

COMMUNIQUE

Spring 2012

Vol. 1, Issue 2



Dr. Jay Allison (left) and Mr. Cliff McKenzie (right)

UNT Alum Cliff McKenzie Addresses Graduates at Master's Hooding Ceremony

In the Fall and Spring semesters each year, the department hosts a hooding ceremony for students completing their master's degrees. During the hooding, the department chair shares thoughts and appreciations written by the candidates. Immediately following the hooding, the major professor takes a few moments to address the candidate's accomplishments.

This event is held in addition to university-sponsored commencement ceremonies, which do not provide professors the opportunity to hood Master's students. The setting, which is more intimate and personal, permits family members and friends to participate more actively by meeting the graduates' faculty members, the staff, and their fellow graduate students. The fall honorees included Rachelle Avery, Stephen Lane Davis, Kristopher Noteboom, James Bryan Smith, and Benjamin Wilemon.

The fall 2011 hooding ceremony

featured a commencement address by Cliff McKenzie, an alumnus who attended UNT from 1970 to 1974. Mr. McKenzie, President and CEO of FinanciaLogic, Inc., addressed students on the value of a communication studies degree.

During his time at UNT, Mr. McKenzie was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, the debate team, the economics department, the communication department, and served on the Student Government Association. Mr. McKenzie later received his MBA at the University of Dallas in 1981.

Mr. McKenzie had not been on the UNT campus in over a decade and members of the faculty and staff were pleased to become acquainted with him. We welcome all alumni and encourage them, on visits to Denton, to come by the department to visit with our faculty and students.

New Voices, New Perspectives Student Research Conference

The department will be hosting its annual student conference on March 9th and 10th. The student conference theme New Voices, New Perspectives highlights the interdisciplinary approach of the conference. The scope of this conference is broad and encompasses a variety of areas including rhetoric, performance, organizational communication, interpersonal communication, computer-mediated communication, health communication, and pedagogy.

This year's conference, which features scholars from 18 universities, will begin with a keynote lecture from Dr. Michael Bowman of Louisiana State University. The lecture, entitled "Tourism, Performance, and Identity," will occur at 6:00 PM on March 9th in the Golden Eagle Suite at the University Union.

More details and a schedule for the conference can be found [here](#).



Calendar of Events

Friday-Sunday March 2-4 MULTIPLE CHOICES

Directed by Andrea Lovoll
3/2 @ 7 PM, 3/3 @ 3 & 7 PM, 3/4 @ 3 PM
GAB 321, the Black Box

Friday-Saturday March 9-10 NEW VOICES, NEW PERSPECTIVES STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

University of North Texas
Schedule available [here](#)

Friday-Sunday April 5, 6, & 7 THE BELL JAR

Directed by Dr. Rebecca Walker
7 PM
GAB 321, the Black Box

Wednesday-Sunday April 11-15 SSCA CONFERENCE

[Check out the list here!](#)

Wednesday-Sunday April 18-22 PETIT JEAN PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

Morrillton, AR



Wednesday, April 25 GENDER FAIR

10 AM - 2 PM
UNT Union 1 O'Clock Lounge

Tuesday May 1 COMMUNITY FAIR

"Exploring Reality through the Lens of the Media"
10 AM-2 PM
UNT Union 1 O'Clock Lounge

Friday-Saturday May 4 & 5 PIG's COMEDY SHOWCASE

7 PM
GAB 321, the Black Box

Friday May 11 MASTER'S HOODING CEREMONY

12-3 PM
Location TBA

Catching up with Communication Studies Alumni



JEFFREY GIRAUD, MS 1995 - Fire Captain @ DFW Public Safety/Fire Services & Adjunct @ TCU "In December I celebrated the end of my 25th year as a firefighter. I am exploring fulltime opportunities at TCU, with my primary effort aimed at a position in the Student Affairs. I will also begin working on a 2nd masters degree at TCU, Counseling/University Student Affairs. I plan to continue teaching for as long as they will have me!"

LIBBY SPEARS, MA 1998 - Self-employed Communication Consultant "I recently hosted the third annual "What's YOUR Plan BE?" fundraiser in Denton & donated \$6000 to the Denton Public Schools foundation. This donation will provide three \$2000 scholarships to a girl graduating from each of the three Denton High Schools. In May of 2011 I published my first book "What's YOUR Plan BE?" & am working on my next book 'Move Away From the Laser Pointer: Tips, Tactics, and Techniques for Creating a Game Changing Presentation.'"



MICHELLE RAMSEY, MS 1995 - Assoc. Prof @ PSU-Berks "I started at PSU-Berks in 2000 & by 2008 we had a major in Communication. It's nice to have founded a department of communication & I pattern our department & its ethos after UNT COMM department & its faculty. Some day I hope to be able to pass on the administrative work to a colleague & get back to a research agenda that focuses on political communication, social movements, and the representation of marginalized populations in the media."

RICK DEVINNEY, BA 2003 - President/CEO @ Security Group of Texas, Inc. "After graduation I enrolled in the Region 10 Teacher Certification program. I taught 2 years at a Charter School in South Dallas. I then went back to my company & that is where I will remain until I retire in 2-5 years. I provide Security for high rise office buildings, corporate campuses, & special events. (I provided security for the NFL during Super Bowl week) along with private investigations. I loved the Communication Department when I last attended UNT."



ALMA MARTINEZ-EGGER, MA 2004 - Interim Director @ Achieving the Dream Tarrant County College District "Achieving the Dream is a National Initiative to increase student success for those of color and low income. That initiative challenges community colleges to identify our barriers that keep students from being successful. For instance, we did have late registration, until our data indicated that the last students in are the first students out. So, we no longer have late registration. We are already seeing the benefits from this policy change."



AMY WELLS, BA 2008 - Administrative Manager's Asst @ Sleep Medicine Associates, P.A. "I am working full-time at a doctor's office. I have worked there since I graduated. I started out as the receptionist and worked my way up to the manager of three locations. I am in training to be the administrator once she retires in the next year or so. I bought my own house in March and I'm loving it! My degree has helped me tremendously! I kept some of my textbooks and have actually copied parts of them for meetings with my employees."

SHONA HUFFMAN, MS 2000 Self-employed as wedding planner & sewing/design

"After teaching high school for 12 years, I have taken the last seven off to raise a family. I suppose teaching two girls to communicate effectively and without drama would be how I use my degree on a daily basis, but I still try to do some teaching/consulting periodically when opportunities come up. Most recently I helped co-host the NFL National Tournament here in Dallas in June 2011."



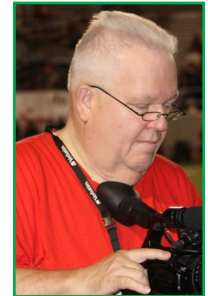
HOLLY SMITH, MA 2008 - Curriculum Coordinator @ Learning Technologies, UNT

"I have been married 10 years this past October to Local News Network Managing Editor Rick Smith and we have two daughters, Saylor and Sutton. I am a Curriculum Coordinator working on a Carl Perkins grant within Learning Technologies at UNT. I work about 85% from home and travel the other 15%. I am responsible for creating curriculum, professional development modules, conference presentations, and any and all other support for high school Business, Marketing, and Finance teachers in the state of Texas. I work directly with the Texas Education Agency, and do a lot of presenting and project management. In my spare time, I write a biweekly puppet show for my church's pre-k workshop ministry."



SCOTT CAUSEY, BA 1972 - Co-Owner & Managing Producer @ Dallas Digital Studios/L.H. Media Center

"I spent 9 years in commercial radio starting my freshman year in college. I then worked the North Texas games with Bill Mercer and did freelance audio in various studios around Dallas and off of numerous TV broadcast trucks until starting Dallas Digital Studios in 2000. I started the L.H. Media Center as a retail space arm of DallasDigital Studios a year ago here in Lake Highlands. We work all types of media including audio/video production, website design, and computer software/hardware but are getting attentino and much of our business from being able to convert old analog film and most formats of audio and video tape into CDs and DVDs."



MICHAEL HOLMBERG, MS 2007 - Marketing Liaison @ Pate Rehabilitation "Since graduating I've spent most of my time in medical marketing/recruiting. I began as a physician recruiter with the nation's largest medical recruiting firm, Merritt Hawkins. I am now a liaison for Pate Rehabilitation - a post acute brain injury facility with 3 locations in the metroplex. I primarily market to physicians and hospitals in the Dallas medical centers. I spend most of my day utilizing my communication skills by communication with physicians, and sharing the benefits our services have to their patients."

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MARC HOPPERS, BA 1992 CEO & President @ Cogent Company

"I love to get out of bed every day for lots of reasons, but one is because I love the field I plow every day. I am co-founder of Cogent Company, and I have the privilege to serve as CEO and President of the firm. For more than 20 years, I've been helping firms improve the way they integrate technology into their business strategies. I got my BA and MA from UNT and have continued my education at SMU. Outside of Cogent, I served for four years as an Adjunct Instructor at the Cox School of Business at SMU, a guest lecturer at UNT, and a frequent conference speaker on the topics of technology strategy, process improvement, and business intelligence. I'm currently on the Advisory Board of the Dept of Info Tech and Decision Sciences in the College of Business at UNT and serve on the Development committee."



Communication Organization Calendar

Communication Organization of Graduate Students

2nd & 4th Wed @ 4PM (GAB 301)

Lambda Pi Eta

2nd & 4th Mon @ 5PM (GAB 301)

Performance Interest Group (PIGs)

2nd & 4th Wed @ 4PM (GAB 321)

National Communication Association Future Pros

2/29, 3/28, & 4/18 @ 5PM (GAB 321)

Debate Forum

3/15 & 5/3 @ 5PM (GAB 105)

Department Community Engagement

Various areas of Communication Studies dedicate time and effort into the community of UNT & Denton.



COMMunity Fair

The Communication Studies Department has recently made changes to its introductory course, Introduction to Human Communication. The course is now a NextGen course that incorporates online learning, face-to-face instruction, and experiential learning. The students spend the semester working in collaborative learning groups and engaging in hands-on activities designed to provide practical experience to develop communication skills for various contexts. One of these activities includes the newly established COMMunity Fair, in which their involvement in the design and execution of such a large event provides them with significant opportunities to experience the benefits and difficulties of teamwork, strengthen their critical thinking skills, and participate in discussions and research develops their ideas of personal and social responsibility. This spring's event, which occurs on May 1st, is titled COMMunity: Exploring Reality Through the Lens of the Media and requires students to engage in rhetorical analysis of media images. The fall fair was called "COMMunity: Exploring Reality Through Social Issues," in which the students explore the role of communication in the creation of reality by researching various social issues and the organizations that support them.



Gender Fair

Every semester, Dr. Suzanne Enck and undergraduate students of the Gender and Communication course host the Gender Fair, an event held to teach and inform students in our community about the constructs of gender in society. The students create interactive booths that feature games and other educational information that engages the community about topics such as feminism, sexuality, masculinities, and race and gender. This semester's Gender Fair will be on April 25th in the 1 O'clock Lounge in the University Union, and will be the sixth fair since Dr. Enck joined the faculty in the fall of 2009.



New Capstone Course

The department's new capstone course includes a semester-long class community engagement project. Over the course of the semester, the class will select a non-profit organization and collaborate with that organization in order to put their communication skills into action. The goal of the project is to be active in the community and demonstrate the skills and abilities that Communication Studies majors have developed during the course of their degree. The students engaged in brainstorming sessions to identify their community connections and resources, identified individuals to approach from two organizations, and then established a work team structure to accomplish the task negotiated with the community partner selected. The class as a whole decided that they wanted to work with a local organization that works with children or families in need. Consequently, the class chose to work with Denton County Friends of the Family and anticipates hosting an event in May.

Debate-a-Palooza



Dr. Brian Lain (right) with Fall 2011 Debate-a-Palooza keynote speaker, U.S. Representative Dr. Michael Burgess

Debate-a-Palooza is a new event in the UNT Communication Studies department that features students of our Rhetoric and Argument course. Spearheaded by Dr. Brian Lain, the event is a debate project for the class that allows people of the UNT community to observe and participate with the students of the class. This project originally existed exclusively in the classroom, where only fellow students could interact with each other; this event brings the project out of the classroom and into the public forum. This semester's Debate-a-Palooza occurs on April 28th, 2012.

For more information on our debate team successes, including team qualifications for the NTD, check our [website!](#)

Recent Publications & Creative Scholarship

Suzanne Enck and Blake McDaniel – Playing with Fire: Cycles of Domestic Violence in Eminem and Rihanna's 'Love the Way you Lie,' *Communication, Culture, and Critique* (currently under revise-and-resubmit).

Brian Richardson – From Isolation to Connection: Former Sex Workers Conceptualize Family and Familial Interactions In S. Marrow, & D. Leoutsakas (Eds.) *More than Blood: Today's Reality & Tomorrow's Vision of Family*.

Brian Richardson, Zuoming Wang, & Camille Hall – Blowing the whistle on Greek hazing: An investigation of the Theory of Reasoned Action for predicting reporting intentions, *Communication Studies* (currently in press).

Rebecca Walker – Fill/Flash/Memory: A History of the Flash Mob, *Text and Performance Quarterly* (currently under revise-and-resubmit).

Darrel Wanzer – Decolonizing Imaginaries: Rethinking "the People" in the Young Lords' Church Offensive, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*.

Upcoming Performances

Multiple Choices

Multiple Choices is a performance that in the words of Augusto Boal, "reflects reality and rehearses the future." This performance, directed by Andrea Lovoll and assistant directed by Travis Williams, begins with a scripted portion reflecting how No Child Left Behind has created a testing culture in high schools and then pushes these students into college classrooms. The scripted portion is largely based on interviews conducted with students and in-

The Department of Communication Studies Presents:

M U L T I P L E
C H O I C E S

A performance exploring the challenges of a testing culture in a college classroom
Directed By:

A N D R E A
L V L L

Black Box Theatre, GAB 321

M A R C H

2 - 7 P M
3 - 3 & 7 P M
4 - 3 P M

Donation at the Door:

\$ 5

Please Note: Part of this performance encourages audience participation.
Photo By: Eash Richardson

structors about the challenges they face in college. The second portion rehearses the future, in which the cast, Flora Ceka, Ricky Roque, Rebecca Taylor, and Daniel Snell pose problems addressed in the scripted portion, and the audience is encouraged to take the stage and pose a solution.

For showtimes see the calendar of events on page 2.



The Bell Jar

Dr. Rebecca Walker is currently staging an adaptation of Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*. She decided to adapt the text upon realizing that many people falsely conflated the serio-comic tale of the novel's heroine, Esther Greenwood, with that of the tragic end of Sylvia Plath's real life, an error she hopes her adaptation corrects. By focusing on Esther's fractured sense of self, Dr. Walker desires to highlight the novel's universal function as a coming-of-age tale for young people in a post-modern world. The show features an all-female cast of seven undergraduate and graduate student performers.

For showtimes see the calendar of events on page 2.