We welcome exciting changes to our new home at 1201 Larimer Street:

- New Physical Space
- New Media Learning Lab
- Puksta Fellows
- Student Awards
- New Online Degree
- Faculty News and Notes
Greetings all, and welcome to the 2014 Department of Communication newsletter. We had another outstanding year on the downtown Denver campus, so I want to share three of our highlights with our community of friends, families, students, staff, colleagues, alumni, donors, and supporters.

The New Building

After almost 20 years in the Plaza Building, the Department has moved into the third floor of the brand new Student Commons Building, which Westword declared “Denver’s Best New Building.” As part of the move, we have acquired more offices for our faculty and staff; better teaching facilities for our undergraduate and graduate classes; a gorgeous, glass-lined conference room overlooking Speer Boulevard; and a beautiful, shared community meeting space. We will celebrate the new building during a reception this autumn, so watch for upcoming notices about that event. We are proud to be tenants of this stunning new testament to CU Denver’s urban ethos, strong city-campus connections, rising prestige, and sound fiscal leadership.

The New Certificate in Strategic Communication and Media Learning Lab

In keeping with worldwide transformations in journalism, information technology, media production, image consumption, citizen engagement, and message circulation, the Department will be replacing its existing Certificate in Public Relations with a new Certificate in Strategic Communication (CSC). The new CSC will require students to complete 6 classes (18 credits)—positioning them as ideal candidates for jobs in new media, civic journalism, public relations, citizen engagement, and other modes of strategic communication in local, national, and global contexts. In conjunction with the new CSC, we are opening a new Media Learning Laboratory, a state-of-the-art media editing and production space, and refurbishing the one at our International College Beijing (ICB).

The New Online Degree

Surveying recent trends in higher education, CU Denver administrators have decided that the long-term health of the university depends in part on offering more online courses. The Department of Communication was therefore approached by CU Online leadership and asked if we would consider becoming one of the campus leaders in this endeavor. As a result, the Department is embarking upon an ambitious roll-out of online courses, starting with 8 new or significantly revised online courses in the fall of 2014. Assuming that online enrollments reach expected levels, the Department will add an additional 8 new online courses in the fall of 2015, meaning students who choose to do so will be able to complete their entire BA degree with online courses. As we enter this new phase of higher education, we maintain our commitment to pedagogical excellence and our hope that offering more online courses will open our community to more far-flung rural, working, and international participants.

There is much more to say, but little space available here, so I will close by inviting everyone who reads this newsletter to 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
University of Colorado Denver
1201 Larimer Street, Room 3016
P.O. Box 173364
Campus Box 176
Denver, CO 80217
stephen.hartnett@ucdenver.edu
303.315.1914
‘COMMplishments

Putting Communication to Work

Our students have many accomplishments to brag about. Below are just a few examples of how they are using their communication knowledge and skills to thrive in their lives and careers:

COMM major Rachelle Benson just scored a highly-coveted internship with Denver’s 5280 magazine.

MA student Allison Dietz accepted a position as a Communication Specialist for Klein Buendel, a Denver-based health communication research firm.

COMM major Yu (Kathy) Hua’s photo was published in the China Daily, an English-language newspaper with a daily circulation above 500,000.

BA alum Candice Deezy Liu’s Inkspired magazine spreads awareness of tattoo culture to more than 1,000,000 fans.

BA alum Caitlin Mock Wilson, Media/Communications Director at Treflora, was recognized as among Denver’s most influential professionals in Colorado Biz Magazine.

International College Beijing Grows

The Department of Communication at the International College Beijing (ICB) continues to thrive. Over the past three years, Communication majors in our program have increased by 91%, while the department has continued to implement diversity, inclusion, intercultural, and global communication in our classes. We have continued to innovate our curriculum with experiential learning and service learning opportunities, in which students apply what they learn in the classroom to workplace and internship contexts. This year we offered US-China Communication (COMM 4710), Media Writing Skills (COMM 3680), Environmental Communication (COMM 4282), and Workplace Communication (COMM 2045) for the first time in China.

Our Media Lab will benefit from a second round of equipment purchases. We will be adding $20,000 worth of computers, cameras, and software to expand the range of media skills we teach to support the strategic production of new media and digital communication.

Even while we expand our production courses, classes such as Citizenship, Diversity, and Global Communication remain an important and rigorous part of our curriculum, teaching students the critical thinking skills they need to be successful 21st Century citizens. Combining these classes with experiential and service activities makes the Department of Communication at ICB an exciting place to work and study.
Puksta & COMM, Changing Communities One Project at a Time

Last fall, the Department launched a new partnership with the Puksta Foundation, a Denver-based NGO committed to training the next generation of civic leaders. CU Denver Puksta Fellows complete a summer internship with a social justice-based group and, in the fall of their senior year, take Dr. Foss’s “Writing Practicum” to develop their writing skills while completing a semester-long research project on a social justice program. In the spring of their senior year, students complete a capstone community-engagement project. Puksta Fellows receive tuition for two of these three courses. By pursuing this series of classes, our Puksta Fellows graduate with a unique combination of scholarly skills and hands-on community-leadership experience.

Our incoming class of 2014/15 Puksta Fellows includes:

- **Alex Landau**, who is working with the NAACP to organize a campaign against police brutality in Denver;
- **Alicia Lucero**, who is working with the STRIVE program to advocate for educational justice for Latino/a youth;
- **Jeremy Make**, who is working with the Life Quality Institute, where he uses digital media to support end-of-life patients and physician training; and
- **Shelby Anne Nichols**, who worked with Worldwide Partners in Denver, and now ActivaMente in Mexico City, where she uses her Spanish to craft culturally sensitive messages for globalizing markets.

For their generous support of our Puksta Fellows Program, the Department sends its deep appreciation to **John Mulstay**, the Director of the Puksta Foundation, and to **NiChel Meis**, Puksta’s Director of Development.

Internships & Community Partners

The Department of Communication offers its Internship course (COMM 3939) across fall, spring, and summer terms. Over the past 3 semesters, 60 students have been enrolled in the Internship course in the US and in China. This course provides students with an opportunity to earn academic credit while working in a professional setting. Through these internships, our students gain valuable insights into their chosen field through hands-on experiences that help them integrate communication theory and practice.

Our Community Partners

**Internships and Service Learning with Media Producers:** 7 News, CBS 4, KYGO, KZCO/KMGH, Music Industry Student Association, People’s Daily, the Social Justice Project website, the Swallow Hill Music Association, and Tweeter Communications.

**Internships and Service Learning with Civic, Arts, and Justice Groups:** Advocates for Children, Amnesty International, Azteca Colorado, Center for Middle East Studies (University of Denver), Colorado Photography Arts Center, Comedy Works, COUTURE Colorado, CU Denver Advising Center, Denver Cutthroats, Emily Griffith Foundation, Give Back Yoga Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, iINSPIRE!, the Littleton Museum, Rocky Mountain CARES, SoCo Nightlife District.

Unique Offerings Support Student Success

Democratsizing Higher Education: CU Succeed

The Department of Communication is a proud participant in the CU Succeed program, which offers college courses to students across Colorado high schools. The program empowers students to begin building their college transcripts while still in high school at an affordable price.

Through CU Succeed, the Department of Communication offers high school students our core curriculum, including COMM 1001, Presentational Speaking; COMM 1011, Fundamentals of Communication; and COMM 1041, Interpersonal Communication.

From 2008 to 2014, the department, the CU Succeed team, COMM Instructors, and our partner high schools have worked with 1,181 COMM students. 2013-2014 was our biggest year, as we doubled the number of classes offered through the program. We look forward to working with our partner high schools across Colorado, which include Abe Lincoln, Bayfield, Beth Jacob, DCIS at Montbello, George Washington, Manual, and North. This program has given the department a fantastic opportunity to spread our mission of social justice, diversity, and democratic education throughout the Colorado Public Schools system.

Online Communication Degree Expands Access to College

As of the fall of 2014, the Department has expanded its online offerings, hopefully making our classes more accessible to new students. We will roll out additional online classes in the spring and summer of 2015, so our eventual online roster of classes will include:

5 Required Entrance Classes
COMM 1001, Presentational Speaking or
COMM 2050, Business and Professional Speaking
COMM 1011, Fundamentals of Communication
COMM 1021, Introduction to Media Studies
COMM 2020, Communication, Citizenship, and Social Justice

From our Pathways
COMM 1041, Interpersonal Communication
COMM 2045, Workplace Communication
COMM 2051, Introduction to Strategic Communication
COMM 2082, Introduction to Environmental Communication
COMM 3271, Communication and Diversity
COMM 3650, Media and Society
COMM 3939, Internships
COMM 4260, Communication and Conflict
COMM 4270, Intercultural Communication
COMM 4500, Health Communication
COMM 4710, Communication and Sexuality

Kristy Frie, CU Succeed Liaison

The portal to our new online degree.
www.ucdenver.edu/academics/CUOnline/OnlineDegrees/Communication/
14th Annual Celebration of Communication Days

Highlighting the importance of communication in the world and recognizing those who are making significant contributions to the Department and the larger community, this event, held April 7-11, 2014, featured 25 guest speakers in communication classes, giving students the opportunity to see communication at work in the world outside of the university.

Guest speakers shared their expertise from organizations such as Farm Yard Community Supported Agriculture, 9News, Social Wellness Advocacy Network Colorado, One Colorado, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform, Art from Ashes, and the Colorado Drug Policy Alliance.

The keynote presentation featured Dr. Charles E. Morris III, a professor of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University. In his presentation, “Queering Communication: Harvey Milk’s World-making Memory and Social Justice Activism,” Dr. Morris analyzed the rhetoric of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California (he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977). Although Milk’s political career was cut short by his assassination in 1978, Dr. Morris asserted that his legacy lives on as an inspiration to those committed to social justice.

Student Awards

The Department honored outstanding members of its community with several awards at the keynote presentation. Amy O’Connell received the Barbara J. Walkosz Distinguished Alumni Award. Amy currently manages a multi-million-dollar portfolio of partners as a Channel Account Executive for Exact Target, where she is focused on driving results for marketers through new communication technologies. She is an active member of women’s leadership circles and Denver’s GLBTQ community and is a frequent panelist and guest speaker on topics ranging from new-customer acquisition to life-cycle marketing.

Michelle McHenry-Edrington received the Lael Porter Award for Community Service. Michelle served as a volunteer legislative aide for Colorado Representative Rhonda Fields and as a member of the Involuntary Commitment Task Force. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Rocky Mountain Cares, the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, and the Colorado Organizations’ Response to AIDS.

Two students received the Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award, which recognizes leadership in the Communication Department. Haiyue (Seamoon) Liu, who began her studies in communication at our International College Beijing, has been a force for improving China-U.S. relations one student at a time. She organized a Mid-Autumn Festival Banquet, a Lantern Festival Banquet, and a basketball tournament to bring Chinese and American students and faculty together. Seamoon entered the MS program in Communication at Northwestern University this fall.

Also receiving the Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award was Kendall Eilo, who served as the president of the Lambda Pi Eta communication honor society during her senior year. As president, she made Lambda Pi Eta a visible presence on campus by organizing a program, “Systems of Social Injustice,” with the NAACP. She also represented the Communication Department in the larger community, working with Book Trust, the Max Fund Animal Shelter, and the NAACP. Kendall is now an intern coordinator in the office of Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski in Washington, D.C.
The winner of the Sonja K. Foss Award for Academic Excellence was Laura Knaster, who was honored for her Latin honors thesis, “Communication Strategies Employed by Social Justice Organizations to Negotiate Contradictions Between Missions and American Values.” Her thesis addressed how some social justice organizations negotiate between their missions of improving the world and their violation of some tenets of the Constitution. Laura graduated in 2014 and is now a project coordinator for the organizational change program of ChangeLabs.

The Friend of the Department Award went to John Mulstay, founder and director of the Puksta Foundation, a Denver-based NGO committed to training a new generation of civic leaders. The Foundation funds several students each year as Puksta Fellows, who engage with local, national, and international communities, thus developing leadership skills. The Friend of the Department Award recognizes the key role that John plays in enabling the Department to form relationships with community partners, to advance the learning opportunities of students, and to help students and faculty work toward social justice.

Dr. Hamilton Bean was promoted to associate professor and assumed the role of associate chair of the department. In addition, he and his research collaborators at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security-funded Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland, are nearing completion of a $1 million project involving multi-method research on how to best word short, text-based warning messages delivered over mobile devices during an emergency.

Dr. Larry Erbert continues to serve as director of the Sustainability Minor program, and teaches courses that focus on our relationship with nature, including a Maymester class that takes students into Rocky Mountain National Park, and a new online Introduction to Environmental Communication course.

Dr. Sarah Fields is a consultant for a $300,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which evaluates the effectiveness of state level laws regulating when a youth athlete can return to play after a concussion. Her research was recently featured in the New York Times.

Dr. Stephen John Hartnett received the 2014 CLAS Award for Service Excellence and the 2014 CU Denver Award for Service Excellence. At last year’s NCA Convention, he received the Kohrs-Campbell Prize for Rhetorical Criticism for Executing Democracy, Volume 2: Capital Punishment & the Making of America, 1843-1855. Hartnett was also elected 2nd vice president of the NCA.

Dr. Lisa Keränen was selected as a 2014 CU President’s Teaching Scholar.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Amy Hasinoff Will Publish A New Book

Dr. Amy Hasinoff’s new book, Sexting Panic: Rethinking Criminalization, Privacy, and Consent, is forthcoming in 2015 from the University of Illinois Press. The book analyzes the problems in the responses to sexting in mass media, law, and education, and offers new ways of thinking about these issues.

Sexting raises key questions about privacy and consent in networked digital social environments, but these vital issues can get buried underneath the anxiety about girls’ sexuality. Legal and educational authorities often blame and even prosecute girls who sext while paying little attention to people who maliciously distribute private images without permission.

Social media users are routinely told through policy decisions, the terms of service they agree to by using social media, and mainstream advice about online safety that their personal information and the content they produce can be freely distributed and sold—and that this circulation of private information is vital to the digital economy. Sexting Panic argues that such claims about the end of privacy and the impossibility of controlling information online are dangerous because these assumptions can help justify corporate data mining, state surveillance practices, and interpersonal privacy violations.

Faculty & Staff Bios

**Professor Brenda J. Allen** is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Her research and teaching encompass organizational communication, diversity, and critical pedagogy. She is the author of Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity.

**Associate Professor Hamilton Bean** has assumed duties as Associate Chair of the Department. He has also earned Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) from the Public Relations Society of America. Along with his multi-institutional research team, he has continued to investigate how to improve Wireless Emergency Alerts and public warning communication.

In the fall of 2014, **Instructor Ian Dawe** is a Doctoral student at the University of Denver, studying Rhetoric and Communication Ethics with a specific focus on Greco-Roman rhetoric as it applies to the contemporary study of legal reasoning and practice. He and his wife have a one-year-old son who fills their lives with joy. When Ian is not teaching and parenting, he enjoys baseball games at Coors field and playing softball.

**Patrick Shaou-Whea Dodge** is Assistant Professor (Clinical Track) and Associate Program Chair at the University of Colorado Denver’s International College Beijing. He is also the China Operations Coordinator for Global Education in the Office of International Affairs, International College Beijing program. Patrick serves as the Editor-on-Duty for China Agricultural University’s journal publication, Proceedings of URP - Related Research at ICB.

**Associate Professor Larry Erbert** is finishing a co-authored textbook on communication theory, published one academic article in the International Journal of Business Communication, and has a second article in press for the same journal. In May, he taught a new course, Wilderness Communication, which engaged students in a series of hiking excursions and outdoor wilderness learning experiences. Larry will be teaching a new online course in the department this spring, Introduction to Environmental Communication.

**Associate Professor Sarah K. Fields** taught courses on sport as well as law. She published several articles and gave several invited lectures exploring the intersections of sport and law, particularly on the topic of concussions and law. She travelled to Iceland and England and learned that Iceland, while stunning, is still cold in March.

**Professor Sonja K. Foss** published two coauthored essays for the Journal of Case Studies in Education. The 30th anniversary edition of her coauthored book, Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric, was just released by Waveland Press. Dr. Foss continues to work with young scholars throughout the country on various aspects of the academic publishing process, providing coaching to the New Connections scholars of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also conducted a multi-day writing retreat for faculty at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
Instructor Kristy Frie serves as the Department’s CU Succeed Liaison, a role that takes her into high schools all across Colorado. She has also become the Department’s new Online Liaison and teaches online sections of Communication, Citizenship, and Social Justice.

Instructor Supriya Karudapuram teaches at the ICB, where she leads classes in Globalization, Intercultural Communication, Diversity, Gender, and Asian American Communication. Her latest research addresses communication patterns in and between India and China.

Associate Professor Lisa Keränen, director of graduate studies, was selected as a President’s Teaching Scholar, a lifetime appointment representing the CU system’s highest teaching honor. She published essays about medical rhetoric and Tibetan museums, took 15 learners to Beijing and Shanghai over Maymester, collected data in Chengdu and Hong Kong, and enjoyed high altitude hiking and Atlantic Coast bodysurfing with her family.

Professor and Chair Stephen J. Hartnett completed work on a co-edited book, The Dilemmas and Opportunities of U.S.-China Communication in an Age of Globalization, and spent part of June gathering interviews with activists in Hong Kong. When not chairing the department or serving on the NCA Executive Committee, he took his daughters and Dr. Lisa skiing, hiking, and kayaking.

Assistant Professor Amy Adele Hasinoff published articles in New Media & Society, Sexualities, and Girlhood Studies. She recently completed work on her book about the construction of sexting as a social problem and the responses to it in mass media, law, and education.

Instructor C/T Gordana Lazić, our Internships Director and Lambda Pi Eta faculty advisor, teaches courses in communication and diversity, fundamentals of communication, and internship.

Instructor Kristen Lindholm has been teaching in China since fall 2012. Following her MA in Communication from UCD, she began teaching as an Instructor with the International College Beijing where her emphases include public relations, interpersonal, and organizational communication. She currently lives and teaches in Beijing, China.

Instructor Diann Logan got a big thrill this summer when she found time to read a book other than a text book! Her biggest challenge is figuring out how to make that happen again in Fall and Spring when things in the classroom start to hum. When she is not at campus, she’s talking to her plants and experimenting in the kitchen.

Program Assistant Michelle Médal completed her two-year term as president of the Boulder Foothills Zonta club, where she advocates for women and girls, and she continues to serve as a representative on CU Staff Council. She was thrilled to spend three weeks in Greece this fall, a place she has always dreamed of visiting.

Professor Brian L. Ott teaches classes in Rhetorical and Media Studies.

Instructor Kathy Pounders continues to develop online opportunities for the Department. She is the Department representative to the CLAS Online Education Working Committee. She was a participant in the CU Online pilot training program: Online Skills Mastery. She is developing a new online course for Fall: COMM 2045, Workplace Communication.

Instructor Michael Rudeen has been a writer and/or editor for four daily newspapers, a public radio network, a weekly newspaper, two monthly magazines and two websites. He’s taught part time in the Department since 2009 and is launching a new class: Introduction to Journalism.

Associate Professor James F. Stratman, who is in phased retirement, continues to teach courses that support the inter-disciplinary Legal Studies Minor (LSM) and the Department’s Legal Track. His book project of the last four years, Disclosing without Disclosing: ERISA Cash Balance Conversion Cases and the Textual and the Contextual Dynamics of Deception, is now under review for publication at Routledge/Taylor and Francis in their forensic linguistics area.

Instructor Jared Woolly is entering his third year teaching communication at ICB in Beijing. In addition to teaching media skills and production courses, Jared manages the ICB media lab, which gives students hands-on experience with various media technologies. He enjoys exploring Beijing during his off time, and has travelled to numerous Asian countries during his time with ICB.

Senior Instructor e.j. Yoder had a great travel study year in both Spain and Guatemala and has enjoyed watching these international programs grow. In addition to teaching her four upper division courses she presented at the 3rd Annual Food Studies conference in Austin, Texas, on equitable food distribution in Denver, and at the Forum Study Abroad conference in San Diego, California, on the importance of including regional food studies in a cultural analysis. When not focused on teaching and advising she expanded her vegetable garden and chicken flock.
Several CU Denver alumni recently returned to talk to our MA students about career and PhD opportunities. Pictured here are Angie Davlyn (CU Boulder alumna), Kirstin Runa, Lisa Keränen, Kirsten Carlson, and Ryann Nickerson. Their work spans serving as managing directors of consulting firms through directing media relations and public relations for health and environmental organizations.

In addition, the Department Alumni Association Board formed this summer and is already hosting a series of networking events for the remainder of 2014 and into 2015. The Alumni Board is focused on bringing undergraduate and graduate alumni together in a relaxed environment for meaningful networking and discussion. Events are hosted in the Denver Metro area and are open to graduates and their friends. Join the discussion and learn about the Association's next event by joining the Department Facebook page or LinkedIn group. Want to host or be involved more? Reach out to Board Chair, Amy O'Connell, at aoconnell@salesforce.com, with hosting opportunities, meet-up ideas, and volunteering.

**COMM Index**

- Percentage increase in credit hours from fall 2013 to fall 2014: +12%
- Percentage increase in the number of COMM majors at International College Beijing since 2009: +91%.
- Number of books published or edited by COMM faculty between 2009 and the present: 10.
- Number of journal articles and book chapters published by our faculty during this time period: 59.
- Average percentage increase across 13 categories of faculty service since 2008: +180%.
- Number of interns the Department has sponsored since 2009 in both Beijing and Denver: 250+.
- Year in which Milo began attending COMM Days, our annual celebration of Communication: 2014.
- Rank of COMM in recent Office of Institutional Research study on “Faculty Scholarship” in CLAS: #1.
- Rank of COMM in recent Office of Institutional Research study on “Student Satisfaction” in CLAS: #1.
The Year in Pictures

Pictured clockwise from upper left: Annual ICB banquet in Beijing; Ian Dawe and Hamilton Bean; ICB Students; ICB instructors Patrick Dodge, Kirsten Lindholm, Supriya Karudapuram, and Jared Woolly; Amira Aletebi with NiChel Meis and John Mulstay of the Puksta Foundation; Maymester students in Guatemala; Supriya Karudapuram; Communication Days 2014; Michelle Médal, Stephen Hartnett, and Jared Woolly; CU Denver at the Great Wall; Communication MA students at a Rockies game; center: 2014 graduate teaching assistants in our brand new conference room.
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 Development
1380 Lawrence Street, Suite 1325
Denver, CO 80204

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!

Contributors: Patrick Shaou-Whea Dodge, Sonja Foss, Kristy Frie, Stephen Hartnett, Amy Hasinoff, Lisa Keränen, Gordana Lazić, and Jeremy Make

Like us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/UCDDepartmentofCommunication