

# 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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## WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

As the new spring semester begins, we would all like to wish you good luck on your upcoming endeavors. Here's to having another great semester!

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES  
ANNUAL STUDENT  
CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY  
27-28, 2015

"NEW VOICES,  
NEW  
PERSPECTIVES"

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# UNT Annual Student Research Conference

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## UNT Welcomes Dr. Mindy Fenske as the Keynote Speaker for the “New Voices, New Perspectives” Conference

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This year’s annual student research conference, “New Voices, New Perspectives,” will be held Friday, February 27th, and Saturday, February 28th. This title highlights the interdisciplinary approach and the broad scope of the conference. Submissions to the conference reflect a variety of areas in communication studies including rhetoric, interpersonal and organizational communication, performance studies, media and society, cultural studies, pedagogy, health communication, and group communication. Through the years, UNT has attracted and hosted not only inspiring students but also impressive scholars and professors who are leaders in the Communication Studies field. This year’s keynote speaker is Dr. Mindy Fenske, a highly impactful scholar within performance studies and visual cultural studies, who will be speaking at the conference on Friday, February 27th at 5:30pm in the Willis Library Forum. Dr. Fenske is currently an associate professor in the University of South Carolina’s Department of English Language and

Literature. She is the Editor-Elect of *Text and Performance Quarterly* (editorship 2016-2018) and served as Chair of the Performance Studies Division of the National Communication Association (2011-2012). In addition, Dr. Fenske is also the Editorial Board Member of *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* and the PSD National Review Board. She is the recipient of the National Communication Association’s Golden Anniversary Monograph Award in 2005 and the Lilla A. Heston Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Interpretation and Performance Studies in 2010. We look forward to her visit! To add to the excitement, the research conference has had a national impact resulting in numerous submissions from students outside of Texas. Monetary awards will be presented to the top graduate and undergraduate research papers.

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## Faculty Spotlight

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### Dr. Wang Prepares for Upcoming Faculty Development Leave

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Associate professor Dr. Zuoming Wang, is preparing for a year long sabbatical in India, where she will be examining social media from an interpersonal communication perspective to study how people utilize new technology to satisfy their social needs. Dr. Wang’s first six months will be spent at the International Institution of Health Management Research (IIHMR) in New Delhi. She has been invited by Dr. Lakhwinder P. Singh, director of IIHMR, to collaborate on conducting a large-scale survey research targeting the youth population in urban New Delhi. Together they will be analyzing the association between this population’s social media use, socioeconomic status, social network structure, their (non)-utilization of the existing healthcare, and their choice of health treatment and provider. The last portion of Dr. Wang’s sabbatical will be spent at the Jiwaji University in the city of Gwalior where she will evaluate the way that social media is used to incite, organize, and perpetuate anti-corruption protest movements among young people from different social classes in Gwalior. Dr. Wang will also be examining

how this youth population utilizes social networking sites to mobilize voting and endorse political candidates in the state assembly election of Madhya Pradesh. We wish her good luck and are excited to see her results!

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## Alumni News

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Eric Carroll, UNT class of 2007, is a professional actor and photographer who has been living and working in Los Angeles California since 2010. He is currently producing and starring in a digital series titled *Buffering*. *Buffering* is the story of Ben Little (Curt Mega of *Glee*), a guy who fell from being kind of famous to the unbearable position of being a nobody. To prove that he is still talented, Ben does what every ambitious actor does: make a web series. However, his crazy friends are making Ben's comeback more complicated than he ever expected. "When life falls apart, make a web series." Eric plays Ben's best friend and roommate Alex Brody who is the star of a hit cop show called *Latter Day Saints*. Eric is very proud of the fact that *Buffering* has been co-created and produced by a group friends who all

happen to be UNT alumni. Mike Tobias, show runner and head-writer, Stephanie Stuart, who plays Cindy Kyle, and Eric were all friends at UNT before they moved to L.A. together after graduation. Mike Chinnici, director and writer, and Tricia Ponsford Chinnici, costume and set design, are also part of this group and are UNT alumni. The fact that this group of friends all met at UNT, moved out to L.A. together to collaborate on projects such as this digital series, and have been able to remain friends through the struggles and the success definitely makes this group unique. What began in 2012 for Eric and his fellow UNT alumni with a \$30 budget and no crew has grown episode by episode with the help of crowd funding, and has resulted in a Hollywood premier for their newly released season finale of *Buffering*. Currently the creative team is meeting with new producers and possible investors. When asked about his success thus far and how a communication studies degree has aided him in his career, Eric states that his degree has benefited him numerous ways. "Photography is all about personal relationships, and my time in Communication Studies helped prepare me for that aspect. I think my time at UNT and in the Communication Studies department instilled a sense of community and group collaboration in my work."

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## UNT Debate

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### Rwanda Debate

This past December the UNT debate team hosted a debate on the UNT campus between UNT and the Rwandan debate teams for the first time. What began as a new and exciting experience surpassed all expectations. The topic of the debate was "In the aftermath of genocide, forgiveness is more important than justice." The Rwanda team, having had personal experience with this topic, not only impressed the audience with their knowledge, factual evidence, and debate skills, but also moved them with their inclusion of personal stories. Dr. Lain stated that by the end of this incredible event, there was not a dry eye in the audience. Furthermore, the members of the two debate teams forged new friendships. The Rwanda debate team honored the UNT debate team by gifting them with a hand woven basket from their home in Rwanda, Africa.



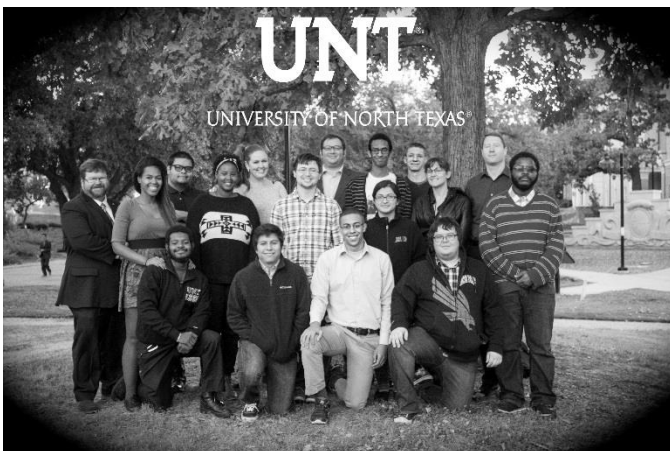
## Recent and Upcoming Debates

The UNT debate team had an early start this semester with their first debate tournament on January 4th at UT Dallas. UNT had three teams compete with one team, Senior Darrian Carroll and Junior Hope Saucedo, advancing to the sweet sixteen round. For those of you without knowledge of how tournaments work, teams are guaranteed a certain number of rounds at these tournament and then the judges pick the top competitors to set up elimination brackets. On January 6th the UNT debate team travelled back to the UT Dallas campus to host almost 100 hundred team competing in the William DeMougeot Tournament. During this tournament UNT had two teams clear to the round of thirty two but unfortunately both lost. These teams were Freshman Bret Krambeer and Junior Danny Abraha, and Darrian Carroll and Hope Saucedo. Despite their loss, Hope Saucedo was named the 14th best speaker in attendance and Darrian Carroll was recognized as the 8th best speaker. On January 23rd the same UNT debate teams traveled to Wichita State University for a debate tournament. This time the teams advanced to the sweet sixteen round before being eliminated. Saucedo was once more named the 14th best speaker and Carroll was named the 10th best speaker. On this same day, a group of six UNT debaters were taken to the Cowtown Swing at Tarrant County College for a parliamentary tournament. Although, none of the students advanced, they gained valuable experience that will serve them well in future tournaments. February 6th – 8th, a few mean green debate teams headed down to the University of Texas at Austin for a policy debate tournament. Saucedo and Carroll posted wins over Emory, New York University, Berkley, and Puget Sound but their efforts were not enough to secure a win. Two UNT debate teams, Brenton Brown and Lila Friedlander, Megan Hill and Zachary Watson, also competed at Texas Tech's parliamentary debate tournament the same weekend, but did not advance to elimination rounds. February 27th through March 1st the UNT debate teams will be attending the district qualifier tournament at UT Dallas, and next month they will be compete in the Cross Examination Debate Association's national tournament at Wichita State University. We wish our mean green debaters luck and will be keeping an eye out for their results!



## Special Announcement!!!

### Debate-A-Palooza 2015 and Debate Alumni Reunion



This year's UNT Debate-A-Palooza will be held on Friday, May 1st. We are very excited to announce that this event will also entail a debate alumni reunion! Dr. Lain is inviting all alumni to return and enjoy the Debate-A-Palooza and a special banquet celebrating UNT debate teams, past and present. Be on the lookout for more news concerning this exciting event.

# Student Activities

## Lambda Pi Eta

In the excitement of the new semester, Lambda Pi Eta welcomed new members and new officers. The returning LPH officers include Seniors Cotton Hensley (VP of Social Programming), Molly Franklin (VP of Communication), and Austin Schubert (VP of Academic Development), and Junior Taylor Bell (VP of Finance). Two new students have joined this impressive group; Seniors Sarah Switzer (VP of Philanthropy), and Madi Rodriguez (President). Lambda Pi Eta hosted its first meeting on January 27th, which was attended by 15 students, an impressive and unprecedented number. Whether it was



the desire to become involved or the promise of queso that lured these new students, Dr. Morrissey and the LPH officers were excited to welcome new members and are looking forward to what this semester will bring.

## NCA Future Pros



NCA Future Pros recently had their first meeting of the semester over pizza and sodas to discuss officer elections, upcoming events, possible speakers, new members, and membership duties. This aspiring group elected Seniors Kylee Ince as President, Madi Rodriguez as Vice President of Membership, and Jenna Reneau as Historian. Junior Bre Mapston was elected Marketing Director. The members of NCA Future Pros welcomed their new leaders and discussed their excitement for the new semester. When asked about the upcoming events, Dr. Richardson said he is very enthusiastic for this semester and for scheduling a number of inspiring and

educational speakers that will spark the interests of the members, especially the seniors graduating in May. NCA Future Pros has three events planned; two will feature individual speakers, and the third a panel of speakers. Dr. Richardson aims find inspirational speakers who will be able to inform the members about possible career paths. The organization is eager to welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining should email president, Kylee Ince, at [kktreon@gmail.com](mailto:kktreon@gmail.com). Membership dues are five dollars a year and are well worth the cost because of the many opportunities NCA Future Pros affords its members.

**PIGS**



Last December, PIGs hosted an improv night, “Whose Performance is it Anyway,” themed after the well-known comedy series with a similar name. Bryan Lysinger served as host for the event and wrangled things as an audience of PIGs members and officers, including President Amanda Koen, Vice President Chelsea Lindblad, improvised their way through prompts suggested by audience members. Everyone who participated had a great time. The PIGs officers send a shout out to everyone who made the event a success, especially their faculty sponsor, Dr. Holley Vaughn, who put in some serious time planning and preparing for the event. The crowd was especially appreciative of the pizza and drinks!

PIGs just finished working on a project that caused a buzz! For the week of Valentine’s Day we sold carnations that were delivered to a person of the buyer’s choice during one of their COMM Classes. People were able to up the ante by having their carnations along with a poem—a somewhat inappropriate one—performed in front of their entire class. PIGs donated a percentage of the earnings to the Denton Tejas Storytelling Association to support their efforts to foster storytelling as an oral tradition and performance art. To learn more about the organization, please visit their website: <http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/>



**PIGs now holds weekly meetings at Jupiter House on Tuesday evenings at 7:15!** The meetings provide an opportunity for students to network with others who are also passionate about performance studies. During our weekly meetings, members and friends enjoy getting to know each other over a “Cup of Joe” while engaging in fun and critical discussions. If you find yourself with free time on a Tuesday evening, come join the group. Whether you come once in a blue moon, every week, or would simply like to show up to learn more about the group, we would love to have you! You never know who will be there. The organization is also currently working on a PIGs Spring Showcase and a special partnering event involving swords! Be on the lookout for additional information about both of these upcoming events. Like performance?

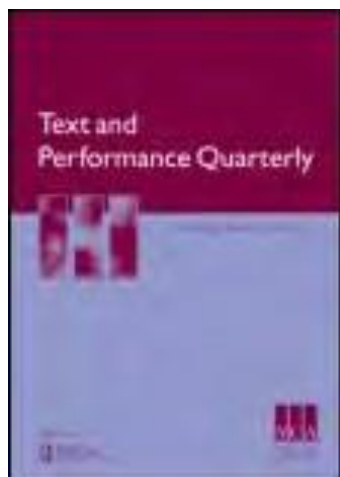
Like our Facebook page: [facebook.com/performanceinterestgroup](https://www.facebook.com/performanceinterestgroup)

*Written by Senior Amanda Koen, President of PIGs*

# Around Town & Other News

## Upcoming and Recent Publications by the COMM Department's Faculty

The Communication Studies Department is always very proud of and continuously impressed by its faculty as academic achievements. As such, below is the information over the faculty's most recent and upcoming publications.



**Enck, S. M.** (2015). Planning a Gender Fair as a semester-long final project, *Communication Teacher* 29, 1-8.  
DOI:10.1080/17404622.2014.1003950.

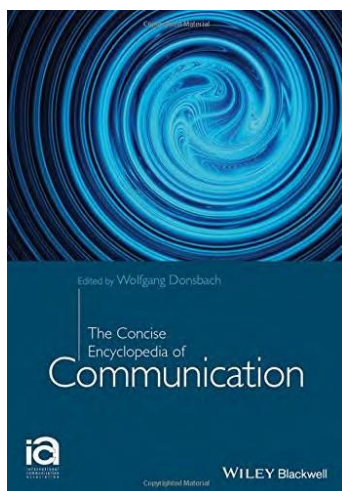
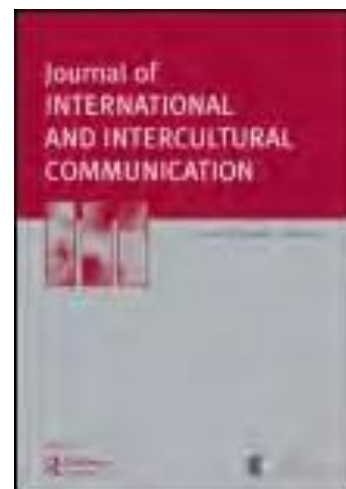
**Enck, S. M., & McDaniel, B. A.** (2015) "I want something better for my life': Personal narratives of incarcerated women as performances of agency," *Text & Performance Quarterly* 35, 43-61.

**Dr. Enck's** and McDaniel's article has also been invited as a "translation essay" entitled "Narratives Behind Bars: Incarcerated Women, Motherhood, and Meaning Making" for *Communication Currents* to be published sometime this month.

**Gravley, D., Richardson, B. K., & Allison, J. M., Jr.** (2015). Navigating the "abyss": A narrative analysis of whistle-blowing, retaliation, and identity within Texas public school systems. *Management Communication Quarterly*.  
DOI: 10.1177/0893318914567666).

**Morrissey, M. E., & Sims, C. L.** (Accepted 1/2015). Playing the race card: Discourses of (anti)racial bordering and the possibility of alchemic metaphor. *Review of Communication*.

**Morrissey, M. E.** (Accepted 1/2015). (Net)roots of belonging: Contemporary discourses of (in)valuability and post-racial citizenship in the United States. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*.



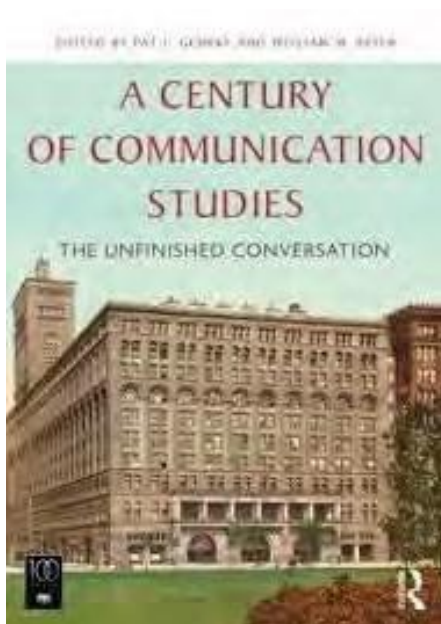
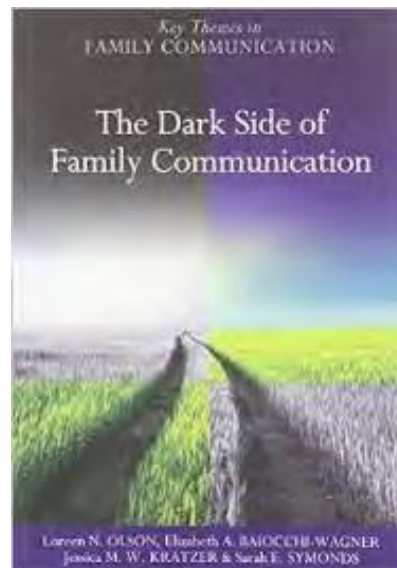
**Poole, M. S., & Ahmed, I.** (2015). Decision-making processes in organizations. In W. Donsbach (Ed.), *The International Encyclopedia of Communication* (2nd edition). Blackwell.

**Poole M. S. & Ahmed, I.** (2015). Decision Making Processes in Organizations. In *The Concise International Encyclopedia of Communication (the "Work")*. Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Rhodes, J. & Hlavacik, M. (Accepted/In-press). Imagining moral presidential speech: Barack Obama's Niebuhrian Nobel. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*.

Richardson, B. K., & Gravley, D. (accepted for publication). Defamation, public persecution, and death threats: Characterizing retaliation against whistle-blowers. In E. Gilchrist-Petty & S. D. Long (Eds.), *Dark side of organizational communication*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.

Richardson, B. K., & McGlynn, J. (2014). Blowing the whistle off the field of play: An empirical model of whistle-blower experiences in the intercollegiate sport industry, *Communication & Sport*, 3, 57-80.



Shaffer, T. S., Allison, J. M., Jr., & Pelias, R. J. (2015). A critical history of the “live” body in performance within the National Communication Association. In P. J. Gehrke & W. M. Keith (Eds.), *A century of communication studies: The unfinished conversation* (pp. 187-206). New York, NY: Routledge.

Wang, Z., Novak, H., Scofield-Snow, H., Traylor, S., Zhou, Y. (accepted). Am I disclosing too much? Student’s perception of teacher credibility via Facebook. *The Journal of Social Media in Society*.

Waters, S., & Anderson-Lain, K. (2014). Assessing the student, faculty, and community partner in academic service-learning: An analysis of internet campus compact member surveys. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 18, 89-122.



*Journal of Higher Education  
Outreach & Engagement*



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# Looking Forward

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## Dates to Remember:

*UNT Research Conference "New Voices, New Perspectives" February 27th – 28th*

*Spring Break March 16th – 20th*

*(The university will be closed March 16<sup>th</sup>)*

*Alicia Garavaglia's graduate performance, Black Box Theatre, April 2nd 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4th, 7pm*

*Bryan Lysinger's graduate performance "About Face," Black Box Theatre, April 16th 17th  
& 18th, 7pm*

*Debate-a-Palooza May 1st*

Look for another issue of our newsletter next month.

Keep in contact with us through our website [www.communication.unt.edu](http://www.communication.unt.edu)

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