

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

s o m e t h i n g t o t a l k a b o u t

interpersonal/organizational | rhetoric | performance

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Congrats to the Graduates of Fall 2016!

The Fall 2016 Hooding and Senior Recognition Ceremony was held in the new Union Ballroom this past December. We recognized 28 undergraduates and two Masters students, Daniel Mitchell and Nicole Cooper at the ceremony. See page 11 for a list of graduates and more photos.

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DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION STUDIES
College of Arts & Sciences



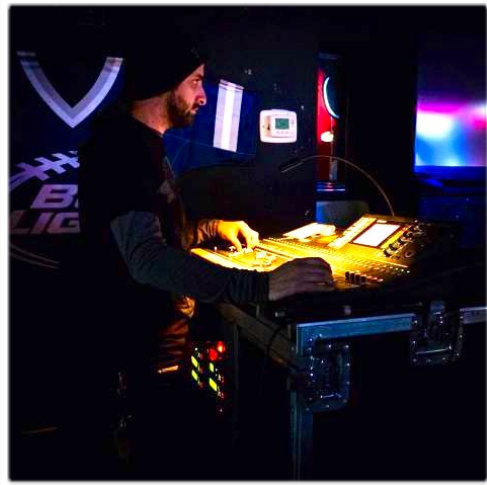
PROMO VIDEO: WHAT IS COMM STUDIES?

Communication Studies is one of the fastest growing majors at the University of North Texas, and our alumni are consistently using their degrees to secure exciting career opportunities. Check out a video below featuring six of our fabulous alumni describing their careers and how their degree facilitates effective communication with their peers, customers, clients, the community, and other stakeholders. Alumni starring in the video include Priscilla Sanchez of Conifer Health Solutions, Kristen Freis of Allstate Insurance, Liz Haas of Lewisville ISD, Crystal Robinson of Excellian Human Resource Solutions, Alyssa Stevenson of “We Denton Do It,” and Steve Olivas of Selerix Systems. Special thanks to UNT alumnus Zac Powell for shooting and editing the video.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rhett Cromwell B.A. 2006



When one thinks of careers obtained by individuals with Communication Studies degrees, certain professions come to mind, including public relations, marketing, and corporate communication. Still, our majors have found themselves in a number of novel career opportunities and it is difficult to find a more unique and personally fulfilling career choice than that of alumnus Rhett Cromwell (B.A. 2006).

As a stage, production, and tour manager, Rhett is able to combine his passions of music and travel to truly achieve an exciting profession. [Read more here..](#)

Shari Bracy B.A. 1989



Since Communication Studies is such a broad degree, many wonder what career will be "ideal." However, our degree opens up several possibilities for employment. UNT Communication Studies alumna Shari Bracy (B.A. 1989) is an example of this, working in many different industries since she graduated.

From non-profit to private sector, Bracy has demonstrated how her knowledge of communication can work in a variety of careers. [Read more here...](#)

Josh Livingston B.A. 2009



Josh Livingston (B.A. 2009) who recently passed the California bar en route to becoming an attorney, touts COMM courses as beneficial in pursuit of law degree.

“I feel as though I am in a unique position to reinforce a mantra that was lost on me while sitting in various classes on the third floor of the GAB,” he said. “This stuff matters.”

[Read more here...](#)

UNT DEBATE

UNT Debate brings home a State Championship in Fall and Spring!



At the Spring Texas Interscholastic Forensics Association (TIFA) tournament held at Texas A & M February 2-4, 2017, UNT students Abron Hester and Garrett Hammonds were finalists in parliamentary debate. Hammonds was also named the second speaker in parliamentary debate. Students Emily Jackson and Cortez Proal were both finalists in Lincoln-

Douglas debate, closing out the event completely. Ms. Jackson and Mr. Proal were also named the first and second speakers in Lincoln-Douglas debate, respectively.

Abron Hester and Ore Afolayan also advanced in the International Public Debate Association format and in that division Abron Hester was a finalist. Philip Burton placed third in the individual event, poetry.

Abron Hester and Garrett Hammonds were also named to the All State Forensics Team, an honor which recognized continued success and individual achievement in debate and academics.

[Read more here...](#)



The debate team also competed at the 2016 Fall Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association (TIFA) Championship Tournament. The team of Hammonds and Hester advanced as the number 1 seed to the elimination and defeated 3 additional Texas colleges on their way to winning the championship. The competition, hosted by Tyler Junior College, began on Thursday, November 3rd, and concluded on November 5th. In NPDA competition, debaters compete in teams of two and are given a new topic 15 minutes before each debate. This style of debate acts as a platform to discuss numerous topics students might not have a chance to discuss in the classroom. UNT was represented by three teams:

Hammonds and Hester who won the tournament, Maggie McGehee (sophomore) and Avery Davis (freshmen) formed the second team, and Domenique Hester (freshmen) and Matthew Davis (freshmen) formed the third team. "The tournament provides rigorous competition for students across the state of Texas. The UNT debate team has been preparing for this tournament for months and the results are a testament to their hard work and dedication," said Colin Quinn, former UNT debate and current argument coach. This is only the second year UNT has competed at the Fall TIFA Championship Tournament in NPDA style debate. [Read more here...](#)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Lambda Pi Eta



Congrats to the new members of LPH, our department's honor society! This photo was taken at the induction ceremony in November. Pictured here with Dr. Megan Morrissey -- Maria Aguilar, Kyrsten Mason, Brock McKelvey, Paige Meador, Kristina Overton, Morgan Sawyer, Briana Tamasi, and Holland Turner. Not pictured, but also duly congratulated: Taylor Dixon, Haleigh Heinley, and Kala Simpson.

The honor society facilitated many events this fall including the "Comm Kick-Back Event," encouraging students to join the group for an evening of food and games, the "Review Crew" which held a few tutoring sessions focusing on writing style and drafting literature reviews, an internal fundraiser at Chipotle raising \$200, and a Holiday Toy Drive for "Friends of the Family." Officers and new events will be announced later this Spring.

Top Paper/Performance Awards for Three UNT Grad Students



Three of our graduate students will be recognized with TOP PAPER/PERFORMANCE honors at the upcoming Southern Speech Communication Association's (SSCA) annual conference, to be held in Greenville, South Carolina, in April.

Joshua Steinberg's performance, "Of Mics and Men," and Anna Marsden's performance entitled "Guide Star" will both be honored on SSCA's Top Student Performances panel. Marsden will also present her paper, "Reflexive Intersectionality" on the Top Student Papers in Performance Studies panel. And, Rhett Richardson will be honored with the "Top Student Paper" award in Intercultural Studies for his paper, "Nicaragua: A Perspective on Disaster Communication."

We are incredibly proud of Rhett, Anna, and Joshua for such an incredible showing!

-Written by Dr. Suzanne Enck

Summer Study Abroad in Nicaragua

This past May, six Communication Studies students, along with students from Emergency Administration and Planning Program and the Department of Public Administration, journeyed to Nicaragua for seven days to study disaster and crisis communication. The Communication Studies class included one graduate student, Rhett Richardson, and five undergraduate students: Macy Needum, Maria Aguilar, Ryan Hooks, Kelsey Rodriguez, and Melisa Brown. The course was led by Dr. Brian Richardson (Communication Studies) and Dr. Laura Siebeneck (EADP), who partnered with Explore 505, a study abroad provider in Nicaragua founded by UNT alum Anthony Spencer (M.A., Journalism, 2003). The week was packed with guest lectures from emergency management professionals and officials, professors at Universidad Americana in Managua, and cultural field trips and excursions.



Pictured: Dr. Brian Richardson, Dr. Laura Siebeneck, Communication Studies, Emergency Administration and Public Administration Students with the Managua Fire Department

[Read more and see pictures here...](#)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Morrissey receives Top Paper Award



Congratulations to Dr. Megan Morrissey who will be receiving a Top Paper Award at the Southern Speech Communication Association (SSCA) annual convention this April. Her paper addresses artist Gabriel García Román and his series titled *Queer Icons*. In this work, García Román features queer and trans people of color, representing them in a manner that is consistent with renaissance era religious artwork. This juxtaposition creates a moment in which his audience confronts questions about who belongs in certain

spaces, the influence of normative social forces (such as religion), and the audience's own perceptions and beliefs. Developing and utilizing what Pérez and Brouwer (2010) have called queer decorum, Dr. Morrissey argues that García Román uses perspective by incongruity (Burke, 1984) to revise the relationship between the center and margins, re-articulating what counts as art, where it ought to be viewed, and its efficacy as a rhetorical strategy.

Dr. Suzanne Enck Receives Outstanding Scholar-Activist Award



Dr. Suzanne Enck was selected for the Outstanding Scholar-Activist Award from The National Communication Association's (NCA) largest division, Critical & Cultural Studies. Dr. Enck was nominated by UNT Communication Studies Chair, Dr. Brian Richardson. In his nomination letter he explained the many reasons why she would be worthy for such an award, stating, "Dr. Enck is an exemplary scholar, consistently publishing essays that critically investigate domestic violence, gender and incarceration, and sexual assault, in renowned journals. She is a committed activist, directly engaging with agencies and organizations addressing domestic violence, poverty, sexual assault, and incarceration of women. She strives to give voice to the voiceless, and make key stakeholders aware of the prison industrial complex, a system which subversively exploits women in poverty. She has become an ambassador on campus for sexual assault victims, disempowered peoples, and women's studies programs." Way to go Dr. Enck we are proud to have you as a professor at UNT Comm Studies! Dr. Enck was honored at the National Communication Association's Convention in November 2016.

Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain & Kyle A. Hammonds Top Paper Award



Kyle A. Hammonds (MA, 2016) and Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain were awarded the Michael T. Marsden Paper Award at the Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association during the annual conference held in Chicago on October 8, 2016. The award recognizes the top paper in *The Popular Culture Studies Journal*. Their essay, "A Pedagogy of Communion: Theorizing Popular Culture Pedagogy" builds a theoretical approach to teaching with popular culture

blending popular culture theory and narrative theory to argue for a pedagogical approach that uses popular culture, cultural narratives, and dialogue to foster learning.



Special congratulations to
 Dr. Holley Vaughn for
 receiving the
 Faculty Advisor Award!

EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

Fall 2016 Graduation

MASTER'S CANDIDATES

Nicole Cooper & Daniel Mitchell

GRADUATING SENIORS

Maria Aguilar, Haley Carroll, Aviano Chavers, Madison Clary-Wortham, Hanna Coldiron, Shelby Davidson, Cade Davis, Ashley Dillon, Taylor Dixon, Basel El Madhoun, Ryan Field, Hayley Ford, Kelvin Gentry, Tesa Hester, Ryan Hooks, Kevin Howard, Asher Maier, Amanda Martinez, Kimberly Martinez, Paige Meador, Eric Nunez, Kara Jo Peed, Sharon Reasonover, Jessika Thomas, Richard Vandenhole, Justin Wilhoit & Zach Wolch



Guest speaker, Courtney Brazile (B.A.2005; M.A.2009) receives the "Horizon Award!"



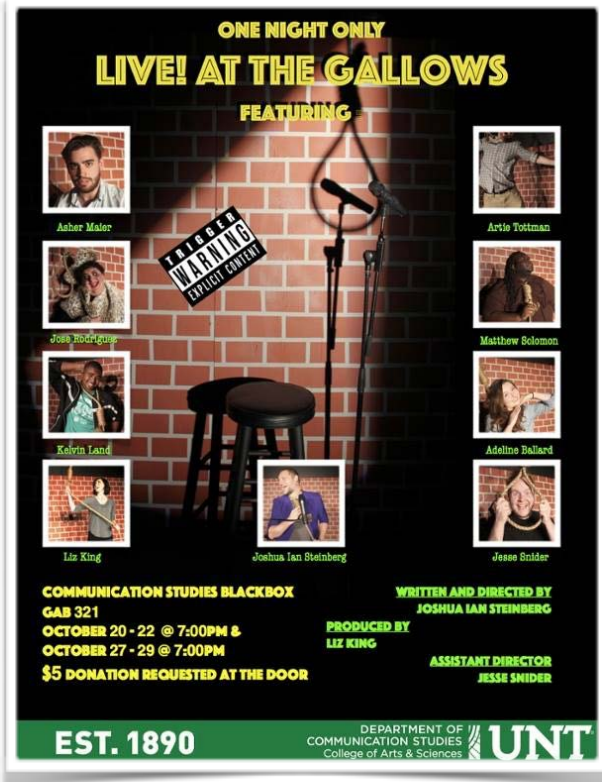
[See more photos on our Facebook page ...](#)

Graduate Shows



“On A Snowy Morning” was a graduate performance compiled, written and directed by Anna Marsden. The show was an exploration into the life of Mrs. Claus, a woman under-acknowledged and under-appreciated much like the domestic labor many women undertake during the holiday season. Inspired by the cast's experiences with Christmas, they hoped to offer possibilities for who Mrs. Claus might be, what she might be like, and who she may become.

[See more photos of the show here...](#)



"Live! At the Gallows" was a graduate performance piece at the UNT Communication Studies Blackbox theater directed by Joshua Steinberg. This show was about using humor and comedy to reframe and heal from trauma. The performances definitely "tickled our funny bone, while poking at our grey matter!"

[See more photos of the show here...](#)



Petit Jean Performance Festival

This year marked the 37th annual Petit Jean Performance Festival in Morrilton, Arkansas. Festival leader Dr. Sarah Amira de la Garza opened with her keynote on "Heresies and Heretics" at the Rialto Theater.

[See more photos of the festival here...](#)



Pathway Program



We are excited to welcome Jayme Carrico as our very first Pathway program student! As an exceptionally high-achieving student in our department, Jayme will finish out her undergraduate coursework in the spring semester by enrolling in three graduate courses that will fulfill credit for BOTH her bachelor’s degree and start her on the pathway toward her master’s degree.

To learn more about our new Pathway program, visit our website or talk to Dr. Enck about opportunities to pursue a master’s degree here at UNT!

<http://communication.unt.edu/academic-pro.../.../pathway-program>

Comm 1010 Advocacy in Action



Comm 1010 students gathered an estimated 2,052 pounds of food for the Advocacy in Action event in November.

This joint effort between COMM 1010 students and UNT Career Connect delivered food to the Denton Community Food Center (DCFC) and the UNT Food Pantry. These donations provided food for individuals, families, and students all across Denton County and our UNT Campus. The COMM 1010 students learned about food insecurity during the semester and discussed the role of

advocacy and putting communication into action through their own advocacy.

Homecoming 2016



We gathered with faculty, staff, students and alums for a fun afternoon of tailgating, playing “Bags” and filling up with delicious treats such as popcorn, cookies, snow cones and cotton candy. We also decorated the office for UNT’s annual Homecoming Decoration Contest and won for the fourth year in a row!! Although UNT lost the game, we enjoyed this visit with everyone as we do every year. Please keep in touch for next year’s festivities.





Homecoming 2016

Left to Right: Jeremy Castro, Mary Knickerbocker, Laura Lynn Peck, Amanda Sileo, Kara Jo Peed, Anna Marsden & Bryan Lysinger



One of our TAs Anna Marsden and her students on National Teacher Day!

LOOKING FORWARD

Dates to Remember:

February 22nd-26th: *Bare*, a Blackbox performance by Emily McCormick

March 23rd-25th: *Fun!*, a Blackbox performance by Liz King and Adeline Ballard

April 5th-9th: Southern States Communication Association Conference

April 24th 10am-3pm: Gender Fair "Gender & Chill?"- Willis Library Forum

May 12th: Hooding and Senior Recognition Ceremony



Join us on our linked in group by searching for: UNT Communication Studies. This group page is to be used as a place to connect our faculty and students with alums. Alumni, we invite you to use this group page for posting information about internships and career opportunities at your organizations. We envision this site becoming a resource for all members of the UNT COMMunity!

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