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Editor/Designer: Lisa L. Beeler
Reflections on the past year at the University of Kentucky leave me with mixed feelings of happiness, sadness, and remorse as well as a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Dr. Enid Waldhart, who has been instrumental in the socialization of graduate teaching assistants for more than thirty years, has chosen to retire effective the end of June, 2007. Her leadership and support will most assuredly be missed. Michael Todd Brent, one of our master’s degree candidates, passed away on April 17, 2007—just weeks before he was scheduled to defend his comprehensive exams (read the complete story in this newsletter). Michael’s M.A. degree will be conferred posthumously during the spring 2007 graduation. Several graduate faculty welcomed new additions into their families. Dr. Kevin Real (Department of Communication) and his wife Mistee, welcomed Patrick; Dr. Michael Arrington (Department of Communication) and his wife Tamara adopted a beautiful baby girl, Mia; and Dr. Chan Yoo (Integrated Strategic Communication, School of Journalism and Telecommunications) and his wife, Hey Young, welcomed Ian into their home on January 19, 2007.

Please spend a few minutes to read about the many faculty and student accomplishments as well as the successful events that occurred during the Spring 2007 semester (including the Spring Graduate Faculty Retreat in January, the 11th Annual Graduate Student Association Communication Symposium in March, and end-of-the-year GSA picnic in April), we are confident that you will agree that the graduate program is prospering, the graduate faculty and students are advancing the frontiers of knowledge, and our alumni are making positive contributions as faculty and as researchers in academic, corporate, and government positions.

This issue of the Graduate Program Standard highlights the career of Dr. Philip Palmgreen. Lisa Beeler has, once again, demonstrated his competence in crafting messages and I very much appreciate her exemplary organizational and creative efforts as Editor. Lisa is writing her thesis that tests a genre-specific application of Gerbner’s controversial cultivation theory in an attempt to understand the media effects of viewing horror films. She is scheduled to defend her Master’s thesis before the end of December, 2007.
The success of the semester is due, in large part, to the impressive leadership of the Graduate Student Association officers. We are especially grateful to Sarah Riley and Morgan Poor who served as Co-chairs, Nikki Dobransky, who served as Secretary, Erin Gilles, who served as Treasurer and Laura Beth Daws who went above and beyond in her responsibilities as chair of the GSA symposium and visiting student weekend. Please take the time to read about the details of several colloquia, socials, and the annual symposium.

Congratulations to all of our graduates this year. Nine doctoral students successfully defended their Dissertations this year. They were, in order of completion, Angela Cooke-Jackson, Wenli Yuan, Christopher Swindell, Sharon Wills Brescoach, Billy Wooten, Melissa Sue Harris, Zachary Henning, Sarah Cavendish, and Robert Joseph Trader. We would also like to recognize the new Doctoral Candidates who successfully defended their qualifying exams over the past year: Jennifer Gray, Nicole Dobransky, Debra Nickell, and Kelly Dixon. Finally, we are proud to announce that eleven Master’s students successfully completed comprehensive exams during the last year: Jonathan Tyler Hampton, Aaron Joseph Marshall, Danielle Landolt, Chas Hartman, Steven Jenkins, Keith Hautala, Sara Cunningham, Schyler Brooke Simpson, Trysh Thompson, Michael Todd Brent, and Morgan Poor. We extend our best wishes in their future endeavors and want them all to know that we are extremely proud of them. When you have a free minute or two, please send me an email and let me know how and what you are doing. As you advance in your career, I trust you will consider contributing to our Graduate Fund to support future graduate students. Giving to the graduate program provides you with an excellent tax benefit and helps to support graduate student research and travel. Janice Birdwhistell, the college development officer, has provided detailed information about how you can financially support the graduate program in this newsletter. Even if you are only able to give $10, $25, or $50 – every dollar helps!

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. Also, 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.

We are also pleased to announce changes in the GSA leadership based on the end of the year elections. The new Graduate Student Association officers for 2007-2008 academic year include Laura Beth Daws and John Gillispie (who will serve as GSA Co-Chairs), Rosalie Shemanski (who will serve as GSA Secretary), and Elizabeth Webb (who will serve as GSA Treasurer).

We sincerely hope you enjoy this issue of the Graduate Program Standard and look forward to hearing what is happening in your life. Please send us a business card, complete the contact information on the last page of this newsletter, send us an email (Derek.Lane@uky.edu), and/or submit your information online by following the link to the alumni section: http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Alumni/

Have a great summer and please, drop us a note to let us know what is going on in your life!
Ways to Give to the Graduate Program

Gifts of cash can be made by check, by bank wire transfer or fixed amounts can be given to UK monthly or quarterly for a defined or indefinite period. Gifts may also be wired directly from your bank to UK’s bank through a wire transfer. Gifts of outright cash are the most valuable form of support for the Program. Because they are immediately available (and often unrestricted), they allow us the flexibility to meet our most pressing needs. Cash gifts made by check should be payable to the University of Kentucky and mailed with a letter designating their purpose to our College’s Development Officer.

Gifts of stock can be made by instructing your broker or banker to transfer the stock to the University of Kentucky. You may be able to receive a special tax advantage for gifts of securities.

Gifts-in-Kind can include contributions of personal property such as art, real estate, coin collections, gems/jewelry, books, stamp collections, equipment, and certain publicly traded securities.

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Become a University Fellow. The minimum amount required to become a Fellow is $10,000. Your membership can be designated to an existing program or endowment. For additional information go to: http://www.uky.edu/Development/give2uk/fellows.htm

How can I make a gift?
There are several ways to make your gift:
• Make a credit card gift online through UK’s secure server. Go to: https://iweb.uky.edu/giveonline/
• Send it through the mail. Write a check, payable to the University of Kentucky, and mail it to the address below. You can also send a credit card donation through the mail by completing and printing the make a gift online form, but instead of hitting the “submit” button, print out the form and mail it to the address below. Then cancel the form on your computer.
• Respond to our mail or annual Phonathon solicitations held in the fall and spring.

For More Information
Visit the College Web page: http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/development.html

Contact: Janice Birdwhistell
Development Officer
College of Communications and Information Studies
129 Grehan Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0042
To Phil Palmgreen, the old saying there’s no place like home must be accurate. Palmgreen grew up in Lexington, after moving with his family from a military base in Montgomery, AL at age one.

After attending high school in Lexington, Palmgreen decided to stay and attend the University of Kentucky. After receiving his BA, he continued at UK in hopes of attaining an MA in Communication. Although Palmgreen assumed he would take the terminal MA route and go into public relations, a class taught by Lewis Donohew proved to be the most influential class he would ever take. This course would be Communication Theory. “I really enjoyed this class. Donohew was an amazing professor who had all of us extremely interested in theory. I would get back papers and have A’s or A pluses and Donohew would ask if he could get a copy of my paper for his files. That, of course, gave me all kinds of positive feedback. I really enjoyed theory and seemed to be fairly good at it. This class is what sparked my interest in attaining a PhD,” said Palmgreen.

Palmgreen then went on to the University of Washington for a year, and then the University of Michigan to receive his PhD in Mass Communication in 1975. Then, he would come back to where his heart and family were--Lexington, Ky.

“Research methods is still my first love. I’ve always been excited about methods; however, now, the Health Campaigns course I teach runs a close second.”

It is hard to believe that Dr. Palmgreen began by teaching sections of COM 101. It is no surprise, however, that he also taught sections of the undergraduate research methods course.

After two years, Palmgreen was asked to teach CJT 665, graduate research methods. Thirty years later, walking into the Grehan Building, you can still hear Palmgreen teaching those same research methods to graduate students, with the addition of many years of experience and new methods like the terrifying Structural Equation Modeling.

After over three decades of teaching research methods, one would think Palmgreen would grow weary of ANOVAs and regression, but he still considers it his favorite class to teach. “Research methods is still my first love. I’ve always been excited about methods; however, now, the Health Campaigns course I teach runs a close second,” said Palmgreen.

Palmgreen’s interests are in health communication campaigns and his biggest academic accomplishment was in this area. “The accomplishment that I am most proud of is my work with the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s anti-drug Campaign. I was invited to be part of a panel to help design the campaign. That led to an invitation to be part of the campaign’s scientific oversight panel. I was on that panel for four years. I really had a chance to feel that my research was making a difference on a national scale. I really had an influence on how the messages were designed, the targeting of the message and the campaign design. Working with esteemed ad agencies and government officials all over the country became quite enjoyable. It was less like work and more
like fun,” said Palmgreen.

Nothing has changed today. Palmgreen is still enjoying his research in health communication campaigns and is still teaching the graduate research methods course. There is one more activity that has stuck with Palmgreen throughout his life—fishing. However, he has come a long way since he was merely a child fishing off a bank with a cane pole. “Someone introduced me to wading and fishing for smallmouth bass when I was about 18, and since then I have probably waded every stream within a radius of 40 miles of Lexington. I know exactly where every steep drop off is, because I’ve been in them,” he laughs. The largest fish Palmgreen has ever caught, without a guide, was a 6 lb. bass near Frankfort, KY. Pictures of this triumph and other fishing expeditions line the walls of his office and the bulletin board outside his door. In the graduate research methods class it is not uncommon to hear about correlation in terms of fishing. It is no surprise, since these are two of Palmgreen’s greatest loves.
When the committee first met in September to develop a theme for the 11th annual Graduate Student Association Symposium, someone jokingly suggested “A Vision For the Future,” so we could give away 3-D glasses and decorate the room with UFOs, aliens, and flying cars, all cultural icons generally associated with the future.

After we finished laughing, we came to the conclusion that, joking aside, “A Vision for the Future” was actually a perfect theme for this year’s conference. It implied that we, as graduate students and as a department, are working together for the future of the communication discipline.

Besides that, we hoped the theme would encourage work that showcased some of the cutting edge research being conducted by grad students and faculty.

It was evident, then, that our guest speaker should be someone working with new technologies. You can imagine our excitement when Dr. Joe Walther of Michigan State University agreed to serve as our keynote speaker. You can also imagine our disappointment when we discovered that, due to a Michigan snowstorm, he was unable to fly out of Lansing.

Luckily, it means Dr. Walther will pay us a visit later, and it also afforded the conference attendees the opportunity to engage in a roundtable discussion about the implications of new media on our research, our students and our everyday lives.

The Campbell House proved to be a great location for our conference. Judging from the feedback received, the forty panelists, faculty respondents, and other attendees enjoyed the fellowship and discussion that emerged from the five different graduate student panels.

The opening session showcased a sample of research that employed qualitative methods to answer research questions about children at the grocery store, media use in religious sanctuaries and race and class issues in New York City. Then, students presented ideas for new directions in interpersonal communication research, with some interesting proposals for work with in-law communication and relational dialectics. This was followed by new research in health communication.

After lunch, we heard proposals for new directions in mass communication and instructional communication, and the day concluded with participants from communication and the Patterson School presenting research on intercultural communication, focusing on international media and sports. This interdisciplinary panel demonstrated the importance of collaboration among disciplines, as all research from this panel came from Dr. Boyd’s Intercultural Communication seminar from last fall.

Held in conjunction with visiting students’ weekend, the symposium introduced potential graduate students to some of the exciting work being conducted here by graduate students.

This began several interesting conversations about the role of research in graduate study and new ideas for future research as well. Both veteran students and visiting
students enjoyed the day.

Melissa Chabot, Jennifer Gray, Stephanie Van Stee and I, as members of the committee, sincerely appreciate the outpouring of support from faculty and fellow graduate students for not only the symposium but also for the entire visiting students weekend.

While we received great feedback on the day of the conference, we encourage anyone who has ideas or suggestions for future symposiums to let us know!

Thanks to those who helped make this year’s symposium memorable, even without 3-D glasses or space aged decorations.

Presenters at 2007 Graduate Symposium

Morgan Poor, University of Kentucky
  Paper or Plastic? Parent-Child Communication Patterns in a Supermarket Setting

Lisa Beeler, University of Kentucky
  Hollywood Quality Church: Media Use in Sanctuaries

Sarah Cavendish, University of Kentucky
  Subways, Service, and Students: New York City Through the Lens of Race, Class, and Gender

Renee Human, University of Kentucky
  Migrating Online: Perception of Functional Propinquity and The Function Of Lingering Physical Memory in Maintaining Interpersonal Non-Romantic Relationships that Have Transferred From Face-to-Face to Computer-Mediated Contexts

Stephanie Van Stee, University of Kentucky
  Communicating with In-Laws: A Dialectical Approach

Melissa Chabot, University of Kentucky
  The Role of Sensation Value in the Effectiveness of PSAs aimed at Postponing Sex among Middle School Students: An Initial Study

Jennifer Gray, University of Kentucky
  Physician Talk and Gender: Stories and Endings in the Medical Realm

Sarah Riley, University of Kentucky
  A Shot in the Arm: An Examination of Three Health Behavior Theories in Diabetes Education

Laura Beth Daws, University of Kentucky
  Media System Dependency Theory: Towards an Interpretive Approach

Robert J. Trader, University of Kentucky
  Message Centered Instructional Communication Research: The Need for a Pragmatic Approach

Tim Wiseman, University of Kentucky
  Learning to Play Together: The Diplomacy of Sports

Andi Johnson, University of Kentucky
  Ghanaian Mass Media: Vibrant Then and Now

Lauren Staun, University of Kentucky
  International News Broadcasts and the CNN Effect: A Crucial Topic of Research or Just a Waste of Time?

Alexandra Haynes, University of Kentucky
  The CNN Effect or the Celebrity Effect? How Media and Celebrities Inspire International Activist
If the amount of books, journal articles and papers on a desk are correlated to success, then there is no wonder that Sarah Cavendish’s desk has no empty space.

Walking into the graduate student offices, most students’ desks are covered with a few papers, some pencils and maybe an empty granola bar packet. Cavendish’s desk is overflowing with books that pertain to her research, her MA program’s (Marshall) mascot and student speech outlines.

She is “that” student; the one that always manages to spawn a brilliant idea, finds time to go to UK basketball games and forever wears a smile.

Cavendish defines herself as living in two different research worlds. “Mentoring is the topic of my dissertation but I feel as if I have just scratched the surface. I have so much more that I would like to do in this area. I also live in the world of tobacco control policy. Topics in this area include issues such as smoke free policies.”

When asked about her favorite research projects she has conducted while at UK Sarah replied, “I have two. I conducted focus groups with Dr. Chike about tractor safety and farmers. It was the most unique and out of the box research that I have done. We wanted to learn about rollover structures and such. My other favorite was a project for a family communication course. Here, I also conducted focus groups, but with women from different graduate programs at UK. I was asking about balance issues and conflict management. It was really neat to do research that I could see from both a professional and personal place. I found out that everyone struggles with balance in graduate school.”

Cavendish plans to graduate in spring 2007. She is still in the process of negotiating a job. “I came from the public policy world and I expect to end up back in that world at some point in the future,” said Cavendish.

Wherever Sarah’s future is, there is no doubt that it will be one to be proud of. While in the graduate program she has managed to juggle work, research, a social life and leadership roles. Cavendish has held titles such as co-chair for symposium, co-chair of GSA and President of the newly formed Graduate Student Congress.

The Graduate Student Congress was started from scratch by Sarah and a small group of UK graduate students across campus. “It gives a diverse group of graduate students from all over campus a voice,” said Cavendish. This congress co-hosted the first ever interdisciplinary graduate student research conference in April 2007.

Cavendish has had an extremely productive and busy three years of her life here at UK, but she still found time to do fun activities such as attend Citizens Police Academy last semester. It is a 12-week program where citizens learn about all the aspects of the police department such as police dogs and crime scene investigation.
The communication graduate program is losing an amazing student this spring; however, she will take with her the legacy of the program. “The most valuable aspect that I will take away from this program are the research methods I have learned. I have conducted projects using both qualitative and quantitative methods. I came in from a terminal masters program and didn’t have much in-depth knowledge about social science research methods, but now I feel confident and well-rounded in research,” Cavendish said.

Cavendish’s advice for MA students who are thinking about PhD programs is to “Really get to know about the programs you’re looking at. Find out what the college offers outside and inside the classroom. It’s important to learn about the culture of the graduate student. It’s important to learn your flavor.” Sarah found her flavor for the last three years here at UK. Her flavor wasn’t strawberry, mango, or vanilla; her flavor was success.

Publication:

Chrisie Balding presented “Marketing your University Parking Department & Student Involvement” at the Mid-South Transportation & Parking Association Conference in March 2007.

Chriissy Benac presented at the Southern Gerontological Society Conference (Greensboro, NC) in April. Her paper was entitled: Unlikely Populations as Greatest Users: Immigrants Use of Dental Services. She is also working with Scott Johnson to design a computer program that helps dental educators tailor oral health messages. Her research is in coordinating with Public Health Dentistry.

Anna Goodman Hoover joined Dr. Lindell Ormsbee, Dr. Lisa Gaetke, Carolyn Hofe, and Stephanie Jenkins in co-authoring the poster “Leveraging Partnerships for Improved Research Translation”, which was presented at the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Science’s Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP) 2006 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. The University of Kentucky is one of fifteen universities currently funded by SBRP to conduct multidisciplinary research addressing human and environmental health issues related to hazardous waste sites. Hoover and her colleagues comprise the UK SBRP’s Research Translation and Community Outreach Cores, which are charged with communicating risk-related information and research outcomes to a number of constituencies in government, the health professions, industry, academia, impacted communities, and the general public.

Rosalie Shemanski just started working on the Kentucky Suicide Prevention in Youth - a Collaborative Effort (SPYCE) as a consultant/student worker. The purpose of the project is to raise awareness, enhance quality of interventions, and utilize effective research and data collection methodologies to ultimately reduce the number of suicides completed by the youth in Kentucky. I’ll be helping to develop evaluation measures, conducting focus groups, analyze data, and write manuscripts.


Robert Trader has accepted a Tenure Track, Assistant Professor Position in the Department of Communication at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland starting Fall, 2007. McDaniel College is a small, selective, private liberal arts college that emphasizes teaching excellence and which strives to foster civic engagement and to create a difference in the lives of its students.


He is finishing up his dissertation on the cognitive aspects of meaning generation within the higher education classroom. This dissertation is somewhat unique within the Instructional Communication genre since it is the first Instructional Communication research study that takes a true message orientation to the challenge of optimizing student cognitive learning outcomes within the higher education context.

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 or Home Phone__________________ Email_____________
Date of Graduation from UK(Month/Year/Degree)________________
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