CU Denver Department of Communication Welcomes New Faculty Members

The Department of Communication is excited to announce that we will have three new faculty joining our team this year. Their expertise will allow us to expand the number of courses we offer each semester and will strengthen our attention to media, gender, globalization, and health. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our community:

**Dr. Sarah K. Fields** (JD, Washington University; PhD, University of Iowa) joins the faculty as an Associate Professor. She has previously taught at Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Georgia, and Ohio State University. Her research and teaching focuses on the intersection of sport and American culture, examining issues of gender, injury, and law. She is the author of *Female Gladiators: Gender, Law, and Contact Sport in America* (University of Illinois Press, 2005).

**Dr. Amy Hasinoff** (PhD, University of Illinois) joins the department as an Assistant Professor. She recently completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. Her work on new media, gender, and sexuality has appeared in *New Media & Society*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, and elsewhere. Dr. Hasinoff’s book, *How to Think About Sexting*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

**Dr. Gordana Lazić** (PhD, University of Denver) joins the Department as our Internships Director. Dr. Lazić has previously taught classes at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Denver. Her research addresses the rhetoric of resistance, especially in nondemocratic political contexts such as Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and has recently focused on Serbian student protests. Her publications appear in places such as the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*.

We also congratulate **Dr. Patrick Shao-Whea Dodge** on his promotion to Assistant Professor-Clinical Track and **Dr. e.j. Yoder** on her promotion to Senior Instructor.

**Inside this Issue**
- Greetings from the Chair ............ 2
- Learning Through Experience ........ 3
- Community Partners ............... 3
- Student Involvement & Honors .... 4
- Events & Awards ................... 5
- Achievements ..................... 6
- Unique Opportunities ............ 7
- Research & Recognition ........... 8
- ICB Update ....................... 9
- Book Notes ...................... 9
- Faculty & Staff Happenings ...... 10
- The Year in Pictures ............. 11
Greetings all, and welcome to the 2013 Department of Communication newsletter. We had another outstanding year in the Plaza Building, so I want to share three of our highlights with our community of friends, families, students, staff, colleagues, alumni, and donors.

**Globalization**—We have continued our commitments to studying and practicing globalization. In January, Dr. e.j. Yoder took a group of students to study the relations between food and culture in Spain; then in May she took another group of students to do social justice work in Guatemala; during Maymester, Dr. Hamilton Bean led a class of students to Beijing while Dr. Julia Khrebtan took an international communication class to Italy. Our senior-level course on Global Communication (COMM 4720) and the new graduate seminar on Communication, Globalization, and Social Justice (COMM 5710) deepened our commitments to teaching and learning about globalization and, in the Fall of 2013, we will begin a new transnational, online buddy system with our students at the International College of Beijing (ICB). And so we continue to foster cross-cultural education, international friendship, and global scholarship.

**Service Learning and Social Justice**—We are proud to have built the largest service learning and community engagement program in the college. Our efforts have been led by Suzanne Stromberg’s Internship course (COMM 3939), which places 75 students per year with local businesses, NGOs, and community groups. Dr. Hamilton Bean’s Advanced Public Relations (COMM 4640) enabled American and Chinese students to work with Ogilvy PR in China, and Ian Dawe’s Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice (COMM 4040) sent 30 students to teach in jail, serve as legal aids, and mentor at-risk youth. Dr. Yvette Bueno-Olson has continued to use Health Communication (COMM 4500) to partner with community groups, and, for the first time in spring of 2012, we offered internships to our Beijing-based students. I could not be more proud of the ways our faculty and students have fulfilled the many tasks that help democracy, social justice, and civic engagement flourish.

**Cultivating a Culture of Excellence**—During the past year, Drs. Foss and Ott won prestigious academic awards from the National Communication Association (NCA); Drs. Dodge, Keränen, and I received two grants for work on China/Tibet/U.S. communication, while Dr. Bean worked on a million-dollar contract from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Dr. Ott assumed the presidency of the Western States Communication Association (WSCA), and Dr. Keränen assumed the presidency of the Association for the Rhetoric of Science & Technology (ARST). Dr. Allen continued her intense schedule of speaking about diversity at venues all around the nation, and worked for inclusive excellence in her new role as Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Erbert led the sustainability minor and launched an innovative environmental communication course that included a week in Rocky Mountain National Park. Finally, Drs. Allen, Foss, Keränen, Ott, and I delivered invited lectures and keynote addresses in venues both domestic and international. Our program assistant, Michelle Médal received not one, not two, but three awards recognizing her commitment to service to our university and women’s issues around the globe. As these awards and accomplishments indicate, we are building a culture of excellence.

There is much more to say, but little space available here, so I will close by inviting everyone who reads this newsletter to come on back to campus and drop by the office to say hello or to send us an email telling us about your triumphs and adventures. As Ben Franklin used to say at the close of his letters, I remain your humble servant, with all best wishes and high regards,

Stephen John Hartnett
Professor and Chair
Department of Communication
CU Denver
P.O. Box 173364
Campus Box 176
Denver, CO 80217
Stephen.Hartnett@ucdenver.edu
303.556.2778
This course, led by Dr. Khrebtan, focused on communication theory and research methods in the areas of globalization, construction and negotiation of Italianità, cross-cultural awareness, and international management. We explored the unique nature of historical and contemporary Italy, and built our own American-Italian bridges between the old (including UNESCO World Heritage Sites), the new (Italy’s thriving urban diversity), the borrowed (elements of global pop culture) and the blue (the magnificent Mediterranean, which cradles Sorrento, our host town).

Food is one of those “taken for granted” ordinary cultural identifiers. However, food is more than a means of survival. It permeates many aspects of our lives from the most intimate to the most professional. Food exemplifies how we view ourselves and others while being the center of political and social issues. This year we launched an interterm travel study course, led by Dr. Yoder, in which we used food as the foundation for analyzing the performances of both ethnic and national identities in Catalonia, Spain. From the Spanish home kitchen to the trendiest restaurant, from the daily markets and small fishing villages to the olive groves and vineyards, we analyzed how Spaniards and Catalans use food to create competing regional and national identities. Through excursions, in-country personal experience, culture-specific readings, and a final research project, students had a great time analyzing Spanish and Catalan cultural identity construction through food. We are looking forward to another great program in January 2014.

Benvenuti - Managing Across Cultures!

This course, led by Dr. Khrebtan, focused on communication theory and research methods in the areas of globalization, construction and negotiation of Italianità, cross-cultural awareness, and international management. We explored the unique nature of historical and contemporary Italy, and built our own American-Italian bridges between the old (including UNESCO World Heritage Sites), the new (Italy’s thriving urban diversity), the borrowed (elements of global pop culture) and the blue (the magnificent Mediterranean, which cradles Sorrento, our host town).

Our Community Partners

The Department of Communication strives to enable our students to merge classroom learning with hands-on community engagement, thus putting our communication skills to work for diverse interests and constituencies. During the 2012-13 academic year, we supported internship, service learning, or community engagement partnerships with:

In spring 2013, the Department of Communication inducted 23 new members into Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), the official honor society for Communication majors at four-year colleges and universities. The newly inducted members included Eve Ami, Siyu Cai, Ann Fletcher, Benjamin Gazaway, Tracie Gracie, Gordon Hamby, Lauren Harball, Natalie Iftand, Rong Jia, Tracie Johnson, Brittany Knigge, Haiyue Liu, Ke Liu, Breanna Lopez, Gina Masciotro, Samantha Miles, Clare Pak, Misty Saribal, Sarah Shoulak, Lichao Sun, An Tran, Brianna Westlake, and Lingwen Zhang.

LPH has over 400 chapters at colleges and universities worldwide. It was founded in 1985 at the University of Arkansas, though it did not become the National Communication Association’s official honor society until July 1995. LPH is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) whose mission is to build a cohesive community of national and international honor societies, individually and collaboratively exhibiting excellence in scholarship, service, programs, and governance.

To be eligible for membership, students must have successfully completed 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework; have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0; have completed the equivalent of 12 semester hours of coursework in communication; and have a grade point average of at least a 3.25 in their Communication courses.

If you would like to know more about LPH, please contact Dr. Gordana Lazić, LPH Faculty Advisor, at Gordana.Lazic@ucdenver.edu.
This year marked the 14th celebration of Communication Days by highlighting the importance of communication in the world and recognizing those who are making significant contributions to the Department and the larger community. Held April 1-5, 2013, the event featured 21 guest speakers and workshops in communication classes, giving students the opportunity to see communication at work in the world outside of the university.

The keynote presentation featured Dr. Aimee Carrillo Rowe from California State University—Northridge. In her moving presentation, “‘So Much Basura’: Medicating Imperial Trauma, Mediating Collective Healing,” she discussed how some people’s stories are invisible in society and how such oversights can be healed through a broader conception of communication that includes Indigenous, Chicana, queer, and spiritual components.

Dr. Carrillo Rowe also co-coordinated a workshop with Maisha Fields titled “Unhinging Diversity: A Candid Conversation about How, Where, and Why Differences Matter in Our Learning Community.”

Student Awards

Naazlin Dadani, who graduated with her BA from the Department in 2002, received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Since her graduation, Naazlin has served as the program manager of the Society of Safe Environment and Welfare in Pakistan, overseeing 12 programs that addressed water and sanitation, food relief, food security, and the building of shelters and schools and was a case worker for the State Department in refugee camps across sub-Saharan Africa.

Two students were the recipients of the Lael Porter Award for Community Service, which honors outstanding community service by an undergraduate student. Mouath Baesho served as a translator and interpreter between foreign patients and staff at various hospitals, worked as a political canvasser, and volunteered with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. He participated in and served as a consultant for the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Libya, a United Nations educational, scientific, and cultural organization, and served as the Libyan representative to and spokesperson for the International Youth Organization.

Also receiving the Lael Porter Award for Community Service was Misty Saribal, whose community service has focused on the Colorado prison community. She was one of the student tutors who participated in a semester-long public speaking and poetry class at the Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. She also helped coordinate the annual Captured Words, Free Thoughts magazine that features works written by people who are serving time in prisons across the country.

The Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award, which recognizes leadership in the Communication Department, was presented to Gordon B. Hamby. Gordon is a senior at CU Denver who is this year’s student body president, where he regularly demonstrates his communication skills and organizational abilities. He has served as a mentor to incoming freshmen with the Peer Advocate Leader group, as a mentor for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund chapters, and as president of the Ethnic Studies student organization.

The winner of the Sonja K. Foss Award for Academic Excellence was Samantha Miles, who graduated with a joint degree in communication and political science with a GPA of 3.89. Samantha was recognized for her seminar paper on the status of women and the feminization of poverty in post-revolutionary Egypt. She engaged in service learning in Guatemala and studied Arabic in Morocco and Tunisia. She served as a fellow at the Institute for International Policy Studies and, closer to home, worked with women’s groups all over campus and served as a tutor at the Denver Women’s Prison.
Senior Instructor and Director of Internships Suzanne Stromberg retired this spring after 17 years of service. She has since spent the summer travelling with her family to 21 out of 50 States and working on various entrepreneurial projects, including getting back into the real estate business. In the future, she plans to do some communication consulting. We miss you, Suzanne, and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Kirsten Carlson recently joined the communications team at Rocky Mountain Institute, an energy research non-profit in Snowmass, CO. As RMI’s Public Relations Coordinator, Kirsten works with industry experts in resource efficiency, integrative design, and renewable energy to develop communication strategies and materials and to manage media relations.

Laura Lemon and Amy O’Connell co-authored a publication with Dr. Hamilton Bean in the Southern Communication Journal. Lemon will attend the public relations PhD program at the University of Tennessee starting this fall.

Laura Garcia Sanchez accepted a position as an Academic Learning Specialist at the Learning Center of CU Denver.

Betsy Brunner, now enrolled in the PhD program at Utah, received a WSCA top paper award for her paper on the art of Xu Xiaoayan and received a fellowship from the Asia Studies Center for summer Mandarin study in Tianjin, China.

Erin Davison and Harry Archer received top paper awards this year from WSCA and NCA, respectively.

Mary Domenico, now a PhD student at UNC-Chapel Hill, was selected to attend the NCA’s 2013 Honors Doctoral Seminar in Maine.

Susan Pahlau accepted the position of Assistant Professor & Director of Internships at Colorado Christian University.

David Proper became Communications Director of the Denver University’s Korbel School of International Studies.

Awards and Leadership Positions

Dr. Brenda J. Allen received the Elizabeth Gee award from the University of Colorado system.

Dr. Patrick Dodge won the 2013 Excellent ICB Teacher award.

Graduate Mary E. Domenico received the 2013 CLAS Outstanding Master of Arts award.

Dr. Sonja K. Foss received the Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award, presented by the NCA, and the 2013 CLAS Outstanding Faculty Achievement award.

Dr. Lisa Keränen became the President of the Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology (ARST).

Graduate Samantha A. Miles received the 2013 CLAS Outstanding Bachelor of Arts award.

Dr. Yvette Bueno-Olson received a 2013 CLAS Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Brian Ott and his co-authors received a 2013 NCA Golden Monograph Award and he became President of the Western States Communication Association (WSCA).
Announcing the Puksta Fellowships

In the Summer of 2013, the Department partnered with the Denver-based Puksta Foundation to launch an innovative program.

Because both the Department and the Puksta Foundation are committed to producing 21st century civic leaders dedicated to social justice, we have built a three-semester-long program that merges hands-on leadership opportunities in the community with world-class intellectual challenges. Our first class of five Puksta Fellows will do social-justice based internships in the Summer of 2013, will write senior theses about their experiences in the Fall of 2013, and will then combine their internship and classroom experiences in a capstone experience in Spring 2014.

The Puksta Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have partnered to pledge $45,000 in support of tuition for our Puksta Fellows. The 2013/2014 Puksta Fellows are Amira Aletebi (working on global poverty and women’s issues), Lakeisha Ashley (working on race relations in Denver), Mouath Baesho (founding a new CU Denver chapter of Amnesty International), Misty Saribal (working on prison reform), and Benjamin Swales (applying his tech-savvy web skills to building social justice web sites).

Students who wish to apply to become a Puksta Fellow should contact Dr. Hartnett; applications for next year are due on April 1, 2014.

Sustainability Minor Leads Students on New Paths

Dr. Larry Erbert and 13 Communication students spent Maymester hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park in a new course called “Wilderness Communication.” The course was designed to spend extended time in wilderness areas and to increase awareness of environmental concerns. The new course is part of the department’s efforts to increase offerings in Environmental Communication and recognizes that educational experiences are not always restricted to indoor classrooms. Dr. Erbert, the Director of the Sustainability Minor, is currently developing additional courses in Environmental Campaigns and Environmental Conflicts.

For those students interested in environmental issues, joining the Sustainability Minor is an excellent avenue for expanding environmental knowledge across disciplines and for engaging community members on issues from local water quality challenges to the emerging local food revolution in Colorado. A total of nine departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participate in the minor and offer a range of courses that focus on solving environmental problems, engaging environmental groups, and creating greater awareness of local, regional, and global environmental concerns. Come join the minor!
For the past two years, Drs. Patrick Dodge, Stephen J. Hartnett, and Lisa Keränen, along with University of Las Vegas collaborator Dr. Donovan Conley, have been thinking and writing about how the United States and China configure and relate to one another as economic and cultural superpowers.

As part of this broader project, the team has begun to examine the status of Tibetan exile communication, considering how those who have been forced to leave Tibet under Chinese rule have attempted to persuade the broader global community of their cause. In the summer of 2013, the team visited Dharamsala, India, the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile; Nepal, Kathmandu, home to a large exile Tibetan community; and New Delhi, India, home to a large number of exiled Tibetan leaders and activists. In each site, they observed public displays of Tibetan culture, particularly museum and memorial culture, and interviewed Tibetan exiles, asking about their hopes for independence, their plans for cultural survival, and their thoughts on how the U.S., globalization, and China impact their human rights.

As part of the multi-year grant process, Drs. Conley, Dodge, Hartnett, and Keränen hosted an international conference on these issues in Reno, Nevada, in February 2013, and will host another conference in Washington, D.C., in November 2013. Multiple journal publications and blog postings have resulted, with two books in process.

The researchers appreciate funding from the Villanova University Department of Communication, which manages the Waterhouse Family Institute’s annual social justice grant, and the CU Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ CRISP seed grant program.

Program Assistant Michelle Médal Recognized as Campus Leader

Program Assistant Michelle Médal received three awards this year. First, she was selected as the 2013 recipient of University of Colorado Staff Council Service Excellence Award for the Denver/Anschutz campus. This award is given to individuals who have provided outstanding service to their campus, community, and the university as a whole. Second, she was selected as the 2013 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Staff member. This award is given for excellent job performance within the college. Third, Michelle was awarded this year’s Friend of the Department Award, which is given to someone who supports the mission of the department by providing excellent service to our students and the community and by creating a learning environment that helps make the world a more civil and humane place.
Exciting Times at International College Beijing

Change is a constant in Beijing, whether it is the shifting topography in the modernization of the city or the addition of the new Media Lab, where Communication students can learn practical skills to produce mediated forms of communication. Another constant is that the Communication program at the International College Beijing (ICB) continues to grow both its size and scope.

Over the past 5 years the COMM department has expanded from an incoming class of 20 students to an incoming class of 100 majors with more than 20 minors. Additionally, this past year three of our Communication majors from Denver went to study abroad in Beijing for the full year.

Our Narratives of New China Maymester class continues to be a wonderful opportunity for students wanting to study abroad during the summer. The diversity of American perspectives these students have brought to the classroom has added a crucial international element to our teaching practices and discussions about the U.S.-China relationship.

We’ve also branched out to make connections in Beijing’s greater community, as our Internship Program has connected over 40 students to for-credit internships. Students now have opportunities to take advantage of our collaborations with China Open, Weber Shandwick, Eleutian Technology, iCan International Education Center, and Cycle China, to name a few.

With student excursions to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Summer Palace, we’ve been able to provide students the opportunity to experience Beijing’s history and culture. In this setting students are able to develop the skills they will use to create the global world of the future.

You can find out more about ICB at: http://icbe.cau.edu.cn/.

2013 Book Notes

Between 2010 and the present, our tenure-stream faculty have published more than 12 books, textbooks, and edited volumes and over 50 journal articles and book chapters; received more than 10 national, international, and regional awards; served on more than 8 editorial boards; and received external grant money from agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Waterhouse Family Institute and NCA. Many of our publications appeared in the leading journals of our field such as the Quarterly Journal of Speech and Rhetoric & Public Affairs.

Here are some of the monographs and edited volumes published during the 2012-13 academic year:


Professor Brenda J. Allen is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the CU Denver|Anschutz Medical Campus. Her research and teaching encompass organizational communication, diversity, and critical pedagogy. She is the author of *Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity*.

Assistant Professor Hamilton Bean co-authored an essay about organizational democracy with MA alums Laura Lemon and Amy O’Connell for the *Southern Communication Journal*. He also had an essay commissioned for the inaugural issue of *QED* about “Wikileaker” Bradley Manning. He taught Advanced Public Relations in Beijing and gained ten pounds as a result of eating too much delicious Chinese food.

Associate Professor Larry Erbert is the Director of the Sustainability Minor in CLAS. Larry serves as an advisory board member for MSS/MHUM, as a steering committee member for University Honors and Leadership Program, and as the Director of the Mediation Certificate.

Professor Sonja K. Foss lectured on the topic, “Beyond Persuasion: A Proposal for an Invitational Rhetoric” at four universities in China—Shanghai University, Qufu Normal University, Zhengzhou University, and Hunan University of Science and Technology in Zhumzhou.

Instructor Kristy Frie started her second year as the Communication Department liaison for the CU Succeed program. Along with teaching COMM 2020 online, she also provides department support for Continuing Education research and projects. When she’s not teaching, Kristy loves spending time with family and her 5-year-old twin niece and nephew.

Beyond chairing the department and finishing two books, Professor Stephen Hartnett skied, hiked, biked, and rafted in Colorado with Anya (11), Melia (9), and Dr. Lisa; snorkeled in the Yucatan; got hit by a rickshaw in Delhi; hung out with Chinese technology workers by a yurt on Qinghai Lake; and visited friends, family, and colleagues in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago, Durango, Beijing, Albuquerque, and Reno.

Dr. Supriya Karudapuram is beginning her second year as a member of the faculty at ICB. In addition to serving as an honors thesis advisor, Professor Karudapuram has taught a number of classes this year, including Diversity, Communication and Change, and Asian American Culture and Communication.

Maximizing her spring sabbatical, Associate Professor Lisa Keränäinen edited two special issues (*Journal of Medical Humanities* and *POROI*), completed two publications, and made progress on her second book, *Envisioning Viral Apocalypse*. She gave several invited lectures; continued as President of ARST and conducted research in India and Nepal.

Instructor Kirsten Lindholm teaches at the International College Beijing. She is an alumna of the COMM Master’s program. She fell in love with China when she traveled there during Maymester 2012, and she started teaching in Beijing that fall.

Instructor Diann Logan is a former singer in a rock & roll band but gave it up to invest energy into pondering how humans do what we do and how we could do it with more energy and conviction. She has it all: career, husband, daughter, hobbies, pet, and a collection of American cookbooks from 1922-1978. Most memorable travel experience: the beach in Durban, South Africa.

Program Assistant Michelle Médal enters her 4th year with the department, and continues to love working here at CU Denver. She was fortunate to travel to Tokyo and then on to Beijing, to study with Dr. Bean and a great group of students in May. It was an amazing experience, and she has been missing “spicy fish” ever since.

In addition to successfully completing her fourth year as faculty director for our international service-learning program in Guatemala, Senior Instructor e.j. Yoder developed and led a winter interterm course to Barcelona, Spain to study food’s role in ethnic identity construction. She continues to explore food as communication in COMM 4601, which is offered both fall and spring semesters. Finally, she is looking forward to another year as undergraduate adviser.
The Year in Pictures

Pictured clockwise from upper left: ICB students visit Shanghai; MA students Rachael Thompson and Casey Wopat at WSCA; 2013 Narratives student banquet; Supriya Karudapuram, Sonja Foss, Kirsten Lindholm, Jared Woolly, Patrick Dodge and Anthony Radich in China; MA students Rebecca Burris and Sang Min Kim with Dr. Stratman; 2013 Nobel Cause students in Guatemala; Maisha Fields AKA “Frida” on Halloween; Team ICB waiting to eat Hot Pot in Beijing; Patrick Dodge and Stephen Hartnett on Ghost Street; Stephen Hartnett, Sonja Foss and MA alumni Harry Archer at Communication Days; and in the pumpkin patch - MA students Allison Dietz, Alyssa Schreiber, Nicole Palidwor and Amira Aletebi.
INVEST IN OUR DEPARTMENT’S FUTURE

If you are particularly appreciative of how your communication degree prepared you to be a valued contributor to your world and would like to ensure that others have the same opportunity, please mail your contribution to:

University of Colorado Foundation
1800 Grant Street, Suite 725
Denver, CO 80203

Be sure to specify in the memo line that it is for CU Denver’s Communication Department and include the fund number 0321663. Many thanks for your support!


Like us on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/
UCDDepartmentofCommunication