Congratulations to the December 2003 Communication Graduates!

On Wednesday, December 17, at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center located in downtown Raleigh, 72 seniors from the Communication Department graduated; 20 with a concentration in Public Relations, 20 in Communication Media, 25 from Public and Interpersonal, 6 in Communication Disorders, and 1 with a Theatre concentration. Of those 72, four double majored and one participated in the Communication Honors Program. The Outstanding Student Award was presented to Kelly Riner and the Outstanding Teacher Award was given to Robert Larson. Communication graduates hailed from places outside of North Carolina, such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. These seniors have recently had to make the difficult decision of whether to go to graduate school or enter into the workforce. Whatever the graduate’s plans are for the near future, we wish them well and good luck!

Riner Receives Outstanding Student Award

Kelly Riner, a recent graduate of the NCSU Communication Department, was presented the Outstanding Student Award at the December 2003 graduation ceremony. Riner graduated with a concentration in Communication Media and a minor in journalism. While at NCSU she was able to maintain an overall and major GPA of 4.0. Thus, she was ranked number one in her class and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Riner also participated in the University Scholars’ Program, Phi Bet Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key International Honor Society, Graduation Marshall, and taught first grade Sunday school at Synder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC. In addition, during her college career she was able to gain some work experience. Riner works as a part-time assistant editor and news production assistant at WRAL-TV. She also writes for the Fayetteville Observer and baby-sits on a regular basis. According to Riner, her experiences in the Communication Department, paired with her work experiences at WRAL-TV, have definitely prepared her for a future career in television news.

Currently, Riner is enrolled in the Master’s of Humanities program at Duke University. Over the next year and a half, she will be taking media courses in Duke’s Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, English, and Public Policy Departments. As Riner embarks on her new journey in her academic life, we wish her the best, and again congratulations for being named Outstanding Student for December 2003!
Next University Theater Production: *The School for Scandal*, Sheridan’s delightful comedy, will run from February 25-29, 2004 in Stewart Theater. Showtimes are as follows: Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Also, an NC State Student Preview will be held on February 24, 2004 at 8:00 pm, you must bring student ID to enter. For tickets and/or any additional information please call Ticket Central at 515-1100.

Colloquia Schedule: Kelly Albada will be presenting her talk titled, “The Role of Attributions in the Interaction Appearance Theory,” on February 18. This lecture will be held in Caldwell M-8 from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

“To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.”

*Anthony Robbins*
Faculty News

• **Dr. Robert Entman**’s book titled, *Projection of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion, and US Foreign Policy*, was published by the University of Chicago Press this month. Entman also gave the keynote address at a conference on civic life sponsored by Goldsmith College/University of London last November. His talk was entitled, “The System Formerly Known as American Democracy.”

• **Dr. Jessica Jameson** was recently featured on the NCSU website home page for her work with nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists. She was interviewed by a woman who writes for Nurse Week Magazine. The article focuses on Jameson’s development of specific guidelines used to help a specialized group of doctors and nurses manage conflicts that may arise while caring for their patients. To learn more about Jameson’s research on this particular topic please visit [http://www.ncsu.edu/news/press_release/04_01/007.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/news/press_release/04_01/007.htm). Jameson also received word that the Western Journal of Communication has accepted a paper that she wrote titled: “Negotiating Autonomy and Connection through Politeness: A Dialectical Approach to Organizational Communication Management.”

• **Dr. Jane Macoubrie** will be the Principle Investigator on a 2004 $140,000 NSF Small Grant for Exploratory Research, the work will be accomplished over Spring-Summer 2004. The new SGER research will establish the “best practices” for conducting early-input citizen processes in speculative, emergent science areas such as nanotechnology. The SGER grant will run concurrently with the research team’s current $320,000 NSF grant. The SGER will fund national research on public perceptions of nanoscience and nanotechnology (cell-level technology), and two Citizen Technology Forums, which will result in citizen-level recommendations on nanotechnology national policy. The CTF process was developed by Dr. Macoubrie in 2001, and tested further in 2003 with NSF funding.

• **Sandra Stallings** On Tuesday, January 13, Stallings gave a presentation at the 2004 NC Senior Games Ambassadors Conference. The presentation, entitled “The Speaker’s Menu,” focused on the design and delivery of successful presentations to each of their publics which include: participants, sponsors, and volunteers.

Websites to check out:

* **Lambda Pi Eta**: www.ncsu.edu/lpe/updates.html

* **PRSSA**: www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/prssa/

* **NSSLHA**: www.nsslha.org

* **Black Repertory Theatre**: www.ncsu.edu/brt/

* **Department of Communication**: www.ncsu.edu/chass/communication/

“Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.”

*Anne Marrow Lindbergh*
Student Organization Updates

**Black Repertory Theatre** Will hold two meetings this month-February 10 and February 24. All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Thompson Theatre Boardroom.

**Lambda Pi Eta** Will hold one meeting this month on February 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Caldwell Lounge.

**NSSHLA** Will have one meeting this month on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in Tompkins G115.

**PRSSA** PRSSA will hold two meetings this month-February 5 and February 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Winston 029. The February 5 meeting will feature guest speaker, Anna Liese Workman, from the Methodist Home for Children. Membership dues are due by Thursday, February 19, 2004. Dues are $55 and checks should be made payable to NCSU PRSSA.

The Practice, NC State’s student-run Public Relations firm has current openings for account team members. The Practice is currently working on the campaigns of two clients, NC State: Achieve! and NC State Study Abroad. All interested members should contact PRSSA President Greg Brainos at gabrainos@hotmail.com.

**PR DAY 2004**
Wednesday, March 24, 2004
More details coming soon.

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**Larson Honored at Fall Commencement**

Every semester graduating seniors are asked to vote for a teacher that has made a significant impact on his/her college career here at NC State. Robert Larson is just that teacher. He was awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award recently at the Fall 2003 Graduation Ceremony. Mr. Larson is currently a member of the Department of Communication faculty and teaches a variety of upper-level courses in the public relations concentration.

Before joining the faculty in 2002, he was a visiting lecturer in the evenings since 1998 while also employed at Aventis CropScience where he served as the head of communication. Larson, also worked for the predecessor company to Aventis, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, which he joined in 1990. Prior to his work with Rhone-Poulenc, he was the worldwide director of public relations and technical sales support for Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa, Canada, and previously served as the director of corporate communications at their RTP location. Before joining Bell-Northern Research in 1985, he held numerous positions in internal and external communications with Verizon, formerly known as GTE, in Tampa, Chicago and Phoenix.

Larson received a BA in journalism from Rutgers University, a BA in business administration from the University of South Florida, and a MA in mass communications from the University of Florida. He is an accredited member of the Public Relations Student Society of America, co-founder of the PRSA masters program in North Carolina, and was recognized by the North Carolina Chapter with its highest honor, the President’s Award.

When asked about his recent honor Larson replied, “I was honored to win the award last spring. To be recognized two semesters in a row is humbling. I feel so special to be able to work with terrific students every day. What a deal!!” Congratulations Professor Larson for receiving the Outstanding Professor Award for the Fall 2003 semester, an honor definitely well deserved.