

*The College of Communications and Information Studies*

# GRADUATE PROGRAM STANDARD

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
106 GREHAN BUILDING, LEXINGTON, KY 40506-0042



**IF WALLS COULD TALK:**

*The Students of Grehan*

*Issue 50, 2007-2008*

# LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN



In this issue of the Graduate Program Standard we reflect upon our accomplishments over the past two years and look ahead to the next two years as we work together to further enhance our reputation and visibility in the discipline. When I accepted the responsibilities of Associate Dean for Graduate Programs in Communication I was steadfast in my commitment to increase information access and

to increase our recruiting efforts. Though some progress has been made, we still have much work to do. Let me begin with an update on our new recruiting class, total graduate student enrollment, and alumni information. I'll follow with a discussion of the fall and spring events and conclude with a discussion of our ongoing strategic planning efforts.

## New 2007 Recruiting Class

In the fall we welcomed six new doctoral students (Mary Branham, Chas Hartman, Ryan McCullough, Jenny Maginnis, Jason Martin, and David Wheeler) seven new master's students (Justin Allen, Brianna Bodine, Jen Bustle, Laura Coleman, Caitlin Dixon, Tim Wiseman, and Bob Zuercher) and two University Scholar students (Jenny McAninch and Sharon Santo) into our graduate program. Take a look at their photographs and a short biographical statement provided in this newsletter.

## Total Graduate Student Enrollment

There are currently 62 students enrolled in the graduate program. Sixteen students are doctoral candidates and are currently working on dissertations, nineteen Ph.D students are taking coursework, twenty-seven M.A. students are taking coursework, and three students are enrolled in the University Scholar Program.

Since May 10, 2007, two master's students have completed their theses, nine master's students have taken comprehensive exams, nine doctoral students have completed qualifying exams, and four students have successfully defended their dissertations and have earned their doctorate degree.

*MA Thesis:* Morgan Poor, Cassandra Selena Stevens.

*MA Comprehensive Exams:* Taylor Papania, Amanda Harsin, Anna Hoover, Lisa Beeler, John Gillispie, Christine Tigas, Laura Coleman, Tim Wiseman, Brad Arterburn.

*PhD Qualifying:* Nicole Dobransky, Debra Nickell, Kelly Dixon, Chrissy Benac, Purnima Mehrotra, Sarah Riley, Erin Gilles, Laura Beth Daws, Elizabeth Webb.

*PhD Dissertation:* Sarah Cavendish, Robert Trader, Zhwien Xiao, Flo Witte.

## Alumni Information

The M.A. program was approved in the fall of 1966 and the first degree was conferred in 1967. To date, 310 Master of Arts degrees in communication have been awarded. The Ph.D. program (in the restructured College of Communications) was approved in December 1977 but it wasn't until 1980 that the first students were admitted and 1983 before the first degree was awarded. To date, 141 doctoral degrees in communication have been awarded!

## Graduate Faculty Data

There are currently twenty-eight members of the college graduate faculty. Of those seventeen are full primary graduate faculty members including three recently added full primary graduate faculty (Dr. Deanna Sellnow, Dr. Tim Sellnow, and Dr Seth Noar) and ten are associate primary graduate faculty members including five recently added associate primary graduate faculty: Dr. Elisia Cohen, Dr. Philip Hutchison, Dr. Mark Stuhlfaut, Dr. Zixue Tai, and Dr. Mina Tsay. I am pleased to welcome the new graduate faculty to our college and to congratulate Dr. Nancy Harrington and Dr. Richard Labunski for their recent promotions from Associate Professor to Full Professor! I would also like to congratulate Dr. Van Tubergen on his retirement at the end of the year.

In addition to the college graduate faculty, there are six additional graduate faculty who have a secondary appointment in our college. Four of the six are Full Secondary Graduate Faculty members and the remaining two are Associate Secondary Graduate Faculty Members. We also have six emeriti graduate faculty members (Dr. Applegate, Dr. Baseheart, Dr. Bostrom, Dr. Donohew, Dr. Moore, and Dr. Rush) that together helped to create the graduate program we enjoy today.

In order to improve information access we created a new graduate program webpage that is available at <http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD>. We are currently in the process of updating the technology for the website so that a database can be used to populate and update the site using SQL and PHP. We are also creating new recruitment materials to increase our visibility at regional, national, and international conferences.



## Fall Data

We began the fall semester with a new student orientation and the annual Graduate Student Association picnic. I want to thank all of the graduate students for their support. I would especially like to recognize the 2007-2008 GSA officers (co-chairs Laura Beth Daws and John Gillispie, secretary Rosalie Shemanski, and treasurer Elizabeth Webb) for their commitment to the graduate program and their willingness to go beyond what is expected to ensure the quality and participation of all graduate events. Instead of a spring retreat, graduate faculty and students met on October 5 to discuss strategies for improving the process of graduate comprehensive and qualifying exams. In addition, a "Friday Afternoon Club" was formed which met at



the newly remodeled Pazzos and provided the opportunity for graduate students and faculty to socialize outside the classroom. Finally, Dr. Joe Walther from Michigan State University was finally able to fly out of East Lansing to present a colloquium on November 8 titled "The Past, Present, and Future of Computer-Mediated Communication Research." Thanks Joe!

## Spring Events

The 12th Annual Graduate Student Association Symposium took place on March 1, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. More information can be found here: <http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Symposium>.

The Kentucky Conference on Health Communication was held on April 17-19, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. The theme of the 2008 conference was "The Future of Health Communication: Where Are We Going and How Do We Get There?" To see photographs from the conference, visit: <http://comm.uky.edu/kchc>.

## Strategic Planning

The University of Kentucky offers the only doctoral communication program currently available in the Commonwealth. Whereas many undergraduate communication programs focus primarily on knowledge dissemination, and communication master's programs on knowledge utilization, doctoral communication programs are expected to focus on knowledge generation. Therefore, the UK CCIS communication graduate program approaches the study of communication as a social science with an emphasis on both theory construction and

empirical research methods in order to generate new knowledge about communication as a core process. As such, our strategic planning efforts include several important features involving faculty recruitment, curriculum renovation, confident marketing plans, and increased interaction with our alumni.

We are currently developing a strategic plan to renovate the curriculum. The plan includes the addition of new faculty who will teach existing and new graduate seminars. The new curriculum will continue to instill in students the importance of positively contributing to the discipline during and after completion of their graduate degree. Because graduate students are acutely aware that a steady record of publication helps them find future work in a university and gain acceptance in the scientific community, we continue to offer a series of colloquia to help graduate students get their research published. We are also developing a marketing plan that attempts to tell the UK Communication graduate story more confidently and calls for more frequent interactions with our alumni to recruit new graduate students.

It is important for us to work together to build a solid endowment, a key indicator of financial health and to boldly ask for the resources we need to accomplish our vision. I would like to personally thank all of you for your continued financial support for the graduate program. Your contributions make it possible for graduate students to attend conferences, present their research, and obtain valuable feedback that increases the likelihood that their research will be published. For more information about how to contribute, visit: <http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/alumni.html>.

## Keep in Touch

We need to hear from you so please, drop us an email (Derek.Lane@uky.edu) send us a digital photograph, or simply complete the online form at <http://comm.uky.edu/grad/alumni/>. Let us know what is happening in your lives! We all enjoy reading about where you are and what you are doing. Alumni frequently lose contact with graduate friends and the newsletter is an excellent vehicle for reconnecting with graduate school friends.



# CURRENT MA STUDENTS



**Justin Allen, MA**  
Mass Communication  
Eastern Kentucky University  
"I'm working as a Director at WTVO-TV and plan to finish my M.A. in Spring 2009."



**Brianna Bodine, MA**  
Health Communication  
Northern Kentucky University  
"I love to ride motorcycles, fly fish, and karate; but I love to bake, so I guess I'm contrary. Yup, that's probably my defining personality trait!"



**Jen Bustle, MA**  
Interpersonal Communications  
Georgetown College  
"I'm from Atlanta, Georgia and I love to go 4-wheeling and "craft" (paint, draw, etc.) in my free time. I've also been known to rock out to some 80s Madonna music!"



**Caitlin Dixon, MA**  
Mass Communications  
University of Kentucky  
"I would love to eventually do advertising research for a publication such as Fodor's. My primary love is traveling and if I could somehow combine my two interests, I feel like I would truly have the best of both worlds!"



**Kelly McAninch, MA**  
Interpersonal  
University of Kentucky  
"I've ridden horses competitively since I was eight. I'll finish my M.A. as a University Scholar in May of 2009"



**Sharon Santo, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I'm a University Scholar and plan to join the Peace Corps and then the foreign service when I finish my degree."



**Lauren M. Staun, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I minored in Spanish as an undergraduate and plan to defend my comps on May 28 when I return from England where I have been completing a graduate internship."



**Stephanie Van Stee, MA**  
Interpersonal Communication  
Hope College  
"I've helped build a house in South Carolina for Habitat for Humanity. I'll be defending my thesis on July 14, 2008."



**Robert "Bob" Zuercher, MA**  
Mass Communications  
University of Kentucky  
"I was a former radio deejay and production director at WRFL 88.1 FM."

## NOT PICTURED

April Bailey  
Christina Balding-Tune  
Catherine Crank  
Heather Russell

# 2008 M.A. GRADUATES



**Bradley Arterburn, MA**  
Mass Communication  
Western Kentucky  
University  
"Thank you all for the degree, now let's see how I can put it to good use!"



**Lisa Beeler, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Tennessee  
"I was accepted to Texas, Tennessee and Columbia. Decision pending."



**Laura Coleman, MA**  
Mass Communication  
Centre College  
"If I were offered the chance--and it would work-- I would quit school and live on the streets to work for Barack Obama to get him elected. Then I would write his speeches."



**John Gillispie, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I'm the GA at UK outdoor pursuits. Sign up for my trips, i'll show you a good time. Top paper recognition at Southern States Communication Association Conference April 2005."



**Amanda Harsin, MA**  
Hanover College  
Interpersonal  
Communication  
Amanda successfully defended her comprehensive exams in November



**Anna Hoover, MA**  
Health Communication  
Florida State University  
"My job involves tailoring risk information about environmental pollutants and public health for a number of different audiences. This summer I served as dramaturg for Actors Guild of Lexington's inaugural Shakespeare at Equus Run production of Love's Labour's Lost."



**Taylor Papania, MA**  
Health Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I finished with my MA in December. My dream job is to do research for a pharmaceutical company!"



**Chrissy Tigas, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I'm interested in the internet. Always happy to get involved in an ethnography."



**Tim Wiseman, MA**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I once wrote in the Kentucky Kernel that Rich Brooks was the wrong guy to coach UK. I was wrong about that, and he likes to remind me."

**Cassandra Selena Stevens**  
(not pictured) defended her thesis in February.



# CURRENT PHD STUDENTS



**Jennifer Fairchild,**  
Interpersonal  
University of Kentucky  
"I can't wait for the summer so I can go to Disney World with my son, Thomas, and my husband, Scott!"



**Chas Hartman**  
Mass Communications  
University of Kentucky  
"As a former newspaper reporter I am interested in the role gender will play during media coverage of this year's presidential election."



**J. Human**  
Mass Communications  
Asbury College  
He will be presenting a paper at the 2008 International Communication Association Conference in Canada with Dr. Hertog titled "Candidate Campaign Experience and Willingness to Run Again".



**Renee Human,**  
Interpersonal relationships mediated by technology  
University of Kentucky  
"I'm completing my first publication — a qualitative study on communication practices on the city bus -- for Liminalities, a performance studies journal (<http://liminalities.net/>). The proposal was accepted and the final project will be published in March 2008."



**Jim Gleason**  
Mass Communication  
SUNY New Paltz (MA 1977)  
"I am teaching PR and Advertising at ECU. I Play guitar in a number of rock bands including the Johnson Brothers, The Bats (my wife's band. I play stunt guitar) and the Sons of the Frigidaires. I also presented at the 5th International Conference of the Book in Madrid."



**Patrick Leddin,**  
Interpersonal and Instructional Communication  
Webster University  
"work expands to time available."  
"The unexamined life is not worth living"- Socrates



**Jenny Maginnis,**  
Interpersonal Communication  
Michigan State University  
"If grad school doesn't work out, I will leave the ivory tower for the golf course!"



**Jason Martin,**  
Mass and Interpersonal Communication  
Ohio State University  
"My wife and I took a roadtrip across the U.S. before we got married."



**David Wheeler,**  
Mass Communication  
University of Kentucky  
"I teach journalism classes at Asbury College and advise their student newspaper."

**Gary Hughes,**  
Western Kentucky University  
"In addition to taking doctoral coursework I teach full-time at WKU."

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

# ABD STUDENTS



**Chrissy Benac, ABD**  
Health Communication  
University of Dayton  
Chrissy presented at NCA.  
Noar, S. M., Benac, C., & Harris, M.  
(November, 2007). Peering into the  
"black box": A meta-analysis of print  
tailored health behavior change  
interventions. Paper accepted for pre-  
sentation at the Ninety-third Annual  
Convention of the National Commu-  
nication Association, Chicago, IL.



**Carla Bevins, ABD**  
Health Communication  
Butler University  
"I'm a medical writer  
and editor for a con-  
tinuing medical educa-  
tion (CME) company in  
Lexington. I get to use  
my background in both  
writing and health com-  
munication."



**Laura Beth Daws, ABD**  
Mass Communication  
Auburn University  
"I love to cook and  
blog about my experi-  
ences in the kitchen  
on lbdelicious.com."



**Kelly Dixon, ABD**  
Interpersonal  
Communication  
North Carolina State  
University  
"I am on track to gradu-  
ate in May 2009 with a  
focus on interpersonal  
communication in orga-  
nizational contexts."



**Nikki Dobransky, ABD**  
Interpersonal/Instruc-  
tional Communication  
Miami University OF  
"I just took an Assis-  
tant Professor position  
at Ohio University-  
Lancaster but my heart  
will forever be in Lex-  
ington."



**Niki Floyd, ABD**  
Morehead State  
University  
"I have a Yellow belt  
in Taekwondo and am  
currently working as  
a Research Assistant  
with Dr. Rick Zimmer-  
man."



**Raj Gaur, ABD**  
Mass Communication  
Kansas State  
University  
"I will be doing my data  
collection for an eth-  
nography in India from  
January 2008 till April  
2008."



**Erin Giles, ABD**  
Mass Communication  
Murray State  
University  
"I am planning to take  
my 3rd trip to Europe  
this summer, where  
I plan to add to my  
collection of Ger-  
man music CDs and  
glassware."



**Jennifer Gray, ABD**  
Health Communication  
University of New  
Orleans  
"I'm defending my dis-  
sertation on May 23 and  
moving with my hus-  
band to North Carolina.  
I begin my new faculty  
position at Appalachian  
State University in the  
fall."

# ABD STUDENTS



**Purnima Mehrotra, ABD**  
Health Communication  
University of Kentucky  
She will be presenting two papers at the 2008 International Communication Association Conference in Canada, one on her own and one with several other faculty members.



**Sarah Riley, ABD**  
Health Communication  
Ball State University  
"I'm the president of the Graduate Student Congress, our campus-wide graduate student organization."



**Jennifer Robinette, ABD**  
Mass Communication-Interactivity  
Marshall University  
"My fallback career, if something should go awry with my PhD is 'male model talent scout'."



**Rosalie Shemanski, ABD**  
Interpersonal Health  
Michigan State University  
"I'm getting married July 12, 2008 in the Bahamas! I am also working with Dr. Julie Cerel in the Social Work department on a state wide suicide awareness campaign. I am helping her use the Theory of Planned Behavior to measure change over the course of 3 years."



**Elizabeth Webb, ABD**  
University of Kentucky  
"Health Communication  
"I have enjoyed teaching the intercultural communication class, and I am very excited to be working on the Tailored Information Program for Safer Sex (TIPS) project."

## **Amy Akers, (ABD)**

Amy is working on her dissertation while being a full-time mother and wife.

## **Clint Baldwin, (ABD)**

"I anonymously hung a 70 lb. mounted moose head (as is typical with moose, it being large is an understatement) in our history and political science department this semester. I have since confessed to my caper and we have named the moose, hung Christmas lights in its antlers and taken dept. photos with it. "

## **Eileen Drust, (ABD)**

"I'm currently teaching as an adjunct at NKU and the College of Mount St. Joseph while I'm working on my dissertation."

## **Deborah Givens, (ABD)**

Deborah is working on her dissertation and teaching journalism courses in the Department of Communication at Eastern Kentucky University.

## **Adel Iskandar (ABD)**

Adel works in the School of International Service, American University, Washington.

## **Debra Nickell, (ABD), Health Communication**

Debra is a senior clinical coordinator and lecturer in the Division of Physician Assistant Studies in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky.

## **Anne Streeter, (ABD)**

"My husband and I are pursuing our dream of having a Paso Fino horse farm in Liberty, Ky., and I recently stepped down from my position as Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations to become a marketing and PR consultant (Streeter Communication) so that I can finish my dissertation, continue to work (though less hours) and be at home to help on the farm!!"

## **Bill Weathers, ABD**

Bill is currently finishing his dissertation on addiction narratives and lives in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky



# NEW GRADUATE FACULTY



**ELISIA L. COHEN**, Assistant Professor; B.A., 1997, University of Louisville; M.A., 1999, Wake Forest University; Ph.D., 2003, University of Southern California. Special areas: Mass communication and culture; health and risk communication; public argument; textual analysis.



**PHILIP HUTCHISON**, Assistant Professor; B.A. 1979, Drake University; M.S. 1988, University of Utah; Ph.D. 2005, University of Utah. Special Areas: Public Relations; media history; media, culture, and society; historical research methods; critical research methods.



**DEANNA D. SELLNOW**, Professor; B.S. 1984, North Dakota State University; M.M. 1987, Wayne State University; Ph.D. 1991, University of North Dakota. Special areas: Instructional communication; educational assessment; popular culture rhetoric (particularly popular music); gender communication.



**TIMOTHY L. SELLNOW**, Professor; B.A. 1982, St. Cloud State University; M.A. 1984, North Dakota State University; Ph.D. 1987 Wayne State University. Special areas: Risk and crisis communication, bioterrorism, global pandemic preparedness planning, food safety, organizational communication.



**MARK STUHLFAUT**, Assistant Professor; B.A. 1971, University of Minnesota; Ph.D. 2006, Michigan State University. Special areas: Advertising, creativity theory, and creativity training.



**ZIXUE TAI**, Assistant Professor; M.A., 1992, International Journalism, Shanghai International Studies University; M.S.S.2001, The University of St. Thomas (Minnesota); Ph.D., 2004, The University of Minnesota. Special areas: International/global communication, comparative research in global media systems, new media research, network analysis.

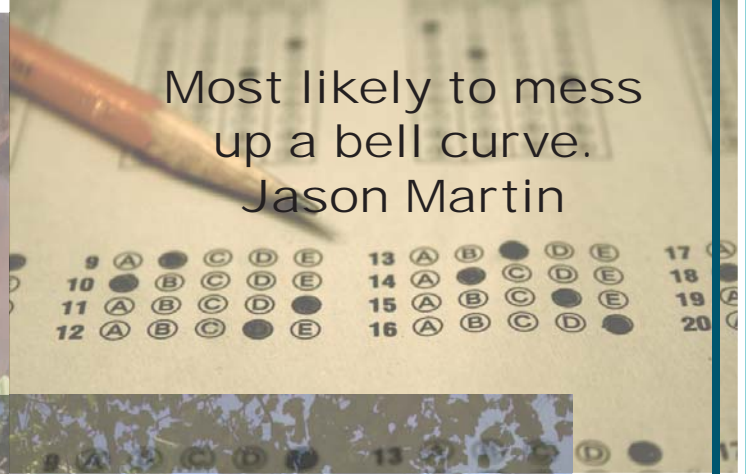


**MINA TSAY**, Assistant Professor; B.A. 2002, University of Michigan, Ph.D. 2007, Pennsylvania State University. Special areas: Psychological and social effects of media, enjoyment of entertainment media, cognitive and emotional mediated responses, appeal of reality-based programming.

# SUPERLATIVES



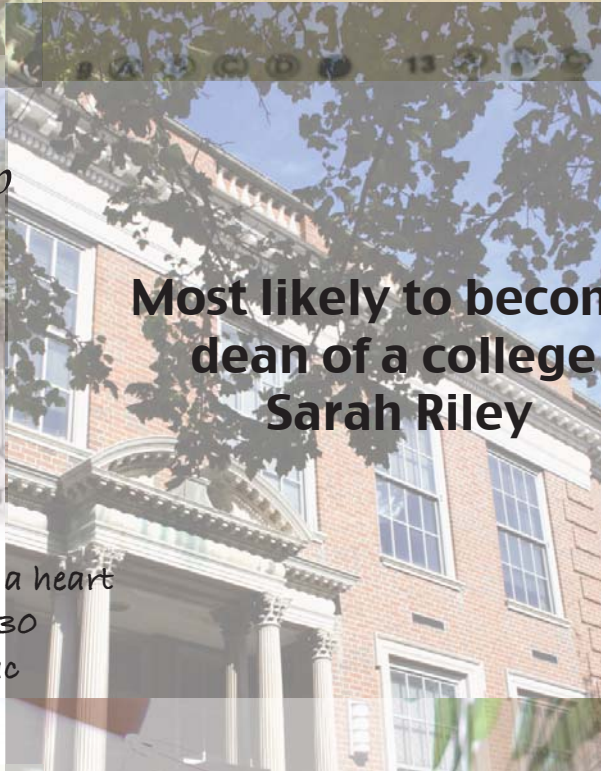
Most likely to join the peace corp  
Elizabeth Webb



Most likely to mess up a bell curve.  
Jason Martin



Most likely to end up with a white picket fence and 2.4 kids  
Laura Beth Daws



Most likely to become dean of a college  
Sarah Riley



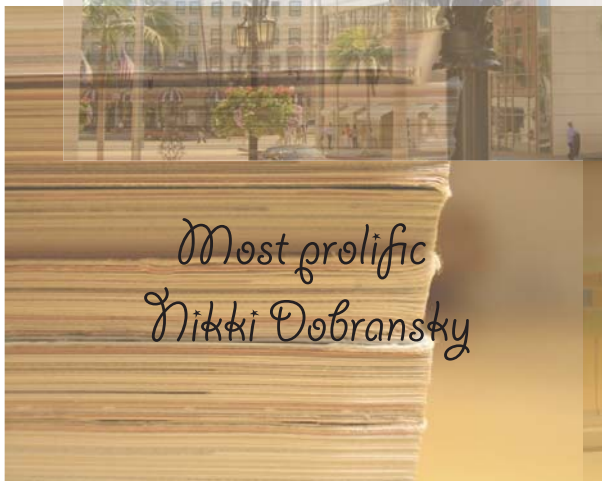
Most likely to have a heart attack by age 30  
Chrissy Benac



Most likely to become a celebrity  
Lisa Beeler



MOST LIKELY TO HAVE A CONFERENCE PANEL NAMED AFTER THEM  
JAY AND RENEE HUMAN



Most prolific  
Nikki Dobransky



Most likely to attend more conferences than movies  
Jenny Maginnis

# Thank you for your Support



Laura Beth Daws was this year's recipient of the Bruce Westley Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Nikki Dorbransky was the winner of the Howard and Beverly Sypher Memorial Scholarship and Jennifer Maginnis was the winner of the R. Lewis Donohew Graduate Fellowship.



## 2007-2008 Graduates

### Master Graduates:

Morgan Ann Poor

July 13, 2007

Taylor Marie Papania

November 8, 2007

Amanda M. Harsin

November 19, 2007

Anna Goodman Hoover

November 30, 2007

Lisa Lynn Beeler

December 14, 2007

Cassandra Selena Stevens

February 22, 2008

John Andrew Gillispie

March 4, 2008

Christina Noel Tigas

April 10, 2008

Laura Christine Coleman

April 11, 2008

Timothy Reed Wiseman

April 14, 2008

Bradley Michael Arterburn

April 16, 2008

### PhD Graduates:

Sarah Cavendish

May 14, 2007

Robert Trader

July 10, 2007

Zhiwen Xiao

September 24, 2007

Florence Marie Witte

November 29, 2007

### Congratulations!

# Alumni Information & Feedback Wanted

Please complete this form and mail to:

University of Kentucky

College of Communications and Information Studies

Attn: Director of Graduate Studies

106 Grehan Building

Lexington, KY 40506-0042

Or submit info online at [www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Alumni](http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/GRAD/Alumni)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation from UK(Month/Year/Degree) \_\_\_\_\_

News for Newsletter Update:

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AND INFORMATION STUDIES  
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