Dickson “Doc” Hendley graduated with his public relations degree, but he never worked for a PR firm or managed a PR account; instead he started a non-profit organization helping people around the world. Doc spent most of his time at State as a bartender and DJ at local nightclubs when he decided to hold a fundraiser. The cause was to provide clean water to needy people around the world through wine tasting events. In 2004 he created Wine to Water, a non-profit aid organization working to provide clean water and sanitation worldwide. Doc said, “When the idea came to me to start Wine to Water the only real job experience I had was tending bar. I dreamed of building an organization that fought water related death and disease using completely different methods than anyone else. So I started raising money to fight this water epidemic the best way I knew how, by pouring wine and playing music.”

Wine to Water has a unique and lower-cost approach to providing clean water. Doc explained that throughout the desert there are many bore holes needed to create running water that aren’t working and many organizations just dig a new bore hole. This practice is expensive. Doc decided that fixing the broken bore holes is a more cost effective way and has made these projects sustainable by teaching the local community how to install, maintain and repair their own water systems. The approach of Wine to Water reduces the overhead cost and leaves more money to be used elsewhere. To date Doc and his organization have brought water to more than 26,500 people in refugee camps, orphanages, schools, hospitals and a leper colony.

Recently Doc has been mentioned in the CNN series CNN Heroes as a finalist. Three years ago Anderson Cooper of CNN started a Heroes competition, recognizing those who unselfishly do so much for so many. For this year’s Heroes, 9,000 nominations from 100 countries were received. From that group, the contestants were narrowed down to 28, and now to the final 10. Each of the 10 finalists has won $25,000 for their cause and the CNN Hero of the year will receive an additional $100,000. Doc thought outside of the box and did not take the most conventional route to begin his career or start his foundation. However, his actions speak loud and clear and so do his words. “You can be a bartender in Raleigh, North Carolina; you can be just a regular anybody. And you really, really can change the world. You can touch thousands of lives. I’m walking truth of that.”

The 2009 CNN Hero of the Year was announced in late November. Efren Peñaflorida gives Filipino youth an alternative to gang membership through education. His Dynamic Teen Company’s 10,000 members have taught basic reading and writing to kids living in slums.
In recent years NCSU has placed great emphasis on internationalization. It has done so by attracting international students to campus, offering study abroad programs, and enrolling NC State students in international studies courses. The University has also been able to bring several noted international scholars to campus to lecture and teach. The Web site for the university’s “International Studies” major describes this increasingly important focus this way: “In every facet of our individual and collective lives we shape this world just as we are deeply influenced by what transpires in its furthest corners. To understand the intricacies of these connections is the first and essential step toward capitalizing on the opportunities of globalization and overcoming its problems.” In many ways the Department of Communication has been at the forefront of this trend toward internationalism. Not only do we teach classes in intercultural and international communication, globalization and communication, and international public relations, but we have also done a very good job recruiting international students into our graduate programs.

Presently we have three exceptional international students in the interdisciplinary Communication, Rhetoric and Digital Media Ph.D. program: Tariq Mahmood, Tabita Moreno, and Valeska Wittek. Tariq and Tabita come to us as Fulbright scholars from their respective countries: Tariq is from, Charsadda, Pakistan, where he worked in the Ministry of Information. He holds an MA in Media Studies from The New School in New York, and within the CRDM program he is beginning research on the ways in which Americans’ perceptions of Pakistan are shaped by their reliance on different sources of media and information. Tabita is from Concepción in southern Chile. She holds an MA in Communication and Multimedia Design from the University of Concepción and has been a faculty member in the Department of Social Communication at that same university. Her research in CRDM focuses on how working women use new media to maintain connectivity and social presence in their family relations. (Tabita’s presence in the CRDM Ph.D. program is one of the recent outcomes of several year’s of faculty engagement between NC State and the University of Concepción.) Valeska, who is fluent in three languages, is originally from Hilden, Germany and now resides in Raleigh. She has a BA in Foreign Languages and Literature from the Englisches Institut, in Heidelberg, and an MS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management from NC State. She is interested in concepts, definitions and measures of new developments in communication media and information technologies. She also works full time with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Raleigh.

Our current crop of Masters students also features an international mix. Rong Fu hails from Beijing, China and was one of six candidates nominated in 2006-07 for the National Scholarship of the People’s Republic of China. Suman Kanal is from India, where she worked in public relations and scripted, edited, directed, and shot a 9-minute fiction film. Jamaican Shari Oliver studied Business/Communication and Tourism at St. Leo University, near Tampa, Florida; she was awarded the “Most Outstanding Student of the Year” in both of her majors. Bahamian Alastair Knowles and Afghan Ahmadullah Amarkhil (who will join us in January) round out the group.

All of these graduate students possess impeccable credentials. Many of them appear eager to use their graduate education in communication to promote civic engagement and the public good in their home nations. Ahmadullah Amarkhil is a good example: a Fulbright scholar, Ahmadullah is interested in media production and wishes someday to pursue a career in the Afghan government’s Ministry of Information and Culture Office. Alistair Knowles has already performed the sort of work I have in mind. He founded the “Take Initiative Nassau,” in the spring of 2009, as a motivational Web site and Facebook group in an effort to persuade mainly Bahamian youth to become more involved with the ongoing development of Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas. I hope many of our other international graduate students will pursue similar civic ventures.

Internationalization is indeed an important trend. We in the Department of Communication are doing all we can to advance it. By doing so, we plan to connect our students to a world of possibilities and change, thus enabling them to capitalize on the opportunities of globalization while overcoming its problems.

WOLFPACK SPEAKS CONTEST SET FOR FEBRUARY 3-4

By Caitlyn Suber

Are you in a public speaking course?
If you are then you may have heard of the Wolfpack Speak Public Speaking contest. Students for Wolfpack Speaks are chosen from their fall COM 110 Introduction to Public Speaking course to represent their classes in the spring competition.

Contestants must prepare a persuasive call to action speech 4-7 minutes long. Public speaking instructors judge the qualifier rounds. Last year the qualifying round consisted of around 35 speakers. Subsequently, the top six will progress to the final round, which is judged by graduate students and faculty within the university. Anyone is invited to attend.

Dr. Christina Moss, Instructor and Director of COM 110 courses, said, “It is good experience for students to speak outside the classroom. It gives them a different type of audience to which they must adapt.”

Last year’s winners were (left to right) Faeben Fulford, Jake Sigler, Sara Rowell, Cameron Hendricks, Risa Chavez, Lance Jamison. The competition was sponsored by Brad Crone (far right) president of Campaign Connections.
With his academic merit and previous experience and connections in Germany, it is not a surprise that Dr. Bill Kinsella has received the honor of being selected as a Fulbright Scholar.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, gives American scholars the opportunity to go abroad to research, study, and teach. The hope is that people around the world can put their heads together to solve issues that are of worldwide concern. Fulbright scholars, like Dr. Kinsella, are chosen for their leadership and academic merit.

During Dr. Kinsella’s spring semester abroad in Stuttgart, Germany, he plans to “examine the status of nuclear energy in Germany from a social science perspective.”

In 2001, the government of Germany, then with heavy Green Party influence and participation, signed an agreement to slowly phase out the use of nuclear energy within their country. This has had an effect on many including students and workers in the field.

Now with a new party leading the German government, this agreement is being reconsidered. Dr. Kinsella plans to look at how these decisions have affected the people in the field along with looking at the public opinion of what is currently going on and the future of the nuclear energy industry.

From youth, it seems that Dr. Kinsella was destined to study nuclear energy. “It’s something I’ve always been interested in,” he said. Even his high school yearbook can attest to that with a “Most likely to be a nuclear physicist” superlative that appears next to his name.

Dr. Kinsella has since gotten a bachelor’s degree in physics, completed graduate-level studies in physics and astronomy, and finally a doctorate in communication. Dr. Kinsella now teaches as an associate professor in the Department of Communication. He has been able to combine both his science and communication backgrounds in teaching courses at State, for example teaching an environmental communication class.

He will be doing the same this spring in Germany looking into the nuclear energy issue from a communication perspective.

The members of the Department of Communication are excited about the honor that Dr. Kinsella has received and look forward to the experiences that he will share with us following his trip to Germany.

**DR. GALLAGHER: TWO HATS ARE BETTER THAN ONE**

*By Jas McDonald*

Professor Vicki Gallagher wears two hats at North Carolina State University. She is a professor of graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Communication. She is also the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for NC State.

Dr. Gallagher graduated from Northwestern University after receiving her doctorate. She then began her teaching career at NC State as an assistant professor in 1990. She taught courses in communication and gender, interpersonal personal communication, a host of rhetoric courses along with other communication courses.

After being promoted to a full professor, she received the opportunity to interview for Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. However Jeff Braden, the current Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS), received the position. With such a large workload, the position of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research was divided, and thus the position of Dean of Graduate Studies was formed.

Dr. Gallagher admits that it is hard wearing two hats as she fulfills both of her positions, but admits that pioneering a new position has its perks. While there are certain aspects of her responsibilities as associate dean that are in place and static, such as working with the graduate board and chairing and running the graduate committee, there are also aspects to the position that she is able to define herself. Professor Gallagher says one of the most rewarding characteristics of being an Associate Dean for Graduate Studies is working with the other directors of graduate programs. “They are all such good people.” Together they work on developing new programs for graduate students as well as building those that already exist. They also work to recruit future graduate students for the university.

Further, as chair of multiple doctoral committees, she is eager to see her Communication Rhetoric and Digital Media Program graduate students complete their dissertations and find rewarding careers. With all of the committees and responsibilities of being Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, don’t expect Dr. Gallagher to lose her passion for teaching students who are eager to learn. “I love teaching!” she exclaimed.
MOODLE: A HELPFUL TOOL FOR NC STATE ONLINE LEARNING

By Kathleen Crone

Like every other large institution in the industrialized world, NCSU is up for an oil change. As the comfort of a "finally-achieved" adaptation to an existing technology sets in, innovation destroys that assurance. Vista, WebAssign, Blackboard, WolfWare, and essentially any other pre-existing online professor-student venue, seems to have been rolled into one "easy-to-use" innovation: Moodle. An acronym for modular, object-oriented, dynamic, learning, environment, Moodle stands out among the current offerings in learning management systems (LMS).

"Different curricula have different needs. Engineering vs. communication, for example. Moodle has a fairly flexible turn-in capacity to it. Everyone is still learning it. My understanding is that various faculty use different forms of software to support homework assignments. Moodle may eliminate students having to use multiple systems for multiple classes," said Dr. Robert Schrag.

Dr. Schrag, professor of communication, is already using Moodle’s pilot server. Well acclaimed for his knowledge and research in the fields of technology and media, Dr. Schrag offers his opinion about this technological transition. "It’s a media ownership thing. Blackboard bought Vista, and Blackboard has decided it will not longer support Vista, so Vista will go away. The university has had service issues with Vista for a long time."

Moodle became the solution to fill the void. Known and used internationally at universities, secondary schools, businesses and organizations, Moodle can encompass a wide-array of LMS capabilities. For example, it allows instructors to very easily attach and display videos shown in class, videos for distance education, or videos of lectures. It also has a feature many previous systems lacked, the ability for an instructor to easily change "roles" and see the "student-view" of the system itself.

"Moodle differs from Vista in a couple of ways. It’s open source, which means we can tweak it to meet our own needs at the university. Back in the early nineties we created a thing on campus called WolfWare. What we will really have will be WolfWare powered by Moodle. So the university can keep the components of WolfWare that it likes."

Mediasite, the video lecture tool available to use within Moodle, offers a very unique feature. It gives students the ability to send an instructor a question in a very specific way. Say, for example, a student was viewing a video of a PowerPoint presentation played in a class lecture. If the student had a question, he or she would type the question into a text box and click send. The text box would show the instructor the student’s question as well as where the student was in viewing the video. This will help eliminate a multiple-dialogue message-stream and confusion.

As most Internet-using humans today can agree, technological change is confusing. So we might as well get used to it. Fortunately, according to Dr. Schrag, the university’s goal is to keep Moodle around for a while. With its ability to subsume many pre-existing LMSs, the transition should be smoother than past technological transitions. Moodle is already being used by some instructors. For more information go to: http://moodle.org/.

COMMUNICATION WEEK PLANNING OFF TO A GREAT START

By Corrine Mis

It is that time of year again. No, not time to drag out the Christmas decorations just yet, but rather time to kick planning for the Department of Communication’s annual Communication Week into high gear. Communication Week is scheduled to take place February 22-26, 2010.

COM Week is a weeklong event dedicated to providing students with a new perspective on communication studies, as well as preparing them for a career in the field. Dr. Richard Waters, chair of the Department of Communication’s development committee, said the overall goal for this year’s event is “to educate students about their major and what it means to be a communication student, but also to give them valuable networking opportunities to prepare themselves for life after NCSU.” Last February, the Department of Communication hosted COM Week for the first time in several years.

Through presentations from industry leaders and an emphasis on research, students gain new insight into the world of communication. Dr. Waters understands these benefits and notes that Communication Week “is an eye-opening experience for students to see what is available to them when they put forth the effort to pursue their goals.” Confirmed events include: a study abroad information session; information on applying to graduate school; a resume, cover letter and interview preparation session; a business etiquette seminar; and a panel on nonprofit organization and strategic communication with CHASS’ Institute for Nonprofits.

In addition to Dr. Waters, this year’s planning committee is made up of Dr. Kenneth Zagacki, Dr. Robert Schrag, Dr. Melissa Johnson, Dr. Jessica Moore, and Ms. Jill Heaton. In setting out to plan COM Week, the committee weighs students’ evaluations from past years, comments made from department faculty members, and committee members’ own ideas. With these considerations in mind, Dr. Waters has invited Joseph S. Hice, Jr., North Carolina State University’s Chief Communication Officer and former Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations at the University of Florida, to speak.
FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP FORMS LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

By Christian Levinson

Ever since his first trip to Chile, conducting research his junior year in college, Professor Steve Wiley has been looking for reasons to return. Last year, Dr. Wiley received a Fulbright Scholarship that allowed him to travel to Chile to research and teach at the Universidad de Concepción.

The Fulbright Scholarship provides funding for professors to take up to a year off from school to teach and conduct research in another country. A main focus of this program is to promote international understanding and cooperation through cross-cultural experiences and the interaction of people from different cultural backgrounds.

Dr. Steve Wiley

Wiley wanted to find out how globalization and people’s sense of place might be changing as a result of being more globally connected. He conducted interviews with people in the city of Concepción in southern Chile, to see how they were connected to globalization, and whether that changed their sense of who they are and how they are connected to the rest of the world. He and his team of researchers looked at people’s social networks, their travels, and their use of media communication technologies—three different ways in which a person might be exposed to people from other cultures and different parts of the world.

Dr. Wiley worked with several faculty members at the Universidad de Concepción and they are continuing to collaborate on research. He also trained and conducted field research with a group of undergraduate and graduate students, and is hoping to continue working with them on future publications.

During his time in Chile, Dr. Wiley took advantage of all the opportunities he was given. His most notable experience outside of his research was being able to take his entire family with him to his wife’s native country. His children were immersed in the culture, even becoming bilingual in the process.

When asked about the importance of forming lasting relationships with people of different cultures, Dr. Wiley said, “Stepping outside of our own national culture allows us to see what is going on with globalization and communication from a much broader perspective. When we don’t do that, we sometimes think that research that we’ve conducted within our own cultural space can be generalized to the whole world.

“So we publish articles as if this is the way it is for everybody, but we don’t realize that what we’ve actually done is study our own culture. By working with people outside of our cultural space, you get a sense of what you are taking for granted in your own context that you don’t even realize.”

PCOST BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION

By Cassidy Weathersby

The Public Communication of Science & Technology (PCOST) Project was started in 2008 by Dr. David Berube. PCOST aims to improve public communication on science and technology, specifically emerging technologies, including nanotechnology, bionanotechnology, neurotechnology, and synthetic biology. The PCOST project’s primary goal is to provide data to enable informed decision making about public issues in emerging science and technology.

The dedicated members of PCOST have been working hard this semester and have the updates to prove it. Below are just some of the main highlights from the project:

A recent expert study has been conducted to investigate expert estimations of nanoparticle hazard and public perception. This is the first study of its kind that uses a Delphi method of group consensus building between scientists from fields including chemistry, engineering, policy and risk management, and toxicology. These findings will contribute to building frameworks for hazard identification and risk assessment modeling of nanoparticles, and further the call for a continued partnership between social science and science research.

A national study associated with the PCOST project entitled “The Citizens, Science, and Emerging Technology” survey is under way. As part of the Nanotoxicology Interdisciplinary Research Team (NIRT) grant award from the National Science Foundation, this study inquires how citizens feel about risks to health and safety and the ways in which people get information about these issues. The results from this study will be used to help improve public understanding of scientific developments and their effect on health and safety. The project is directed by Dr. David Berube and is being conducted in partnership with the University of South Carolina.

The Nano News Update blog has been launched at nanonewsupdate-home.blogspot.com, intended to inform the public of the latest news related to the “nano-world.” Nanotechnology, the science of manipulating structures on the nano-scale, is highly dynamic — incorporating experts in biology, chemistry, engineering, environmental studies, public policy and toxicology among others. The blog aims to provide a rich, compact set of current news for its followers. The goal of the publication is to fill the void in information on “nano” news written for the public and in a public register, by providing audiences with brief introductions to breaking news articles and organized links that detail a wide array of resources.
ED MCCALLUM: DEPARTMENT PROBLEM SOLVER

By Kelly Reiser

In the search for a job after retirement, Ed McCallum returned to NC State as the Department of Communication’s business officer. McCallum graduated from NCSU with a degree in Economics in 1983 and has worked in almost every business-related field from accounting to contracts management.

After retiring from his job at Wake Country Human Services and then beginning retirement at the N.C. Division for Child Development (DCD), he decided he needed a job that would keep him on his toes for the next 10 years, and that’s exactly what he got. He says that his current job is multidimensional and different than working in other state agencies, though he did enjoy his time at DCD.

McCallum describes his job as problem solving, or rather problem prevention. He works closely with the dean’s office, faculty, other university business officers and groups across campus to stretch the allotted budget as far as he can. When asked about this day-to-day, McCallum said, “There is no routine whatsoever, there are so many cycles.” He works on accounting, HR, budgeting and other administrative work. Most recently, he has been cooperating with the CHASS Research Office, teachers and students to understand how research can best be incorporated into the tight budget.

McCallum would not change anything about his career path and will always be looking to new challenges. His advice to students: “Keep as many doors open as you can... don’t make decisions too soon and don’t kick any doors closed.”

DR. KEYTON AIMS TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN SOCIAL AND HARD SCIENCES

By Stephanie Brown

Professor Joann Keyton is actively engaged in changing the way social sciences and hard sciences interact. Her expertise is in examining relationships to help teams better work together.

Along with her partner Stephen Fiore at the University of Central Florida, Dr. Keyton has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to host a workshop on the Science of Team Science. Scholars of team and group work in the social sciences will come together and collaborate on how to help teams in the physical and medical sciences develop more effectively.

Last year Dr. Keyton received a different grant to investigate how various groups and teams collaborate. She saw how the hard sciences didn’t really work as a team or communicate well, while having the mentality of, “I’ll work on this, then you do this, then he does that.”

The National Science Foundation believes that teams are more innovative than individual scientists, but Dr. Keyton points out this is a bit presumptive since scientists aren’t used to working in teams.

Communication scholars and scholars of the hard sciences are very different in how they think about teams. Working in a lab or behind a bench is very individualistic, but science is complex and requires people from different fields to work as a team.

The workshop that Dr. Keyton will host with the National Science Foundation grant will serve as a brainstorming session. Since scientists work individually and teams require interdependencies, attendees of the workshop will focus on what is going on in teams and how to create a framework to get scientists to work together to make science more innovative.

We often hear about “teams of scientists,” yet there is a disconnect between the policy of saying teams work together and what is actually being practiced. Some organizations speak of their “1,000-person team of scientists,” but Dr. Keyton points out you cannot have a team that large. You have to be able to sit down and communicate with all members of your team and form relationships with them. Scholars from different disciplines will test working in teams conceptually in order to make it useful practically.

With this project, Dr. Keyton hopes to bridge the knowledge gap of the social sciences with the practice of team science in the physical and medical sciences.
Dr. de Souza e Silva’s latest works include the book, co-edited with Daniel Sutko, a doctoral student in the CRDM program, *Digital Cityscapes: Merging Digital and Urban Playspaces*, and the article "Playful urban spaces: A historical approach to mobile games," co-authored with Larissa Hjorth at the RMIT University in Australia, which is found in the peer-reviewed journal *Simulation and Gaming*.

The book *Digital Cityscapes* discusses how the convergence of Smartphones, GPS, the Internet, and social networks have given rise to a playful, educational, and social media known as location-based and hybrid reality games. The book discusses the theory behind these games, how to design them, as well as some implications of using location-based games in the classroom. The book has received great reviews. Paul Dourish, professor of Informatics at the University of California, Irvine, said, “This admirably diverse and timely volume brings together leading theorists and practitioners with a wide range of disciplinary and geographical perspectives. Not only does it provide an invaluable introduction to the field of pervasive urban gaming, but it also shows why this work has consequences for many other areas of contemporary research and daily experience.”

Dr. de Souza e Silva has been busy this semester as she traveled four conferences (International Communication Association (ICA), Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) and National Communication Association (NCA)) to present her latest research on locative media and network locality.

**RENAISSANCE MAN: TEACHER, ACTOR, DIRECTOR AND LAWYER**

*By Jami Pearson*

John T. “Jack” Hall, J.D. has a life and past that would make most people’s lives seem boring in comparison. As an instructor, although not currently teaching, actor, director and lawyer, he stays busy. He is also married with two children.

Hall has a BA in English Dramatic Literature and minors in speech, drama and art from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He also earned his master’s in Drama and Television Production from the University of Maryland. Before he moved from Baltimore to North Carolina, he portrayed over 155 roles. Since his move, he has been in 65 plays at Raleigh Little Theatre, eight plays at Theatre in the Park, one for Justice Theatre Project and one for Peace College. He has also directed approximately 60 plays, in addition to doing TV work for WRAL and one feature film, “The Eternal Love.” Hall works on about five to seven plays a year, and if he is not acting, he is a production assistant. Realizing his love of acting at a young age, he began his acting career in the first grade where he played an egg in a nutrition pageant. His favorite aspect in acting is rehearsal. It is here, he says, that he gets to work and develop characters with other actors; he enjoys seeing things develop.

Another interesting facet of Hall’s identity is that he is a lawyer. Graduating in 1972, he attended the Law School of the University of North Carolina and earned his Juris Doctorate and law license. It was during his second year of law school that he got to do something truly unusual and intriguing. While working for Duke University Law School’s Center on Law and Poverty, he entered the old Central Prison as an undercover inmate being housed on death row. Three, second-year students were placed within the prison, in separate areas, to “observe and report.” Hall resided in solitary confinement for almost two weeks. While he was supposed to be “let out” for an hour each day, the guards only allowed him an hour per week. Upon his release, he was required to write a paper about how to fix one of the problems he had observed. He chose to design a maximum-security prison that would minimize escape. This ended up being the basic design that was used to build the Wake County jail. The information he had acquired during his stay was also shared with the N.C. Department of Correction and the N.C. Legislature.

**Photo By David Watts/Raleigh Little Theatre**
DR. PATRICIA CAPLE: THE STORY BEHIND ‘BLUE’

By Lauren Little

orth Carolina State University theatre production “Blue” premiered on October 21, 2009 in Thompson Hall’s Titmus Theatre. The buzz surrounding “Blue” was more exciting and monumental than that of most other premieres. It is the relationship between first-time director Ron Foreman and cast member Dr. Patricia Caple that cannot help but be talked about. Her mentorship of Foreman for over 20 years has prepared him for a directing legacy much like her own, and the premier of “Blue” was an opportunity to sit back and see what he learned.

Foreman, a 1983 N.C. State graduate, came to NC State in 1977 on a track scholarship and quickly became involved in the music department. There is no doubt that Ron Foreman is gifted in the arts, but his talent for theatre may not have been realized without the wisdom of Dr. Caple. Foreman became involved in the university’s theatre program after Dr. Caple came to NCSU from Shaw University in 1986. Dr. Caple cast the musically-inclined Foreman in her first August Wilson production at NCSU, “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.” There was a role for a piano player, and she chose Ron Foreman for that role. Foreman was a musician, but not an actor, and he did not intend to be one. Initially, he was so frustrated by acting that he walked out of rehearsal, but Dr. Caple continued on. Eventually he came back, “and then the rest is history,” as Foreman put it. Their collaboration went on until she retired.

“Everything I know about theatre, I know from her. She is literally my mentor.”

Now Ron Foreman is a director for the NCSU theatre program, and he is applying what he learned from Dr. Caple to his new role. He has even adopted one of Dr. Caple’s long time goals as his own, and is working to achieve it. The dream was to produce all ten of August Wilson’s plays. The playwright’s works chronicle African American life, with each play taking place in a different decade of the 20th century. Before Dr. Caple retired, she was able to produce eight of the plays, and did “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” twice. “Blue” was the result of Foreman’s first attempt to realize their goal. This season he wanted to do the chronological first of Wilson’s plays, “Gem of the Ocean.” However, despite starting the approval process well in advance, he was unable to receive permission to produce the play. Foreman was forced to find a different play within a matter of days. Several years ago a student had sent Dr. Caple the play “Blue” by Charles Randolph Wright. He had never read through it but needed a replacement and decided to give it a look. He enjoyed the play and decided to produce it instead. Foreman quickly recognized the role of Tillie Clark would be perfect for Dr. Caple.

The biggest issue Dr. Caple had with being in the play was the fact that Ron Foreman would now be directing her, as opposed to it being the other way around. Dr. Caple had fun employing some of Foreman’s one liners when he was the actor. When he initially approached her about acting in one of his plays, she teasingly responded, “I’ll think about it,” which was the same thing he would say to her whenever she cast him in a show. Once rehearsals began, Foreman was the one to turn the tables on Dr. Caple, asking her, “When are you going to learn your lines?” This was the same question Dr. Caple had directed towards Foreman when he was on stage. Foreman credits Dr. Caple for all of his theatre knowledge, “Everything I know about theatre, I know from her. She is literally my mentor.”

KINSELLA ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO ‘STEP IT UP’

By Kristen Balinging

r. Bill Kinsella, director of the CHASS interdisciplinary program in Science, Technology, and Society, and graduate students Chad O’Neil, Jim Shields, and Nick Temple have contributed to the recently published book, “Social Movement to Address Climate Change: Local Steps for Global Action,” following one campaign of the current climate change social movement in the United States. The book follows the “Step It Up” campaign at many locations around the country as it urged people to take part in the “first nationwide do-it-yourself mass protest” on April 14, 2007. All of the protest locations shared the same message “Step it up, Congress! Enact immediate cuts in carbon emissions, and pledge an 80 percent reduction by 2050.” The book looks into the organization and social construction of environmental campaigns like this one.

After being asked to get involved in the project by his colleague Tarla Peterson from Texas A&M University, Dr. Kinsella and her team of graduate students from the N.C. State Department of Communication attended the Raleigh event. They brought sound recorders, notebooks, and cameras to the rally. Their research was then compiled and contributed to chapter 7 entitled “A Social Movement Success Story? Assessing a Self-Identified Movement for Climate Action” and chapter 8 entitled “New Media, New Movement.”

Following the nationwide event, researchers across the United States worked together through email to compile the research gathered from the rallies on April 14. Along with data collected from 17 individual rallies, they also looked at interviews with event organizers and participants, a website analysis and a media coverage analysis of the campaign to make up the content of the book.
DR. STEIN AND TEAM WIN NSF $1.8 MILLION GRANT

By Tom Allison

This September the Department of Communication’s Dr. Sarah Stein, associate professor, and a team of researchers have been awarded a $1.8 million Innovative Technology Experiences for Teachers and Students (ITEST) grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This grant will allow NC State to participate in the NSF’s “Scale-Up” project by furthering research that is designed to encourage U.S. high school students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The “Scale-Up” project plans to bring advanced mathematics software to rural high schools in North Carolina via NC State’s Virtual Computing Lab (VCL.) Dr. Stein’s colleagues on the project include Dr. Eric Wiebe and Dr. Karen Hollebrands, associate professors of mathematics, science and technology education, and Dr. Henry Schaffer, special IT projects coordinator in the Office of Information Technology.

Although the project is designed to be replicated across the state and country, the focus of this project will be set in rural school systems in North Carolina that will serve as a “test-run” of sorts. This will enable the necessary evaluations to be performed on schools with the most technological lag.

Students and teachers will have access to NCSU’s VCL from computers in their libraries, homes or classrooms, which eliminates the expense of installing software on individual computers.

This endeavor will strengthen the Friday Institute’s goal for having broadband Internet in every K-12 school, and for the N.C. 1:1 Learning Technology Initiative to supply one laptop to each student and teacher.

The “Scale-Up” project will benefit teachers through professional on-going research that will ensure the technology is being completely utilized. Students will also be more prepared for STEM-related majors.

Dr. Stein stated that, “If at the end of this program, students have a better understanding of important mathematics concepts and are more interested in pursuing careers that would use the learning and capabilities they’ve gained — then that is encouraging.”

DR. TONDO’S AIDS RESEARCH SELECTED AS LEAD ARTICLE

By Amanda Oakes

Outstanding teacher awardee, Fulbright Scholar, Fellow of Salzburg Seminar, and lead investigator for research what more is there to accomplish for Dr. James Kiwanuka-Tondo, associate professor in the Department of Communication?

Actually, there’s a lot more on Dr. Tondo’s agenda. For instance, he was recently nominated by the provost to become an ACE Fellow for 2010 – 2011. The ACE Fellows program is designed to develop leadership for the faculty of institutions of higher learning.

In addition to being recognized as an outstanding member of the NC State faculty, Dr. Tondo in July of 2009 saw his article, “AIDS Communication Campaigns in Uganda: Organizational Factors and Campaign Planning as Predictors of Successful Campaign Execution,” chosen to be the lead article for International Journal of Strategic Communication. Dr. Tondo was joined with co authors Dr. Mark Hamilton, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut, and Dr. Jessica Jameson, an associate professor in the Department of Communication at NC State, to make the article a success.

Dr. Tondo conducted research for the above mentioned article in Uganda with a grant from the John M. Lloyd Foundation. For three months, he trained interviewers who conducted in-person survey interviews for the study. This study was a follow up of prior research which developed the first ever quantitative model of relationships between organizational and campaign design variables. “I chose Uganda because they have run very successful campaigns to reduce AIDS in Africa. It is very important to document the organizational factors that led to the success of these campaigns,” said Dr. Tondo.

His main area of research is health communication campaigns with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS. He has also studied the influence of HIV/AIDS public policy on the organizations and preventive strategies to reduce HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.
In the past, fans have pondered where they should go when our Wolfpack football team is not playing on our home turf. Enter the solution for Wolfpack football supporters—Pack Away Tailgates. Legacy Event Planners, or LEP, is the group behind Pack Away Tailgates along with other community events such as the Hillsborough Street Renaissance Festival held this past spring. A student-created nonprofit organization, LEP was founded mostly by Department of Communication students. LEP brings students, families, and professionals together to coordinate events and raise funds for various community service and educational nonprofit organizations. While helping the community, students involved with LEP learn invaluable skills including event organizing and promotion, networking, and fundraising.

Kavin Tedamrongwanish, senior in public relations and vice president of LEP said, “Legacy Event Planners is a unique opportunity for service learning. LEP allows for internships where you are not only going to make copies or fill out forms, but you will actually get an opportunity to apply what you learn in school. LEP allows students to be creative, to persevere and to shape their organizations and the events in their own fashion.”

Pack Away Tailgate events are held on Hillsborough Street between Pogue and Chamberlain Streets and begin two hours prior to the start times of away games. Backing The Pack has never been more fun with activities such as tournaments, games, raffles, prizes, and others. Not only does LEP bring football fans together to back The Pack, businesses on Hillsborough Street also benefit from increased business spurred by students and the community attending Pack Away Tailgates. Proceeds from LEP events benefit charities, such as food drives, WE Recycle, and New Sense Studios—a program for troubled children.

Would you like to become involved with LEP to benefit the community and learn valuable skills? Volunteer signup is easy with a form located on their Web site at howltogether.com. Tedamrongwanish added, “LEP is always searching for volunteers at our various events and we will need a ton of them for the next Hillsborough Street Renaissance which is scheduled for the fall of 2010.” Additional information on LEP can be found at legacyeventplanners.org.

StUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CONRAD PLYLER, THE PHANTOM OF CALDWELL LOUNGE

By Katherine Dickey and Nicolas Restrepo

Some day you may be sitting on the sofa in Caldwell Hall lounge feeling melancholy. Suddenly an engaging harmonic melody emanates from a distant corner; you are probably listening to the phantom of Caldwell Hall. The lounge comes alive as the piano begins to play. No one knows who this mysterious pianist is, and it could even be more than one person. It may be a ghost that appears and disappears. Perhaps, the only thing listeners care about is the music itself, and not who is playing the piano.

The phenomenon is an enigma, but according to Mrs. Johnson, from the College of Humanities and Social Science Dean’s Office, the mysterious pianist only plays on Fridays. It is then that he is able to share his superb musical talent. Mrs. Johnson said, “The sounds are so relaxing that I even forget that I am at work.”

Our investigation led us to the music department, where we hoped to find more clues about this mysterious person. One part of puzzle is David Reed, a pianist himself. David has been playing the piano for 11 years, and he likes to play classical music. He says that playing piano, “is a getaway, it calms me down.” His mood can change from sad to happy. Perhaps this is how the elusive pianist of Caldwell Hall feels. He only plays on days that many people are not around.

As part of our intensive investigation, we placed a note on the keys of the Caldwell piano itself, hoping for our mysterious pianist to write back. A day later we finally discovered who our phantom is.

It turns out that his name is Conrad Plyler, and he is a political science major who finds inspiration from the keys of a piano. Plyler, 19, has only three years of formal training under his belt. He came upon the Caldwell piano during one of the breaks of his many classes that are held in Caldwell Hall. Slowly he removed the cover and decided to create a colorful atmosphere in an otherwise boring lounge. “I just came to the piano and began to play the black keys and branch out,” said Plyler when speaking about his musical discovery.

NONPROFIT BACKS THE PACK AND THE COMMUNITY

By Paula Lavocat

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John Lambert controls games and grades

By Lindsey Lynch

Finishing the 2009 season having gone 1-1 with a 5.06 ERA and a save as a reliever, walking six and striking out 24 in 16 innings, left-handed pitcher and senior in communication media John Lambert is forced to balance his lifestyle on and off the baseball field.

Splitting time between the bullpen and the starting rotation, making eight starts and 12 appearances in relief, Lambert has “more on his plate” than the average student. “It is definitely a challenge to learn how to be the best I can on the field and the best I can in the classroom,” said Lambert.

“It’s a combination of using the tutors we are provided with and the athletic department’s scheduling that works with practice and study time while creating good relationships with teachers and students in the department,” said Lambert about how student athletes manage their time between school and sports. With fall practice nearly every day, and games five out of seven days a week during the spring season, baseball can be easily described as a demanding hobby. Although the job seems like a lot to take on and, at times, very stressful, Lambert said, “There is nothing like being able to continue to do what I’ve loved to do my entire life while having the opportunity to continue my education.”

Being a pitcher and having control of the direction of a game seems like a lot to take on for one person. “Being a pitcher takes a lot of focus. I have to do a lot to prepare for each game so I will be ready to do my best,” said Lambert. He also chooses to look at school much like he does being on the mound. “I like to think I prepare as much for my tests as I do for my games,” he said, “As an athlete and a student, it’s really necessary to understand the importance of both.”

The Chicago Cubs drafted Lambert in the 33rd round in 2009. Lambert hopes to one day play in the major leagues and knows graduating with a degree in communication media will help him learn how to deal with situations that he may encounter in the real world, especially in relation to baseball.

Students leap across the pond to the university of Oxford

By Carrie Chase

S

helli Mayfield, a junior in public relations, and Sue Wang, also a junior in public relations, had the opportunity to study abroad last summer at one of the world’s most respected universities, the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. They were two of 30 students from NC State who traveled to the university through the NCSU Student Abroad Program. The classes offered included a Modern British History Course, Art History of England, and a course on three works by Shakespeare. All classes were taught by Oxford professors in the traditional British fashion, lectures everyday with one test at the end of the course.

While the main focus of the trip was, of course, education, traveling to Oxford was the perfect opportunity for students to experience British culture at its finest. Wilton Barnhardt, Director of the NC State MFA Program, led the Oxford trip and planned numerous field trips to experience England on a grand scale. These trips included days spent in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Dover Castle, Stonehenge, Avebury, Canterbury, Woodstock, the Blenheim Castle, and London. Sue Wang’s favorite part of the Oxford program were the day trips. “All of the historical field trips we took helped me to better appreciate the history Britain holds. I especially enjoyed Stratford-upon-Avon, the town where Shakespeare was born. We watched Shakespeare’s ‘A Winter’s Tale’ which was an excellent out-of-class experience.”

Mayfield and Wang described their time at Oxford and extra travels as being both life-altering and eye-opening. They agree that the trip greatly improved their communication skills and opened doors in their field. On how the trip contributed to her concentration at NC State, Mayfield observed: “My trip to Oxford helped me establish connections in the UK that are very useful in my public relations concentration. I made friends with and connected with British counterparts that are in the industries that employ public relations practitioners. I was able to continue with these relationships even after leaving Oxford.”

The motto of the trip was “work hard, play hard,” and while students each chose two of three courses offered by the program, they took full advantage of all the town of Oxford had to offer. Oxford was an ideal place to explore, as it is one of the oldest accredited universities in the world with a unique and bustling student life. While the students attended Oxford for four weeks, they got to learn some of the secret student hangouts, including pubs usually only attended by “the locals.” They were exposed to British traditions; including an afternoon tea party on campus, “punting,” a student favorite on the weekends (boating through the canal in Oxford), and some students even found themselves in Wimbledon to watch the Lawn Tennis Championships.

Reflecting on her experience, Mayfield said, “To actually go to another continent, experience first hand their culture, and come back loving your country more than ever but with a burning desire to see the rest of the world, changed how I view life. The skills we learned in adapting to new situations and experiences have improved my communication skills more than I could ever imagine.”
CHEERLEADER REACHING GOALS

By Kelsey Mobley

Kristen Bolinger has made the most of her time at NC State. In her third year cheering at State, she has been a part of the team that competes at Nationals every year, cheered at NC State football games, and has formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

Now she is enjoying a new experience — as Sports Illustrated Cheerleader of the Week. Not knowing who would be chosen for this honor, Kristen and some of her teammates participated in a photo shoot in front of the Murphy Center. Later that week, Kristen listened to a voicemail from one of her friends giving her the great news that she had been chosen to represent NC State. “I was so surprised that I had been picked, but it’s pretty cool to think that I was famous for a week!” Kristen said. As the Cheerleader of the Week, Kristen is featured on the Sports Illustrated Web site. There is a gallery with pictures from the photo shoot and an interview with Kristen about her interests and goals in life.

Kristen has been cheering since high school, but was a gymnast for many years before that. Being a cheerleader has taught her the importance of working hard and being dedicated to reaching her goals. As a student athlete, Kristen maintains a strong GPA and tries to avoid the stereotype that tends to fall on most student athletes. With a life aspiration to become a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, Kristen’s dedication and motivation will lead her to achieve that goal.

STUDENT TAKES ON THE WORLD

By Katie Sullivan

Stephanie Brown

Stephanie studied in Egypt in the summer of 2008 where she took a beginner Arabic course and a modern Egyptian history course. Some of her favorite sites in Egypt include the Giza pyramids, the Sphinx, ancient temples with hieroglyphics and the tombs of the pharaohs. While in Egypt, Stephanie also had the opportunity to climb Mt. Sinai. Stephanie recalls that the hike up the mountain was more difficult than she expected and took about three hours, but it was an “amazing experience because of the historical and religious significance.”

In the summer of 2009 Stephanie traveled to Peru with the Army Cross-Cultural Solutions Program. The group spent four weeks in a village called Ayacucho. Stephanie’s main purpose in Peru was volunteering at the Wawa Wasi, which is “basically a daycare for people who couldn’t afford one.” On the weekends she had a chance to explore the country. One weekend she went into the jungle, another she went on a llama trek and the last weekend she went on a four-day trip to Machu Picchu, a UNESCO heritage site.

Only 20 years old, Stephanie has already traveled to many fascinating places. Through the army and studies Stephanie has had amazing experiences, and she hopes to travel more in the future.

HORSING AROUND AS STUDENT AND NATIONAL CHAMPION

By Katie Seamon

Majoring in communication with a public relations concentration and planning to go to law school after he graduates, Justin Bubenik would appear to have little time for extra-curricular activities. However, Justin is not only involved in North Carolina State’s Western Horseback Riding Team, but he is also the team captain. As a national champion horseback rider, he makes sure to balance this hobby into his weekly routine.

Currently a junior, Justin was not always a part of the Wolfpack. Originally from Happy Valley, Oregon, he started his freshman year of college at Oregon State University, where he began his adventures in horseback riding. Originally joining the riding team in hopes of getting to know the beautiful girls he would see riding, he never imagined that he would soon be a champion.

As a freshman in college, Justin had just placed fourth in the Collegiate Riding Semi-finals and was on his way to nationals. Hoping to complete a flawless ride, he was standing in front of the judges waiting to hear his fate. The placing was called in ascending order, and as the judges got down to the top three spots, Justin was still standing. Finally, they announced the second place winner: Justin realized that this meant that he was the only one still standing. He had been named the Collegiate Horsemanship National Champion. “I was so excited and just utterly shocked,” said Justin.

After completing his freshman year with an unforgettable victory, Justin decided to try out a student exchange program somewhere within the United States. He listed NC State as his third choice and ended up moving to North Carolina to complete the exchange program. He took on horseback riding at NC State and started the Western Riding Team, eventually becoming the leader of the team.
Downtown Miami, in a back-alley salsa club, a young Colombian man spent his nights. One night, as he was known as the king of the dance floor, a young beautiful American girl walked into the club. Without hesitation, the dance king and the young girl met in the middle of the dance floor. Speaking no words, for he only knew Spanish and she only knew English, they communicated through dance.

Nicolas Restrepo, otherwise known as the dance king, had just moved to the United States and had a passion for Latin dance. Restrepo ended up marrying his salsa partner, Liara Gonzalez, in what has been known as a romantic novel waiting to happen.

That was over five years ago, and Restrepo and Gonzalez are happily married with their two cats. Gonzalez is a veterinarian, completing her residency at N.C. State Veterinarian School, specializing in horses.

Restrepo, now 28 years old, is still working on his English and studying public relations at N.C. State. Since moving to the United States, Restrepo has lived in Miami, Ohio, New York and now North Carolina. After graduation, he would love to travel some more, yet it all depends on where his wife’s job takes them.

When Restrepo isn’t on the dance floor or cheering on the Madrid Spain soccer team, he works as the Spanish assistant for Together for Better Education. This organization helps students with Spanish-speaking backgrounds gain more specialized education and tutors in English. “I love this organization, and I would love to continue working with them as long as I can,” Restrepo said.

With Restrepo working on his degree and his wife in school, the two are still seen at the salsa clubs continuing to keep their romance alive on the dance floor. Although Restrepo isn’t much for tradition, he believes that through dance anything is possible.

For many, the chance to go to a foreign country, experience a different culture, meet new people and earn college credit is too much to pass up. Each year, hundreds of students participate in programs offered by NC State Study Abroad, but few of them are graduate students. While undergraduates often take a summer or semester to participate in one of the dozens of programs offered every year, not many graduate students know that they too can travel and earn credit through NC State.

Kristi Jones, a graduate student in communication, traveled to Concepcion, Chile this past summer with NC State. While there she completed a communication research course, an independent study course and a rural sociology course. “I was especially fortunate to work with our department’s very own Dr. Wiley for the first two classes, and the rural sociology class was taught by a noted Chilean professor in his field who has also done substantial research work in the U.S.,” said Kristi.

Not only did Kristi get a chance to further her studies in Chile, she also got to take advantage of what the country had to offer. During holidays, Kristi and other students from the program were able to travel across Chile and the surrounding countryside by bus.

“Chile’s landscape is so diverse; you literally have the polar ice caps and the desert all in the same country. We also traveled across Argentina and visited some of its signature cities such as Mendoza and Buenos Aires,” said Kristi.

Students interested in more information are encouraged to visit the Study Abroad office on the third floor of the First Year College Commons or browse the Web site at http://studyabroad.ncsu.edu.

GRAD STUDENT KRISTI JONES MAKES MOST OF HER TIME IN CHILE

By Justin Bubenik

STUDY ABROAD OFFERS LEARNING, GROWTH AND MEMORIES

By Jen Hankin
GRADUATE STUDENT HELPS REVITALIZE TROPICAL HOMETOWN

By Kerry Stover

C urrent NC State University graduate student and Bahamas native Alastair Knowles has helped revitalize the downtown city-life of Nassau through the use of effective communication and smart planning. To the Bahamians, downtown was an area that no one visited after dark. Most of the population would go to work, and then go directly home, making an effort to avoid downtown. Many complained of this lack of nightlife, but did nothing about it, until Knowles decided to ignite a change.

The Nassau revitalization started out as a motivational and informative initiative Web site with a focus on people aged 16-30. These people were presumably up-and-coming, and new to the working community. Some of the bars and clubs embedded in downtown Nassau are owned by young entrepreneurs, and without the initiative, their businesses would be on the verge of extinction. They supported them, pushed business in their direction, and worked with them in an effort to bring life back to the downtown area after dark. The idea eventually evolved into an interest group named Take Initiative Nassau (TIN). The group sought to bring downtown Nassau back to its livelier glory days by giving ownership back to the Bahamian people through city government control and personal ownership. Knowles stated, “People place a higher value on downtown when they live there. It matters if it’s safe and clean.”

In a city controlled primarily by older citizens, businessmen and out-of-touch bureaucrats, Knowles noticed that younger generations had little to no power in creating an agenda for their city; the initiative sought to change this power imbalance. In March 2009, Knowles arranged a town hall meeting that introduced everyone to the initiative. TIN was supported by the Downtown Nassau Partnership, which is an entity commissioned by the government and private sectors to oversee the revitalization of Nassau.

Other interest groups quickly added their support for the revitalization of the capital city. The revitalization started as a bar crawl which introduced many inhabitants to lesser known bars and clubs dotted throughout the downtown region. The bar crawls fused with the local artists. Old, decrepit city buildings were cleaned and painted, becoming structures of art and maintaining their historical value, while other buildings displayed art pieces within them. As a result of these positive changes, Knowles was invited to join a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural think tank. UNESCO is currently working towards having Nassau declared a city of design.

Knowles departed the Bahamas in July 2009 in order to complete his master’s degree at NCSU. The TIN team is now headed by a six-person executive team. Knowles continues to be involved with his hometown’s progress, but has become more of a liaison for TIN between government funded entities, young people interested in getting involved and other interest groups.

Knowles successfully reignited the social scene in his hometown and laid the groundwork for a prosperous future for the inhabitants of Nassau, but Downtown Nassau is still in the process of being revitalized. TIN has assisted with seeing that revitalization become a reality.

INTERNSHIP OFFERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO DEEP FRIED FAIR FOOD

By Candace Jones

O ctober in Raleigh brings much more than crisp air, cold fronts, and color-changing foliage. It’s the month when diets are shelved and calorie counting forsaken, as people indulge in fried corn, turkey legs, candy apples, funnel cakes, fried snickers bars, elephant ears, and chocolate covered bacon. October in Raleigh brings the State Fair.

For Paul Jones, however, the State Fair evolved from a fried-food extravaganza into a 40 hour-per-week job. Paul, or if you prefer his blogging alias “Bearded Lady,” is a senior in Public Relations. He began the government student internship with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the State Fair during May of 2009.

Paul spent his time writing press releases and media advisories, seeking out advertisements, blogging on social media sites as the Bearded Lady, and serving as the building superintendent during the fair.

When asked if the internship met his expectations, Paul flashed a quick smile and said, “Oh yeah, in fact, it has completely surpassed them.” Coming from a student who has fulfilled a few internships to this point, his assured answer is notable. “I’ve learned so much about media relations, specifically about what is truly news worthy.”

According to Paul, this internship taught him skills on the fairgrounds that will eventually serve him in a career post graduation. “In this short time, I interviewed a rockin’ eco hero and a horse complex manager; I saw grown men chug milk and identify a former commodity queen; I covered Blueberry Day and Peach Day; and I discussed how social media is becoming a larger force in all our lives. I even co-produced and starred in a low-budget film.”

So, if thoughts of deep fried chocolate covered bacon and milk chugging men tickle your fancy, then perhaps you could be the next Bearded Lady. The Department of Agriculture is looking for student interns for the spring and summer of 2010. If you would like to learn more about the internship, visit the Department of Agriculture’s page at www.agr.state.nc.us. To read Paul’s blog, visit http://info.ncagr.com/deepfried/?tag=intern.
From nine to five, they are known as a journalist, a design consultant, a communications coordinator, a broadcast manager and a public relations writer.

Rather than heading home at the stroke of five, these working professionals pack their book bags and head to class. Jon Weiner, Amy Bryson, Kristi Jones, Stephanie Crayton and Mike Charbonneau decided to enroll in graduate school while balancing full-time jobs. Although the students are quick to mention the unwavering dedication, self-discipline and time management skills needed for the program, they all agree it has made a significant impact in both their personal and career lives.

While the students are pursuing their master’s degrees for professional purposes, they are also striving to meet their personal goals as well. “I really wanted to prove to myself that I could get a degree beyond a bachelor’s. After being out of school for a while, I wanted to be able to say that I came back and was able to do it. A master’s has been a personal goal for me, and getting through the program was like reaching some level of personal success, just something to hang my hat on,” said Jon Weiner, a public relations writer for Communicia Marketing Services.

To maintain their full-time jobs and obtain their graduate degrees, the students attend night classes. Amy Bryson, the communications coordinator of N.C. Long Term Care Facilities noted, “It is great to have all graduate classes in the evening. It was a bit of a limitation when certain classes were offered in the afternoon, and summer school was never an option because of the time schedule. But taking two classes twice a week in the evening was manageable.” Some students also use their vacation time from work in the more demanding times of the semester, such as midterms and finals, while others use weekends for their study times. “I studied weeknights when I could, but primarily reserved all of my weekends for studying—from sun up to sun down,” said Stephanie Crayton, the media relations and broadcast manager at UNC Health Care.

Melissa Johnson, associate professor and director of Graduate (Masters) Program, said that the students are an inspiration to communication professionals in the RTP area who are considering a master’s degree. “All of our required courses are offered in the evening so it is entirely possible to balance one’s studies with a full-time job, as these successful graduate students have demonstrated.”

The professor and student interaction is highly praised for the effectiveness and growth of the program. When asked what she liked most about the program, Kristi Jones, an instructional design consultant for Allscripts, believes the interaction between students and professors is most important. “As a whole they are extremely talented and committed to our success.” Built inside the classroom, student-to-student and professor-to-student interactions form the confidence and skills needed for successful foundations outside the classroom.

Proving graduate school isn’t limited to the classroom, Jones studied abroad in Chile last semester. She was the first master’s student in the program to study abroad. By reducing her job hours to part time, she was able to attend school full-time while studying abroad. “I always wanted to live in a Spanish-speaking country and I love academic research, so for me there wasn’t a more perfect marriage of the two,” said Jones. “Every worry I had ended up working itself out, and if you have a strong desire to do it then do everything within your means to do so. You will not regret it.”

As graduation nears, the students look forward to the credibility, fresh perspectives and in-depth knowledge that will accompany their master’s degrees and anticipate how their degrees can enhance their careers. “I expected to leave this program with new knowledge and skills to further my career, which I did. What I could not have predicted was the importance of the experience along the way,” said Mike Charbonneau, a television news reporter with WRAL.

While much determination and hard work is needed, managing a full-time job and attending graduate school offers many opportunities that some will never have the chance to experience. Although graduation is soon, the students are confident that the skills and knowledge learned will carry over into their professional and personal lives, as they grow in their passion for the communication field.
Of the many students enrolled in the Department of Communication, nine were granted department scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year.

One of the nine students was Clarice Baracca who was awarded the William G. Franklin Scholarship which is granted in honor of Dr. William G. Franklin’s 24 years of dedicated service, excellent teaching, and outstanding mentorship. Former students of Dr. Franklin have contributed outright gifts to create a scholarship in his name in the North Carolina State University Foundation. This scholarship is open to all communication students within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In honor of Wally Ausley and his many outstanding contributions, the Wally Ausley Endowed Community Scholarship was awarded to Sara Stroup for the 2009-2010 academic year. Mr. Ausley had a lasting impact on the university being awarded the Warauga Medal for his outstanding sports broadcasting and his reporting of general University information. The scholarship on behalf of Mr. Ausley’s legacy is awarded to students who are in the Communication Media Concentration; on the basis of good scholarship potential and ability.

The Kara Ruth Medlin Memorial Scholarship Endowment was given to Ashley Nicole Jones for the 2009-2010 academic year in memory of Kara Ruth Medlin. Kara, the daughter of Thomas E. and Darlene W. Medlin, was a junior majoring in communication when she was tragically killed in a car accident. This scholarship is funded through outright or deferred gifts from Kara’s parents and other members of Kara’s family. All communication students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at North Carolina State University who graduated from a North Carolina high school are eligible for this scholarship which is renewable each academic year for four years maximum, but only if recipients maintain a GPA of 3.0.

Another memorial scholarship granted to Department of Communication students is the Nancy and Melissa Snow scholarship. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Nancy Hill and A.C Snow’s daughter, Melinda Snow, and in honor of Nancy Snow, a former faculty member of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. This scholarship is also funded through outright gifts given by the family and friends of the Snow family and is open to outstanding communication students who are active members of Lambda Pi Eta. This award is provided for one academic year and may be renewed but renewal is determined by the Scholarship Awards Committee. Mariah Morgan Jones was awarded this scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

Undergraduate students majoring in communication with a public relations concentration have a scholarship available exclusively to them; that is the Long, Javidi, Prospects and PRSSA scholarship. This scholarship was established to fund deserving undergraduate students in the public relations concentration and recipients are selected based upon merit. The recipient of this scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic school year was Darlene Horton.

The C.A. Dillon, Jr., Scholarship was awarded to Kathleen Crone. The C.A. Dillon Jr. Scholarship in Communication awards a scholarship in honor of C.A. Dillon, Jr. for his many contributions to NC State University as a member of the Board of Trustees, the Student Aid Association, and as the public address announcer for Carter-Finley Stadium and Reynolds Coliseum. This scholarship is awarded to majors in the Communication Media Concentration.

Sara Hughes and Sarah Williamson were awarded the Charlotte Ann Elleman Outstanding Clinician Award. This award is an endowment used to fund a monetary award for students majoring in communication disorders and who are deemed “Outstanding Clinician” at each fall and spring graduation ceremonies. Eligible students are those with a concentration in communication disorders and enrolled in COM 465 during the semester in which they are given the award.

The Joe S. Epley scholarship was awarded to Faran Duhlberg. This scholarship is funded by the friends and colleagues of Joe S. Epley, founder and chairman of Epley Associates. This scholarship was established in 2004 to recognize the 35th anniversary of the founding of Epley Associates. Congratulations to all nine of these students who worked diligently to receive these awards. There is also great thanks to be given to those who provide funds for those awards given to students majoring in communication. If you are interested in applying for any of the above scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year, please note that the last call for applications is February 10, 2010.
PACK PROMISE GIVES STUDENTS MORE THAN AN EDUCATION

By Mallory Pfeffer

If you have ever been into the Department of Communication offices on the second floor of Winston, then chances are you have seen them working away. Maybe they have answered one of your burning questions or helped you turn work in for a professor, or maybe you have spotted them roaming the halls on an important errand. Who exactly are these departmental do-gooders? They are Carizma Thomas and Joshua Smith, the Department of Communication’s Work Study students.

Carizma, a sophomore from South Carolina, and Joshua, a junior from Fayetteville, chose N.C. State for very different reasons. Carizma drove through the campus and said that she just “got a feeling” that this was the right place for her, while Joshua on the other hand was drawn in by N.C. State’s extraordinary engineering school. It’s true, these two students sound very different; one is an engineering major, the other a communication major; one is from out of state, the other from in-state; and one is a sophomore, while the other a junior.

How then did they both get this Work Study opportunity? Through the scholarships they were awarded through the Pack Promise financial aid program. According to Carizma and Joshua, when accepted into the Pack Promise program students are given a list of opportunities that will help them work off tuition money. There are Work Studies for departments all across campus, and you do not need to be a part of the specific department you choose to work for. The application process was simple, “I just called in, sent in my resume, and then set up a face-to-face interview with Ms. Donise Benton,” Carizma stated.

So, what exactly is a Work Study? Carizma describes it as, “doing different jobs. There is not one way to explain exactly what you’ll be doing.” Joshua affirmed, “We do whatever needs to be done. I’ll sit in at the front desk if the temp isn’t there, direct students with questions, send out mail, and run campus errands.” No matter the task, Work Study students are gaining valuable office experience and getting a first-hand look at how to run a department.

Joshua and Carizma both agree that after working for other departments on campus this one has been a breath of fresh air. The hours are flexible (both students only work two days a week), students can schedule around classes, and if it’s a slow day in the office, they can work on homework.

When asked what have been their favorite parts about the job, the common answer between the two was simply being in the office and socializing with the faculty members. Joshua described the atmosphere as, “always lighthearted.”

When asked specifically if they would recommend this program to other students they both responded with a firm, “definitely.” A Work Study is an outstanding opportunity for students who qualify.

STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN NSF UNDERGRAD RESEARCH PROGRAM

By Danielle A. Grimes

For many college students, their perfect summer is spent on the couch, remote in one hand and snacks in the other, with their eyes plastered to the television as their brain slowly deletes everything it stored over the previous school year. However, we have breaking news for all you slackers: there is life beyond the couch after finals! What would you say if you were told there is an opportunity for you get college credit, undergraduate research experience, network, and travel out of the state, all while getting paid? You may be thinking, if it sounds too good to be true it is, but this just might be the one exception to that rule. Ranata Reeder’s summer experience is a testament to this.

Reeder, a junior in communication, spent 10 weeks of her summer in Texas while she participated in the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduate program. The semester prior to her summer experience in the program, Reeder worked with Dr. Liz Craig in an independent study on the meaning derived from messages, which ignited her interest in research. Through the program, Reeder was afforded the opportunity to spearhead her own research experiment, focusing on her personal interest in language and how it relates to culture. “For the first five weeks of the program I took a course on research and research methods,” Reeder explained. “The final five weeks I carried out my research project.”

Though she does admit that there was a rigorous workload, Reeder described her overall participation in the program as a challenging but rewarding experience. There are numerous benefits that are associated with the program: “It looks good on your resume and it’s paid,” are two perks that Reeder admitted sweetened the experience, but she also raved that through her participation in the program she developed an “appreciation and respect for different cultures.”

Reeder encourages all NC State students to take advantage of this summer program. To get involved is simple, all you have to do is apply online. Visit the National Science Foundation’s Web site, www.nsf.gov/index.jsp, for more information.
KARLIE JUSTUS: THIS MOUNTAIN GIRL IS A WHOLE LOTTA FUN

By Shelli Mayfield

She might look like the next Miss North Carolina, but don’t let that fool you. Her tiara is a press badge, her bouquet of roses a clipboard and pen and rather than make her way slowly down a runway, she walks briskly through the fairgrounds, clipboard and pen in hand, planning her next event with a smile gracing her lips and determination in her eyes.

Originally from Hendersonville, NC, this self-proclaimed mountain girl hails from a family of die-hard Wolfpack fans, so it was no coincidence that when she visited the NCSU campus during high school, she felt right at home. Although she wasn’t sure she wanted to go to a school that is well-known for majors concentrating in engineering and technical degrees, she decided from the beginning that she wanted a degree in public relations, so she quickly found her niche at North Carolina State University.

Karlie was a member of the NCSU Dance Team her first two years in college, but soon realized the importance of working as an intern in public relations, so she left the dance team to enter the world of public relations as a sophomore. She began by interning at the Carolina Ballet in its marketing department, followed by the American Dance Festival in Durham. Then she found a program through the government that offered a list of available internships in the Raleigh area and she applied for several of them. The first one she landed was with the North Carolina Museum of Art. Then the Department of Agriculture offered her a student position and she started in August 2007, just in time for the N.C. State Fair. Since the Department of Agriculture runs the fair, Karlie got firsthand experience at writing pitch letters and media releases, planning press conferences, and getting feature stories in the News and Observer.

While the relationships developed with others in public relations as well as the media contacts she established are invaluable to her, it’s the experience of writing in the field that has helped her most. She said, “The writing I did during my internship is where I developed. Writing a paper is a lot different than trying to get coverage for a new grant at the Department of Agriculture. It’s two totally different things and you’ve got to have that experience.”

While writing for her hometown paper during her high school years, she considered pursuing a career in journalism but after her internships, she decided she enjoyed the freedom to be really creative without the constraints of objective reporting that journalists have to follow. After graduation, she accepted a position with the Department of Agriculture because she knew they would give her the freedom to use her talents in a creative, productive manner, such as introducing the use of social media as a means to promote the fair.

Outside of the 10 days the state fair is in town, a typical work day for Karlie begins with scanning local publications for any agriculture or state fair related stories and distributing those within the department, as well as answering questions that come into the Web sites the department sponsors. On any given day, she will be writing news releases, speeches, or media advisories. There are also events to plan, from ceremonies to press conferences. Occasionally, there will be a crisis that needs to be addressed, such as the recent tomato recall. Finally, her love for social media comes into play as she manages the blog for the Department of Agriculture (http://info.ncagr.com/blog/), the blog for the N.C. State fair (http://info.ncagr.com/DeepFried/), and the Twitter account for the N.C. State Fair.

It is during the month of October Karlie really shines. She devotes a lot of time to event planning ceremonies, media relations, taking pictures and videos of the events and posting those online. She created a tweetup, an event the fair hosts to encourage their Twitter followers to use Twitter during their fair visit to win prizes via a scavenger hunt. The day of the tweetup – Thursday, Oct. 22 – was the most highly tweeted day for the fair with 150 tweeters attending the event. They also broke the Thursday attendance record (108,929) and those attendees brought more cans for Food Lion Hunger Relief Day than ever before (237,534 pounds of food). They also broke their all-time attendance record with 877,939 visitors. Karlie believes social media played a role by putting targeted content in front of more eyes.

IN THE SPIRIT OF ALUMNI GIVING

By John Hubbard

After attending North Carolina State University and entering the real world, there is a little piece of your soul that is left on the campus. With a donation in the form of an engraved brick or a payment to the department of your choice, more than just your spirit will continue to provide for the current students at NC State.

If you choose to take part in the commemorative brick tradition, the donated brick will be placed outside the front door of Winston Hall facing Hillsborough Street. A brick only costs $100 and is 4” x 8” with room for three lines of text. All proceeds go towards the Department of Communication or any department you choose.

Another way to donate to the Department of Communication is to give a gift of any amount. A check can be made out and mailed to the NC State Foundation. If you do not want to worry about paying for postage stamps, you can use the Secure Online Gift Form located at www.chass.ncsu.edu/giving/how_to_give.

All donations help support students, faculty, and essential needs to continue the mission of the department. Be part of NC State forever! For more information visit the CHASS Web site or call 919-515-5973 during normal business hours.
By Cassidy Weathersby

Chuck Norman graduated in 1996 with a BA in Communication, concentrating in Public Relations. Norman has held a number of positions — from director of marketing research and account manager to vice president of communication. He is currently the executive vice president of S&A Cherokee, a full-service communications company focusing on public relations, marketing, publishing, event planning and digital marketing. Some of S&A Cherokee clients are NC State, Goodnight’s Comedy Club and Prestonwood Country Club.

“We talked with Norman to ask him how he successfully moved into his career and what advice he could pass along to students.”

“Everything I learned in my internship prepared me to handle my current role, so an internship if administered correctly can be the stepping stone for long and prosperous careers.”

Where did you do your internship?
I completed my internship with the Cary Chamber of Commerce during my last semester of college. Nonprofits are traditionally understaffed, so I was given a variety of tasks throughout my internship. There was a lot of writing involved for all the divisions of the Chamber. I was also given a portion of the monthly print newsletter to research and write. Chambers also have special member events just about every week. I was directly responsible for managing or assisting in the planning and implementation of those events. Cary was growing quickly at that time so I also helped research and publish demographic statistics for economic development purposes. I had the opportunity to handle media relations with local media and write and distribute press releases.

Describe the kind of experience you gained while working there.
When you work for a non-profit, you get to wear many hats. I was able to not only gain valuable writing, editing and public relations experience but also graphic design, governmental affairs and economic development experience. The key to success for all of this was getting good feedback and direction from my supervisor. Make sure you ask questions and understand why your work was corrected. Most internship supervisors are willing to help you understand the process and apply what you have been taught in the real world.

How did it prepare you for the “real world”?
The real world for me ended up being a position at the Cary Chamber of Commerce. If you perform well in your internship, there is always a chance for employment with that organization after graduation. I was hired as the Director of Marketing Research after graduation in which I was responsible for writing various member communication pieces, researching demographics for economic development purposes, staging special member events and working on content and design of the Chamber’s first Web site. Everything I learned in my internship prepared me to handle my current role, so an internship if administered correctly can be the stepping stone for long and prosperous careers.

Is there anything, from your experience, students can/should do to prepare for an interview?
Research the company and the industry in depth before you interview. Know about current trends and happenings so you can talk knowledgably about the company and the target audiences they serve. If you are interviewing with an agency, make sure you know the kinds of clients they represent and again make sure you know about current trends (things in the news) for a couple of them.

What one piece of advice would you give students searching for their first jobs?
Prepare yourselves well and diversify your offerings as a potential employee. Due to the current economic downturn, there are many qualified professionals looking for work. The more you can show you can pull your weight and have practical experience that you can apply right away, the better chances you have securing a position. If you don’t have experience in a certain area, do something pro bono for a group, a church or other organization to gain experience. It should be something that shows you have the knowledge, skills and abilities to handle the work you are seeking, and it demonstrates that you have the drive and passion to better yourself while making a serious attempt at securing a meaningful job.

What is the most valuable thing you've learned since graduating?
Working hard and giving back to both your employer and your community can get you places more quickly than either one alone. The rewards are greater not only monetarily but mentally and emotionally. You spend more time at work than you do at home, so you have to make sure you’re doing what you’re truly passionate about. If you’re not, you’re setting yourself up for disappointment and perhaps failure.

Social media and professionalism are big topics to students these days. What Information can you provide, and how do you view the uses of social media when it comes to professionalism?
You should remember, your social media profiles are open to the world in many cases so anyone can read or view what you post. Keep in mind that you work for yourself and sell your services to an employer or potential employer. Once on board, you represent that entity so anything you do could be associated with that organization. More importantly, the brand called “you” is with you forever, so what may seem like fun today could damage your personal brand for years to come. The fact is, people will form an opinion of you (good or bad) based on what they see and read so be smart about it. It is okay to have fun but keep anything you don’t want the world to know about in the areas that cannot be accessed by the public like direct messaging on Twitter.

Norman, pictured above with wife, at a Carolina Panthers’ game.
F or many soon-to-be graduates this is a time of excitement filled with much uncertainty of what the future has in store. The job market is suffering under tough economic stress, making graduates uneasy about prospective opportunities.

Fall communication graduate Lena Denning is still looking at her options. She hopes to use her degree in public relations to pursue a career in sales. Feeling prepared to take on the work force, Denning attributes her preparation to her time at NCSU. “After taking courses in communication, I have noticed that I look at every commercial, every publicity stunt as a possible campaign that I could have launched. I find myself evaluating companies’ methods of public relations, which makes me appreciate my courses and my professors,” said Denning.

Elisabeth Chapman, another communication fall graduate, takes a different approach towards her graduation day. Already receiving a job offer, Chapman is taking one last college opportunity before she begins working. She has applied to study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in their international business program during the spring 2010 semester. This would push her graduation date back, but is an experience she feels will aid her in future endeavors. She said, “I decided on International Business because I have received a job offer with a large corporation and thought an international experience would help me gain a competitive edge and global perspective for my career.” Never finding the appropriate time to study abroad, Chapman is hoping that her last semester will be the right time for her.

Though the job market may not be at its best, aspiring fall graduates are still trying to find opportunities to use their communication degrees. The Department of Communication wishes all of the fall graduates the best of luck with their future plans.

**DECEMBER 19 IS THE BIG DAY FOR 63 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDENTS**

By Amanda Brogden

The Department of Communication’s graduation ceremony will be held on December 19th in Carmichael Gym at 1 pm. Approximately 63 undergraduate students will walk the stage including 24 students from the Communication Media concentration, 22 students from the Public Relations and Organizational Communication concentration, 16 students from the Public and Interpersonal Communication concentration, and one student from the Communication Disorders concentration. The ceremony will honor the five graduate students who completed their M.S. degree this fall. CRDM will graduate its first doctoral student, Christian Casper.

Department Head and Professor Ken Zagacki will present the opening and closing remarks. Students graduating Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude as well as students with memberships in Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa and Lambda Pi Eta will be recognized.