I hope you enjoy the Fall 2006 newsletter. There have been a few changes and we hope that you enjoy the new format. We would love to hear from you and place your news in the upcoming Spring 2007 newsletter. Please send any information or news you might have to lisa.beeler@uky.edu.

Thank You,

Editor/Designer: Lisa L. Beeler
One of my favorite thinkers, Albert Einstein, had a sign hanging in his office at Princeton that read “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” My column in this issue of the Graduate Program Standard serves to demonstrate that there are things that can be counted that really count!

For example, the fall semester began as we welcomed eight new doctoral students and eleven new master’s students into our graduate program at the annual Graduate Student Association picnic. The new doctoral students included Hanh Minh Bui (San Diego State University), Melissa Chabot (University of Connecticut), Laura Beth Daws (Auburn University), Jennifer Fairchild (University of Kentucky), Jim Gleason (State University of New York at New Paltz), J. Human (Asbury Theological Seminary), Renee Human (University of Kentucky), and Rosalie Shemanski (Michigan State University). Two new University of Kentucky Scholars, John Gillespie, and Schyler Simpson, and nine new M.A. students including Chris Austin (University of Kentucky), Christina Balding (University of Kentucky), Lisa Beeler (University of Tennessee), Amanda Harsin (Hanover College), Taylor Papania (University of Kentucky), Amy Rose (Eastern Kentucky University), Lauren Staun (University of Kentucky), Christine Tigas (University of Kentucky), and Stephanie Van Stee (Hope College) constituted the graduating class of 2008.

**Counting what Counts**

We graduated our first Ph.D. in 1983 and as of December 15, 2006, 131 students have graduated with a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Kentucky. Congratulations to Dr. Taressa Fraze (6/7/06), Dr. Angela Cooke-Jackson (7/26/06), Dr. Wenli Yuan (7/26/06), Dr. Billy Wooten (10/18/06), Dr. Christopher Swindell (10/31/06), Dr. Sharon Brescoach (11/29/06), and Dr. Melissa Harris (12/15/06). The new Doctoral Candidates who successfully defended their qualifying exams over the past year include Anne Streeter (3/1/06), Deborah Givens (4/28/06) and Sarah Cavendish (6/7/06).

We are pleased to announce that during the summer and fall term, Aaron Marshall (6/28/06), Jonathan Hampton (7/31/06), Danielle Landolt (10/18/06), Chas Hartman (11/21/06), Steve Jenkins (12/1/06), and Sara Cunningham (12/8/06) successfully defended their comprehensive exams and joined the list of 257 students who have graduated with an M.A. in Communication since 1967.
Several students benefited from scholarships and fellowships made possible by faculty and alumni. Elizabeth Webb and Robert Trader were this year’s co-recipients of the Bruce Westley Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Sarah Cavendish was the winner of the Howard and Beverly Sypher Memorial Scholarship and Melissa Chabot was the winner of the R. Lewis Donohew Graduate Fellowship. Elizabeth, Bob, Sarah, and Melissa were honored at the College of Communications and Information Studies Recognition and Awards Ceremony which has held at the Layfette Club in Lexington on December 1, 2006 (see back cover). Several students were awarded travel grants, made possible by generous alumni contributions, which served to supplement travel to professional conferences where they presented research findings. Samples of some of the presentations are provided later in this newsletter.

The Annual Graduate Program Retreat is scheduled for February 2, 2007 at the Campbell House. All graduate faculty (including emeriti faculty) and students are strongly encouraged to attend the all-day retreat because it will give graduate faculty and students a forum for revisiting the graduate strategic plan to assess goal achievement and focus on other concerns. The 11th Annual Graduate Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 3 at the Crowne Plaza Campbell House in Lexington. Contact the GSA Symposium Chair, Laura Beth Daws (laurabethdaws@uky.edu) or visit the website (www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Symposium) for additional information.

In November I was able to re-connect with several alumni at the Kentucky Social at NCA in San Antonio. We would love to hear from you! We are very interested in learning about what is happening in your life. Have you been promoted? Perhaps you’ve been recognized for research, teaching, or service excellence? Changed addresses? We want to hear from you! Any information you share will be published in this graduate newsletter. Please, drop me an email (Derek.Lane@uky.edu) send us a digital photograph, complete the form at the end of this newsletter, or go online and submit your alumni information at www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Alumni. Alumni frequently lose contact with graduate friends and the newsletter is an excellent vehicle for reconnecting with graduate school friends.

We would especially like to express our gratitude to the members of the graduate faculty (Dr. Anyaegbunam (U of Iowa), Dr. Arrington (U of South Florida), Dr. Barnes (Northwestern U), Dr. Boyd (U of Minnesota), Dr. Case (Stanford U), Dr. Chung (Indiana U), Dr. DeSantis (Indiana U), Dr. Harrington (U of Kentucky), Dr. Hertog (Minnesota U), Dr. Johnson (Michigan State U), Dr. Labunski (UC Santa Barbara), Dr. Lane (U of Oklahoma), Dr. Lindlof (U of Texas), Dr. Noar (U of Rhode Island) Dr. Palmgreen (U of Michigan), Dr. Rankin (U of Texas), Dr. Real (Texas A&M U), Dr. VanTubergen (U of Iowa), Dr. Zimmerman (U of Wisconsin), and Dr. Yoo (U of Texas), who generously give of their time and expertise by teaching classes, serving on committees, and doing what it takes to make the graduate program one of the top programs in the country.

Dr. Jack Baseheart, a good friend and member of our distinguished emeriti faculty (who incidentally also served as acting Associate Dean of the Graduate Program in Communication) recently gave me a sign to hang on the wall of my office. It reads “There will be no crisis this week . . . My schedule is full.” I wonder if he was trying to tell me something about what should count?
On behalf of the Department of Communication Graduate Student Association, I would like to welcome you to attend the 11th Annual Symposium. Our theme this year, “A Vision for the Future,” acknowledges the cutting-edge research our department does and wishes to showcase for this year’s conference.

We are fortunate this year to have Dr. Joe Walther from Michigan State University deliver our keynote address. Dr. Walther will be speaking about his research dealing with computer-mediated communication, fitting perfectly with our symposium theme.

The success of the symposium has depended on many individuals, including Dr. Derek Lane and the symposium committee, comprised of Melissa Chabot, Jennifer Gray, and Stephanie Van Stee. Special thanks also to all University of Kentucky graduate students who have volunteered to assist with the symposium and with visiting students’ weekend.

Enjoy the conference!

Laura Beth Daws
Symposium Chair

Joe Walther is a Professor in the Department of Communication and the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies & Media. His teaching and research focus on the dynamics of computer-mediated communication and the Internet. His work addresses interpersonal relationships, work groups, social support, and educational systems. He has previously held appointments in Information Technology, Psychology, and Education and Social Policy at universities in the US and England. He was chair of the Organizational Communication and Information Systems division of the Academy of Management, and the Communication and Technology division of the International Communication Association.


(Continued on page 10)

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**How long have you been at UK?**
SN: I have been here a little over five years now. I received both my MA and PhD at the University of Rhode Island, graduating in 2001. Then I held a post-doctoral position for two years here at UK, and then started my faculty position here in Fall, 2003.

**What classes are you teaching now?**
SN: I have been teaching the infamous COHORT, the undergraduate research methods class. This class may not contain the most exciting content, but it is one of the most important classes an undergraduate will take. Why? Because it doesn’t matter what the research area or research question is, if the methods are not strong, then you can’t trust the data that is generated from the work. At the graduate level, in fall 2007, I will be teaching Proseminar in Health Communication. I really enjoy teaching that course and am looking forward to it!

**What are you research Interests?**
SN: Broadly speaking, I’m interested in Health Communication. But, one area I focus on is behavioral theory. I try to understand why people behave in unhealthy ways and how we can capture those reasons in the form of theories that can then be applied and tested in research. I’m also interested in message design and tailoring to individuals. Tailoring is a newer concept. Like targeting, you design a message specifically for an audience. The difference is that targeting refers to a message designed for a group, whereas tailoring is a unique message designed for each individual. I’m working on a large meta-analysis project right now with two graduate students on tailoring, Chrissy Benac and Melissa Harris (who just graduated… actually it’s Dr. Harris now!).
The third area I am interested in is interventions. The first couple interests of mine are more theoretical, whereas interventions are more applied. I am interested in seeing if the theories really work in the real world. I collaborate with Rick Zimmerman and Phil Palmgreen on developing and evaluating health mass media campaigns, which I really enjoy. So that’s the “big picture” for me. Behavioral theory, message design, and health interventions are my main areas of interest.

What qualities do you look for in a graduate student that you work with?
SN: The top two things would be enthusiasm about the research and being detail-oriented. It’s important for them to have the drive to do research and to have the skills. I have worked with both MA and PhD students and it has almost always proved to be a successful collaboration.

How do you manage your time and still be so productive in publications?
SN: Good question... How do I do that? (Laughs) Contrary to popular belief, I actually do sleep. It’s really been a trial and error process for me. I try and prioritize. Research productivity is very important for tenure and for making a name for yourself in the field. I have one day a week where all I do is write. You will find me in my office hiding, writing all day, and nothing else. I also have had a lot of success working with graduate students. Graduate students want to get research experience and their name on a publication, and I need help with my research. It is a win-win situation.

Do you have a favorite piece that you have published?
SN: Yeah. Rick Zimmerman and I published a piece about a year ago. It is called “Health Behavior Theory and Cumulative Knowledge Regarding Health Behaviors: Are We Moving in the Right Direction?” This publication received a lot of attention because it called for the segregated theoretical camps of health behavior theory to come together. It suggested that many of the different perspectives in health behavior theory could be bridged together in order to produce a better understanding of health behavior change, rather than us all working with our own theory. It was published with a letter from the editor and two commentaries by other experts in the field, who largely agreed with us. We’ve gotten lots of good feedback on the article. It’s always exciting to have something published that really seems to resonate with people.

What are your future goals?
SN: I’m trying to get a grant funded through NIH. The reality is that if you don’t have funding, your research options are limited. It’s really challenging to get something funded these days because the government is very tight with money right now, but I just keep cracking away at it. I’m also working hard to get tenure When you get tenure, you can chair dissertations. Although I work a lot with graduate students now, I really look forward to that new experience and challenge.

Finally, what do you do when you’re not at work?
SN: I spend lots of time with my family — my wife Elisa and son Jonah. They make what I do so worthwhile! I also play music with my son Jonah (he’s my biggest fan!) and occasionally Alan DeSantis and I “play out” together. I strum some cords, sing some songs, Alan adds the beat, and we have a serious good time!
The Graduate Student Association is thrilled to announce that the fall semester was an eventful one. The Recycling Committee was busy, as always, ensuring that Grehan remains clean and eco-friendly so that all of our great-great-grandchildren may actually have some raw materials left to construct flying cars and the long-awaited teleporter. A killer holiday party, complete with ridiculous amounts of delicious food and a bowl game that left everyone in stitches, brought fall semester to a memorable close. The Social Committee assures an equally eventful spring semester, with a game night, an Oscar party, sushi lessons, Symposium weekend outings, a trip to Keenland and one fantastic End of the Year Picnic all in the works. Meanwhile, the Colloquium Committee has a number of interesting and valuable colloquia planned for the coming months, first of which is a webpage design workshop lead by our very own Renee Human. Finally, plans for A Vision for the Future: The 11th Annual GSA Symposium are well under way. The Campbell House is the confirmed location for this year’s event, taking place Saturday, March 3rd. A call for papers has gone out and volunteers are being summoned for moderator positions and to host prospective graduate students. Many thanks to the Symposium Committee, who are working hard to put together what promises to be a terrific event. So those are the happenings in GSA news. This year’s officers have had a wonderful time serving in their positions. Elections for next year’s crop of GSA officers are just around the corner, so those of you eager to make the graduate program the best it can be are encouraged to start developing a platform and thinking of a catchy slogan.

**Student News**

**Laura Beth Daws**  
Presented at NCA in November:  
*How the Student Government Association Stole Christmas: A Local Perspective on the 2005 ’War’ on Christmas*

**Jennifer Gray**  
Presented at NCA in November:  

Presenting at SSCA in March-April:  

**Rosalie Shemanski**  
Publications:  

Ms. Shemanski was also hired as a grant consultant for “Baby Steps,” a smoking cessation project funded by the March of Dimes and Southern AHEC that targets pregnant women who smoke. She is helping with the development of the measure, analysis of the data, and writing a manuscript/presenting.

**Robert Trad**  
Presented at NCA in November:  
*Engineering Feedback: A Student-Developed Approach to the Assessment of Peer Evaluation in Civil Engineering*
IN THE REARVIEW:
Upclose with Steven Jenkins

As a small child, Steven Jenkins didn’t live behind a white picket fence. His childhood was quite the opposite. Drudging from homeless shelter to homeless shelter, his memories would be emotionally scaring and bleak, right? Wrong. Jenkins’s mother built her child not a physical home, but, instead, she built a home in his heart.

Although she had no college degree to call her own, Jenkins’s mother would instill in her son the importance of the quest for education.

“She gave me the get up and go and taught me that education is what bridges the gap between the two main classes of society, the haves and the have nots.”

Jenkins is the first member of his family to attain a Bachelor’s degree, much less a MA. He graduated with his MA in fall 2006, and is still working at UK as a full-time TA in telecommunications.

He doesn’t deny that it feels good to be done, but he misses the discussions within the classes. “I truly feel like I could debate with anyone, but I miss the mixture of both PhD and MA students together. Bouncing ideas of each other is so exciting, and this program allows all students to interact at the same level.”

Jenkins recalls the most mentally grueling time of his MA career. “Comprehensives were so exciting yet so challenging. For the first time you are seen as a colleague. You are so used to the student to professor relationship, but when its time for comps, you are getting questioned about material you should know by colleagues who definitely know the material.”

When asked what he has taken away from the program, Jenkins replies, “I can think critically. I can defend who I am and my beliefs because I can look at things from many balanced angles, not just my own.”

This is important for a unique individual such as Jenkins. Behind the tattoos lies a critical thinker who has worked on projects concerning subcultures, news portrayals of Anarchist, and the punk scene in Lexington.

Asking Jenkins to look ahead ten years, he described his ideal life. “I want to be cutting grass at Wrigley field,” he laughed. “Well maybe not that, but I just want to be a good guy, and be good at it. I don’t have to be good at something specific. This program has given me the confidence to say, that in ten years, I just want to be happy and be an all around good dude.”
Keli Reynolds (2004) began a new position with Kentucky Housing Corporation as the Self-Sufficiency Manager. Much of the self-sufficiency system that Keli developed while working with a Lexington non-profit will be taken statewide with her new position. Working as part of Governor Fletcher’s 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness, Keli will develop a statewide plan of resources to ensure families move to economic self-sufficiency.

Susan Allard (2003) is currently completing work as a co-PI on a grant funded by IEEE (the engineering society) to study how engineers use and communicate information. This dovetails nicely with her interests in digital libraries and knowledge creation, particularly for innovation. They conducted unobtrusive observation of more than 100 engineers in four high technology firms in the US and 2 hi-tech firms in India. Six UT graduate students traveled with Allard in the US and an additional seven students from Mysore University worked with her in Bangalore, India. Allard is also working on a collaborative teaching project about digital libraries with Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India.

A note from Dan Jaco (1971): For the past twenty years, I have worked in health care quality improvement, most of that time as CEO of two organizations, one in Missouri, the second now in the great Southwest. While many of my counterparts around the country for a long time looked at communication as an activity involving designing brochures and polishing presentations for other staff, I have always regarded the communication staff as integral to the project team process we use to work with health care providers in virtually every venue. I am happy to say the old view of the role of communication in helping to design and implement intervention strategies to improve health care has now faded. If any of the old gang from 1969-71 are still out there, I hope they will weigh in.
Faculty Publications


What are you doing now? We want to know. Please help us and your colleagues keep up with what is going on in your life. Email any news or updates you have to lisa.beeler@uky.edu or drlane@uky.edu.
Alumni Information & Feedback Wanted

Please complete this form and mail to:
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Attn: Director of Graduate Studies
106 Grehan Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0042
Or submit info online at www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Alumni

Name:___________________________________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________________________
Business Phone:______________________________________Home Phone___________________________
Email Address:____________________________________________________________________________
Date of Graduation from UK (Month/Year)_________________Degree:______________________________
News for the Graduate Program Standard’s Alumni Update:

Elizabeth Webb and Robert Trader were this year’s co-recipients of the Bruce Westley Memorial Graduate Scholarship, Sarah Cavendish was the winner of the Howard and Beverly Sypher Memorial Scholarship and Melissa Chabot was the winner of the R. Lewis Donohew Graduate Fellowship.