Kay Vaughan and Stephen E. Lewis's *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940* (2006). Olé!

Iowa faculty are regular participants in the NCA-AFA biennial conference on argumentation. There's nothing like a long weekend at 8,000 feet in the Little Cottonwood Canyon outside Salt Lake City in August, with the wild flowers full bloom and morning hikes to Secret Lake another 1,000-1,200 up the mountain. And oh yes, we write good stuff for that event! **Barbara Biesecker** published "Popular Memory and National Renewal: Feminism and the Cultural Politics of World War II" in the 15<sup>th</sup> biennial conference proceedings (2005), while **Bruce Gronbeck** wrote about "Varied Relationships between Verbal and Visual Discourses: Jacob Riis's Arguments for Slum Reform" after setting up his thoughts about visual rhetoric ("The

Vision/Visuality Dichotomy in Argument Studies") in the 2003 proceedings.

**David Hingstman** presented his work on oppositional argumentation.

Barbara and Bruce also have shown their work at the international conferences on argumentation held in Amsterdam every four years—both of them, this year and in 2002. It's just a shame that they had to go to the City of Canals in late June, when the weather was perfect and the conference hosts, warm and generous. Given that city's reputation, it was only natural for Bruce to have a root canal done there as well. . . thematic wholeness. . .

**Leslie Baxter** also has kept busier than ever. Her latest book (with Dawn Braithwaite), *Engaging Theories in Family Communication*, came out last year, and included her own chapters on relational dialectics theory and family rituals. Her articles and essays in press will flood her c.v. next year. Leslie also was honored by the National Communication Association's Charles H. Woolbert Award, given to essays or books at least ten years old that have continued to have an important place in today's thinking.

She, **Carole Blair** (1977, 1979), and Julie Brown wrote on the politics of scholarship, "Disciplining the Feminine," in 1994, with the article reprinted in an anthology in 1998. It still stings.

And, **Steve Duck** has not let up, either. Five books have rolled off the presses over the last two years: one, cleverly authored/edited by Dragon and Duck (who'll ever forget the research by Duck & Pond?), on relationship research; a third edition of *Human Relationships*, also coming out in a Chinese edition; and a fourth, co-authored with graduate students **Dan Kirkpatrick** and **Megan Foley**, entitled *Relating Difficulty: Processes of Constructing and Managing Difficult Interaction*; and a fifth with Julia Wood, *Composing Relationships: Communication in Everyday Life*. Then check his c.v. online for ten book chapters coming out in the same period. Your tax dollars at work. . .



## FACULTY LECTURING

Departmental faculty don't only write. They talk, too. So, over the two years of 2005 and 2006, **Steve Duck** did invited lectures at both the University of Hawaii-Manoa and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, just to mix in climatological research with his work on human relationships. He also talked at Northwestern University, the University of Richmond, and Ohio State—as keynote speaker at the Buckeyes' Communication Day.

**Bruce Gronbeck** delivered the George R.R. Pflaum lecture at Emporia State in 2004, the John D. Lees lecture and conference keynote address at the American Politics Group of the British Political Studies Association conference in Manches-

ter, England, this year, with the Grazzier Lecture at the University of South Florida coming up in February. Bruce also was named a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in 2004, sending him to Finland that year and on to Norway later this academic year.

**Barbara Biesecker** was a plenary speaker at the Trope, Affect, and Democratic Subjectivity conference held at The Center for Global Culture and Communication, at Northwestern this fall, and has oratorical appointments at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina (giving the Pense Lecture) this spring.

Over the last two years, **Kembrew McLeod** has offered talks in Budapest, Ireland, and Canada, as well as at Muhlenberg College, Amherst College,

the Ave Maria Law School in Illinois, Simpson College, American University, Dartmouth, and Bowling Green State. His books and other work on property law, music, and authorship drew large and enthusiastic crowds.

**Kristine Fitch** delivered the Thomas M. Scheidel Distinguished Faculty Lecture at the University of Washington in January 2004. She talked about the coercive nature of public marriage proposals and ate enough salmon to last a good while.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

This fall, the department welcomed two full-time lecturers to its ranks, **Liz Pearce** and **Rita Zajacz**.



With our undergraduate enrollment swelling, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences decided that we needed serious help, and that's what we got. Both Liz and Rita had been hired last year to teach some courses, but now they're in positions more systematically defined and with longer-term commitments. Both are working in the media-oriented courses.

They join **Tomasz Tabako**, who became part of the Rhetoric and Public Advocacy faculty last year. Tom brings a strong back-

ground in argumentation, social movements and protest rhetoric, and especially European social theory. A native of Poland who still writes for political organs in his home country, Tom mixes practical and scholarly interests in politics that fit nicely with the strengths of other faculty. Welcome!

Sadly, we also saw departures. **Camille Seaman** called it quits this spring, and with her departure we lost a valued media production teacher and documentarist whose instruction and artistic work inspired undergraduate and graduate students alike. **Ece Algan** also left the end of spring term, seeking the fairer climes of California, in the hills outside LA at the California State University-San Bernardino. Her work with Turkish media, intercultural-international communication studies, and ethnographic approaches already are missed—good luck, Ece! **Carma Bylund** departed the Midwest in 2004 to join the Columbia University Medical Center's Center for Education Research and Evaluation.

**Joanna Ploeger** also left

then, got married to Rob, joined the faculty of the California State University at Stanislaus, and had a child, Thomas William. Sadly, in an ironic and devastating reversal of fortunes, she succumbed to cancer this spring. There were memorial services in California this summer, and Decatur, Illinois, this fall.

Overall, the faculty is the smallest it's been in recent years—trim, focused, and ready to fight its way through the undergraduate and graduate thickets, under the leadership of General Fitch. Part of the reduction also is happening because **Bruce Gronbeck** has begun a three-year phased retirement, where his work time is reduced to a 30 percent load. But, we are also hopeful that a new hire in interpersonal communication which we're pursuing this year will give us even more fire power in 2007.

## THE SAMUEL L. BECKER LECTURE



**Ernesto Laclau**, Professor of Political Theory at the University of Essex and Distinguished Professor for Humanities and Rhetorical Studies at Northwestern University, delivered the Sixth Annual Samuel L. Becker Lecture on October 12. He spoke on *Why Rhetoric is Political, Why Politics is Rhetorical*. The lecture was, as always, well attended and enthusiastically received.



**Ernesto Laclau interacting with graduate students after his lecture.**

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Mark Andrejevic** keeps on talking on the road. In the spring of 2005, he journeyed to Muhlenberg University in Pennsylvania to do a follow-up of book on reality TV: "Reality TV and the Ethics of the Real." The man knows how to run with a topic! He then was invited that fall to Queens University, Ontario, to do a presentation on mutual monitoring that he titled "Learning to Watch—Each Other" as part of Queens' Surveillance Project Seminar.

**Tim Havens** has been keeping busy. His most recent publications include a new book, *Global Television Marketplace*, as well as an article coming out just after the winter holidays this year, "The Hybrid Grid: Globalization, Cultural

Power, and Hungarian Television Schedules." He also went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to tell them about "The High Holidays of Global Television: International Program Fairs as Rituals." Congratulations are due to Tim as well for his International Programs Summer Research Fellowship in 2005 and his Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant for use in the 2005-2006 academic year.



David Hingstman presents Sam McCormick with The Donald C. Bryant Rhetorical Prize for Outstanding Public Presentation of Rhetorical Scholarship

## ADDITIONAL FACULTY NOTES

Before leaving us, **Ece Algan** received the James E. Murphy Memorial Award for the top faculty paper in the Cultural and Critical Studies division at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The title of her paper was "Privatization of Radio and Media Hegemony in Turkey." Perhaps more importantly—at least to Ece and her husband Jay—is that she gave birth to their first child, Alex in September 2005.

**Mark Andrejevic's** book came out in 2004: *Reality TV: The Work of Being Watched*. He also published chapters in three other books: "Digital Art and the Information Society," in D. Gauntlett (ed.), *Web Studies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, (2004); "The Rehabilitation of Propaganda: Post 9/11 Coverage in the United States," in G.A. Hauser and A. Grim (eds.) *Rhetorical Democracy* (2004), and "Little Brother Is Watching: The Webcam Subculture and the Digital Enclosure," in A. McCarthy and N. Couldry (eds.) *Media/Space: Place, Scale, and Culture in Media Age* (2004).

**Leslie Baxter** also had a good year in 2004. She was the coauthor, with E. Babbie, of the book, *The Basics of Communication Research* and coeditor with R. Anderson and K. Cissna of a Sage book titled *Dialogue: Theorizing*

*Difference in Communication Studies*. And she was coauthor of the article, "Dialogic Voices in Talk about Drinking and Pregnancy," *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, with coauthors **Randy Hirokawa**, **John Lowe**, **Elizabeth Pearce**, and Peter Nathan. **Barara Biesecker** had two papers in press, "Technologies of Truth and National Trauma," *Proceedings of the Fifth Conference of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation*, and "Renovating National Imaginary: A Prolegomenon on Paregoric Rhetoric," in *Framing Public Memory*, ed. K. Phillips, University of Alabama Press.

**Shelly Campo** had one paper published in 2004 and an additional five in press. "Drinking, Alcohol Policy, and Attitudes Toward a Riot" appeared in the *Journal of College Student Development*, 45 (2004): 501-516 (with coauthor S. Kaplowitz). Her papers in press are "Differential Effects of Exposure to Social Norms Campaigns: A Cause for Concern," with K. Cameron, in *Health Communication*; "Prevalence and Profiling: Hazing Among College Students and Points of Intervention," *American Journal of Health Behavior*, with G. Poulos and J. Sipple; "Social Norms and Expectancy Violation Theories: Assessing the Effectiveness of Health Communication Cam-

paigns," *Communication Monographs*, with G. Poulos and J. Sipple.

"From Hymn to Tragedy: Aristotle's Genealogy of Poetic Kinds" is one of four papers **David Depew** got out, appearing in *From Ritual to Drama*, eds. E. Czapo and M. Miller. Also moving into print are "Darwinism's Multiple Ontologies," in a V. Hosle and C. Illies (eds.) anthology, and the book *Philosophy of Biology: An Episodic History*, being published by Cambridge University Press. David's book, *Isocrates and Civic Education*, edited with **Takis Poulakos** and published by the University of Texas Press, came out in 2004. His paper, "The Inscription of Isocrates into Aristotle's Practical Philosophy" was included in that edited volume. Another of David's books, this one edited with Valentino and Blum, was published by Yale University Press in 2004. Its title is *Carlo Michelstaedter's La Persuasione e la Rettorica: A Translation*. David and **John Peters** also have paper coming out titled "Pity, Terror and the Enigma of the Virtuous Killer," appearing in *A chacun son 11 Septembre*, ed D. Dayan and P. Raynaud.

## ADDITIONAL FACULTY NOTES (CONT.)

**Steve Duck** continues to publish regularly. His paper "How do you tell someone you're letting go? A new model of relationship breakup" appeared in the British journal *The Psychologist* (2005). Another essay "Exploring the Metaphor of Conversational Hypertext Through the Analysis of Relational Histories" appeared in C. Previgiano and P.J. Thibault's edited volume, *Interaction Analysis and Language: Discussing the State of the Art*. Steve's coauthor on this piece is **Walter J. Carl** (2002). **Stephanie Rollie** (2005) was his coauthor on yet another chapter, "Stage Theories of Marital Breakdown." This chapter appeared in the *Handbook of Divorce and Dissolution of Romantic Relationships*, edited by J.H. Harvey and M. Fine. Finally, his chapter "The Seven Seas of the Study of Personal Relationships: From 'The Thousand Islands' to Interconnected Waterways," written with Danial Perlman, came out in **Anita Vangelisti** and D. Perlman's book, *The Cambridge Handbook of Close Relationships*. Other papers that he's co-authored include one with **Carma Bylund**, another with **Robert Crumm** (2005), a third with **Walter Carl**, and still another with **Lise VanderVoort** (2003). As you can see Steve still continues to be involved with fellow-faculty and current or past grad students in his writing.

**Kristine Fitch's** book, written with **Robert E. Sanders** (1971), *Handbook of Language and Social Interaction*, was published by Erlbaum in 2005. Kristine and **Kathleen Valde's** (2000) paper "Desire and Sacrifice: Cultural and Relational Aspects of Designated Driver Talk" appeared in *Western Journal of Communication*, 68 (2004): 121-150, and received the Aubrey Fisher award for the outstanding article published in *WJC* that year.

**Bruce Gronbeck** (1966, 1970) was once again a "dissertation opponent" at University of Jyväskylä in Finland. Faculty around here couldn't help but wonder how our Ph.D. candidates would feel at the time of their oral defenses if the faculty members present were called "opponents" instead of "committee members." I suspect that would make their dissertation defenses even more intimidating than they already are. Bruce also published a review article in the *Finnish Yearbook of Political Thought*, vol. 7, titled "DeJouvenel's Pure Politics: Redefining the Political in Post-World War II Theory". And, along with the late **Leah Vande Berg** (1972, 1975, 1977) and **Lawrence Wenner** (1976,

1977) Bruce also put out the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Critical Approaches to Television* (2004). And he and **Kathleen German** (1973, 1976) revised *Principles of Public Speaking*. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of this classic **Ehninger-Monroe** textbook. (It's 16<sup>th</sup> edition arrived this year.) And Bruce got into electronic publishing in 2005 with an article titled "The Sentimentalization of American Political Rhetoric" that appeared in *Poroi: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention*.

**Timothy Haven's** new book, *Global Television Sales* was published this year by the British Film Institute Press and his paper "The Biggest Show on Earth: The Cosby Show and the Ascent of American Situation Comedies in the International Market" is in press in the *Columbia History of Television* being published by the Columbia University Press.

One of **David Hingstman's** papers was published in 2004 and two others are in press. "Strategies of Objection in the Trial of the Chicago Eight" appeared in *Selected Papers from the 2002 Rhetoric Society of America Conference*, ed. G.A. Hauser. His two papers in press are "Rhetoric and Political Economy at the Aesthetic Nexus: A Study of Archbishop Whately," with G. T. Goodnight. *Selected Papers from the 2004 Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America*, ed. P. Bizzelli; and "Politicized Trials and Forensicated Deliberation: Hybrid Argument Practices in the Trial of the Chicago 8," *Selected Papers from the Thirteenth NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation*, ed. C. Willard.

**Kembrew McLeod's** second book came out in 2005. Published by Random House, it has the intriguing title *Freedom of Expression: Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity*. His autobiographical-sounding article, "Confessions of an Intellectual (Property): Danger Mouse, Mickey Mouse, Sonny Bono and My Long and Winding Path as an Activist-Scholar" was published by the *Journal of Popular Music and Society* that same year. Kembrew managed to make 2005-2006 the year of intellectual property at the University of Iowa, by assembling enough grant money to fund conferences, exhibits, and guest lecturers. He owned the campus last year.

**John Peters** has another book out, this one edited with **Peter Simonson** (1996) who was on the communication faculty at the University of Pittsburgh but who has moved to the University of Colorado-Boulder. The book, titled *Mass Communication and American Social Thought: Key Texts, 1919-1968*, is part of publisher Rowman & Littlefield's Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics and Culture series. John also has a number of pieces in press: "Communication," which is being published in the *Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York: Daniel Stout), and "Speaking into the Water: Communication as Dissemination," in *Communication . . . Stances on Theory*, ed. **G.J. Shepherd**, J. St. John, and T. Striplhas, and "The Voice and Modern Media," in *Theater der Zeit Recherche*, ed. D. Kolesch (Berlin).

This last piece will also appear in *Glimpse: The Journal of the Society for Phenomenology and Media*; "Technology and Ideology: The Case of the Telegraph Revisited," that will appear in a book edited by J. Packer and C. Robertson titled *Communications, Transportation, History: Rethinking the Legacy of James Carey*. We should probably also mention that a Ukrainian translation of John's book *Speaking Into the Air* was published in Kiev and a Chinese edition was published earlier by Huaxia Press in Beijing. Visitors to the department can see that Chinese edition in the department's faculty publication exhibit case.

Keep up with all our

faculty, visit our website at:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/commstud>

## ALUMNI DOINGS

We keep producing more outstanding graduate students—2006 was a stellar year for us.

**Karen Pitcher** finished her dissertation on cell phones then took a deep breath and headed down to Eckerd College in Florida as Dr. Pitcher—yes!!! Also heading out was **Jay Clarkson** (to Indiana State) in media studies and **Sheree Keith** (to Macon State College) in rhetorical studies. Rhetoricians **Erin Rand** and **Adam Roth** both won Outstanding Teaching Assistant awards from the University before hitting the road—Erin to CSU-Frenso, and Adam, to Pitt. Erin also is this year's winner of the NCA's Division of Critical/Cultural Studies' Dissertation Award.



Erin and Adam receive their awards from Provost Tom Rocklin, along with DEO Fitch.

**Rafael Cervantes** got it done, got married, and took off for **St. Catherine's** in Minnesota. **Drake** (Iowa) continued to provide an intellectual home for our graduates; after **Joan Faber McAlister** finished she took I-80 to her new job there. **Margie McCue** moved from Normandale Community College to Saginaw State in Michigan in 2005, then finished her dissertation the next year—Sag State's gain.

Among the graduates with emphases in communication and relationships, **Stephanie Rollie** (2005) took a position at Miami University of Ohio, and **Mike Searcy** (2004), at Maui Community College (Hawaii), where he's working with the Chinese government, setting up communication courses in the Republic of China. Dennison University hired **Mimi Harvey** (2005), and the University of San Francisco, **Evelyn Ho** (2004), cutting short her professional football career. Yes, that's true. **Rebecca Imes** (2005) hiked up to

Carroll College (Wisconsin), while **Daniel Chornet-Roses** (2006) ran to the homeland to work at the St. Louis University campus in Madrid. The University of Richmond hired **Angella Borsella** (2006), and Ferris State University (Michigan) took **Matt Thatcher**, who's on track to complete before the Big Ten starts its basketball season. **Roberta Crumm** (2005) eschewed school teaching, taking the position of Executive Director of the Air Force News Agency in San Antonio. (Yes, yes, we can use the word "eschewed" in an academic newsletter. . . .)

For those of you who missed some of the other successful completions of dissertations around here in media studies: **Wendy Hilton-Morrow** nailed it in 2005, and returned to teaching at Augustana College (Illinois) with a proper title, even with baby Matthew on her hip. **Hun Yul Lee** (2005) not only finished but now has a tenure-track position at San Francisco State. **Kevin Schut**, **Chris Smit**, and **Larissa Faulkner** all completed their dissertations during fall semester 2004; Kevin's teaching at Trinity Western University, British Columbia; Chris, at Calvin College in Michigan; and Larissa, at Brock University, Ontario. We're obviously taking over the Canadian-U.S. borderlands.

**Hugo Burgos** (2004) is the Dean of the College of Communication and Contemporary Arts, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. He lectured at the "Sounding Out 3" Conference at the University of Sunderland (UK) on his work on artistic glossolalia and screened his film project, "The Hitchcock Hypothesis."

And rhetorical studies? **Leslie Hahner** got done in the spring of 2005, then dropped down to the department that **Robert Newman** (former visiting faculty member) helped endow at Truman State (Missouri). **Brian Lain** completed the same year and is teaching at the University of North Texas; like Erin Rand, he, too, was a winner of the NCA's Division of Critical/Cultural Studies's Dissertation Award. **Tere Garza** (2003) and **Dan Emery** (2002) finished and strengthened their positions in programs where they already were teaching, at St. Edwards University (Texas) and Drake University (Iowa) respectively. Dan picked up the American Society for the History of Rhetoric's dissertation award. Iowa rules the rhetorical universe!

For you old timers (he went to school with Bruce's sister, for goodness sakes), **Raymie McKerrow** (1974) was on leave from Ohio University, and agreed to spend a couple of weeks back in Iowa City teaching a one-hour course on Michel Foucault. He worked for a few bucks and a ticket into Kinnick Stadium . . . not bad!



Raymie and Bruce enjoying a moment after class.

Some folks spent last spring moving-around. **Danielle Wiese** (2004) gave up Florida State to move back home to Michigan—to Grand Valley State. **Kathleen Battles** (2002) has been teaching since she got done, and finally Oakland University (Michigan) recognized her talent and potential—ignoring her sassiness?—by giving her a tenure-track job this fall. **Jan Norton** (1998) has been working at the University of Tennessee, but now is in a tenure-track position at Valdosta State. **Erin Sahlstein** (2000) has started a new position at UNLV; **Yanrong Chang** (2001), at University of Texas-Pan American; and Masahiro Masuda, at Kochi University (Japan). **Kate Cady** (2004) moved from Minnesota State to Northern Illinois, and **Jung-Bong Choi** (2005), from UC-Santa Barbara to New York University. His spouse **Aya Matsushima** even agreed to move with him, securing a position as lecturer in Japanese language, as well at NYU.

Wendy and Kathleen, by the way, did a follow-up essay this year to their well-known *Critical Studies in Media Communication* critical study of the TV program "Will and Grace," publishing "Family, Fate and the Finale of Will and Grace" in the online journal *Flow*. We knew that course in Media Criticism would do them some good. . . .

**Julie Friedline** was the bitter-sweet media studies student. She completed in 2003, continuing her teaching at St. Thomas University (Minneapolis-St. Paul) before succumbing to cancer later that year. Her battle to sustain her life through the final stages of writing, hospitalizations, and maintaining her family was more than heroic: it was epic.

I O W A T O H A R V A R D ... .

The Harvard School of Law gets approximately 7,100 applications a year and accepts about 550. Political-science-and-communication-studies major **Todd Lantz** (2006) applied and, yes, got in. "That was a pretty fun phone call," he said last May. Todd's debating career at Iowa was meteoric, his academic achievements put him in the top one percent of his class, and

those of us who had him in class very much appreciated both his work ethic and his interpretive abilities. Why oh why didn't he go to grad school in political rhetoric? Oh well, knock their sox off, Todd. . .



***"I was pleased to hear he got accepted to Harvard" David Hingstman (UI Associate Professor and Harvard Alum)***

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S T U D I E S ' L A T E S H O W  
C O N N E C T I O N

Undergraduates in the Department continue to seek and to find an impressive range of internship experiences. This past summer (2006), our students worked at ESPN, radio stations in NYC, Chicago and LA, Crate and Barrel, and the Girl Scouts, to name just a few of over thirty internship sites. In

almost every case, the interns worked hard and had illuminating experiences. Intern supervisors praised the work and the work ethic of our students. Happily, more than one job offer was made at summer's end.

impression as he was hired after graduation. Over the last five years, he has worked his way up to Music Coordinator for the Late Show (and Paul Shaffer's right hand man!) Through their shared Communication Studies major, he and Kelsea, who will graduate in December (2006) became friends over the summer. Indeed, Fetter, as he is known at the Late Show, has mentored Kelsea and is encouraging her to make the big leap, a daunting leap, that he made five years ago—from Iowa City to New York City; from her dream to the reality of finding her first job in "TV". We are holding our breath for Kelsea; glad that Fetter is in her corner.



Against stiff competition, **Kelsea Watkins** (who has wanted to work in television since she was 15 years old) earned a spot in the summer Intern Program at CBS' Late Show with David Letterman. During her interview, she met **Daniel Fetter**. Daniel, a 2001 graduate in Communication Studies, spent the spring semester 2001 as an intern at the Late Show. He must have made a good

**Snippets:**

**Scott Beck**, junior, won MTV U's "Best Film on Campus" contest. He now has a development deal with MTV Films plus a new home theatre system!

**Joanna Malott** (2005) stayed with in our University family and accepted a position as a Program Assistant in the Office of Admission.

**B I G N E W S**

Iowa woman gets some education, makes good in the outside world, and then comes back home to honor and glory.

**The Honorable Ruth MacGregor** (1964, 1965), Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, received a Distinguished Service Award from the UI Alumni Association in June. Her career as a lawyer and jurist has been that of a shooting star, which she is. She and Bruce took classes together from Sam and John Bowers—great times. Congratulations, Ruth!



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

The department is excited to have several new faces in our main departmental office.

**Jean Allgood** is a secretary who brought a wealth of experience to our department. Jean has been with the University since 1995 and most recently was responsible for supporting the undergraduate program in Sociology. The majority of Jean's responsibilities in Communication Studies revolve around the undergraduate program, and she handles the ACE forms in addition to many other duties. Tennis is her game, and birding her avocation.

**Carol Stratton** is our Academic Counselor. Her background includes academic advising, program planning and extensive data management, most recently at Black Hawk College in

Moline, IL. She holds a Masters in Education from St. Ambrose University and received her B.A. from UNI. (See the separate profile on Carol below.)

**Becky Scott** will soon begin her second year as the *capo di tutti capi*, running the entire operation well enough to keep most of us out of trouble most of the time. Becky was stolen from the Facility Capital Development group of the General Hospital—their loss, our gain.

We are also happy to report that **Barb Surber** continues to run the front desk in the main office, handling the phone, a maze of inquiries, and graduate student applications and form-processing. This year she's added television-quality excitement to her life, as she's been called to serve

on a federal grand jury.

Continuing to herd cats (i.e., keep faculty's research and travel accounts in order) is **Chris Brenneman**, who's been associated with the department longer than anyone except Bruce and Sam. She manages the departmental budgets in an era when public education's accountability requires absolutely arcane procedures, bless her.

And finally the department has a student employee this year. **Mary Catherine O'Malley (Catie)** is a sophomore journalism major who transferred to Iowa from University of Colorado Boulder. Catie is an incredible help for various office support duties.

## ACADEMIC COUNSELOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

**Carol Stratton** is our Academic Counselor. Her background includes academic advising, course placement testing, new student orientation, program planning, and data management. She's been working in higher education since the early 80's, most recently at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois and feels she's found her niche in academic advising.

Although she commutes from the Quad Cities (Bettendorf), she says she now is able to listen uninterrupted to NPR's

Morning Edition and enjoys listening to books on tape on her way home. On the home front, she competes for the computer with her 17 year old son, Nolan and has a new appreciation for media's influence on society as she listens to Nolan recount the tales of Peter Griffith on the Family Guy as if he's talking about his best friend's family. Although she isn't a roadie, she does support her spouse Lyle's band, Rose N Thorns, by going to gigs whenever the band ventures out of their living room to play occasion-

ally in the Quad Cities.

While she's been in her counseling position a short time, she's hit the ground running and has been advising undergraduate students, creating program and career materials and serving on the department's Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Committees. Her goal for the upcoming year is to add undergraduate information to the department's web site.



**Carol congratulates student, Cathy Beederman, for induction to Lambda**

## BARBARA'S ADVICE

With the hiring of Carol Stratton as Academic Adviser, **Barbara Welch Breder** stepped out of that position after serving as undergraduate information board, shoulder-to-cry-on, and caring counselor for nine years. She's the person who set up the undergraduate orientation program in the mid-90s and jump-started the group advising system. She still oversees the internship program, so vital to students wishing to experience jobs before they apply for them. She's continued her teaching in cultural history with her legendary passion for the subject and grasp of the cultural shifts that underlie changes in advertising practices through the decades. Barbara's wired in to the Internet: old friends and students are always invited to contact her at [barbara-welch-breder@uiowa.edu](mailto:barbara-welch-breder@uiowa.edu).

R I D I N G   I N T O   T H E   S U N S E T



**Bruce receives special recognition for mentoring from Dean Keller.**

**Bruce Gronbeck** (1966, 1970; 1973-present) has begun his phased retirement. He'll continue to teach one semester a year, work with grad students the year around, and maintain a schedule of international lectures and short courses, over a three-year period. The Graduate College bestowed a special recognition for graduate mentorship in recognition of his dissertation directing—he's finished sixty-seven as of this semester. The Public Address Conference this fall recognized his lifetime achievements in that field when he was given the Joseph Koch Research Award this

summer for a presentation on the photographs of slum reformer Jacob Riis, and made it into the Marquis *Who's Who in America* this fall. The Couch Center established the Bruce Gronbeck Political Communication Award, which will be presented in San Antonio at the NCA's Political Communication Division reception. Now if only his serve had a little more pop on the tennis court. . . .



P A S S I N G   O N   O F   C L A S S M A T E S

It's always sad to hear about alums who've passed on. This newsletter is a good way to let those of you who know some of them to get the information, in case you hadn't. **Fanny M. Ellison** (1936) left us a year ago. Joining her in death last year were **Albatine M. Brazzill** (1925), **Dorothea Guenther Kempf** (1941), **Charmion Middleton Tatum** (1941), **Courtney M. Johnson** (1987), and **Catherine A. Steele** (1983). This year

saw the death of **Pasul I. Eells** (1959), **Mary F. Tripp** (1938), **Betty P. Schmid** (1956), **Burton G. Bridgens** (1941), **Ruth M. Rieke** (1940), **Richard A. Belinger** (1954), **Herbert G. Meinert** (1974), **Clifford C. Fellage** (1960), **John H. Ulrich** (1952, 1955), and **Emmanuel Golemis** (1948).

We also have learned that **E. Thayer Curry** died in 1992; **Opal N. Christie** (1931), in 1996; **Charles W. Philhour, Jr.** (1948), in 1998; **Mary W. Davis** (1932), in 1999; and **Jean M.**

**Arnold** (1938), in 2003. And for some of our friends, we simply don't know when they passed on, but the Alumni Association tells us that they did: **Mary J. Parriott** (1937), **Sister K. E. Gregory Duffy**; **Rodney Erickson** (1938), **Fecundo Montenegro** (1998), **Edith Carrington** (1924, 1930), and **Arlone Segerkrantz**.

T R I B U T E   T O   A   C O L L E A G U E

**Dr. Joanna S. Ploeger**, 39, died on July 19, 2006, in Berkeley, California. As Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, she was well known by her



teaching and her support of their aspirations. Joanna's scholarly work focused on the rhetoric of science. Joanna was a member of the Board of Directors of the Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry (POROI) at the University of Iowa. She was also active in musical circles, including the chamber choral group Opus 24, and for a time Chamber Singers of Iowa City. Her love of the equestrian art led her to an association with Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors and a Tennessee Walking Horse national versatility championship.



**From graduation 2004: Joanna Ploeger, Vesti Silva, Rebekah Farrugia and Kembrew McLeod**

## FORMER FACULTY MEMBERS

**Randy Hirokawa** was awarded a 2003-2004 Collegiate Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa his last year on our faculty, and then had to leave us for a deanship on the University of Hawaii's Hilo campus.

A note from Randy after the October 2006 earthquake in Hawaii: "We were lucky with the earthquake. It occurred on the west side of the island, and we live on the east side. We certainly felt the jolt, but thankfully the damage was confined to the west side, although the island of Oahu, 150 miles away, had power loss for the entire day! It certainly was scary and I don't want to go through that again, but we do live on one of the most active volcanoes in the world so I'm afraid to say this won't be the last earthquake we experience." And congratulate him not only for survival but for acknowledgement of his excellence: the University of Washington just inducted him into its Hall of Fame! Must have been for either his chipping or his backhand . . . Well done, Randy.

**Bruce Levitt** was back in Iowa City last spring to direct the unusual play, *I Am My Own Wife*, at our local professional theatre, Riverside Theatre. He is still on the faculty at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where our former president **David Skorton** has taken over.

**Dudley Andrew**, still co-chair and director of graduate studies in film studies at Yale University, has been named the R. Selden Rose Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature there. He has also been elected to one of the highest honors a scholar or scientist can receive. This year he was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

**Jennifer and Howard Martin**, formerly of our one-time theatre division, were back in Iowa City when their son, Barclay Martin, a musician, composer, and singer, was being featured at Iowa City's prime contemporary music venue, The Mill. Jenny and Howard are both teaching now in the Theatre Department at the University of Missouri/Kansas City, Howard as an adjunct and Jennifer as the Hall Family Foundation

Professor of Theatre, teaching movement fundamentals, historical styles of movement and dance, characterization, and subtle energy disciplines for the Master of Fine Arts program. Jenny is also a member of the Medical Humanities Program in which she coordinates a course called "Healing and the Arts," and she is resident choreographer and movement coach for the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival.

In addition to teaching, Howard is the Executive Director of a wonderful project he started in 2001 called The Jellybean Conspiracy. If you google Jellybean Conspiracy, you can find out all about it. It's a non-profit foundation whose goal is to help create a world of caring that respects and includes the creative gifts of children and young adults with disabilities. This is done through the medium of theatre. So far the Jellybean Conspiracy has produced shows all over Kansas and Missouri and has reached over 30,000 audience members. Howard plans to launch the program nationwide in 2007. We in the department are tremendously proud of both Howard and Jennifer and wish them the best. We especially look forward to hearing much more about the Jellybean Conspiracy. Perhaps we'll have a production in Iowa City or your home town. Watch for it.

**John Bowers** reports that, in November 2004, he gave a talk at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee on "Characteristics of Successful Doctoral Programs in Communication." He also told us that his son, **John S. Bowers** (1981, 1982) left his job as director of computing at the University of Minnesota/Morris to become director of academic technology at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. By the way, congratulations to John for being elected to the National Communication Association's Distinguished Scholar congregation. He becomes the third Iowa faculty member to make the elite professional group.

We are sorry to report that **Jim Curtis**, long-time faculty member in our department and the first chair of Iowa's Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology died on July 16

in Missoula, Montana.

**Doug Trank** has taken early retirement as Chair and Professor of Rhetoric, choosing to be a trailing spouse rather than commuting. He accepted an offer from the Communication Studies Department at Texas Tech University for a half-time position, and now is luxuriating in full retirement. He reported to us that he plans to give Texas Tech's basketball coach Bobby Knight (formerly of Indiana University) suggestions about appropriate rhetorical strategies. Doug's wife, **Chris Quinn Trank**, is now on the faculty of the business school at Texas Tech. Another former Iowan at Texas Tech is our former UI Provost, **Jon Whitmore**. He is the university's new president.

Another of our former faculty members who moved to Texas in 2005 is **Eric Rothenbuhler**, who resigned his administrative position as Director of Graduate Studies in the Media Studies Program at the New School University in New York City to accept a senior faculty position in the Communication Department at Texas A&M University to help develop a new Media Studies program.

**Greg Shepherd** also has a new job, although he is not changing universities. He's been named Dean of the College of Communication at Ohio University. Prior to this Greg directed the college's School of Communication Studies after the years he spent at the University of Kansas. According to *The Athens News*, as dean, Greg will "provide leadership for the college's five schools: the E.W.Scripps School of Journalism, the J.W. McLure School of Communication Systems Management, the School of Communication Studies, the School of Telecommunications, and the School of Visual Communication."

**Robert Newman's** latest book came out: *Enola Gay and the Court of History* (2004) is part of publisher Peter Lang's Frontiers in Political Communication series. Bruce did an afterword for it. The reviews of the book capture Bob's polemical style—it's a great read.

Another former faculty member who taught just one year at Iowa—1966-67—died June 27 in Kennebunkport, Maine. This was **Murray Yaeger**. He was retired from Boston University, where he taught for most of his career.

FORMER FACULTY (CONT.)

A long time colleague of his at Boston wrote that "to call Dr. Yaeger a dedicated professor is an understatement: he was obsessed with giving his students the opportunity to learn. Our students were fortunate to have him as a professor." Murray was also a prolific and talented painter.

Another death we are sorry to report on is Jim Bradac's. He was only 59 years old. As many of you know, shortly after moving to the University of California-Santa Barbara, Jim developed Lou Gehrig's disease. Despite an inability to move even a finger, he continued to be in his office all day, every weekday, where he taught, completed a book, and edited a scholarly journal, using a voice-activated computer. When the disease caused him to lose his voice, he continued to work, using a computer that he operated with blinks of his eye. It was slow and difficult, but he persevered.

For a moving account of his situation, you should read the piece Jim wrote titled "It's All In Your Head." It was published in the newsletter of the International Communication Association, vol. 26, #6, November 1998. The Communication department at Santa Barbara has established an annual lecture in Jim's honor. John Bowers presented the inaugural lecture, entitling it "Old Eyes Take a New Look at Bradac's Favorite Variables." We believe the selection of John for the inaugural lecture hon-

oring Jim was quite appropriate since the two worked closely together when Jim was on our faculty. In fact, in many ways, John was Jim's mentor, on social, as well as scholarly matters.

**Ted Perry**, now the Paris Fletcher Professor of the Arts and the Director of the Arts at Middlebury College in Vermont has another new book out. Titled *The Seeing I*, (Chicago: Olive Production and Publishing). The book, supplemented by a DVD, shows and analyzes the work of Israeli sculptor Buky Schwartz.

**Hanno Hardt** writes that Blackwell published his book, *Myths for the Masses: An Essay on Mass Communication*. He also reports that the Slovene government in June 2004 awarded him its highest honor for academics in that country, the "Ambassador of Science" title. So we can now address him as "Mr. Ambassador." He and his wife, **Vida Zei** (2003) now live in Slovenia where both will teach at the University of Ljubljana. Hanno and Vida have rebuilt a house in their vineyard near the Italian border.

**Eileen Meehan**, the first Lemuel Heidel Brown Endowed Chair in Media and Political Economy at LSU, last year published a book, *Why TV is Not Our Fault* (Rowman and Littlefield).

**Bob Pepper** resigned his position as chief of policy development at the Federal Communications

Commission after 19 years at the Commission and joined Cisco as senior managing director for global advanced technology. Working out of Washington, he is leading a team that will drive Cisco's policy agenda for the company's advanced technology policy goals in areas such as wireless, voice-over-Internet protocol, broadband services, and security. Google him and you'll find some of his policy statements—as firmly assertive and front-edged as ever.

**John Lyne** has stepped out of the position of chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Pittsburgh to resume full-time teaching and scholarship. We are pleased at this news because we think he still has a great deal to say with his research and writing. As a matter of fact, he'll be spending much of the spring 2007 semester back in Iowa City, working and teaching a short course for our grad students. By the way, John took them by storm last October: he introduced two rhetorical stars, David Zarefsky and Michael Leff, with the help of an Groucho Marx puppet, offering a ten-minute dialogue that made the tenth biennial Public Address Conference a landmark in professional courtesy and hilarity. Feel free to contact John or his agent if you'd like to bring him to your academic events.

KEEP US UP-TO-DATE

As part of the Department of Communication Studies' ongoing work and service, we always want to hear about you. We have appreciated responses from you in the past, and hope that you will continue to keep us informed. Just sent the information below to us at:

Department of Communication Studies, 105 Becker Communication Bldg, Iowa City, IA 52242-1498 or contact us via email at: commstudies-inquiry@uiowa.edu

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

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## HONOR ROLL OF CONTRIBUTORS

This honor roll gratefully recognizes graduates, faculty, and friends who contributed \$100 or more from January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, to the Department of Communication Studies and the A. Craig Baird Debate Forum through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University.

Contributors are listed alphabetically. A (PC) follows the names of those who qualified for membership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club Patrons Circle by contributing \$2,500 or more to any area in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. Contributors of \$1,000 through \$2,499 from January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, qualify for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club, which is indicated by a (DC) following their names.

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For more information about how you can support the Department of Communication Studies or the A. Craig Baird Debate Forum through annual gifts, life-income gifts, or other forms of charitable contributions, contact Jeff Liebermann at The University of Iowa Foundation, Levitt Center for University Advancement, P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, Iowa 52244-4550; (319) 335-3305 or (800) 648-6973; e-mail: [jeff-liebermann@uiowa.edu](mailto:jeff-liebermann@uiowa.edu). Thank you.

**Note from the Chair:**

We are extremely grateful to all who support our department. Some upcoming initiatives we hope to accomplish are the creation of The Samuel Becker Endowed Professorship that will recognize a distinguished faculty member and annually provide partial support of salary or teaching, research, and scholarship expenses. Establishment of this professorship makes it possible to retain top-ranked faculty at the department who play such a vital role in educating the leaders and educators of tomorrow.

We also hope to fund Graduate Student Tuition Fellowships. Establishment of these fellowships would enhance the educational experience at The University of Iowa for undergraduate students by attracting the best graduate students who ultimately become their teachers and mentors.

