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# COMMUNICATION GRADUATE NEWSLETTER

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## Associate Dean's Corner

By now I hope everyone has had a chance to meet each of our new students this year, including:

### Ph.D. Program

Ritta Abell  
Jeong-Hyun An  
Bruce Berger  
John D. Davis  
Karen Krumrey-Fulks  
Jeff Groeling  
Stephen Haggerty  
Donald Helme  
Jayne Violette  
Stephen Yungbluth

### M.A. Program

Matthew Bowdy  
Whit Elam  
Mike Farrell  
Ronja Fayne  
Danny Hollis  
Kristi Thrift  
Charles Williams III

We are very pleased to have all of you on board.

This year has been extremely busy so far, including the opening of the new Graduate Student Center in 124 Grehan. It's a great place to relax, study or just to socialize. The Center includes computers linked to the Internet via an ethernet connection, a telephone, mailboxes for all graduate students (except teaching assistants, who have mailboxes in their departments), furniture and reference materials such as books and journals. If you

do not know the combination for the lock, see me or one of the Graduate Student Officers. The new officers this year are:

Gina Swigert - Co-Chair  
Stephen Haggerty - Co-Chair  
Ruth Page - Business Manager  
Charles Williams - Adm. Asst.  
Whit Elam - Member at Large

I want to thank all of you who have met with me each month to share ideas and concerns. These sessions have been very productive, and I encourage you to attend whenever possible. Dates and times are always posted in your mailbox and announced via e-mail. I also meet monthly with the GSA officers to discuss a variety of issues. If you have any concerns, problems or questions at anytime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On November 16 the Graduate Faculty held its annual all-day retreat, which included five graduate student representatives. GSA input was very valuable and well appreciated. A wide range of issues was discussed, and the faculty voted to establish a faculty mentoring program for new students, beginning with the fall 1997 semester. Under the program, once an applicant is accepted, that individual is assigned a faculty mentor whose interests most closely match those of the student.

The faculty also approved two new courses--both in health communication--and approved extensive revision to several other courses. These changes have been

submitted to the College Council for approval and then will be forwarded to the Graduate Council and Senate Council. The two proposed courses are CJT 671 ("Proseminar in Health Communication") and CJT 775 ("Seminar in Health Communication Campaigns").

A committee headed by Dr. James Hertog will develop a proposal for implementing preliminary (first-year) exams and required courses for the doctoral program. The committee will make its report by February to the Graduate Faculty. Please contact Dr. Hertog with your ideas and opinions.

Other changes on the horizon include a possible restructuring of the M.A. program. The Program Committee will be tackling this issue next semester.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Oscar H. Gandy, Jr., Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, has agreed to be our Spring Graduate Seminar Speaker. He will be visiting campus during April 10-11 and will speak on "Reporting Race and Risk: Different Quotes for Different Folks." His visit is jointly sponsored by our graduate program and the Library Science graduate program. More details later.

Our program continues to garner national recognition, not only for our faculty and students but for our graduates as well. According to the Autumn 1996 issue of Journalism and Mass Communication Educator, our program ranked sixth in fall 1995

