

COMM STUDIES @ IUPUI

IU School of Liberal Arts - Fall 2014

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GIVE NOW

Welcome from the Chair

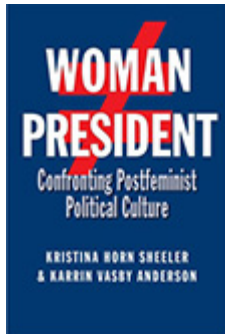


Over the last year, the Department of Communication Studies has excelled, continuously establishing itself in many ways: A documentary on homelessness was developed and produced by undergraduate student Sam Mirpoorian and his amazing team titled *Uncharted: The Truth behind Homelessness*. Our R110 Public Speaking program set a record enrollment on our campus with over 2,400 students in our public speaking courses this fall, and we launched our new department-authored textbook and course materials. Our alumni continue to take advantage of exciting research and career options; our new Ph.D. program in health communication welcomes five new students this year one of whom has already been recognized with the new Petronio-Bantz Award; and our undergraduate program and students continue to set records, earn awards, and do amazing things with their communication

studies degrees.

Fall semester brings many new and exciting opportunities in the Department of Communication Studies and for you, our best supporters and friends; we look forward to re-connecting with you. Catch up with our undergraduate student organization, The Communication Network, and our Graduate Communication Club for their many planned activities this semester and join our department on Friday evening November 21 at the National Communication Association Convention later this month. Let us know what you've been up to by emailing commdept@iupui.edu or find us on [Facebook](#). It's because of your support and connection that our department continues to grow and excel. Thank you!

National Communication Association highlights and upcoming reception



Our department has much to celebrate at this year's National Communication Association (NCA) convention. Kristy Sheeler and co-author Kari Anderson (Colorado State University) will be honored for their book "Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture" at the NCA awards ceremony on Saturday November 22 at 5:00 pm in the International Ballroom South of the Chicago Hilton. They will receive NCA's James A. Winans and Herbert A. Wichelns Memorial Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address. [\[Read more\]](#)

Also, please join us for our annual Department of Communication Studies reception at the National Communication Association (NCA) Convention. Our reception will be held on Friday, November 21, 7:00-9:00 pm in room PDR 4 of the Chicago Hilton. All faculty, students, alumni, and friends are welcome.

R110 sets record, launches new textbook

By Angela Sisson, Assistant Director of R110 and Speaker's Lab Coordinator



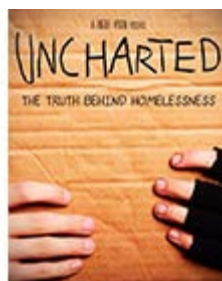
Our R110 public speaking program reached a record enrollment this semester with over 2,400 undergraduate students in our courses. We also launched our faculty-authored public speaking textbook "Fundamentals of Speech Communication." Angela Sisson, assistant director of R110 and Speaker's Lab coordinator contributes the following, inspired by Professor Beth Goering's sections on listening in our textbook.

As Larry King said, I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening. [\[Read more\]](#)

Top civic engagement honorees; Film, city-wide discussion on homelessness

By Trevor Potts, Lecturer and Civic Engagement Coordinator

For anyone who attended our annual Department of Communication Studies Student Achievement Night this past spring, you know that one of the many highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of our student honors. One of the outstanding research and creative project awards went to Sam Mirpoorian and his team for their film "Uncharted." In addition, top civic engagement honors went to several students.



Over the past decade IUPUI has been consistently recognized as a national leader in the area of civic engagement and service learning, and this emphasis on practical learning towards combatting social ills is a theme that runs strong in our department, from Intro to Communication Studies all the way through our top-ranked master's program in applied communication. As a way to celebrate and recognize our scholars' outstanding efforts in this area, this spring we presented top honors in civic and campus leadership to five communication studies undergraduates: **Kayla Najera** and **Katie Koile** for their work in mental health awareness and social justice arenas, and **Amanda Lumpkin**, **Jacqueline Pingul** and **Tatijana Marsee** for their work in global health campaigns, anti-human trafficking and on behalf of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, respectively. For a full write-up on the film, visit the film's Facebook page at "[Uncharted: The Truth Behind Homelessness](#)" or the full [NUVO feature story](#). [\[Read more\]](#)

We as a department are extremely proud of our students' continued leadership in these areas!

Ph.D. student recipient of inaugural Petronio-Bantz Travel Award



Doctoral student **Nicole Johnson** is the inaugural recipient of the **Petronio-Bantz Graduate Student Travel Award**. The award will defray the expenses of Johnson's travel to Chicago in November for the National Communication Association convention to present her paper titled Collaborative Paradigms: Evolutionary Steps toward Pedagogical Connections in Competitive Debate, co-authored with Michael J. Bergmaier from Penn State University. The paper reflects Nicole's prior professional position as a debate coach and highlights the need for change in a highly fragmented, contentious academic activity. She and her co-author argue for a more accessible, experimental format of competition to allow for a more cooperative, fair competition and fruitful educational experience.

The **Petronio-Bantz Graduate Student Travel Award** was created by Professor Sandra Petronio and Chancellor Charles R. Bantz who believe that the ability to present research, participate in scholarly meetings and conferences, and have the opportunity to network is essential in the professional development of graduate students, particularly those who wish to enter academia.

Meet our new staff and faculty

Two new staff members and three new faculty members will bring added energy to our department family. We welcome Jill Cobb and Tiffany Martinez to our front office and Dr. Maria Brann, Dr. Katharine Head, and Angela Sisson to our faculty.



Jill Cobb has been working as our Graduate Program Assistant for three years and we are happy to welcome her as our new Office Coordinator and Assistant to the Chair. Jill brings a great commitment to our students and will be equally as committed to our faculty and department in this new role.



Tiffany Martinez is the newest member of our department, joining us as our new Graduate Program Assistant. Tiffany comes most recently from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) and also has experience in student life. Welcome, Tiffany!



Dr. Maria Brann is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies. Hired to assist with the new Ph.D. in Health Communication, Maria began teaching for the department in the spring. She developed and taught an online patient-provider communication graduate course and also taught the online groups and organizations graduate course in the summer. This semester, she is teaching undergraduate courses in health communication and nonverbal communication. Maria focuses on many facets in health communication in her research and is also active in service to the discipline. Maria is co-planning the seminar series for the NCA convention in 2015, to be held in Las Vegas. [\[Read more\]](#)



Dr. Katharine Head joins the department as a new assistant professor in health communication. Katy comes to Indianapolis by way of Lexington, KY where she completed a post-doctoral fellowship. Katy's research interests are in applied health communication, specifically focusing on social influences on health and health decision-making. The last five years she has worked on cervical cancer prevention projects in Appalachian Kentucky, where she and her team developed clinic-level and community-level interventions to encourage Pap testing, HPV testing, and HPV vaccination. Katy teaches classes in health communication, interpersonal communication, social media/new media, and research methods. [\[Read more\]](#)

Angela J. Sisson joins our record-breaking R110 public speaking program as a visiting lecturer and assistant director of R110 and the Speaker's Lab.



Communication Studies opens up the world, and I have felt that immensely in my own world. A journalism-French undergrad from Franklin College, I enjoyed a variety of communication-related experiences in school and at work. After many aspects of my personal life changed (divorce, death of parents and more), I committed to exploring the fascinating ways communication helps us. I found IUPUI's Applied Communication MA (which was a gateway I'm now completing my third MA program). This year, I'm thankful to celebrate IUPUI's teaching opportunities in a full-time capacity. I eagerly recruit others to more definitively identify and build goals and successes in communication studies of all varieties. [\[Read more\]](#)

Grad Corner: Welcome new Ph.D. students

By Jennifer Bute, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director



The graduate program in Communication Studies continues to thrive! We are thrilled to welcome another talented and enthusiastic group of students this year: 5 new students to our M.A. program, and 5 new students who are part of our very first cohort for the Ph.D. program in health communication. **Aaron Deason** joins the program after several years as a paramedic and looks forward to conducting research around emergency services workers. **Aron Di Bacco** has six years of experience as a social science researcher and is currently working on Health Communication as the Research Coordinator for the International Center for Intercultural Communication at IUPUI. **Amanda Harsin** is an associate professor of Communication and Liberal Arts chair at Ivy Tech Community College. **Nicole Johnson** expects to focus her research on policy and ethics and is excited to explore new areas within the field of Health Communication. **Tim Barshinger** has worked at the intersection of education, healthcare and communication technologies. With an undergraduate and Master's degree in Education, Tim has leveraged that skill set in various teaching and instructional design positions. [\[Read more\]](#)

If you are a graduate of the M.A. program, we'd love to know what you're up to. Please email us at commdept@iupui.edu, and maybe you'll show up in our next newsletter! Please spread the word about the outstanding graduate education our department offers. You can direct potential applicants to our [website](#) for details.

Research Day Spotlight: Arab conscious hip-hop

By Ryan D Souza, Communication Studies MA Graduate



Ryan D Souza makes a case for less complicated communication in academia through his research experience at IUPUI Research Day 2014:

Mother always takes pride in the fact that I'm pursuing a master's degree and that every semester I'm researching and writing about something or the other. If questioned though, oftentimes she could not articulate further about my research. Academia offers a confined space but the work we do should not be limited within that space. Audiences beyond our confinements exist, who are receptive to new ideas. I realized that on IUPUI Research Day 2014.

When deciding to present at Research Day, my original research was already complete and ready for a class assignment submission, so when I received the announcement for Research Day the only task I had was to write an abstract for acceptance. Few weeks later, my abstract was accepted and I was to present at Research Day. Research Day remains dominated by other disciplines but IUPUI actively supports Liberal Arts research. At the event you're bestowed with the responsibility to prove Liberal Arts research as legitimate, and you do that by simply presenting your research. It's academically fun and a learning experience. It is my strong recommendation to participate and represent. I want to thank the Department for their support and Dr. Rossing for his advice which I now claim as mine! [\[Read more\]](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Words build (and break down) walls

By Lindsay Quandt (BA graduate, MA student)



Three years ago I landed a job as a Technical Writer/Business Analyst at a Carmel, IN based Fortune 500 holding company. This past March I was moved to a high profile data project that has direct impact to our financial earnings and reporting. On large technical projects there are lots of players: the IT team, the Business team, and the vendor who is delivering the solution who is often a Big 4 consultant. These groups all have their own titles, their own responsibilities, even their own languages. As communication scholars, we know that communication, and the words we use, co-construct our environments. The same is true in these corporate silos where words are really creating walls between groups that lead to ineffective collaboration across the enterprise.

What this project needed, and the role I play, is someone (or many someones, actually) to make all disparate groups work together. I dig into the details to ensure our delivery team is providing the best solution, and jump up to a high level to explain how this project will impact other parts of the enterprise. Having a degree in accounting preps you for a job in the finance department. A marketing degree readies you for a position in the marketing department. An Informatics degree gets you ready for a job in the IT department. However, often the largest and most important project includes all three. What those projects require is someone to build doorways that their intersections.

What if you don't want to just focus on one specific niche within an organization, but instead want to be a part of the solution and help move it forward? What if you like seeing all moving pieces of an organization and enjoy learning and analyzing? It takes a certain skill set to jump between audiences and in and out of the details. I learned that skill set as a communication scholar. I believe a communication degree prepares you to hold jobs that sit at the intersection of technical skill and business operations. My BA/MA in Communication provides the ability to 1) think critically, 2) consume (listen/read) analytically, and 3) write and speak effectively and persuasively. If you can do those three things, you are filling a gap in corporations that very few people can fill.

Now go break down walls wherever you go!

Lindsay Quandt received a BA from IUPUI in Communication and Political Science in 2007 and is a Master's candidate in Applied Communication from IUPUI.

Undergrad Corner

By Ron Sandwina, Director of Undergraduate Programs

Communication Studies majors set another record. In May and August, 43 Communication Studies majors graduated--more than any other department in the School of Liberal Arts. Congratulations!



Several Communication Studies majors were recently recognized for their accomplishments, including **Sara Hemmersbach (BA 2014)** and **Kayla Najera**, who were selected as among the elite Top 100 students at IUPUI. **Kylie Cornett (BA 2013)** received the Communication Studies Academic Achievement Award and **Bethany Seagraves** received the Burns Wagener Scholarship in Communication Studies at the 2014 Celebration of Scholarship. Thank you for



your support of our outstanding students in Communication Studies through your gifts to the department's scholarship fund.

Pictured: Kylie Cornett with Kristy Sheeler, Bethany Seagraves with Kim White-Mills

Alexis Meeks (BA 2014) and **Rachel Zajac (BA 2013 and MA student)** were named as the Melvyn Garland Distinguished Student-Athlete award winners. The Garland Awards are the highest single honor given to a male and female senior student-athlete. Congratulations for your outstanding academic and athletic achievements.



Pictured: Alexis Meeks, far left; Rachel Zajac, far right

More than 20 students enrolled in Dr. John Parish-Sprowl's Intercultural Communication course spent two weeks in Wrocław, Poland this summer. This study abroad opportunity continues to be one of the most popular programs on campus. Now is the time to plan for taking the course next summer. Please contact Dr. [Parrish-Sprowl](#) for information, including funding sources.

The Communication Network (TCN)

By Mike Polites, Senior Lecturer and TCN Advisor



The Communication Network (TCN) has a busy fall lineup planned. The attendance at our first meeting of the year brought double the number of students wanting to get involved. We focus our programming in three areas: Social, Academic, and Community Service.

In September several members attended the digital marketing convention sponsored by ExactTarget called Connections. This event had insightful speakers including John Green, Mindy Kaling, and will.i.am.

In October the club volunteered at Fear Farm. The club has been asked by the organizers of the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon to return as volunteers.

In November the club will be sponsoring their annual "What Can I Do with My Comm Degree?" program. We invite students from all majors to attend a panel discussion with faculty and alumni who will discuss career possibilities.

The week of December 8th the club will again be sponsoring COMMplimentary Gift Wrapping, a tradition that leaves TCN members saving you valuable holiday time! Look for them in the IUPUI Campus Center!

As you can see TCN members have a busy fall lineup of activities. Thanks go to Professor Trevor Potts for getting his G100 students involved in the club as well. For more information about these events, contact TCN president [Emily Gregory](#). Pencil in Saturday, March 28th 2015 for the annual Student, Alumni, and Employer Networking Conference. Look for more info in the spring newsletter!

Graduate Communication Club (GCC)

By Jamie Maniloff, Graduate Student



The Graduate Communication Club (GCC) is a group of diverse, well-rounded and dedicated IUPUI students. Our mission is to foster a sense of community among graduate students in the Applied Communication graduate program at IUPUI by creating the space for students to interact outside of the classroom. Meetings are held consistently to address issues and concerns that affect this group of students, and events include community service, social gatherings, group study sessions and health and wellness activities. For more information, please email us at iupuigcc@gmail.com or check us out on [Facebook!](#)

Upcoming Events


- November 20-23, NCA, Chicago
- November 20, Graduate School Open House 1:00-4:00, Salon D, lower level of Hilton
- November 21, 7:00-9:00 pm, IUPUI Reception, PDR 4, Hilton Chicago

- December 8, Speech Night, 7 pm, Old National Center, downtown
 - December 9, Curtis Memorial Oratorical Contest, 6pm - 8pm, Campus Center Theater
 - March 23-28, 2015 Communication Week
 - March 28, 2015 Student, Alumni, Employer Networking Conference
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