2013-2014 was an exceptional year for the Falcon Forensics and Debate Team. From its first tournament at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia to its capstone National Forensics Association National Championship in Ypsilanti, Michigan, forensics team members earned both individual honors and team placement at each tournament through the grueling seven month season. Highlight of this season was the team’s earning of the North American Forensics Society Continental Championships title in Orlando, Florida. BGSU and Tallahassee Community College, headed by alumni John Schultz, founded the tournament as an alternative to more expensive travel tournaments. The concept established by Paul Wesley Alday, BGSU Director of Forensics and Debate, was to develop a new league that would blend high quality competition and experienced judging with an opportunity to embrace a cultural experience.
The Orlando event was the second annual competition and attracted 19 universities and colleges, ranging from the University of Michigan to the University of Florida. BGSU team members topped the competition and set themselves up for a run at state and national titles. Falcon Forensics reclaimed the Ohio State Championship title in February by beating rival Miami University in one of the closest championship tournaments in league history. Miami University was the defending state champion and had fought off BGSU for the previous three seasons. However, a strong senior team headed by exceptional transfer students led BG to retake state bragging rights.

Competitively, BGSU earned team placements at every tournament of the season, 16 in all. The Falcons earned success at Suffolk University, University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Butler University, Central Michigan University, Marietta College, the Ohio State Championships, the National Forensics Association National Tournament (NFA) and the NCT National Comprehensive National Tournament. Season successes were led by junior transfer students Jamie Salazar and Lexi Martinez of El Paso, Texas, who earned top individual honors at numerous tournaments. Juniors Spencer Coile of Hayworth, Illinois and Christopher Stack from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania also brought home top honors, amassing an impressive record, supporting the team. Seniors Ashley Hendricks of Canton, Ohio and Arrielle Hudgies from Cincinnati, Ohio served as team captains and brought home national rankings in multiple events. Other top performers included Evan Kelly from Chicago, Illinois, Becca Barth from Canton, Ohio, Dylan House from Wooster, Ohio and novice team members: Angela Perretta, Terry Taylor, Brooke Deck, Lindsay Bolding, Abby Zerull and Trisha Kushen.

The team hosted the 70th annual Falcon Classic Forensics Tournament in conjunction with a large alumni reception that brought back team members from the 1970s-1990s for a weekend of memories and friendship. In February, BG continued its offering of the regions only theme tournament, this year with a tropical beach theme that drew in a record 29 universities. The season ended with Jamie Salazar becoming the 4th BGSU student in 6 years to qualify to represent the state of Ohio at the prestigious Interstate Oratory Competition, the nation’s oldest speech competition where she placed in the upper 30% of participants.

Forensics and Debate is a co-curricular, competitive program offered through the School of Media and Communication and Department of Communication, offering BGSU undergraduate students the opportunity to hone their communication and performance skills in competition with other colleges and universities from around the nation and globe. For more information about forensics, speech or debate, please contact 372-8856 or BGSU4N6@Yahoo.com.
Only 166 students have ever had the honor to be a bird at BGSU. “From the minute you find out you must keep it a complete secret, only telling those who MUST know,” said Lauren. “So for me was my mom, stepdad, twin brother, roommate and my bosses at my two campus jobs. None of my sorority sisters knew! It was so hard to keep it from my family and friends!” admitted Lauren. She had to make up lies or fake plans to hide her identity. “I knew after the year the secret would be worth it,” assured Lauren.

“As Frieda, I split the duties with my “bird sister.” We had to attend all Football, Volleyball, Women’s Basketball, Men’s Basketball, and Hockey games as well as most University functions like Orientation, Preview days, International Student Banquet, and many others. We also attended BGSU alumni weddings and even got to go to mascot camp in Wisconsin! We were busy birds!! The best part of being Frieda though was how everyone responded to you. Freddie and Frieda are everybody’s best friends whether it is a little kid, current student, or alumni. It brought me such joy getting to meet so many people and cheer on the University!” said Lauren.

The year went by extremely fast and before Lauren knew it she had to start planning how to get her family, friends, and sorority sisters to the “beheading” ceremony. This is the event when the identities of the birds are revealed. “I told everyone I was receiving an award at the basketball game for my leadership on campus and they all fell for it,” said Lauren. Her sorority sisters and friends all knew the beheading was that day and it is a huge BGSU tradition, so they came just out of curiosity to see who was really behind the mask. Her family and friends had no idea it was Lauren until they announced that Frieda was from Republic, Ohio and they took her mask off. “Everyone was so shocked and excited and it was a moment I’ll never forget!” said Lauren.
Communication Students Designing Health-Related Campaigns

Spring Semester 2014 was a busy one for more than twenty Health Communication students in BGSU's COMM 4440 and MC 5010 class. Maybe you even took a sexual health/sleep survey to help some of your friends in that class as they researched and created health campaigns now being launched on the Internet and on BGSU’s campus!

Dr. Kate Magsamen-Conrad designed the class asking students to gather in small groups to work on theory-grounded, data-based, health-related campaigns designed specifically for BGSU students. Portions of the campaigns are currently rolling out and some groups already have success stories to share. For example, one group focusing on women's sexual health learned that the BGSU’s Falcon Health Center no longer stocks female condoms. Group members decided to work with the Falcon Center to change this and have been generating other resources to help make female condoms available. For instance, they partnered with the Fc2 female condom company who agreed to give BGSU samples of female condoms and also provided the group with training about the Fc2 female condoms. This was a great accomplishment and support initiating a FC2 outreach program at BGSU. In addition the group distributed female condoms to the Recreation and Wellness center at Bowling Green State University. The group created the permanent webpage for their campaign [http://itsyourvaginabg.wix.com/itsyourvagina](http://itsyourvaginabg.wix.com/itsyourvagina)

Another group has been working on a compelling "anti" sexual assault campaign, and two others are working on sleep-related campaigns. They have developed media including videos, images and other campaign materials. Students also organized events such as the one pictured below with members of the Pi Kappa Phi participating in an awareness event on campus. When asked about their impressions and response to these class projects, Health Communication students have reported, "this is the first time I've ever been excited about a class project," and "I think we're making a difference," which underscores their satisfaction after exerting a lot of effort.

If you are interested in learning more about these campaigns and taking the class in the upcoming semesters, please check out more information posted on our Department’s Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/BGSUCOMM](https://www.facebook.com/BGSUCOMM)
Putting Theory to Practice: COMM 3060 Students Engage in Service – Learning, Community Building, and Professional Development

At Bowling Green State University, learning about communication theories and skills is not limited to classroom contexts.

This summer, undergraduate students in Dr. Lisa Hanasono’s section of COMM 3030: Persuasion applied their communication skills in a community-based service-learning project. Partnering with the United Way of Wood County, Downtown BG, and the Bowling Green Farmers’ Market, students helped community members get involved in Not in Our Town, a local campaign that aims to promote inclusion and stop hate in Bowling Green, Ohio.

While volunteering at the Farmers’ Market in downtown Bowling Green, the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, and the United Way, students helped community members learn about Not in Our Town and encouraged people to sign anti-hate pledge cards, get their pictures taken with supportive messages, and share their stories at a special video booth. In addition, students used their knowledge of persuasive theories and skills to develop campaign videos that will be featured during the 2014-2015 academic year.

By completing their service-learning activities, students applied course concepts and developed communication skills to promote inclusion and take a collective stand against discrimination. They also enhanced their professional portfolios. Students who wish to pursue careers in campaigning, promotions, media production, or public relations can showcase their campaign videos and persuasive materials to prospective employers. Students who are interested in sales and recruitment can tell interviewers how they successfully used their interpersonal influence skills to encourage community members to get involved in Not in Our Town, and students who are passionate about nonprofit organizations, community-building, and diversity got an opportunity to gain firsthand volunteer experience and build partnerships with local organizations.

“It was an honor to work with these students,” Dr. Hanasono said. “In six short weeks, they learned about the art of persuasion—and applied their newfound knowledge to help our community, raise awareness about Not in Our Town, and develop creative campaign videos.”

If you would like to learn more about this service-learning project, or if you would like to get involved, please contact Dr. Hanasono at LisaKH@bgsu.edu.
Update From Alumni

Joy Harris graduated from BGSU in 2008 with a B.A. in Communication and minor in History. She currently works for NSK Americas in Ann Arbor, MI as a Procurement Supplier Development Specialist.

NSK Americas is the USA headquarters for the Japan-based company. NSK manufactures ball bearings, roller bearings and linear motion products for the automotive, industrial and agriculture industries. NSK has offices and manufacturing facilities all over the world -- Japan, China, Mexico, Iowa, Indiana, Brazil, India, UK, and many others.

As a procurement supplier development specialist, she is responsible for procuring competitive quotations for the seal and sensor commodity. In addition to obtaining quotations, she works to achieve cost downs on projects identified in annual and monthly reports. She is also required to manage my suppliers by evaluating their pricing, quality and reliability, which requires me to travel to each supplier’s location as needed.

Procurement calls for Joy to be firm and decisive while being amicable. It requires her to possess strong negotiation skills, forecasting abilities, and be a keen listener. With NSK being a global company, on a daily basis she communicating with her Japanese team members, as well as global representatives from her suppliers. The language barrier can be very challenging in that not only is it hard to understand, it is very easy to interpret tones incorrectly. Another challenge with working in a global company, are the cultural differences.

Before NSK, she worked for a company called MTS Seating located in Temperance, MI. MTS is a manufacturer of banquet and restaurant seating (that can be found in the BGSU Union). There she worked as a Sales Coordinator for 4 years. The field of sales also required that she be a successful communicator.

“Communication has opened a lot of doors for me. The classes I took at BGSU prepared me by emphasizing that clear, efficient communication in the work place is very important. It amazes me to this day how many poor communicators there are in the work force. I believe communication is the foundation for success and that many organizations do not place enough emphasis on it.”

Julie Storch majored in Communication and minored in Marketing and Psychology. She currently works at Flavorseal in Avon, OH as an Inside Sales Specialist.

Flavorseal is a packaging manufacturing company for the food processing and food service industry. As a sales specialist in the food processing division at Flavorseal, Julie is responsible for maintaining and growing an existing customer base as well as prospecting through cold calls for the Northwest territory, which covers 12 states. Aside from responsibilities of external communication with customers Julie has numerous daily internal communication with their production, shipping, accounting, and purchasing departments. Julie works as a coordinator and spokesperson for her customers to the different departments in her company to ensure their orders arrive to them in a timely manner. Through her work, Julie has had the opportunity to travel to Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota to meet with her customers face-to-face and grow her relationship with them and secure future business for her company.

Julie’s communication classes at BGSU were great preparation for her transition into the workforce by allowing her to grow relationships with customers and maintain continuous strong communications internally at her company.
Update From Alumni

David Johnson, class of 2011, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (BAC) with a career focus in Promotions and Advertising. He served as an Admissions Advisor at Ohio University for nearly three years and recently began a new role as the Assistant Director of Annual Giving at Ohio University.

As Assistant Director of Annual Giving, David strives to increase financial support for Ohio University’s students, faculty, and programs by reaching out to alumni and friends of the institution through personal solicitation, donor cultivation, and stewardship. He uncovers alumni areas of passion for the institution and frequently discusses making gifts to these areas or starting scholarships for students.

David earned a Master’s degree in Higher Education from Ohio University in 2014. He loves working for an institution of higher education (mainly because he never wants to leave college). David says that he felt very prepared starting graduate school. While some of his classmates were stressing about using APA format and writing 25+-page research papers, David realized that his BGSU education prepared him for that as an undergraduate.

Of the many great things he learned while at BGSU, David says that his COMM classes taught him the most useful and practical concepts that he still uses today. Presentation skills, persuasive strategies, and the importance of relationship-building are just a few that he uses every day. “You will learn theories and concepts in your Psychology and Business classes, but your Communication classes will bring those all together and show you how to actually apply those to the world in which we live,” assures David.

The Intergroup Communication Intervention: Intergenerational Interaction to Promote Community and Technology Literacy

Since Spring 2013, Students enrolled in Small Group Communication courses COMM 2030 at BGSU have been conducting classes to help the older adults in Bowling Green and surrounding community better understand mobile devices like iPad, Kindle, Nook, and Galaxy. For the third semester in a row, older adults have been learning how to use various kinds of technology as taught by BGSU students. The formal name of this ongoing project is the Intergenerational Communication Intervention (ICI), which was developed by Dr. Kate Magsamen-Conrad in partnership with leaders of the Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA).
The Intergroup Communication Intervention: Intergenerational Interaction to Promote Community and Technology Literacy

Drawing from the framework of Intergroup Contact Theory, the ICI facilitates a series of systematic and supportive interactions between younger and older adults meant to reduce negative attitudes between the generations, facilitate the development of positive interpersonal relationships, and build skills important to both generations. To measure the effectiveness of the project, Dr. Kate Magsamen-Conrad has been collecting surveys to gather feedback from both the BGSU and adult students.

Results have indicated statistically significant improvement in dyadic trust and communication apprehension of older adults toward younger adults, as well as statistically significant improvement in the attitudes of younger adults about diversity and disabilities. An excerpt from one student journal summarizes what this program was able to accomplish so far: “Well overall I think that my attitude about older adults has changed. I used to think that older white adults would think about me negatively because I am black, and because of past experiences with older white people have been negative. I automatically thought that the seniors at the center here in BG would act the same way. This is a small town so I assumed that they would be a little standoff-ish. However, to my surprise they were very nice from the first day of the class till the last. I think my attitude toward older white people has changed the most; it was a positive change.”

Enrollment more than doubled from the second to third semester as word has spread about the program. In 2014, the WCCOA received the “Organization Excellence Award” for their work with the ICI from BGSU’s Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Awards Committee in recognition of the successful University/Community partnership.

The highlight of the year was the first ever “graduation” celebration on April 16 held at WCCOA. The event was sponsored by the WCCOA and BGSU’s Office of Service Learning. Friends, family, and community members joined the student teachers and older adult students to celebrate accomplishments in learning more about each other, teaching, leading, and technology. More than 60 adults received their graduation certificates and the event was covered by the local media. See for example an article in The Sentinel –Tribune http://www.sent-trib.com/front-page/tech-savvy-seniors
Department of Communication Student Scholarship and Award Recipients 2014

Each year the Department gathers to celebrate our best and brightest students. This year, student scholarship and award ceremony happened on March 21, 2014. The honorees and their awards are listed below.

SMC Excellence Fund
Krystal Ingman
Established in 2001 by J. Michael Sproule, the former Director of the School of Media and Communication, awards are given to undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellence as majors in the Department of Communication.

Del Hillyard Memorial Book Scholarship
Henry Seeger

RK Tucker Outstanding Communication Student
Nadia Oehler & Holly Brandewie
This scholarship was established by long-time faculty member R.K. Tucker who twice was recognized by students as Master Teacher of the Year.

Julie Burke Memorial Scholarship
Holly Brandewie
This scholarship honors Dr. Julie Burke, Associate Professor in Communication 1992-2007. Dr. Burke held many leadership positions in the Communication Department and School of Communication Studies.

Women in Communication
Jasmine Jennings
This award is presented to one distinguished female student in the Department of Communication who has contributed to promoting the advancement of women by recognizing excellence and demonstrating leadership.

Lambda Pi Eta New Inductees
Lindsay Garwood & Courtney Looser
Lambda Pi Eta is the official honorary of the National Communication Association. The Omega Gamma Chapter has been active at BGSU since 2009.

Communication Faculty Awards
The following awards are based on faculty nomination and recognize classroom and co-curricular involvement in the Department of Communication.

Rising Star
Anthony Buzzacco & Chelsea Dudley

Outstanding Junior
Isaiah Harris, Sasha Hover, Tiffany Suscheck, & Casey Schonhardt

Outstanding Senior
Kassie Cooper, Jordan McKinney, & Jasmine Jennings

Forensics Awards
The Martin L. Hanna Award
Spencer Coile
This award is given to a returning team member.

The Shine Family Memorial Award
Abby Zerull
This award is given to a novice team member.
A Year in Review: Noteworthy Events

Homecoming, October 4, 2014

The Association for Women in Communications and the Communication Department held its third annual Homecoming event on Friday, October 4, 2014. Faculty members, students, and alumni came out for the occasion. Faculty members of the Department enjoyed snacks and beverages and chatted with alumni and students. Students in attendance got the chance to ask two alumni, Claire Bailey and David Johnson, all about their career paths. Both spoke very highly of the Communication Department and how their degrees got them where they are today. Bailey is employed by the University of Dayton and Johnson works at Ohio University. Both alumni encouraged students to get involved in any way they can and get to know their professors. Events like this one, allow students to do just that.

Recruiting Events

Many Communication faculty and students attended campus-wide recruiting days to meet with prospective students and students who are already on campus looking for a major. These events included Preview Days on October 1, 2013, December 7, 2013, and April 26, 2014; Major Match Up on October 28, 2013; Media and Communication Day on November 8, 2013, President’s Day on February 17, 2014; and many other events on campus. These events are a great opportunity for current students to represent the Department and help others discover the benefits of our major.

Research Forum, March 24, 2014

The Association for Women in Communications hosted the second annual Communication Research Forum on Monday, March 24, 2014. Drs. Lisa Hanasono and Kate Magsamen-Conrad spoke about their research and how their areas of research impact the field of communication. Dr. Lisa Hanasono’s research examines the ways people communicate, process and cope with prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes. Dr. Kate Magsamen-Conrad’s research focuses on health and interpersonal communication in applied contexts. The event showcased the research conducted in the Department and allowed the students to learn more about the vast areas of research in communication discipline.
A Year in Review: Faculty Accomplishments

Awards

Lanming Chen and Lisa Hanasono received a Top Paper Award for their project titled, “The Effect of Acculturation on Chinese International Students’ Usage of Facebook and Renren” from the Association for Chinese Communication Studies at the 2013 NCA Conference.

Sandra Faulkner received the Franklin H. Knower Outstanding Article Award from NCA’s Interpersonal Communication Division at the 2013 NCA Conference for the 2011 article coauthored with Michael L. Hecht entitled, “The Negotiation of Closetable Identities: A Narrative Analysis of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Queer Jewish Identity,” published in *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.

Al González received the Outstanding Commitment Award at the annual Senior Colloquium of the President’s Leadership Academy, April 26, 2014.

Lara Lengel with alumna Linda Ziberi (first author) and Artan Limani received the Top Paper Award from the Intercultural Communication Division at the International Communication Association conference in London, England, June 20, 2013 for their work titled, “Negotiating the Landscape of Division: The Rhetorical Uses of Multiculturalism in Macedonia.”

Kate Magsamen-Conrad received the Bowling Green State University College of Arts and Science Diversity Award in 2014.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad received a Community Partner - Organizational Excellence Award with Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA) in 2014 for collaboration between BGSU and WCCOA.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad received the Arnedia Smith Award from the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) in 2013.

Grants and Fellowships

Lisa Hanasono was awarded a $3000 service-learning grant for her project titled, “Communicating Change: A Community-Based Approach to Promoting Diversity and Inclusion” from the Office of Service-Learning at Bowling Green State University. She was also awarded a Faculty Development and Instructional Improvement Grant from Bowling Green State University, $967.00.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad received two internal grants from Bowling Green State University: Building Strength Grant ($10,000) and additional $3,500 for the “Intergroup Communication Intervention Development” projects.

National Service and Recognition

Lisa Hanasono was elected to serve as the 2nd Vice Chair of the National Communication Association’s Asian Pacific American Communication Studies Division.

Sandra Faulkner was elected to the Committee on Committees in the National Communication Association.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad was elected an OAGE Conference Organizer for meetings in 2014 and 2015.

University Collaboration

Al González was a panelist at the 20th annual Latino Issues Conference, April 2, 2014.

Lisa Hanasono and Cheongmi Shim, along with Federico Chalupa, served as the editors for the inaugural issue of the *International ResearchScape Journal*.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad served as a reviewer for Building Strengths Grant Proposals at Bowling Green State University in Fall 2013. She continues also to serve as a “Wellness Champion,” for the Bowling Green State University Department of Recreation and Wellness since Fall 2012.
A Year in Review: Faculty Accomplishments

Community Collaboration
Kate Magsamen-Conrad facilitated the donation of eight iPad tablets to the Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA) to promote older adults technology and eHealth literacy skills acquisition in the Spring 2014.

Kate Magsamen-Conrad coordinated the development of manuals and online tutorials for older adults, available at the WCCOA and on YouTube (How to Download the Facebook app on iPad http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw26qlMv8bY, How to Take a Photo on your iPad http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9bnAEobd9g).

Invited Presentations


Sandra Faulkner with Marne Austin and Tiffany Suschek presented, "Fit and Feminist," at the Brown Bag talk for the Women's Center, Bowling Green State University.

Radhika Gajjala was an invited panelist on featured panel, “The Habit of Care: Technologies of Living and Laboring Cyborgs,” at World Social Science Forum, Montreal, CA, in October, 2013.

Radhika Gajjala was an invited panelist on panel, “Developing Distributive Open Online Courses,” at the Africa & IT Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in September 2013.

Radhika Gajjala was an invited speaker at Pitzer College, California and participated in a LiveStream dialogue on “Place” with Sharon Irish and Alex Juhasz, for Femtechnet/DOCC2013 project.

Radhika Gajjala was an invited panelist at “Feminism and Intimacy in Cold, Neoliberal Times” at the Annual Gender Event, Goldsmiths University of London, in June 2013.

Al González presented, “From Inmigración to Immigration: The Rhetoric of Immigration Reform,” at the Symposium Against Indifference at Ashland University, on February 11, 2014.

Lisa Hanasono delivered the keynote Speech, “(Mis)Representations: Asian Americans in Mainstream Media,” at the first Asian American Heritage Week’s opening event at Bowling Green State University in 2014.


Books and Book Chapters


A Year in Review: Faculty Accomplishments

Books and Book Chapters Continued


Sandra Faulkner published *Inside Relationships: A Creative Case Book on Relational Communication* (Left Coast Press, 2013). Kate Magsamen-Conrad, Lisa Hanasono, and Ellen Gorsevski have chapters in this volume.


Laura Stafford, with co-authors Rachel Price and Molly Reynolds published, “Adults’ Meanings of Friends with Benefits Relationships,” in *Researching Interpersonal Relationships: Qualitative Methods, Studies, and Analysis* edited by Jimmie Manning and Adrienne Kunkel (Sage, 2014).

Peer Reviewed Publications


Peer Reviewed Publications Continued


Kate Magsamen-Conrad, with co-authors Maria Venetis (first author), Kathryn Greene, and Maria Checton published, "Decision Making in Cancer-Related Topic Avoidance" in *Journal of Health Communication* (in press).

Kate Magsamen-Conrad, with co-authors Maria Venetis (first author), Maria Checton, and Kathryn Greene published, "Cancer Communication and Partner Burden,” in *Journal of Communication* (2014).


Creative Work
