e.j. Yoder, Brandy Reida, and Maria Fenton

After a 36-year civil war intended to wipe out the Mayan people, Guatemala is still home to this resolute indigenous group and its ancient rituals. Our group of six UCD students, including three communication majors, had an incredible Maymester experience in Guatemala with 1992 Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum. Led by Dr. e. j. Yoder, we performed service at Rigoberta’s foundation in Guatemala City; at her education center in San Lucas Tolimán; and with her human rights movement, WINAQ (an indigenous Quiché word that means “whole being”). We were honored to spend time with the Nobel Laureate and her organizations, and each person we met through our work deepened our knowledge of Mayan culture.

In the Mayan tradition, the first order of business is to welcome and bless travelers, and along with two trusted Mayan spiritual leaders, Rigoberta performed a sacred fire ceremony to bless our program and our travels around the country. The ceremony was breathtaking and demonstrated how the Mayan people value fire, earth, corn, and their relationship with the land. Participating in this ceremony exposed us to a completely different cultural communication structure between people and their environment.

We needed to be blessed, for halfway through our program, a volcanic eruption covered Guatemala City in an inch of ash, and one day later, tropical storm Agatha hit the region, causing mudslides that incapacitated the country. Up to this point, we had been on track with our service work, which included translating WINAQ’s Web page from Spanish to English and organizing the foundation’s online data needs. However, Mother Nature altered our service plans. Instead of going to San Lucas Tolimán to hold a peace jam with the students at the Pavarotti Education Center, we provided relief to 18 families taking refuge at the Center. We saw the effects of civic engagement first hand as we assisted community leaders and the Education Center in their efforts to provide housing, food, and water to families who had lost their homes.

One of the families for whom we provided relief had shared with us their coffee farm and home only a week before the tropical storm hit. We had hiked 45 minutes into the jungle to see their small acreage of coffee plants, which provided income for the family. The storm not only destroyed their entire crop, but their plot of land was carried down the mountain in a mudslide. Experiencing the lives of local families and having to change the goals of our program allowed us to understand international service learning from the ground up. In short, our travel-study course was a life-changing experience for all of us. We gained so much from the people and our time in Guatemala, and we were thankful to have been able to give back to them as well.
Greetings all, and welcome to the Fall 2010 Department of Communication newsletter. We had another remarkable year in the Plaza Building, so I want to share some of our highlights with our extended community of friends, families, students, staff, colleagues, alumni, and donors.

Last year, we began implementing our new major, and the reviews from our new format have been strong. As part of that change, we offered a new class on communication and citizenship and are developing a writing-intensive communication research class as well. We offered classes in the innovative Freshmen Experience sequence, partnered with the UCD Honors and Leadership Program, and, under the direction of our Online Pedagogy Coordinator, Kathy Pounders, made a major push to upgrade our online offerings. Pounders recently received a “Moving Forward with Technologies” grant from the Center for Faculty Development for online learning and was joined in her online efforts by Wanda Lakota, Suzanne Stromberg, and Kristy Frie, who all taught new online classes and helped to push the Department into the forefront of UCD’s efforts to offer rigorous on-line classes.

The Department also continued to stand among UCD’s foremost providers of internships, service learning, and community engagement opportunities. Our Department’s efforts placed students with over a dozen grassroots organizations, where they merged classroom learning with streetwise doing (see pg. 4). Through these opportunities, the Department embodies creative teaching, offers life-changing experiences, and enables our students to journey into the wonderful world of democratic citizenship.

In addition to laying a foundation for teaching excellence, providing on-line leadership, and ample opportunities for community service, the Department’s research record continues to grow. Our faculty published seven new books and over a dozen journal articles and book chapters last year; we secured numerous competitive grants from funders from FEMA to the NIH; we won four prestigious awards for scholarship; and we delivered over two dozen conference presentations, invited lectures, keynote addresses, or radio and TV interviews. We are therefore becoming an elite urban Communication department in terms of research.

Along with strong teaching, research, and service contributions, we also celebrated the achievement of some career milestones, including Dr. Barbara Walkosz being promoted from associate professor to full professor, Dr. Lisa Keränen being promoted from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure, and Suzanne Stromberg being promoted from instructor to senior instructor. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on these significant accomplishments and in thanking all of our Departmental members for their many contributions. Please also join me in welcoming our new program assistant, Michelle Médal, whom we are excited to introduce to you below.

We should also note that despite the global economic crisis, we have created ways to continue offering our students a first-rate educational value. While we have reduced our roster of classes offered each semester, we have done so while ensuring rigor and increasing our demands on student writing skills. As a consequence, our enrollments continue to increase (we now have 411 majors) while our student-based course evaluations continue to indicate high satisfaction among our students.

There is much more to say, but little space available here, so I will close by inviting everyone who reads this newsletter to come back to campus and drop by the office to say hello or to send us an email telling us about your triumphs and adventures. We are proud to be members of team UC Denver and hope you will keep in touch. As my man Ben Franklin used to say at the close of his letters, I remain your humble servant, with all best wishes and high regards,

Michelle Médal is excited to work on a college campus again and looks forward to providing support and assistance to students and faculty as they strive to learn from each other. Previously, Michelle worked at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in Boulder, where she was the associate project director for the State Scholars Initiative, a $6.6 million program that was implemented in 24 states and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Michelle earned her B.A. in English and her M.A. in Education Policy from CU Boulder, where she co-authored two chapters in the book Current Issues in Educational Policy and the Law. Next summer, Michelle celebrates her 20th year living in Boulder, with her parents and two brothers just across town, and a little dachshund puppy (Bijoux Bee) at home. In her free time, Michelle enjoys studying dance and has practiced ballet, waltz, modern, African, and Latin styles. She is always looking forward to her next trip and hopes to visit the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia someday. Michelle is an accomplished seamstress who recently started her own label “Michelle Andréa.” In welcoming Michelle, we also extend a farewell to former program assistant Sally Thee, who decided it was time to move on to other adventures in Modern Languages. Sally is known for using her abundant artistic talents to make our physical spaces fun and welcoming, providing support for instructors and students, and figuring out how to get around rules and regulations when necessary. All our best wishes go with you, Sally.

Department Welcomes New Program Assistant

Michelle Médal

Department of Communication

Announcements

Greetings from the Chair

Stephen John Hartnett

Associate Professor and Chair

Department of Communication

UC Denver

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303.556.2778
Engaging Communities: Service Learning Extends the Classroom

In the 2009-10 school year, our community partners included: Especially Me (a program of empowerment for young African American women); ECTA International (a community empowerment group); Warren Village (a living space for single mothers and children); the Colorado AIDS Project; the Arapahoe County Jail youth tutoring program; Prax(us) (a community Cop-Watch group); the LaRasa Youth Leadership Institute (a Latin American empowerment group); Reading for Peace (a group that shares stories with children through The Conflict Center); Colorado Legal Service (providing free legal counseling to the poor); Prison Pen Pals (writing letters to prisoners); Unchained Books (sending reading materials and letters to prisoners); Jefferson County Mediation Services (offering alternative dispute resolution); the Denver Police Department (doing community support work); the Thousand Kites Radio Project (recording shows for national airing); Thunder Ridge High School (speaking for empowerment) and the S.A.M.E. Café (So All May Eat, an organic support kitchen).

For the second year in a row, Dr. Stephen John Hartnett’s Communication 4710 course, “Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice,” enabled students to form service learning partnerships with more than a dozen groups in the Denver metro area, for whom and with whom they did grassroots activism tied directly to the course. Students also served as tutors with Dr. Hartnett at the Denver Women’s Correctional Facility, where they participated in a public speaking class and helped to collect and edit the materials for the next issue of Captured Words/Free Thoughts, a biannual magazine of writings by prisoners.

In the fall, Suzanne Stromberg’s senior seminar students partnered with Dress for Success Denver for “Community and the City,” an evening of networking and information. Panelists shared their experiences and asked for clothing and donations for Dress for Success Denver, which provides clothing and job training for economically disadvantaged women. Over 300 items were donated to DFS as a result of the panel. One event attendee was able to land an internship after attending the panel and speaking with Nai Pak of High Noon Productions. Alan August (‘10), approached Ms. Pak at the event and was hired as an intern a couple weeks later. Through this experience, he was able to write five scripts for a national HGTV series.

U.S. Senate Candidate Andrew Romanoff with Transitions students, SAME café owners, and ECTA representative at the second annual Hunger Banquet

Suzanne Stromberg’s “Transitioning from College to Career” class hosted U.S. senator candidate Andrew Romanoff at the second annual “Feed Your Awareness” Hunger Banquet, held April 8, at St. Cajetan’s. This event included guest speakers, a silent auction, and music, while highlighting the serious issues of hunger and poverty. Event attendees were randomly divided into three economic groups representative of the underdeveloped world, the developing world, and the developed world and were served meals appropriate to their respective group. The event raised funds for SAME Café (www.soallmayeat.org) and ECTA International (www.ecta-international.org). Students from the course researched and selected the community partners, and key people from both organizations spoke at the event. Mr. Romanoff spoke about his experience working with the economically disadvantaged and highlighted some of his plans for change. The Feed Your Awareness Event raised $800 and was attended by approximately 100 students, parents, and faculty. For more information, see http://www.larasa.org <http://www.larasa.org>.

As Chair of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity Council, Dr. Brenda J. Allen directed a Disability as Diversity Festival to raise awareness about disability issues in higher education and to provide resources for faculty, staff, and students. The celebration included a presentation by PHAMALY (Physically Handicapped Actors and Musical Artists League), a renowned troupe of performers with disabilities. Dr. Omar Swartz, a member of the Council, worked with communication student Helbis Varangot to prepare a pictorial timeline of disability events in the United States.

In the Spring, students in Dr. Yvette Bueno-Olson’s “Health Communication and Diversity” class partnered with Denver-based organization the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) to identify health needs of at-risk youths. The class used surveys and LARASA staff input to determine the health needs of the youth. The UCD students led an “accomplishing goals” workshop and organized a fundraiser to obtain recreation center memberships for LARASA students. The collaboration culminated with the LARASA students’ visit to the Auraria Campus for their final accomplishing goals session and a campus tour. For more information, check out www.larasa.org <http://www.larasa.org>.

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Sadie Hering, who graduated in Spring 2010, knows how to pitch stories to reporters. 9 News Colorado’s Education Reporter, Nelson Garcia, recently received an email from Sadie informing him about a YouTube video produced by UC Denver students exposing the problem of “Indian mascots.” Garcia emailed Sadie back, agreeing to do a feature story on the issue.

MA student Melissa Kenyon knows how to pitch stories, too. As an intern for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, Melissa generated numerous press hits for the organization, including a feature story on CBS 4 News. Forming relationships with reporters, placing news stories, and developing integrated marketing communications plans for local non-profit organizations are just a few of the opportunities available to students in the Department’s revamped PR courses, which, like much of our major, emphasize civic engagement and social responsibility.

Sadie and Melissa found the revamped PR courses valuable—and a lot of work. “The two public relations courses that I took were by far the most work I have ever put in for a college course. While it was a struggle, I left the classes feeling proud of myself and prepared for the career ahead of me. These classes were rewarding and will definitely help me in the future,” Sadie said.

Reorganized in 2009, the Principles of Public Relations and Advanced Public Relations courses offer students theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, including opportunities to develop multimodal (print, web, video) messages for internal and external audiences, media lists, press releases, and press kits, and to identify and apply social media best practices to public relations campaigns. The PR courses are taught and administered by Dr. Hamilton Bean. Rodney Bell, a PR professional with 20 years corporate experience and formerly with JohnstonWells Public Relations, also teaches PR courses in the Department.

Not only do PR students engage in service learning to benefit Colorado, they also gain in-depth work experience. As MA student Sara Whitacre stated, “The public relations classes gave me practical knowledge and life skills that are applicable in the real world. These classes allowed me to achieve and exceed the goals I set for myself. By far, they were the most rewarding classes.”

We were reminded of just how impressive our students are when it came time to hand out our Department’s new undergraduate awards, presented at the Communication Days keynote presentation. The Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award was presented to Fan Zhang, a student from UCD’s International College at Beijing (ICB) who is spending her junior and senior years on the Denver campus. Shortly after she arrived on campus—even as a new Chinese student in America, studying in a language not her own—she organized a club for Chinese and American students to help Chinese students thrive in our American culture and to encourage American students to learn about Chinese culture. She also used her intercultural awareness to help the Department develop promotional materials for ICB. She served as the president of the ICB student union, where she organized numerous activities to build community among students and faculty.

A second recipient of the Robley Rhine Student Leadership Award was Julian Long, who returned to college after many years of successful work in advertising. Julian was honored for his leadership in the classroom, where he places high demands on his fellow students and actively helps them meet those demands. Professors are delighted when they see Julian’s name on a class roll because he “sets the climate in whatever classroom he is in.” Julian explains what motivates his leadership in the classroom this way: “I really just try to encourage my peers to go a bit deeper. I’m only trying to get them to think past ‘I got the grade I needed.’”

Alan August was a co-winner of the Lael Porter Community Service Award. Alan volunteers with Denver Open Media, where he teaches classes in editing; coaches community members; and produces and edits community-based television programs. He also served in the Americorps UCAN Serve Program and assisted CoPIRG with a drive to address hunger and homelessness. Alan reads The Denver Post to the blind with the Audio Information Network of Colorado, which requires that he roll out of bed every Sunday at 7:30 to make the news come to life for those who cannot see.

So many of our students provide valuable service to their communities that we chose to honor a second student, Linda Guthrie, with a Lael Porter Community Service Award. Not only was Linda among the best students in the Communication Department, but she still managed to do volunteer work, including tutoring imprisoned students and helping to assemble a prison-based magazine. She also served as a tutor for at-risk students and as a court-appointed special advocate investigating cases of child neglect and abuse. Linda describes her motivation for service in this way: “I think we limit ourselves when we fail to reach beyond the boundaries of the campus. To really learn and grow, we must challenge ourselves to reach beyond comfort and to go to a place where we might need to do more than just read a book or write a paper.”

The Sonja K. Foss Award for Academic Excellence was awarded to Caitlin Mock, who wrote a Latin honors thesis, “Spark: The History, Crisis and Solutions to Rape in America.” Dr. Hartnett described her thesis director as “a startling, at times overpowering document that stands among the most impressive pieces of work I have ever seen produced by an undergraduate.” Caitlin’s commitment to empowering women and experimenting with new forms of scholarship exemplify the intellectual commitments of Dr. Sonja Foss, after whom the award is named.
Narratives of the New China: Students and Faculty Explore the Mysteries of Beijing

In 2008, Beijing hosted a huge coming-out party as international attention turned to its Olympic festivities. The city of 17 million, known for its charming Qing-dynasty hutongs (alleyways), ancient temples, and Tian’anmen Square, revealed its postmodern side as the dramatic Bird’s Nest and Water Cube buildings were unveiled. These changes are part of a communication strategy to show the world how China, an enduring civilization emerging as a cultural and economic superpower, is changing. With 1.3 billion people and the fourth largest national land area in the world, China is indeed on the move.

In May, a team of UCD students, accompanied by Drs. Barbara Walkosz and Lisa Keränen, flew for more than 6,500 miles to experience first-hand how China is crafting its public image. The intensive Maymester travel study course spanned the meanings of the ubiquitous Mao kitsch to the tension between open-ness and closed-ness in Chinese culture. Originally conceived by Drs. Sonja Foss and Walkosz and grounded in theories of narrative and public memory, the course gave students the ability to uncover competing narratives about China’s national identity. The campus of China Agricultural University, which houses our International College at Beijing (ICB) (see the ICB article on page 6), provided classroom and work space, while site visits to the Great Wall, the Military Museum, the Forbidden City, and Buddhist and Confucian Temples comprised living laboratories for observing cultural narratives at work.

Additionally, the course provided ample chances for Denver-based communication students to interact with their Chinese counterparts. As Ruby Li of the ICB wrote on the course blog, “The talk between us [covered] . . . capitalism, social democracy, feminism, the change of lifestyle both in China and in the States, and Chinese history.” Drs. Foss and Hartnett hosted a banquet for ICB and U.S. students, while Kunya Li, Xindi Guo, Yi Yi Jiang, and other Chinese students generously served as translators when accompanying the class on many site visits.

U.S. student Rebecca Bernai summed up the experience when she wrote: “As I reflect on the past two weeks we have spent in Beijing, I am struck by its dichotomies. Beijing houses ancient architectural and historical treasures, yet its skyline and energy are very modern. It has gone from being closed off to outsiders to welcoming foreigners with open wallets. Beijing boasts an ultra modern subway, while hundreds of thousands pedal away on their cargo-carrying bicycles . . . For the delectable cuisine, the engineering and architectural wonders, the Confucian philosophy of respect, hard work and harmony, and your wisdom-filled culture, I thank you, China, from the bottom of my American heart.”

Faculty Garner High Honors

Four UC Denver Communication faculty members recently won top disciplinary, university, and college honors. Join us in celebrating their accomplishments.

Drs. Sonja K. Foss received the 2010 Organization for Women and Communication (ORWAC) Feminist Scholar Award, along with twin sister Dr. Karen Foss, for their article, “Our Journey to Repowered Feminism: Expanding the Feminist Toolbox,” published in Women’s Studies in Communication. We are delighted to have one of the nation’s leading feminist communication scholars on our faculty.

Drs. Stephen John Hartnett was one of three recipients of the university’s 2010 Thomas Jefferson Award. The award is among the highest conferred at the University of Colorado and recognizes a CU leader who helps advance the intellectual and artistic ideals of Thomas Jefferson, the nation’s third president.

Dr. Barbara Walkosz received a 2010 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Research & Creative Activities Award for her innovative research concerning worker health and safety issues. Walkosz’s collaborative health care safety campaign projects have been supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute and the state of Colorado.

Drs. Foss and Karen Foss were jointly recipients of the 2010 ORWAC Feminist Scholar Award. They co-wrote “Our Journey to Repowered Feminism: Expanding the Feminist Toolbox,” published in Women’s Studies in Communication. We are delighted to have one of the nation’s leading feminist communication scholars on our faculty.

Dr. Lisa Keränen is the recipient of the 2010 Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award from the National Communication Association (NCA). This award recognizes innovative rhetorical scholarship and is intended to support Keränen’s book project concerning the rhetorical history of biological weapons. She will receive a plaque and honorarium at the NCA convention in San Francisco this fall.
Greetings from students of the International College at Beijing (ICB)—both in Beijing and Denver. For over 15 years, in cooperation with China Agricultural University, UCD has sponsored a university in Beijing, providing Chinese students with the opportunity to earn undergraduate degrees from UCD either in communication or economics. ICB students are taught in English by American professors and earn the same degree that students on the Denver campus earn.

ICB students also have the opportunity to spend one or two years studying on the Denver campus.

The UCD-ICB connection provides all of us with an opportunity to practice intercultural communication. To enhance that process, this past year, those of us on the Denver campus formed the International Club, Beijing, which is dedicated to helping Chinese and American students understand each other’s cultures. The club helps Chinese students learn how to live and succeed in the American culture and helps build community among Chinese and American students. It also gives American students who participate in travel-study courses to China or who choose to study at ICB opportunities to learn about Chinese culture before they arrive in Beijing.

ICB students in Denver also have been involved in other ways in the UCD Communication Department this past year. We have been using our communication skills as student research assistants and by helping prepare recruiting materials for ICB.

Plans for next year include developing a Communication Club on the ICB campus, which will sponsor activities for communication majors and help to recruit students to the major.

We are excited about the opportunities that the ICB-UCD connection provides for global communication—opportunities that will increase as more Chinese students come to study on the Denver campus and American students begin to study on the ICB campus.

For the eleventh year in a row, the Department of Communication hosted “Communication Days,” a week-long celebration of community engagement, public speaking, and creative learning. During the course of the week, more than twenty guest speakers visited our classrooms to share their expertise with our students; then, on April 14, over 200 students, faculty, staff, and family members attended our keynote celebration in the Starz Film Center.

The keynote celebration included bestowing our annual Friend of the Communication Department Award on Associate Dean Tammy Stone and our Distinguished Alumni Award on Nai Pak. The Department also announced the winners of its three new student awards (see page 3).

Our keynote speaker was Judith Tannenbaum, the nationally recognized novelist and poet, community activist, and long-time prison educator. Sharing lessons conveyed in her two most recent books, Disguised as a Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin Prison and By Heart: Poetry, Prison, and Two Lives (co-authored with the still-imprisoned Spoon Jackson), Tannenbaum gave a soulful speech about doing community service and building peace. She spoke about the tragedy of how prisoners and their families are often marked for life by “the worst thing they ever did,” thus precluding the possibility of moving forward in life. The victims of crime suffer from the same dilemma, she argued, as they too can become trapped in a cycle of anger that prevents their moving toward forgiveness. Tannenbaum asked us all to be more patient, more tolerant, and more loving neighbors who strive to achieve dispute resolution via frank dialogue. Following her talk, an enthusiastic line of students gathered around Tannenbaum seeking her signature on their dog-eared copies of her books.

The Department is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2011 Communication Days celebration will be Dr. J. Robbie Cox, the Emeritus Professor of Communication from the University of North Carolina and three-time president of the Sierra Club. In recognition of the global importance of environmental communication, we are planning to beam Dr. Cox’s talk live to our International College of Beijing students in China.
Faculty Happenings

**Associate Dean Brenda J. Allen** has been hard at work on the second edition of *Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity*. She also published numerous book chapters on topics related to identity and organizational communication. Dr. Allen was a keynote speaker at the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, the Diversity Summit at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Southern Methodist University’s celebration of Civil Rights and Social Justice 45 Years after Freedom Summer, and Utah State University’s 2009-10 Tanner Project. She has found personally rewarding the chance to conduct numerous EmpowHERment workshops this past year.

**Hamilton Bean** has continued to engage communication issues in the context of U.S. intelligence and national security organizing. His forthcoming book is *No More Secrets: Open Source Information and the post-9/11 Reshaping of U.S. Intelligence* (Praeger Security International). Recent research appears in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* the International Studies Association’s *Compendium Project* (“U.S. Intelligence Culture”), and *Poroi* (“Foucault’s Rhetorical Theory and U.S. Intelligence Affairs”). Dr. Bean has revamped the Department’s Public Relations courses and has been working on a FEMA grant that involves an assessment of public warning plans in major cities. He also has been spending a few summer days at Eлич Gardens with his five-year-old son, Max.

**Larry Erbert** is finishing his five-year stint as an associate editor for the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* and looks forward to writing two books and to completing articles on environmental sustainability. He team-taught the first Sustainability I course in the new minor in sustainability and continues to teach in and serve as a steering committee member of the University Honors and Leadership Program. Dr. Erbert also taught leadership seminars for military personnel at Ft. Still in Oklahoma and Ft. Bliss in Texas. Dr. Erbert’s goals for the coming year include surviving another winter at 9,000 feet, riding the bus to campus to reduce his carbon footprint, and trying to determine if achieving balance between work and life is ever possible.

**Sonja Foss** is delighted that an essay she has been wanting to write for 10 years, “Constricted and Constructed Potentiality: An Inquiry into Paradigms of Change,” co-authored with Dr. Karen Foss, has been completed and will be published next year in the *Western Journal of Communication*. She was the recipient, with Dr. Karen Foss, of the 2010 Feminist Scholar Award from the Organization for Research on Women in Communication for their article, “Our Journey to Repowered Feminism: Expanding the Feminist Toolbox.” Dr. Foss is looking forward to a sabbatical in the spring, during which she will continue to develop her research program on feminist rhetoric by attempting to reconceptualize the relationship between gender and communication. Meanwhile, she is excited by the progress that the sunflowers and dahlias are making in her garden.

**Stephen Hartnett** was named one of the University of Colorado’s three winners of the 2010 Thomas Jefferson Award for embodying the intellectual, cultural, and political ideals of the nation’s third president. Dr. Hartnett published his fifth book, *Executing Democracy: Volume One: Capital Punishment & The Making of America, 1689-1800*, and a paperback version of his *Globalization and Empire: The U. S. Invasion of Iraq, Free Markets, and the Twilight of Democracy*. While continuing to teach creative writing and public speaking at the Denver Women’s Correctional Facility, he published two more editions of *Captured Words/Free Thoughts*, a magazine of writings by prisoners. When not on campus, Dr. Hartnett and his partner, Dr. Lisa Keränen, climbed their fifth and sixth fourteeners, skied eleven days, and tried to persuade daughters Melia (6) and Anya (8) that the speed limit does not apply to bicycles zooming downhill.

**Lisa Keränen’s** book, *Scientific Characters: Rhetoric, Politics, and Trust in Breast Cancer Research*, came out in June, just after she returned from co-teaching the travel-study course, “Narratives of the New China,” during the Maymester with Dr. Walkosz. Dr. Keränen will be honored in November with the 2010 Karl R. Wallace Memorial Research Award from the National Communication Association to support her second book-in-coming, *Envisioning Viral Apocalpyse*, which offers a rhetorical history of U.S. biological weapons. June also brought news that Dr. Keränen has received tenure in the Department. In her spare time, Dr. Keränen enjoys all manner of mountain and seashore adventures with Dr. Stephen and singing folk songs and kid music with her stepdaughters.

**Jim Stratman** continues to work on his book *Developing Case Reading and Reasoning through Formative Assessment: A Workbook for Law School Teachers*, which will be published by Carolina Academic Press. He is also hard at work on “Disclosing without Disclosing Pension Benefit Reductions in Cash Balance Plan Transitions: Applying Information Manipulation Theory to ERISA Mandated Disclosure Documents.” He filled in as chair of the Department when Dr. Hartnett was in China in May and has been enjoying hikes in the high country. In recent travels, he went home to Ohio in June to celebrate his father’s eighty-eighth birthday with other family members.

**Omar Swartz** co-authored *Neo-Pragmatism, Communication, and the Culture of Creative Democracy* with Katia Campbell and Christina Pestana. It came out in 2009 from Peter Lang. He also published the second edition of his *Persuasion* textbook and taught courses such as Persuasion and Mass Communication Law and Society. Dr. Swartz is excited to edit a series of social justice books for Troubador Press. He continues to serve as director of the Pre-Law Minor and worked with Brenda J. Allen on the disability summit this past year. In his spare time, he enjoys practicing martial arts with his son, Avi.

**Barbara Walkosz** spent the past year working on Sun Safe Workplaces, a grant sponsored by the National Cancer Institute that promotes sun-safe policy adoption for outdoor workers to local governments in the state of Colorado. She and her colleagues presented the results of their work on adoption of worksite sun-safety programs to the Western States Communication Association and the Society of Behavioral Medicine, where they received a Citation Award. Dr. Walkosz is also a co-author on “Environmental Cues to Ultraviolet Radiation and Personal Sun Protection in Outdoor Winter Recreation,” which will be published in the *Archives of Dermatology*. She spent the end of July canoeing in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area at the Minnesota/Canadian border, becoming reacquainted with “life unplugged.”
INVEST IN OUR DEPARTMENT’S FUTURE
We know these are difficult financial times for many, but we also know that those with communication degrees have the skills and expertise to thrive, even in these times, because of what they are able to offer to colleagues, companies, family members, and friends.

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

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

InterAction

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