



# Communitas

A publication of the  
BGSU Department of Communication

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## #BG4Unity: Communicating Change on Social Media



Last spring, Dr. Lisa Hanasono's *COMM 3030: Persuasion* students developed and launched BG4Unity, a community-based social media project.

Recognizing the problematic rise in cyberbullying and online hate speech, the purpose of BG4Unity is to encourage people to use social media

responsibly to take a stand against hate and offer messages of hope to those affected by discrimination. Throughout the semester, COMM 3030 students worked diligently to persuade people in their networks and the local community to create and share photos, posts, tweets, and videos on Facebook and Twitter that challenged stereotypes, advocated for social justice, and expressed support for those coping with discrimination and cyberbullying.

*read more about #BG4Unity on page 5*

## Making a Difference: Sisters Show their Support for Children with Cancer



BGSU students and sisters, Emily and Valerie Skorupski, have many things in common. Not only are they both majoring in communication, they are dedicated and courageous sisters who showed their support for children with cancer by participating in the St. Baldrick's Shave-a-Thon on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. According to *BG News*, this philanthropic event brought in over \$14,300 for childhood cancer research, and over 100 people donated their hair to make wigs for kids living with cancer.

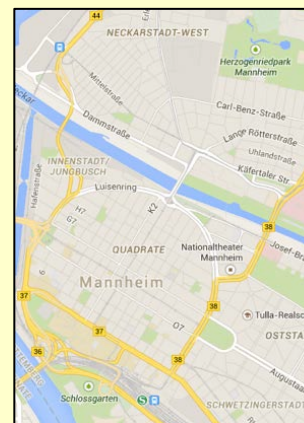
The National Institutes of Health reported that among all illnesses, cancer is the leading cause of death among children (ages 1 to 19). Organizations like the St. Baldrick's Foundation work with communities to raise research money—and to raise awareness and support for the thousands of children and families who are affected by cancer. Since 2012, students and community members in BowlingGreen have participated in the organization's annual Shave-a-Thon. Inspired by the brave women and men who had already shaved their heads to support kids with cancer, Emily signed up for the 2015 event and convinced her younger sister, Valerie, to join.

*read more about Making a Difference on page 5*

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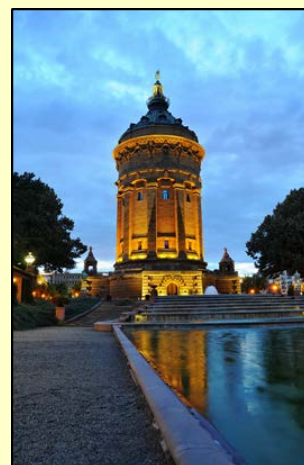
## International Exchange Program: BGSU School of Media and Communication Establishes Collaborative Partnership in Germany



The School of Media & Communication (SMC) is proud to announce the start of a new exchange program with the School of Humanities at the University of Mannheim in Germany. The city of Mannheim is located in the southeastern portion of the country at the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers, roughly 70 km south of Frankfurt in the state of Baden-Württemberg. The university was first established as the “Commercial College” (or Business School) in 1907, and developed schools of law, humanities, and social sciences in subsequent years; the university has grown during that time from 3150 students to 12,000 today. Such expansion led to the state of Baden-Württemberg to rename the college “University of Mannheim” in 1967. The university is currently housed in Mannheim Palace, which is the second largest baroque palace in Europe (second to Versailles in Paris). Students take courses and engage in activities within and throughout the palace during their time at the university.

In recent years, the university has sought to recruit students globally. For this reason, most of the professors and instructors at the university are fluent in English, and there are several courses taught at University of Mannheim entirely in English each semester. In fact, most of the Media & Communication courses taught in the School of Humanities are taught to students in English. Overall, the university is recognized as a site for excellence in education, as the School of Humanities (which houses Media & Communication) has been accredited by ACQUIN (Accreditation, Certification, and Quality Assurance Institute), and the School of Business has been accredited by AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA.

Mannheim is the eighth largest city in Germany, roughly the same size as Toledo, Ohio. Throughout the city, students will encounter numerous landmarks and sites of historical significance.



Please contact **Dr. Joshua Atkinson** [jatkins@bgsu.edu](mailto:jatkins@bgsu.edu) or **Dr. Sandra Faulkner** [sandraf@bgsu.edu](mailto:sandraf@bgsu.edu) in the Department of Communication for more information about the university or life in Mannheim. Both faculty members spent a semester there in the fall of 2014, and are very knowledgeable about the university and the region.

Also, visit the University of Mannheim website (English):  
<https://www.uni-mannheim.de/1/english/>



## Using the Communicative Power of Sport to Promote Social Change: The *We Are One Team* (WA1T) Initiative at BGSU



Whether competing on the field ourselves, watching our favorite team play on the television screen, or cheering on our many Falcon athletic teams, sports play a central role in our lives both on campus and beyond. And yet, sport is rarely utilized as a forum to discuss social injustice. A newly founded student organization on campus, the *Sport, Social Justice, and Communication Coalition* (SSJCC), attempts to change that.

With the launch of the campus-wide initiative, *We Are One Team* (WA1T), SSJCC students aim to make a change at BGSU by promoting social justice through the communicative power of sport.

*We Are One Team* was founded by doctoral students in the School of Media and Communication, as a campus-wide umbrella initiative for multiple projects that use sport as a forum to create a dialogue and to promote friendship between stereotyped groups on campus, including but not limited to BGSU Athletics, minority groups, faculty and administration, and the general student body. *We Are One Team* aims to strengthen the sense of community at BGSU by creating awareness of social injustice and by facilitating an environment that values inclusion, diversity, and tolerance.

*We Are One Team*  
has “the potential to change  
the campus culture at BGSU”

— Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, BGSU President

“We are using power of sport as our tool to bring people together to talk about stereotypes including gender equality, sexism, body image, stereotypes and bullying, racism, and LGBTQ issues,” says Yannick Kluch, doctoral student in the School of Media and Communication and founding member of organization, and current President. Along with doctoral students Chelsea Kaunert and Christian Thompson, and with the guidance of the student organization’s Faculty Advisor, Dr. Lara Martin Lengel, Kluch spent the past eight months developing a concept for WA1T and building a strong network of partners and collaborators across BGSU.

WA1T’s inaugural event was part of International Day for Peace activities across campus. Over 85 students attended the panel discussion on the potential of sport to reduce stereotypes and facilitate social change. Panelists included Kluch, Chet Hesson, Assistant Athletic Director for Academics & Student Services, Nancy Spencer, Associate Professor, Sport Management, Jasmine Matthews, Former Student Athlete, Women’s Basketball, Brittany Lastrapes, Assistant Coach, BGSU Softball, and Krishna Han, Assistant Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs. “It took a lot of work from all of us,” Kaunert says, but it was great to see that everyone was passionate about making an impact with WA1T’s first event.”

*Sporting Days* is another project a monthly initiative of the *Sport, Social Justice, and Communication Coalition*. During *Sporting Days* international students are invited by BGSU athletic teams to learn about their sport and to connect with other students across campus. “Our goal is to bring together two of the most isolated groups on campus – international students and student athletes – by giving them an opportunity to connect through the power of sport,” says Kluch.

Additional initiatives include a speaker event focusing on LGBT identity in sports, which will be held on the International Day for Tolerance, November 16, and a year-long photo campaign featuring members of the BGSU community who use sporting metaphors, language, imagery, or ideals to speak up against injustice and to promote messages that promote inclusion, diversity, tolerance, and teamwork.

During a presentation by the executive committee of the *Sport, Social Justice, and Communication Coalition* to a group of BGSU leaders, including President Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey and Provost Dr. Rodney Rogers. President Mazey said that *We Are One Team* has “the potential to change the campus culture at BGSU.”



Visit *We Are One Team*’s  
Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/WeAreOneTeamBG](http://www.facebook.com/WeAreOneTeamBG)

## National Champion Falcon Forensics & Debate Team Has Record Breaking Season



### **Season 2014-2015 was one for the record books.**

In February, BGSU defended their state championship title, in March they placed first in the nation at the Pi Kappa Delta National Championships, in April increased their national ranking with the National Forensic Association by placing 9<sup>th</sup> in the open division for the first time since 1986, and the season was capped off by graduating senior, Spencer Coile, earning his way to the semifinal round of the Interstate Oratory Association National Tournament. Led by 8 graduating seniors, this was an incredibly successful season in both individual events and debate.



**Invitational Competitions:** The Falcons placed at each invitational tournament they attended over the course of the qualifying season. Starting in Missouri, the team began with a first place win at Southwest Baptist University. Momentum gained through Western Kentucky U, Bradley U, Marietta College, Suffolk U, the New York Off-Broadway Swing, Northwestern U, Butler U, and Eastern Michigan U. BGSU also hosted its annual Falcon Classic Speech and Debate Tournament in the fall and a Rock-n-Roll Theme Swing in the spring.

**Defending Ohio State Champions:** This season, the team entered the state championship tournament as reigning champions focused on defending their title, which they did against a very strong challenge by the University of Akron. Team members brought home state titles in 5 of the individual events and won both the Ohio championships in individual events and debate.

**Pi Kappa Delta National Champions:** In March, it was a spring break of a different kind. Through a snowstorm, power outage and tough competition from 127 universities, BGSU emerged as national champions after four days of speeches, debates and performances. The tournament was hosted at Ohio University by the Pi Kappa Delta National Association, featuring competition from colleges and universities ranging from El Camino College in California to Boise State University of Idaho to the University of Michigan. Under the coaching of Paul Wesley Alday, Director of Forensics and Debate, the team combined its efforts to earn 50 individual national awards and 3 team awards, with over 80% of the BGSU's events placing in the top 20% of the competition. In the process, BGSU had three students bring home the coveted title of "National Champion": Senior, Jamie Salazar of El Paso, Texas in Persuasive Speaking, Junior Dylan House of Wooster, Ohio in Rhetorical Criticism/Communication Analysis, and freshman Linda Li from Stow, Ohio in Student Congress.

**NFA Open Division Top 10:** The National Forensic Association offers divisions based on entry size. At the start of the season, the Falcons set a top 10 NFA birth as their goal. Throughout the season, team members qualified 78 events, entering 63 in the championships. Seniors Lexi Martinez, Chris Stack and Spencer Coile led the charge, earning elimination round births, placing them in the top 24 in the country. They were joined by juniors Matthew Thompson and Evan Kelly. The team fought its way to 9<sup>th</sup> overall, BGSU's highest team ranking since 1986. Simply competing in the open division is an honor, but to be ranked within the top 10 would be like our basketball team making the NCAA semifinals as BGSU's placement puts our university at the top of a list containing over 400 other peer institutions across the nation.

**Interstate Oratory Association:** At the Ohio State Championships, two students are selected each year to represent Ohio at the oldest and most prestigious speech competition in the nation, the Interstate Oratory Contest. This year, Spencer Coile joined representatives from each state at Berry College, placing in the top 12 semifinal round. His oratory addressing inequity in HIV Disclosure Laws earned praise from both contestants and judges and is now published in "Winning Orations", a publication of the association. BGSU last earned semifinal honors in 2007 when Ian Hatch placed in the top 12 as well.

**Looking Forward:** This season BGSU graduated one of the largest senior classes in years. Congratulations: Becca Barth, Desirae Cox, Chris Stack, Lexi Martinez, Jamie Salazar, Cobin Kepling, Spencer Coile and Gilbert Bauman-Flores. As we look forward to the upcoming season we welcome new members: Harmon Richard Andrews, Eleesha Long, Linda Li, Makayla Coats, Taylor Andrews, Jillian Fournier, Cherell Granger, Jarrett Kerpsack, George Ramirez, Alison Spinder, and Cole Stiriz.



Falcon Forensics & Debate Team

Follow the Falcon's progress on Facebook:  
"BGSU FALCON FORENSICS SPEECH AND DEBATE".



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## #BG4Unity: Communicating Social Change on Social Media



In addition to connecting with people on social media, COMM 3030 students and Dr. Hanasono partnered with local organizations and attended events to spread the word about BG4Unity and empower people with the skills and means to collectively take a stand against hate.

From the Black Issues Conference and the Interfaith Community Breakfast in Bowling Green to the 2015 State of the State Conference on Diversity in Perrysburg and the 2015 Central States Communication Association Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, representatives from the COMM 3030 BG4Unity team led workshops, gave presentations, and staffed interactive booths at local and regional events.

Dr. Hanasono and the COMM 3030 BG4Unity team plan to continue this important project in the upcoming school year. To get involved or learn more about BG4Unity, please go to [www.Facebook.com/Bg4Unity](https://www.Facebook.com/Bg4Unity) or [www.Twitter.com/BG4Unity](https://www.Twitter.com/BG4Unity).

## Making a Difference:

### Sisters Show their Support for Children with Cancer

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*"I was glad to have my sister with me through the process. It enriched the already amazing process," acknowledged Emily Skorupski.*

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Side by side, the Skorupski sisters donated their hair and raised money for childhood cancer research. They also raised awareness about childhood cancer and St. Baldrick's Foundation. When classmates, friends, and strangers asked about their new haircuts, Valerie and Emily happily told them about St. Baldrick's and the importance of supporting children who are living with cancer.

In addition, they showed how beauty radiates from within. Emily explained, "I think that in our society, our hair is something we place so much value on. I want to challenge that standard of beauty...I would like to invite others to join me and shave their heads as well. It's more fun than you would imagine-- and not to mention [having a shaved head is] easy maintenance."

Are YOU up for the challenge? When asked what advice she would give, Valerie replied, "Many people have mentioned that they have [considered] participating. I always ask them, 'Why not?'" Emily explained, "I think that strength in numbers helps. The moment is much more memorable when the people you care most about are there shaving their heads with you. I was glad to have my sister with me through the process. It enriched the already amazing process."

Clearly, the two sisters are valuable community members and outstanding students. Valerie Skorupski was selected to receive a 2015 summer grant from BGSU's Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. Emily is one of the first students to be accepted to the School of Media and Communication 4 +1 program and is continuing her studies at BGSU as a master's student.

## New Faculty Profile: John Dowd Committed to Finding Ethical Solutions to Problems Facing Global World



Dr. John Dowd joined the Department of Communication in August of 2014. Most broadly, his primary interests in communication are motivated by the ways in which language mediates us with the world. "We don't simply live in a world of things but rather, in a world of the meaning of things. And language is central, not peripheral, to making and managing meaning. Thus, our study of communication helps us to better understand the complex problems within our world, as well as enables (or constrains) our ability to create more meaningful, ethical, and worthwhile organizations and lives." Drawing largely upon rhetoric and social theory, organizational communication, and media ecology he is interested in the embodied nature of communication and aims to more fully understand the ways in which new media (as bodily extensions) enable and constrain human organizing in a variety of socio-political contexts. His approach to teaching is inseparable from his scholarship and stems from the belief that learning should be about cultivating capacities for life-long growth and understanding.

Teaching classes in rhetorical criticism and organizational communication, he values active engagement in the classroom and pushes his students to make connections between the course material and their everyday lives. Dr. Dowd argues that this is essential as, "The main goals of education should be to help facilitate a genuine curiosity about the world, an authentic passion for learning, and a commitment to finding sustainable and ethical solutions to problems within an increasingly globalized and digitally mediated world."

## Faculty Honored: Alberto Gonzalez Awarded the Highest Honor Award at the 21<sup>st</sup> Latino Issues Conference



Dr. Al Gonzalez was honored at the 21<sup>st</sup> Latino Issues Conference "in October, 2014. Dr. Gonzalez received the highest honor award from the Latino Issues Conference which is the Dr. Miguel Ornelas Award. This award is given in honor of Dr. Miguel Ornelas, a former Human Relations Commission member and Director of Affirmative Action at Bowling Green State University. Before his death in 1989, Dr. Ornelas served as an advocate for issues of diversity, as head of the Ohio Hispanic Institute of Opportunity and as a member of the BGSU Graduate Student Senate, Third World Graduate Association, and La Union de Estudiantes Latinos (LSU). Dr. Ornelas was the recipient of the first Hispanic Award from Project Search. Dr. Ornelas touched the lives of all who came in contact with him. The Dr. Miguel Ornelas Award is intended to bring attention to the actions and services of those who reflect Dr. Ornelas' values.

The Ornelas award is given annually by the BGSU Human Relations Commission to acknowledge individuals and groups who enhance positive human relations on campus and to "encourage them to continue their good work in the BGSU community." The Miguel Ornelas Award is intended to bring attention to the actions and services of those who reflect Dr. Ornelas' values. Dr. Gonzalez received this award for his long history at BGSU. His background at BGSU goes back decades beginning as an undergraduate student and one the initial students involved with the newly founded Union de Estudiantes Latinos (LSU).

Dr. Gonzalez has served as an administrator and faculty member and currently serves as the Department Head for the Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to this role, Dr. Gonzalez served as an Assistant Provost with responsibilities for enrollment management. On campus, he has been engaged with the Latino/a community in different levels from being a part of the Latino Issues Conference, Cinco de Mayo and other efforts like the Dia de los Muertos event. Further, Dr. Gonzalez is active and engaged member of the community as well. A lot of his work has centered with the Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center in Toledo, where he has served on its Board and its Board President. More recently, he was part of the group that helped to establish La Conexion de Wood County where he currently serves as the first Board Chair of the organization.

## Homecoming Tradition: Alumni Connect with Current Students



The Department of Communication and BGSU Chapter of Women in Communications invited faculty, alumni and current students for the 4th annual homecoming Meet & Greet event. Alumnus David Johnson'11 and alumna Kassie Cooper'14 answered student questions about their job experiences and graduate school.

The two successful alumni spoke about how communication skills and competencies developed while studying at BGSU have helped them in their careers. David is serving as the Assistant Director of Annual Giving at Ohio University. He served as an Admissions Advisor at Ohio University for nearly three years prior to this position. Kassie is working as Field Staff Coordinator at IntelliShop in Perrysburg, Ohio. Both alumni said their communication degrees opened many doors for them. David Johnson talked about the importance of public speaking, strong written communication skills, ability to persuade people and build positive workplace relationships which he learned about in his communication classes. "Communication degree will open you many doors but you have to get actively involved in on campus life to make the best of it," said Kassie. "I made the BGSU Chapter of Association of Women in Communications (AWC) a very important part of my BGSU life and I would not be able to showcase many of my skills and abilities if not for my involvement with AWC," added Kassie who served as the president of this student organization.

The two advised current communication students to find the right job, and not to accept the first job they are offered. Kassie and David both urged students to get involved while they are in school, to test things out and to find your interests. Therefore, they highlighted the importance of networking and building relationships with their peers and mentors to be able to rely on these in their future careers and experiences.

This year, the featured activity for the Homecoming was the BGSU trivia game which tested the knowledge of BGSU history of all of those who attended.

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*"Communication degree will open you many doors but you have to get actively involved in on campus life to make the best of it," said Kassie Cooper who served as the president of this student organization. "I made the BGSU Chapter of Association of Women in Communications (AWC) a very important part of my BGSU life and I would not be able to showcase many of my skills and abilities if not for my involvement with AWC," added Kassie.*

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## Communication Students' Highlights 2014-2015

### Communication Students Gaining Professional Experience

**Nicole Brown:** Interned with WTOL Toledo News Now sports department.

**Courtney Gies:** Worked on media marketing for Tom Ahl Family of Dealerships, Elida, Ohio.

**Abigail Isch:** Completed internships with the Toledo Mud Hens and Toledo Walleye Hockey, working in promotions and events

**Kelly Hart:** Had an internship at the Ohio Expo Center and State Fair, coordinating and organizing special attractions and concerts

**Emily Helm:** worked as a human resources intern at Keller Logistics Group in Defiance, Ohio.

**Allie Hicks:** Served as an intern with the Make-A-Wish Foundation

**Aaron Hirt:** Completed district operations internship with Speedway LLCI, specializing in sales

**Joelle Lugabihl:** Was an intern at the American Red Cross

**Mia Luschini:** Currently a marketing assistant for WBGU-TV

**Kailee McAfee:** Worked at Toledo Metroparks as a Heritage Interpreter. She gave tours and coordinated programming for the Metroparks visitors.

**AJ Mighton:** Was sales and service Intern at WNBA of Tulsa Shock in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Megan Krejci:** Was interning with Sherwin-Williams Paint Company in Cleveland focusing on sales and office management

**Inglish Reed-Jones:** Interned with National Alliance on Mental Illness of Greater Toledo (NAMI), OH. She did a lot of outreach, attended meetings with other major non-profits in Toledo and surrounding areas.

**Katrina Smiley:** Completed marketing internship at Imagination Station in Toledo, OH

**Ryan Tuttle:** Completed sales internship at Welch Packaging

**Stephanie Wallace:** Was a marketing intern at Postpartum Wellness Center in Hoffman Estates, IL

**Halle Weaver:** Works as a community assistant/leasing professional at the Edge, BG Housing , Bowling Green.

### Recent BGSU Communication Alumni Pursuing Graduate Degrees

**Seth Bargaheiser:** University of Toledo, Master's program in Recreation Administration

**Josh Curth:** Purdue University, Master's program in Communication

**China Billotte:** Purdue University, Doctoral studies in Communication

**Dylan Hall:** University of Wyoming, Master's program in Communication

**Isaiah Harris:** Manchester Metropolitan University, England, Master's program in Marketing

**Henry Seeger:** Illinois State University, Master's program in Communication

**Emily Skorupski :** Bowling Green State University, Master's program in Media and Communication

**Marisa A Vittoria:** Cleveland State, Master's program in Education in Adult Learning Principles and Development



Welch Packaging





## Department of Communication Student Scholarship and Award Recipients

Each year the Department gathers to celebrate our best and brightest students. This year, student scholarship and award ceremony happened on March 15, 2015. The honorees and their awards are listed on the following pages.



### SMC Excellence Fund

**Nadia Oehler**

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.

### RK Tucker Outstanding Communication Student

**Kailee McAfee (Freshman)**  
**Nadia Oehler (Sophomore)**  
**Krystal Ingman (Junior)**  
**Casey Schonhardt (Senior)**

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

**Brittney Moffatt**

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

### Women in Communication

**Emily Skorupski**

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

### 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

**Kailee McAfee**  
**Courtney Giles**  
**Riley Lane**

#### Outstanding Junior

**Valerie Skorupski**  
**Lorelei Young**

#### Outstanding Senior

**Casey Schonhardt**  
**Molly Williams**  
**Brittney Moffatt**

## Department of Communication Student Scholarship and Award Recipients



### Lambda Pi Eta

#### Member at Large:

Nadia Grace Oehler  
Harrison Vaughn West

#### Inductees:

Tayler M Hinton  
Cassidy Danyel Wenner  
Jillisa Yvette Blake  
Krys Ingman  
Kayleigh Frances Bondor

Lambda Pi Eta is the official honorary of the National Communication Association. The Omega Gamma Chapter has been active at BGSU since 2009.

### Forensics Awards

#### The Martin L. Hanna Award

**Spencer Coile**

This award is given to a returning team member.

#### The Shine Family Memorial Award

**Allie Hicks**

This award is given to a novice team member.

### Communication Student Ambassadors

Lorelei Young  
Valerie Skorupski  
Emily Helm  
Kailee McAfee  
Riley Lane  
Courtney Gies  
Ladonne Wilson  
Brittney Moffatt  
Emily Skorupski  
Nadia Oehler  
Lindsay Garwood  
Molly Williams

The Student Ambassador Program consists of exemplary students who represent the Department of Communication at formal and informal recruiting events. As students who are majoring or minoring in communication at Bowling Green State University, they are well positioned to tell prospective students about the Department of Communication's curriculum, courses, activities, and organizations.



## A Year in Review: Association for Women in Communications (AWC) Noteworthy Events

### AWC Members Attend and Organize Professional Development Workshops

Members of BGSU Chapter of Women in Communications found many opportunities to network with communication professionals in the field. Three representatives from AWC -- Brittney Moffatt, former President of AWC, Kailee McAfee, current President, and treasurer Nadia Oehler-- participated in SkillPath workshop "The Conference for Women" in Toledo in October, 2014. The workshop focused on communication skills that are applicable to women in a workplace. The participants noted that the skills they practiced during the conference are applicable not only to their professional lives but also in their personal lives. Nadia said that "the best part of the workshop was that I learned how to say "no!" Kailee observed that the workshop was a good networking opportunity. Brittney noted that many of the things presented at this workshop she already learned in her communication classes. She said "it confirmed the worth of my academic program and I feel my knowledge and skills will be an asset when I graduate." Several other members -- Emily Skorupski, Brittney Moffatt, Ladonne Wilson, and Lorelei Young and the group's faculty advisor Dr. Ramune Brazioniute -- attended BGSU Women In Leadership Networking event in March, 2015. This event brought successful BGSU alumni to campus to share their leadership experiences. Program participants advised young students to follow their dreams and not to be afraid to take risks in their careers.

Inspired by these events, the AWC group organized several workshops for other students on campus. They invited representatives from Career Services to help communication majors prepare for the job interviews and write successful cover letters. Heather Golden, Assistant Director of BGSU Career Services helped students build winning resumes. Alumna Marisa Vittoria, former AWC officer, shared her own experiences working in HR and helped students understand how to make their resumes stand out. The group also invited communication majors to a leadership skills workshop led by members of the BGSU's Leadership Academy. The year ended with a workshop on stress relieving techniques.



### Recruiting Students to Communication Program and New Members for AWC

As every year, faculty and students in the Department of Communication participated in several recruiting events and met with prospective students throughout the year. The highlight this year was an annual Media & Communication Day on November 7, 2014. The event brings prospective students who are interested in communication related studies (communication, journalism and public relations, telecommunications, and visual communication) and their parents to campus. All student organizations were featured during this event. Emily Skorupski represented AWC Chapter by highlighting the benefits of joining the organization and encouraging the prospective students to become active in their co-curriculum activities and take advantage of the many student clubs and organizations available on campus.

The year ended on a high note for AWC when high rates of new members won the 1<sup>st</sup> place as a Student Chapter with the highest new member rates nationally. With new members and new offices, the group is excited and energized about opportunities in the upcoming year.



## A Year in Review: Faculty & Student Accomplishments in Research & Service

### Awards

**Sandra Faulkner** received the BGSU Faculty Senate faculty Mentoring Award for outstanding professional support of colleagues in the development of teaching, research and service initiatives.

**Alberto Gonzalez** received the highest honor award from the 21<sup>st</sup> Latino Issues Conference which is the Dr. Miguel Ornelas Award. This award is given in honor of Dr. Miguel Ornelas, a former Human Relations Commission member and Director of Affirmative Action at Bowling Green State University.

**Lisa Hanasono** was the recipient of the 2015 Faculty Excellence Award in Service-Learning and Civic Engagement from BGSU's Office of Service-Learning. Lisa Hanasono was also recognized by BGSU's Student Athletic Program and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for her strong teaching and mentoring of BGSU student-athletes. The Central States Communication Association awarded Dr. Lisa Hanasono the 2015 Outstanding New Teacher Award. This highly competitive honor recognizes faculty who have demonstrated a strong record of teaching, advising, and mentoring.

**Bob Kline** received the 2015 President's Award for Academic Advising. This highly competitive and prestigious award recognizes individuals and units that make significant contributions to support undergraduate students' education.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** was recognized as a Memorable Educator, in *Ohio Magazine's* annual Excellence in Education section (December 2014). She was also selected as a finalist for the state wide David Hoch Memorial Award for Excellence in Service awarded by Ohio Campus Compact. This past spring she received the President's Award for Collaborative Research and Creative Work, Bowling Green State University (BGSU), and has recently had three top papers at three different conferences (all co-authored with communication undergraduate and graduate students).

A group of COMM faculty – Drs. **Sandra Faulkner, Radhika Gajjala, Lara Martin Lengel, Ramune Brazunaite, Lisa Hanasono** – were honored at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Bring Your Favorite Professor/Mentor Luncheon sponsored by the Women's Center.

### Grants and Fellowships

**Radhika Gajjala** was selected by the Board of the Fulbright Foundation in Norway and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for a grant to lecture and conduct research in Norway. Dr. Gajjala will be teaching modules for classes on Information Society, Digital Cultures and Computer Technology in History and special topics in Digital Media. Her research project is broadly titled "Rupturing Digital Fabrics, Unpacking Global and Local Hierarchies: Developing Method for Postcolonial Digital Humanities. She is looking at online DIY craft communities and women entrepreneurs who take part in "Geeking and Crafting" using digital media to connect with each other, create affective links and to exchange knowledge.

**Ellen Gorsevski** was awarded a grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute of Villanova University for her research project, "Barbara Lee's Peacebuilding Rhetoric: Communication Leadership in the Social Justice Tradition of African American Congresswomen."

**Lisa Hanasono** received a major grant (\$10,000) from the Building Strength program at Bowling Green State University to support her research project titled "The Spiral of Service: Researching and Advancing the Careers of Women Faculty." She also received an external research grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute for her project titled "Breaking the Silence: Empowering Communities to Take a Stand against Prejudice and Discrimination."

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship awarded **Valerie Skorupski** a \$2500 grant to support research with her faculty mentor, Dr. **Lisa Hanasono**.

### University Collaboration

The School of Media and Communication was the featured program during BGSU football game on October 14, 2014. A group of Communication faculty – Drs. **Lisa Hanasono, Kate Magsamen-Conrad, Alberto Gonzalez, Lynda Dee Dixon, John Dowd and Lara Martin Lengel** represented the department. Dr. **Lisa Hanasono** served as the guest coach for the day.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad's** Research Methods class created theory and data based health campaigns for the BGSU student community. Graduate student Jeanette Dillon and undergraduate students **Ladonne Wilson, Kayleigh Bondor, Katie McDonough, and Krystal Ingman** presented four posters from this work at the DC Health Communication conference in the spring. The group received more than \$2000 from the Center for Undergraduate Research, the Washington DC Health Communication Conference Organization Committee, and the Association for Women in Communications to facilitate research and conference attendance.

### 2014/2015 Highlights





## A Year in Review: Faculty & Student Accomplishments in Research & Service

### Community Collaboration

**Lisa Hanasono** and SMC doctoral student **Linsay Cramer** led a community workshop on social media activism at the State of the State Conference in Perrysburg, Ohio.

The Intergroup Communication Intervention project led by **Kate Magsamen-Conrad** has a long history enabling the intersection of teaching, research, and service. Communication majors, working on this project as part of their COMM 2030 Small Group communication class, **Terry Taylor**, **Brandon Stinson**, and **Ladonne Wilson** presented their original research at the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education Conference in the Spring. Former student in this class, now alum **Casey Schonhardt** won the Arnedia Smith Best Undergraduate Paper of the Year Award, for her paper titled "Older Adults and Technology: Adoption and Acceptance Comes from Relationships and Encouragement from Younger Generations," coauthored with Magsamen-Conrad. Casey's is the second of Magsamen-Conrad's students to win this award, communication alum China **Billotte Verhoff** won this award in 2013.

**Lara Martin Lengel** collaborated with the Montessori School of Bowling Green for the Sixth Annual Community Earth Day Celebration held on the 14-acre grounds of the school which include a community SEED trail (Stewards for Exercise and Environmental Education) and an outdoor learning center. Several students from previous COMM 4060 Environmental Communication classes volunteered at the event.

### Invited Presentations

**Lisa Hanasono** gave a presentation titled "Making Connections: Service-learning, Advocacy, and Community-Building" as part of BGSU's Faculty Focus Series.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** gave a presentation titled "Technology and Health in the Community" for the Bowling Green Kiwanas.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** gave a presentation titled "Optimal Aging" a Panel Discussion about Diet, Nutrition, Exercise, Emotional Wellness and Technology" for the BGSU Golden Falcons Reunion, Bowling Green State University Office of Alumni & Development, Bowling Green, OH.

### National Service and Recognition

**Alberto González**, with Yea-Wea Chen and Brandi Lawless, were guest editors of the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* special issue (volume 8, issue 3) on Intercultural Nonprofit Organizations/Partnerships (2015).

### Selected Books and Book Chapters

**Sandra Faulkner** published *Family Stories, Poetry, and Women's Work: Knit Four, Frog One (Poems)* (Sense Publishers, 2014).

**Ellen Gorsevski** published "Chipotle Mexican Grill's Meatwashing Propaganda: Corporate-Speak Hiding Suffering of 'Commodity' Animals in *The Political Language of Food* edited by Samuel Boerboom (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).

**Ellen Gorsevski** published "Growing the Next Generation: The Sustainability of Dr. Wangari Maathai's Rhetoric of Environmentalism" in *Planting the Future: The Rhetorical Legacy of Wangari Maathai*, edited by Eddah Mutua-Kombo and Alberto Gonzalez [anthology in Communication and Social Justice Series of] (Troubadour Publishing, 2015).

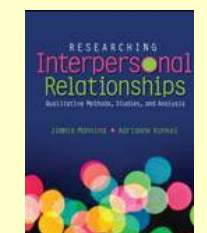
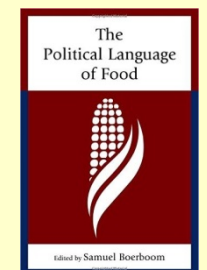
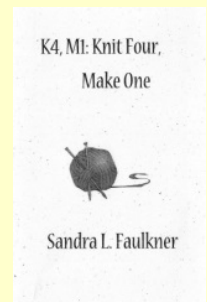
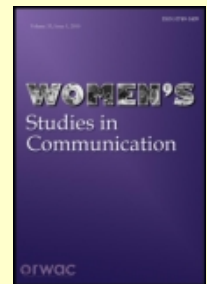
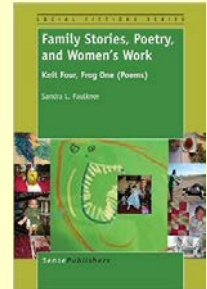
**Kate Magsamen-Conrad**, with co-author SMC graduate student **Jeanette Dillon**, published, "CBPR and a multitrack model of development: A critical ethnography of a community-based health communication project." in *Health Communication: Advocacy Strategies, Effectiveness, and Emerging Challenges* edited by Rosemary Caron (NOVA Science Publishers, 2015). This research was also presented at the National Communication Association Conference and it won a Top Paper award.

**Laura Stafford** published "Social Communication Competencies Across the Life-Span" in *Handbook of Social Communication Competence* edited by Brian Spitzberg and Annegret Hannawa (forthcoming, Mouton DeGruyter).

**Laura Stafford** published "Social Exchange Theories" in *Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication* edited by Leslie A. Baxter & Dawn O. Braithwaite (Sage Publications, 2015).

**Laura Stafford**, with co-authors Rachel D. Price and Molly Reynolds, published "Adults' Meanings of Friends with Benefits Relationships: An Exploratory Study Using Focus Groups and Values Coding" in *Researching Interpersonal Relationships: Qualitative Methods, Studies, and Analysis* edited by Jimmie Manning and Adrienne Kunkel (Sage Publications, 2014).

### On the Book Shelves



## A Year in Review: Faculty & Student Accomplishments in Research & Service

### Selected Peer Reviewed Publications

**John Dowd** published "A Media Ecological Analysis of Do-It-Yourself Education: Exploring Relationships Between the Symbolic and the Material Realms of Human Action" in *Explorations in Media Ecology* (2014) .

**Sandra Faulkner** with co-author Paul Ruby published, "Feminist Identity in Romantic Relationships: A Relational Dialectics Analysis of Email Discourse as Collaborative Found Poetry" in *Women's Studies in Communication* (2015).

**Alberto González**, with co-authors Jorge Chavez and Christine Englebrecht, published "Latinidad and vernacular discourse: Arts activism in Toledo's Old South End" in *Journal of Poverty* (2014).

**Alberto González**, and Brett Labbé, a candidate in the SMC Ph.D. program, published "Rationality in Critical Intercultural Communication" in *Hypothesis: Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, and Social and Political Science* (2014).

**Ellen Gorsevski** published "Humanimal' University: Teaching to Awaken Consciousness of Human and Animal Suffering Amidst Politics of Big Business," in *Cinema Journal Teaching Dossier* (2015).

**Lara Martin Lengel** and Victoria Newsom, an alumna of the SMC Ph.D. program, published "Mutable Selves and Digital Reflexivities: Social Media for Social Change in the Middle East and North Africa" in *Studies in Symbolic Interaction* (2014).

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** published "Dimensions of Anticipated Reaction in Information Management: Anticipating Responses and Outcomes" in *The Review of Communication* (2014).

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad**. Digital native, meet digital immigrant: Building intergenerational relationships through a technology literacy project. *Community Works Journal* (2014).

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad**, with co-authors **China Billotte Verhoff** and Kathryn Greene "Technology Addiction's Contribution to Mental Wellbeing: The Positive Effect of Online Social Capital" in *Computers in Human Behavior* (2014).

**Laura Stafford** with co-author Allison M. Scott published "Blue Brides: Exploring Postnuptial Depressive Symptoms," in *Journal of Family Issues* (2015).

**Laura Stafford** with co-author Parbu David (first author) published "A relational Approach to Religion and Spirituality in Marriage: The Role of Couple's Religious Communication in Marital Satisfaction," in *Journal of Family Issues* (2015)

**Laura Stafford** with co-authors Parbu David and Sterling McPherson published "Sanctity of Marriage and Marital Quality" *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships* (2015).

### Creative Work

**Sandra Faulkner** published a poetry chapbook, *Knit Four, Make One* (2015, Kattywompus).

**Lisa Hanasono**, along with coauthors Lanming Chen (MA from BGSU in 2013) and Steve Wilson, published an article in *Communication Currents* titled "Coping with Racial Discrimination and Helping Those in Need," (December 2014).

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad**, along with coauthors Maria Checton, Maria Venetis, and Kathryn Greene, published an article in *Communication Currents* titled "I Know I Can: Feeling Confident about Discussing Cancer may Help Couples' Cancer Management."

**Lara Martin Lengel**, with co-authors **Jacob Braun** and **Jordon Johnson**, both B.A in Communication degree alum published "Environmental Causes and Campaigns" in the *Music in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, a Sage encyclopedia edited by the internationally renowned psychologists and neuromusicologist and President of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Dr. William Forde Thompson (2014).

### In the Media

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** was interviewed by KCSN News in Northridge, CA (2015, September 3) about older generations learning to use tablets and technology.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** 's Intergroup Communication Intervention project was featured in The Washington Post article: Dewey, C. (2015, March 12). What it's like to go on the Internet for the very first time – at age 82. The Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/03/12/what-its-like-to-go-on-the-internet-for-the-very-first-time-at-age-82/>

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** 's Intergroup Communication Intervention project was featured in BGSU's Carnegie Classification: Sobolewski, J. (2015, January). University recognized for outstanding community engagement. See <http://www.bgsu.edu/news/2015/01/bgsu-serves.html>

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** and **Casey Schonhardt** were interviewed about the Intergroup Communication Intervention project on BG24 Public Affairs (2015, February 13). See <https://youtu.be/2MAfa2Kmlv8?t=13m47s>

### On the Book Shelves

