Establishing New Traditions

The 2011-12 academic year began with a new Homecoming tradition at the Department of Communication. Members of the Association of Women in Communications invited faculty, current students, and alumni to the first annual “Meet and Greet” event on Friday, October 13, 2011. The event was prompted after recent alumnus David M. Johnson contacted faculty with the idea of catching up with students and faculty during the Homecoming weekend. Michael Butterworth, the Chair of the Department, welcomed this new initiative, confirming that the faculty are committed to establishing a community of learners who provide support for each other while still in school and after graduation.

The event was a great success and the Department is looking forward to many more Homecomings!

Keeping the Tradition of Winning Alive

Our Falcon Forensics and Debate Team proved once again it is one of the top teams in the country. For the first time in school history, the team placed in all six team divisions at the National Comprehensive Tournament (NCT) held March 15-19, 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The team walked away with second in the nation in Forensic Events, first in Student Congress, first in Reader’s Theatre, and third in Overall Combined Sweepstakes and won this year’s NCT Championship trophy. Team members collectively earned 33 national awards, including national championships in Reader’s Theatre and Forensic Criticism.

Read more on p. 4
Central States Communication Association Celebrates John J. Makay

Professor Emeritus in the Department of Communication John J. Makay was honored at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) conference in Cleveland for his contributions to the field of rhetoric. Dr. Makay was a faculty member at BGSU from 1968-1970 and 1991-2007. In that time, he served as director of the School of Communication, the chair of the Department of Communication, and basic course director.

His career spanned five decades. His scholarship has been published in edited books and in state, regional, and national journals. Dr. Makay saw 45 doctoral advisees through to degree completion and impacted hundreds of other students as a teacher, basic course director, and master’s advisor. His advisees have gone on to successful careers in the academy and private sector.

Currently, two of Dr. Makay’s doctoral advisees are university presidents and a number of others have served as deans, provosts, and department chairs at universities all over the country.

The panel was made up of Dr. Makay’s former doctoral advisees Drs. Aaron Burton, Alberto Gonzalez, Jennifer Walton, Brett Barnett, and Becky McDonald. The panel was organized and submitted to CSCA by Dr. Aaron Burton, Dr. Makay’s last doctoral advisee and current instructor in the Department of Communication here at BGSU.

Dr. Burton said, "I can truly say that if were not for John Makay I would not have completed my Ph.D. and would not have found a home at BGSU that has lasted for years past the completion of my degree. He guided my academic career and is a friend that I still go to for advice. I felt that a person like John Makay needed to be recognized for the impact he has had on so many academic careers.”

After the panel Dr. Jennifer Walton, another of Dr. Makay’s former advisees and chair of the Department of Communication at Ohio Northern University held a reception in the Renaissance Hotel for panel participants and attendees to socialize with each other and Dr. Makay. Dr. Walton says, “I knew the panel would be well attended and folks would want to talk and catch up with each other. The reception was a huge success and went on for hours after the panel.”

Dr. Alberto Gonzalez a full professor in the Department of Communication, and also a panelist, said, “I think it’s wonderful that many colleagues and former students could publicly express appreciation for John’s career of supporting graduate education and innovative communication research.”

Dr. Makay saw 45 doctoral advisees through to degree completion and impacted hundreds of other students as a teacher, basic course director, and master’s advisor.
While more than a billion people worldwide celebrated Earth Day this year only a few, including our own students, received top Earth Day honors.

Students in COMM 4060 Special Topics: Environmental Communication won first prize in the 2012 BGSU Earth Week Recycled Art Show. Co-hosted by BGSU Arts Enterprise and Environmental Service Club, and part of the university’s Earth Day Jam Fest on April 20, the goal of the art exhibit was to raise funds for Keep America Beautiful and to raise awareness about sustainability.

The environmentally-focused community art project, “We are all connected”, was conceptualized by Environmental Communication student, Amanda Cadle, because, as she said, “we are all connected not only to each other but to the Earth itself.” Amanda lead her student peers to create an art work “that allowed each person to participate in a way that made no one persons’ contribution more important than another”. By having “children create a planter made of recyclable bottles and hang them on the mural of a tree, each of those children, whether they are four or fourteen, would have the opportunity to see that just as they made an impact on this piece of art, they can also make an impact on this Earth.”

“We are all connected”, was a highlight of the 3rd Annual BG Community Earth Day Celebration, held on the beautiful 14-acre wooded grounds of the Montessori School of Bowling Green (MSBG) on April 19, 2012. The event, attended by hundreds of MSBG students, families and teachers, community members, and BGSU university faculty and students, commenced with BG Mayor Edwards’ ribbon cutting ceremony for the new community SEED trail (Stewards for Exercise and Environmental Education) and outdoor learning center, which offers community events, cross country meets, and community-wide physical and environmental education.

Environmental Communication students engaged in a semester-long service-learning partnership project with the Montessori School of Bowling Green (MSBG), assisting in the planning and implementing the Earth Day Celebration. The students worked with MSBG students, teachers, and staff to develop hands-on environmental activities, most notably a living eco-art installation, as well as teaching and resource stations throughout the event.

Dr. Lara Martin Lengel, Professor in the Department of Communication, who developed and taught this course, said “I’m thrilled to see how much the students have taken on a leadership role in helping our community’s children and their families to understand and appreciate environmental sustainability.”

Students in Environmental Communication, like Becky Meadows, “learned deeply significant things from our service learning project, especially an understanding of how personal, relevant and urgent communicating environmental sustainability is; how I can change my habits to benefit the broader community and how I can take what I have learned and use it in the future.”

“It’s great to be a part of the first Environmental Communication course at BGSU,” said student Jason Kursak. “This was less of a class but more of a wake up call about how to improve my life. I have become more of an avid listener in politics and local government about important issues such as global warming and go green campaigns. I never cared much for politics but after being in this class and listening to other class members speak about their passion for the earth and the various lectures we had, they really made me evaluate what I find important.”

Environmental communication students became the leaders in outreach and education efforts on environmental sustainability, promoting the 4 Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and refuse (focusing, in particular, on refusing plastic bags in retail establishments). They designed and produced information sheets on the 4 Rs for numerous audiences (from young children to adults), and developed an extensive social media site, “We Rise Above Plastic (W.R.A.P.)” on Facebook.

Students’ service-learning accomplishments fostered a sense of personal and social responsibility and civic learning. “Our work with the Montessori School of Bowling Green is more than merely community service,” said Dr. Lengel. “It is a hands-on approach to mastering subject material in environmental communication while enhancing civic responsibility.”
Falcons Forensics Sweeps National Championships

Continued from the front page.

BGSU competed against teams from the University of Texas, Notre Dame University, the University of Michigan and Yale University, among others. This is the ninth national team honor earned by BGSU since 2007.

Contributing to the team’s success were outstanding performances in several categories:

**Readers Theatre**

This event features an interpretive performance from between 3 and 15 participants. BGSU entered two performances this year: “Skin” a program exploring the progression of racism and our responses to it, which placed 3rd in the nation and the national champion performance of “The Lion King.” This Reader’s Theatre was an interpretive retelling blending the Broadway and Disney versions of the classic story of the Circle of Life. National Champion performers include Nicholas Blaine (sophomore, Sylvania, OH), Ashley Hendricks (sophomore, Canton, OH), Spencer coils (freshman, Heyworth, IL), Chris Stack (freshman, Pittsburgh, PA), Shirley O’Nan (junior, Findlay, OH) and Becca Barth (freshman, Massillon, OH).

**Student Congress**

This event places speakers into legislative chambers, giving students experience in working with parliamentary procedure, constitutional law and the process of advancing a bill through the presentation of sponsorship speeches and refutation. BGSU was the top team in the nation with members Rachel Rine, Becca Barth and Nicholas Blaine earning the title of “Outstanding Legislator” in each of their chambers. In addition, Nicholas Blaine earned top honors as presiding officer.

**To Honor Scholarship**

In this event, students submitted research papers on a variety of subjects ranging from “Canada’s Cross Border Involvement in the Civil War” to “Human Bipedalism” to the “Relational Communication Impact of Deployment on Military Families.” These papers were evaluated, as was a video panel presentation of their work. Nicholas Blaine earned 2nd place, Samantha Kirsch (junior, Perryburg, OH), 4th and Shirley O’Nan, 5th in the nation.

**Forensics Events**

Forensics events include a range of different types of speeches and interpretive performances. Spencer Coile placed 2nd in the Nation in Informative Speaking, a speech to inform the audience about developing issues of importance. His presentation on “Biotic Teleportation” included a blending of humor and research which made highly complex concepts accessible to audiences. Spencer also advanced to quarterfinals in Dramatic Interpretation, a monologue performance traditionally based on theatrical material. BGSU also had Nicholas Blaine and Rachel Rine advance to quarterfinal and semifinal rounds respectively in Impromptu Speaking, an event which tests a student’s critical thinking ability by providing them with a quotation from which they craft and deliver a 7 minute with limited preparation time. Blaine also advanced to the semifinal round of Extemporaneous Speaking where a speaker’s answer a political, legal, or policy question using file materials they have collected in advance of the competition. Chris Stack, Spencer Coile, Rachel Rine and Madeline Fening (sophomore, Middletown, OH) all earned quarterfinal round placements in Duo Interpretation, a performance event where two persons present an acting scene based on a play, movie script or variety of literary forms.

“This was an amazing season, especially since our team is so young,” said Paul Wesley Alday, director of forensics and an instructor of interpersonal communication at BGSU. “Eighty percent of our team members are freshmen and sophomores, which makes the future look exceptionally bright for the program.”

The team showcased its national award-winning performances on April 11, 2012. The free event featured the national champion Reader’s Theatre and speeches from state and national finals.

Forensics and Debate is a co-curricular, competitive program offered through the School of Media and Communication and Department of Communication.
Department of Communication Student Award & Scholarship Recipients 2012

Front row (left to right): Marisa Vittoria, Rebecca Meadows, and Nicole Chiricosta.
Back row (left to right): Ashley Merriweather, Rachel Willingham, Courtney Seel, Lincoln Storer, and Timothy Maddox

Each spring, scholarships and awards are earned by Communication students, recognizing dedication and excellence within the field. Many of these awards are made available through the generosity of our alumni and gifts to foundation accounts, including:
- Fund for Excellence Scholarship
- Julie Burke Memorial Award
- R.K. Tucker Outstanding Communication Student Award
- Rising Star Scholarship
- Outstanding Senior Award
- Communication Faculty Award
- Communication Scholar Awards
The Department of Communication hosted its annual awards ceremony on Friday, March 23, 2012 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The afternoon began with celebration of awards presented by the School of Media and Communication. Samantha Kirsch (junior in the Communication major) received the School of Media and Communication Excellence Fund Award, which rewards students for outstanding academic performance.

Timothy Maddox won the Julie A. Burke Memorial Scholarship, which honors the work of Dr. Burke as a faculty member and chair in the department by rewarding a Communication major for excellence in academic performance.

Ashley Merriweather (senior) and Samantha Kirsch (junior) won the R.K. Tucker Outstanding Communication Student Award, which honors longtime department faculty member R. K. Tucker by rewarding a Communication major for both academic excellence and extracurricular activities.

Courtney Seel won the Women in Communication award for her work with the BGSU chapter of the Association for Women in Communications.

Faculty-nominated awards for Top Seniors went to Devin Trevathan, Rachel Willingham, and China Billote; Top Junior went to Rebecca Meadows and Lincoln Storer. “Rising Stars” awards went to Kenneth White, Nicole Chiricosta and Marisa Vittoria.

Finally, Lambda Pi Eta welcomed its new members. Lambda Pi Eta inductees included Timothy Maddox, Amanda Cadle, Courtney Sweighagen, and Lincoln Storer. Students receive induction into the honors society by earning a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in the major and a cumulative 3.0 GPA.

Congratulations to all honorees!

Forensics and Debate Team Award & Scholarship Recipients

Forensics Team members were honored as well at the Department of Communication awards ceremony on March 23, 2012 for outstanding scholarship and competitive success with annual Grant-in-Aid Forensics Scholarships.

The team annually awards between 10 and 12 outstanding students scholarships for participation on the team during the following season.

This season, the team recruited 8 new members through this scholarship program from high schools in Michigan, Florida, New York, Illinois, and Ohio.

In addition to the scholarship honorees, Junior Ashley Hendricks received the Martin L. Hanna Award for outstanding upperclassman in forensics, while Chris Stack was the recipient of the Shine Family Memorial Award for outstanding new member.

The Falcon Forensics and Debate Team is a co-curricular competitive team offered through the School of Media and Communication and Department of communication for undergraduate students interested in speech, debate and performance.
Alumnus Says Communication is Essential in Any Career Field

Miriam Kompinsky

After obtaining a BA in Communication with an emphasis on Social Services in 2008, Miriam Kompinsky started a job with Progressive insurance as claims adjuster.

Miriam says she practiced communication skills in many different contexts. Her work necessitated working in teams. She interacted with people from all walks of life both in person and over the phone. She realized that intercultural communication competency was important aspect in her job. She found that effective writing skills were essential: “One cannot overstate the importance of effective writing skills!”

After two years at Progressive, Miriam decided she wanted to pursue something different: “I enjoyed working with customers but I wanted to help people in a different aspect of their lives. It made a big difference in my life to have a bachelor’s degree and I wanted to help others achieve their educational goals.”

In 2010, Miriam pursued a Master’s degree in Kent State University’s Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel program. Here, Miriam found that her communication background was an asset as well. While completing her graduate degree, Miriam was granted a Graduate Assistant position in the Exploratory Advising Center where she served as an Academic Advisor to undeclared students. While going to school full time and working, Miriam also found time to plan her wedding and married her husband, Marc Frankel, after the first year of graduate school.

After graduating from Kent State University in May 2012, Miriam accepted a position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as an Academic Advisor in the College of Sciences. She advises students on their science degrees both in person and over the phone. “I help with new student orientation and make presentations on a regular basis,” says Miriam, reinforcing the need for effective communication skills in her new job. Miriam is also enjoying her married life and decided to adopt a dog. Together with her husband she is visiting different dog shelters in Las Vegas and “looking around to find the right one!”

All of these experiences have led Miriam to conclude that “a degree in Communication is applicable to ANY career field.” Good writing, speaking, and presentation skills are valued in any field. “If you are not sure what you would like to do as a career, pursuing a broad degree such as Communication is an excellent route to take,” said Miriam. She admits, “I did not know what I wanted to do ‘for the rest of my life’ when I graduated in May 2008.” Miriam believes that a communication degree can prepare one well for a specialized degree later on. Miriam says, “You can always get a Master’s or PhD later on in your life.”

For students currently in the program, Miriam advises to take classes in Small Group Communication, Presentation Speaking in Organizations, Intercultural Communication, and International Communication. She says she did not understand the value of these classes fully until she began working. She also insisted that getting experience outside of classroom is just as important: “Give yourself as much work experience as you can outside of the classroom. Employers love that! Having the ability to articulate specific scenarios or lessons that you learned outside of the classroom is just as important as having your degree.”

Falcon Forensics & Debate: New Logo

Bowling Green State University’s Falcon Forensics, Speech and Debate Team is featuring a new look. This summer, the team was reimaged to enhance its national branding and appeal. The team says goodbye to the “Winged Shield” logo it has used in variation for the past 20 years, and hello to a new circular design featuring the “Peek-a-Boo Falcon” used campus wide. This change was made both to strengthen identification through the incorporation of the BGSU image and to create a distinct logo for the team. The program is excited about its new contemporary look as it moves toward exciting future growth.
Faculty Achievements: A Year in Review 2011/2012

Awards
Sandra Faulkner received two top paper awards from the National Communication Association in November (2011) for “A Content Analysis of Sexual and Relational Health Messages for Women Who Have Sex with Women” and “That Baby will Cost You: An Intended Ambivalent Pregnancy.”

Grants and Fellowships
Ellen Gorsevski was awarded a Fall 2011 Scholars-in-Residence fellowship by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) at BGSU. During her fellowship she conducted research and wrote journal articles on recent women Nobel Peace laureates as well as worked on her book, “Dangerous Women: The Rhetoric of the Women Nobel Peace Laureates.” In September 2011 Dr. Gorsevski presented ICS lecture, “Chasing Dangerous Women: The Social Justice Rhetoric of the Women Nobel Peace Laureates.”

Books and Book Chapters
Michael L. Butterworth published, with Andrew C. Billings and Paul D. Turman, Communication and Sport: Surveying the Field (SAGE, 2011)
Lynda Dee Dixon’s work with Pratt, Buchanan-Pratt on Indian identity is included in a peer reviewed chapter in Larry Samovar et al. Intercultural Communication: A Reader(13th ed.) (Wadsworth Publishing, 2011)
Lara Lengel and Terry Rentner published “Ethics, Culture, and Global Social Marketing Campaigns,” In International Communications and Ethics edited by Alexander G. Nikolaev (Macmillian, 2011)

Peer Reviewed Articles
Lynda Dee Dixon and Lara Lengel with co-author Terry Rentner (first author) and have a lead article, “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention for American Indians: Reaching the Populations and Reducing Health Disparities,” in Journal of Health Communication (January 2012)
Peer Reviewed Articles (Cont.)


Cheongmi Shim, with co-authors Yan Bing Zhang and Jake Harwood, published, “Direct and Mediated Intercultural Contact: Koreans’ Attitudes toward U.S. Americans,” in Journal of International and Intercultural Communication (August 2012)

Invited Presentations


Lynda Dee Dixon was the keynote speaker at the Oklahoma Speech, Theatre, Communication Association (OSTCA) meeting in Oklahoma City, OK, September 2011. Her presentation was entitled “Cultural Study from a Cherokee.” She was also an invited speaker at the Native American Seminar of the Western States Communication Association in Albuquerque, NM in February, 2012 where she presented “Growing up Cherokee in a White World.”


Continuing Research

Lynda Dee Dixon, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, continues her work on current problems and issues that originate from the effects of colonization. Continuing her analysis of the previous Principal Chief Smith, she is analyzing the “The State of the Cherokee Nation” speech given by the new Principal Chief Baker (2012). Her work included observing and participating in the latest Cherokee Homecoming in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, marking the 60th year of the continuation of the Cherokee Nation after the Trail of Tears.

National Service and Recognition

Lynda Dee Dixon is continuing to serve as 2nd Vice Chair for Women’s Caucus of the National Communication Association. She is serving as a planner for the Caucus meetings of NCA 2013.

Alberto González is serving a second term as Chair of the Affirmative Action & Intercaucus Committee of the National Communication Association.

University Collaboration

For two semesters, Lynda Dixon taught cross listed courses about indigenous women with Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Alberto González taught Public Communication to the 2012 freshman cohort of the Sidney A. Ribeau President’s Leadership Academy. González has taught in this Division of Student Affairs program since its inception in 1997.

Lara Lengel collaborated with the BGSU Office of Campus Sustainability on several campus sustainability initiatives.

Community Collaboration

Lynda Dee Dixon continues to serve (since 2009) as a Sequoyah Commission Member of the Cherokee Nation appointed by Principal Chief Chad “Cornassel” Smith. As a member of this committee, she served as a respondent to research presentations at the Cherokee Nation meeting in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in August, 2011.

Lisa K. Hanasono was appointed to serve on the Japanese American Citizens League’s National Education and Power of Words Committee. Working with scholars and civil rights leaders across the country, she is developing a handbook that explores and problematizes the use of euphemisms and misnomers related to Japanese Americans’ experiences in the United States during World War Two.

Alberto González serves as President of the Board of Trustees for the Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center, Toledo, Ohio. The Quintero Center supports the work of local artists and delivers art classes and educational programs relating to the Latina/o cultures.

Lara Lengel directed a service-learning community partnership with the Montessori School of Bowling Green (see story, page 3) and the BGSU Office of Campus Sustainability with her COMM 4060 Special Topics: Environmental Communication students.

Creative Work

Sandra Faulkner’s poetry chapbook, Hello Kitty Goes to College, was published by dancing girl press, 2012.