



**THE
GRADUATE
GAZETTE**

FALL 2004, ISSUE 44

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION STUDIES
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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE STUDIES



In November at the National Communication Association annual convention in Chicago, we received some great news about our graduate program. The doc-

toral program in health communication was ranked sixth in the country in an NCA survey. You can read more about the survey in the story on page 3. When NCA conducted a similar survey seven years ago, health communication was not listed as a separate category, but our doctoral program was ranked 11th in the country in applied communication. At that time health communication was and still is our only applied program. Thus the doctoral health communication program has effectively moved up five notches in becoming a Top 10 program.

The NCA rankings are reputational rankings, which makes this a significant achievement. They are based on what doctoral faculty in communication from around the country see as the strongest doctoral programs in nine specialties. Our program offers three of those – health communication, interpersonal communication and mass communication. Among the Top 10 programs in health communication, we were ranked above Texas A&M, Purdue, Rutgers and Ohio. We were ranked 29th in mass communication and 31st in interpersonal communication. Now that we have one Top 10 specialty, our goal is to have our rankings significantly increase among the other two specialties by the next survey in 2007.

Our graduate faculty and students deserve great praise and credit for this

accomplishment. Graduate faculty have attracted more than \$35 million in external research grants in health communication. Another indication of our strong reputation in health communication is that we have had three graduate students so far serve as National Cancer Institute interns in Washington, D.C. Our most recent intern is **Kristi Martin**, a University Scholars student, who is assigned to the NCI's Office of Communications (see story on page 7). Ms. Martin is the first University Scholars student from our program to be an NCI intern. She plans to continue at NCI for an additional year as a new Cancer Research Fellow in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences.

I am pleased to welcome two new additions to our graduate faculty – **Dr. Michael Arrington** and **Dr. Deborah Chung**. Dr. Arrington came to us from Ohio University, where he was an assistant professor. His research interests include health communication, social support, narrative

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EDITOR....ADEL ISKANDAR

inquiry, interpersonal and family communication and African American studies. Dr. Chung completed her doctorate in 2004 at Indiana University. Her research interests are online journalism, participatory communication, interactivity and new communication technologies.

Contributions to the Graduate Program from alumni and friends are on the rise, including some 4-figure gifts recently. Please support one of our endowed scholarships or the "CCIS Graduate Student Development" fund. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter. Please be sure to note that the gift is for the **Graduate Program in Communication**.

Thanks for all of your support and Happy Holidays!

Roy

Congratulations Graduates! Spring and Fall 2004

Ph.D.

Laura Beth Hayes
Sissy Bertino Meredith
Stacy Minger
John Youngblood

M.A.

Ann Blackford
Taressa Frazee
Kristina Lynn Martin
Purnima Mehrota
Michael Titus
Man Zhang

GRADUATE PROGRAM RISES IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

The National Communication Association (NCA), the largest academic institution for communication scholars, recently released its rankings for the doctoral programs in the discipline for 2004.

The Doctoral Reputation Study, which was last conducted seven years ago, ranked the program's Health Communication track sixth nationwide. This is a remarkable accomplishment and illustrates a marked improvement from rankings in previous years.

In the last study, conducted in 2001, the communication program ranked 11th nationally in applied communication. The next survey results will be released in 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Dr. Phil Palmgreen with award recipients Taressa Frazee, Mia Lustria and Rajesh Gaur (L-R) during the College's annual Recognition Ceremony and Awards Dinner held at the Campbell House Inn on December 3, 2004.

GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

National Communication Association (NCA)

The following students gave presentations at the 2004 National Communication Association annual convention in November (Chicago):

Carla Bevins presented her paper entitled "Healthy then and healthy now: Rhetorically constructing a definition of health among exercising senior citizen aged men."

Rungrat Chaisamrej presented a paper entitled "Environmentalism in Thailand: Reexamining the role of Buddhism in Thai politicized environment."

Rajesh Gaur presented two papers entitled "An examination of students from Middle-East's articulation of stigma using group and individual narratives" and "Feminist issues and communication: A participatory approach to theory building and methodology."

Alan Lowhorn presented his paper "Power plays an distorted displays: Venezuelan broadcasting before, during, and after the 2002 coup."

Deborah Stigall presented her paper, "Leader-member relationship quality: A web-based analysis."

Zhiwan Xiao presented her paper entitled "The rise of anti-China coverage after the demise of the U.S.S.R."

Wenli Yuan presented two papers, "The Internet: A vehicle for democracy in China?" and "Conflict management in Sino-U.S. joint ventures (China based): Overview and implications."

Other Presentations & Awards

Miranda Blackburn and **Kelli Frakes** will be presenting their paper entitled "An assessment of attitudes and perceptions towards rural policing among police studies students" at the American Society of Criminology Conference (ASC) in Nashville.

Davide Girardelli's article, "Commodified identities: The myth of Italian food in the United States," has been published in the October issue of the *Journal of Communication Inquiry*.

Girardelli completed the "Lean Manufacturing Certification" from the Center for Manufacturing at the University of Kentucky.

Rajesh Gaur co-authored a paper with **Dr. Anyaegbunam** entitled "Exploring polyphony in community radio stations: A case study of an Appalachian community media production center." The paper was presented at Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Com-

munication convention in August 2004, Toronto, Canada. It was also presented at the organization's Mid-Winter Conference February at Rutgers University.

Gaur's paper, "Development of traditional healing in the Appalachia: Exploring a lost history through the stories of the marginalized," was presented at the International Association for Media and Communication Research convention in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Gaur received the Sypher Memorial Graduate Scholarship from the College of Communications and Information Studies.

Adel Iskandar presented "Whenever, wherever: Orientalist discourses of transnationalism in the construction of Shakira," at the International Association of Mass Communication Research in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He received a UNESCO grant to assist with travel costs.

Iskandar presented "We are what we watch: A media ethnography of hybridity, acculturation, and *Ghorba* among Arab-Canadian families," at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Toronto.

Iskandar received a Dissertation Enhancement Award from the Graduate School.

Iskandar's book chapter entitled "Al-Jazeera and war coverage in Iraq: The quest for contextual objectivity" was published in Stuart Allan and Barbie Zelizer's book *Reporting War*.

Iskandar also published a chapter entitled "'The great American bubble': Fox News Channel, the 'mirage' of objectivity and the isolation of American public opinion" in Artz and Kamalipour's book, *Bring 'em on: Media and politics in the Iraq War*.

Iskandar is co-editing a book entitled *Edward Said: Emancipation and Representation*, which will be published by the University of California Press (Berkeley) in September 2005.

Hung-yi Lu presented his paper, "Internet use, motives, and psychological impact: An analysis among college students in Taiwan," at the prestigious NCA Doctoral Honors Seminars in July.

Lu and fellow graduate student **Nikki Floyd** presented their poster paper entitled "Empowering the Kentuckian: An integrated public health program to keep the Kentuckian away from smoking" at the American Public Health Association meeting

in Washington, D.C.

Mia Lustria received the University's Commonwealth Award for Fall 2004 and a Dissertation Enhancement Award. She was also awarded the Beta Phi Mu Eugene Garfield Dissertation Fellowship and the Jacobs Foundation Information Technology Dissertation Grant.

Lustria also received the Bruce Westley Memorial Graduate Scholarship from the college.

Lustria coauthored with **Dr. Donald Case** an article entitled "Challenging the publishing giants: A survey of SPARC partners and features analysis of their alternative electronic journals," which is in press in the *Journal of Academic Libraries*.

Lustria co-authored a paper with **Drs. Noar, Palmgreen,** and **Zimmerman** and graduate student **Mary Lee Matuza Horosewski** entitled "Integrating personality and psychosocial approaches to understanding safer sexual behavior: Implications for message design." The paper is under review for the *Journal of Health Communication*.

Lustria's paper entitled "Online health information seeking behavior of young adults: Comparing individuals from both sides of the digital di-

vide" was accepted for presentation at the 2005 ALISE Conference in Boston.

Lustria's paper "Promoting health literacy using interactive web technologies: Examining the effects of interactivity on comprehension using an individual differences perspective (research design and preliminary results)" will be presented at the 2004 American Society for Information Science and Technology in Providence, Rhode Island.

Christine Rache Spurlock received the \$2500 Frank J. Corbett Health Marketing Scholarship.

Anne Ray Streeter, APR, received the Jack Bondurant Award for professional excellence from the Florida Society for Healthcare Public Relations and Marketing Association. She is a past president of the organization.

Rebekah Tilley completed a summer internship with Preston-Osborne, a public relations firm in Lexington.

David Willis has published his first book entitled "Conquering college: The ultimate survival guide for new college freshmen." The book, which has been picked up by the popular press imprint PublishAmerica, will be available in stores this spring.

