The Department of Communication hosted Communication Week 2009 February 16-20. This was the first COM Week that the department had planned in many years. The week consisted of events each day that varied from panel discussions to seminars to provide students with a great learning experience and networking opportunities.

According to Dr. Kelly Albada, communication professor and participant, the purpose of COM Week is “to allow students to connect with working professionals, to create a greater sense of community within the department, and to facilitate the sharing of multiple perspectives on careers, education, and research.”

The events began on Monday with a presentation from Ken Eudy, CEO of public relations firm CapStrat, on the “Impact of Social Media.” Because social media is rapidly becoming more important to the world of communication, Eudy’s presentation provided the attendees with a better understanding of new media.

On Wednesday, a panel discussed how social media can enhance an organization’s communication. The panel consisted of former NC State graduate Karlie Justus, who works for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and Kristen Hamstra, SAS Web Marketing Specialist. The panelists described the importance of social media relating to their jobs, while also introducing some innovative social media tools and tactics to the attendees. Hamstra’s main advice to the students was, “Go into your job thinking you will be the best social media resource in your organization.” The panelists explained how to use sites such as Twitter and Facebook as a networking tool, now popular with public relations agencies and major companies worldwide. Justus believes that all students should “get a twitter, a blog, and keep up with major media sources. When looking to be hired, companies will see that as intuitive and a skill.”

Later on Monday, Dr. Kelly Albada, Dr. Elizabeth Craig, Dr. Christi Moss, and Dr. Richard Waters participated in a panel discussion focusing on faculty research projects. A second panel discussion that explored communication research was held on Friday involving Dr. Kami Kosenko, Dr. Jessica Jameson, Dr. Adriana de Souza e Silva, and Dr. Steve Wiley. Dr. Jameson, communication professor and participant, believes that the presentations of faculty research projects “Introduced students to a wide range of research questions and methods for conducting research, as well as motivated them to get involved with faculty research.”

“Go into your job thinking you will be the best social media resource in your organization.”

Social media sites like Twitter and Facebook will continue to play an important role in public relations strategy.

Students connect with professionals, share perspectives on education, careers, research

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As my second year as the head of the Department of Communication comes to a close, I find myself once again reflecting on upcoming changes in the Department but also on the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. One change is that Ed McCallum will now serve as our Department office manager. Ed has been the Business Manager for both the Department of Psychology and the Department of Communication, which required that he provide oversight to our respective departmental budgets. Now, along with his usual Business Manager duties, Ed will oversee all office procedures and policies while also supervising our departmental staff.

Another change – this one to our curriculum – is that we will no longer be offering concentrated study in Communication Disorders. Consequently, both Cynthia Pullen and Dr. Beth Barnes will be leaving us at the end of the spring semester. Cynthia and Beth have contributed greatly to the Department during their many years of teaching and service. Please take time to thank them for their accomplishments.

As for the many other achievements of our faculty, staff, and students – I am especially proud of our teaching and research. Our exemplary teaching is no place better exemplified than in the work of Dr. Deanna Dannels, who won the 2009 “Outstanding Teacher Award,” which recognizes NC State faculty for excellence in teaching and enables them to become members of the university’s “Academy of Outstanding Teachers.” Dr. Dannels won this award because of her superior teaching activities, which include involvement in course and curriculum development and improvement, graduate student advising, innovative teaching activities, grants for teaching, activities in university organizations, research activities directly related to teaching, and other significant contributions.

My vision for this Department has always been to make sure that, along with our excellent instruction, we also promote cutting-edge scholarship. Many faculty members in our Department are innovative researchers, but I’d like to highlight the work of our younger professors. Dr. Adriana de Souza e Silva, for example, has been engaged in pioneering scholarship on location-based mobile games and hybrid reality gaming (such as Blast Theory’s “Day of the Figurines” and “I Like Frank”), analyzing how these games merge playful and serious life spaces, and construct player identity based on trust and anonymity. Another Assistant professor, Dr. Elizabeth Craig, has been studying the interactive coping strategies utilized by online support groups. Meanwhile, Dr. Celeste Farr and Dr. Kami Kosenko (her research is profiled later in this newsletter) have been investigating the relationships between interpersonal communication and sexually transmitted diseases in (mainly African American and transgendered) populations. And Dr. Jeremy Packer, in his new edited book, Secret Agents, investigates the political and cultural ramifications of the continued popularity and increasing diversity of the “secret agent” across television, film, and popular culture.

Of course, communication research is often judged for its practical applications. Therefore I am thrilled to report that Dr. Joann Keyton, one of our Full professors, has recently been nominated for “The Gerald M. Phillips Award for Distinguished Applied Communication Scholarship,” which recognizes members of the National Communication Association who are responsible for authoring bodies of published research and creative scholarship in applied communication.

Finally, I am pleased to recognize that our Department’s emphasis on research is increasingly showing up in the work of our graduate and undergraduate students. Recently, several of them presented papers at the April meeting of the Southern Communication Association, in Norfolk, Virginia. I’d like to take special notice of the undergraduates, whose research represents the sort of high achievement we now expect from our undergraduate class. Ericka Aiken examined the role of economic rhetoric during presidential elections; Emily Reass explored the way in which “voice” is negotiated and associated with identity in the movie version of “My Fair Lady”; and James Alverson demonstrated how there was an inordinate amount of attention placed on Michelle Obama’s looks, and her role as a mother, during the 2008 Presidential election.

All things considered, I think you will agree that this has been another productive year of teaching and research for the Department of Communication.

Dr. Ken Zagacki

Dr. Adriana de Souza e Silva will be giving two conference presentations in May at the 59th annual International Communication Association (ICA) conference in Chicago. Dr. de Souza e Silva, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, is an expert and frequent speaker on how mobile and wireless technologies change perceptions of space, particularly urban spaces. She is also a prolific author on the inter-relations among mobile technologies, location-based activities and social spaces.

Her first presentation at the ICA pre-conference “The Future is Prologue: New Media, New Histories? on May 21st is titled “Mobile locative interfaces as potentiality: Actualizing information in space and space as information.” This paper is co-authored with Daniel M. Sutko, a Ph.D. student in the Communication, Rhetoric and Digital Media program.

On May 23rd she will present another paper, also co-authored with Sutko, titled “Locative social media: Challenging the aleatory and the social in the urban landscape.” This presentation is part of the panel “Location-based mobile games: Transforming urban spaces via locative media”, which Dr. de Souza e Silva organized to bring together some of the authors of her upcoming book, Digital Cityscapes: Merging Digital and Urban Playspaces, which will be published this June by Peter Lang.
Recently a team of NC State faculty and staff was awarded a grant to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate an innovative faculty development program to advance community-engaged scholarship on campus and nationally. The team was led by three exemplary women from various departments at NC State. One of the women who led this team was the Department of Communication’s Dr. Jessica Katz Jameson, Associate Head and Associate Professor of Communication and Civically-Engaged Scholar with the Center for Excellence.

“Community-engaged scholarship” encompasses scholarly activities related to research and/or teaching that involves full collaboration of students, community partners and faculty as co-educators and as co-generators of knowledge. It is a model for integrating research, teaching and engagement that is well-aligned with NC State’s land-grant mission and extension and engagement history.

“As a research-extensive university in the land-grant tradition, NC State has a long history of engagement with the people, communities, and issues of our state, nation, and the world,” said Provost Larry A. Nielsen in his letter of support for the grant. He added that NC State is committed to institutionalizing community-engaged teaching and research.

The goal of the new faculty development program is to build capacity for scholarly community-engaged teaching and research among faculty at various career stages. Called “EDGES” (Education and Discovery Grounded in Engaged Scholarship), the program targets faculty during key transition points in their career paths and supports the development of projects that, in turn, involve students at key transition points in their undergraduate careers. Twenty-four faculty members will undertake a series of professional development seminars that will be oriented toward the development of a community-engaged scholarship project to be implemented with students in the first or final year of their undergraduate careers. EDGES will thus support an intergenerational mentoring community of faculty.

According to Dr. Jameson this program which will enable the participants to “design a community engaged course or a community engaged research project so that they have some concrete task that they are focused on,” and will give faculty the opportunity to introduce students to a new way of learning that will allow them to become engaged in community-based projects.

The EDGES program can benefit students in the department in a number of ways. As the department encourages students to become actively involved in scholarship, EDGES may give students the chance to conduct research and engage in a scholarly project. Working with faculty who participate in EDGES may help students in communication who are trying to get involved in the honors program or Lambda Pi Eta.

While it is not certain that someone in the department will participate in EDGES, it is clear that the involvement of the department in the EDGES program could do a lot to benefit the goals of the department. For Dr. Jameson the implementation of EDGES will help the department and the university form a partnership with the community so that students can learn from the community “and build something that is innovative and will help solve community problems in new ways.”

This highly competitive grant competition was part of a national initiative called “Faculty for the Engaged Campus,” funded in part by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in the U.S. Department of Education (FIPSE) and sponsored by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With only six institutions out of 20 being selected for this grant it is truly an honor for NC State to be one of the chosen few. It is an even bigger honor to know that one of the department’s very own has had a major role in bringing this grant to the university.
DEBT-FREE GRADUATE SCHOOL IS ACHIEVABLE GOAL

By Pat Ferguson

As the economy struggles, many students are going back to school instead of testing the tough job market. N.C. currently has one of the fastest-growing unemployment rates (9.6 percent). While students may encounter difficulties in paying for grad school, there are a number of ways this can be accomplished.

According to Dr. Melissa Johnson, director of graduate programs for the department of communication, students need to look at all of their opportunities and ask questions about how they want to pay for their graduate studies. Students are advised to inquire about the different assistantships available at various universities.

For instance, for its best applicants the department of communication has assistantships that pay for tuition and health insurance at both the master’s and Ph.D. levels. Students who are granted assistantships work as teaching assistants or research assistants. Although TA’s and RA’s are the most common ways to earn stipends through an assistantship, there may be other ways students can earn stipends on campuses, such as through resident assistant jobs or working for other campus departments. Undergraduate students should ask their specific graduate departments about ways to pay for graduate studies.

There are alternate routes being taken by students in order to get through graduate school debt free. Most undergraduate students are familiar with FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). These forms are used to apply for government financial aid. FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. Use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, student loans, and college work-study. In addition, most states and schools, like NC State, use FAFSA information to award their financial aid. You can learn more about NC State’s financial aid process and the role of FAFSA by visiting http://admissions.ncsu.edu/afford-it/scholarships-opportunities.php For more information on FAFSA, visit the federal government Web site www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Students applying for grad school should consider whether or not they are going to be a part-time or full-time student. Part-time students have freedom to work full-time jobs while also taking classes. Not all graduate programs allow part-time study.

Dr. Johnson recommends that prospective grad students should examine factors like cost of living when deciding where to attend school because an $8,000 assistantship is worth more in a locale such as Raleigh than in cities such as Los Angeles that are subject to higher costs of living.

There are a number of Web resources. Best-places.net is a Web site that allows students to compare costs of living in different cities. According to Dr. Johnson, students should be creative in the search for financing. She said going the route of taking out loans for graduate school should be the last resort. “Many students can get through grad school debt free if they take advantage of the many opportunities available.”

CHASS-MAS PROVIDES NETWORK FOR MULTI-ETHNIC STUDENTS

By Shaneka Thurman

The College of Humanities and Social Science Multicultural Association for Students (CHASS-MAS) is a small service and leadership-based organization. It was created in 1996 with the mission to provide a network for all multi-ethnic students in CHASS. Last year, the organization won the Organization of the Year Award for all African American-based organizations. Dr. Pamela Martin is the faculty advisor for CHASS-MAS.

The organization serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas for the advancement of self and others in the humanities through community service, newsletters, lectures, peer advising, tutoring and field trips. CHASS-MAS has 12 active members. Many of the participants are students in the Department of Communication, though it is open to all CHASS students, faculty and staff who are committed to promoting service, academics, professionalism and a productive learning environment. Some of the organization’s annual programs include: “The Freshman Panel,” “College Knowledge,” “YMCA Thanksgiving and Christmas Festivities” and “Unforgotten Women.”

This year’s “Unforgotten Women” marked CHASS-MAS’s second annual program. CHASS-MAS collaborated with Women Empowering Society Together and the Women’s Center. The purpose of this program is to recognize women who made a significant contribution to society, but were never given full recognition. Held in March, the program recognizes women of African, African American, Caribbean, Caucasian and Native American heritage.
DISEASE CONTROL IN WEST AFRICA TARGET OF GRANT

By Shaneka Thurman

Public Relations Dr. James Kiwanuka-Tondo is serving as senior personnel for a proposed $3 million research grant. The Collaborative Climate and Health Research and Education for the Control of Meningitis in West Africa is a proposed three-year study that focuses on climate change in West Africa and its connection to meningitis. This disease kills approximately 3,000 people annually. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Fred Semazzi from the Department of Marine Earth And Atmospheric Sciences at NC State.

This project will be housed at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, and will be a collaboration with NCSU, Duke University, University of Texas at Austin and many other universities. The faculty of the U.S. institutions along with the ones in Ghana will work to build mechanisms to prevent meningitis by conducting research. As the only communication professor from NCSU involved in the study, Dr. Kiwanuka-Tondo’s focus will be to help with the campaign strategies. This study, if funded, will be open to graduate students at NCSU. The proposal for the grant has been submitted to the National Science Foundation for the first round of reviewing and awaits a response for submission of the full proposal.

COURSE EXPLORES LEADERSHIP ROLES IN NON-PROFITS

By Shaneka Thurman

The Department of Communication has long been an advocate for encouraging its students, faculty and staff to become engaged in the community through personal service, research and financial support. This community focus is manifested in several initiatives, including courses that help students better understand the role of non-profit organizations in the community and how they operate compared to for-profit organizations.

For two and a half hours every Monday night of the spring semester and 1st summer session, students in Lecturer Mindy Sopher’s COM 466 service learning class gather to explore leadership and development roles in the non-profit sector. Unlike traditional courses, students are introduced to the practicality of the everyday nonprofit world by spending a significant amount of time with a nonprofit organization of their choice. In the class, many communication students share the hardships and victories of their organizations. Among many of the organizations represented in the class are Susan G. Komen for the Cure (breast cancer), Boys and Girls Clubs, Stop Hunger Now and Triangle Community Works, and Generation Engage.

These real world experiences with non-profit organizations have opened up minds and hearts to community service. After taking this course, more than half of the class said they are considering a career in the nonprofit sector.

KINSELLA NAMED NCA DIVISION PRESIDENT ELECT

By Antoinette Russell

In November Dr. Bill Kinsella, associate professor in the Department of Communication, will become president of the environmental communication division of the National Communication Association (NCA), an organization dedicated to communication researchers, educators and professionals all working toward one common goal — the advancement of human communication.

Dr. Kinsella is currently vice-president of the environmental communication division, a position that bears the major responsibility of planning the division’s participation in the NCA annual meeting in November. This year he had the responsibility of selecting the division’s speakers for the annual conference. With a total of 42 proposals, Dr. Kinsella had to send the proposals to several judges to determine who would be chosen to speak at the conference. While the position of vice-president oversees much of the division’s work for the conference, Dr. Kinsella said the effort is well worth the time if a successful outcome is achieved. While his new role as president will come with new tasks, the “real serious nitty gritty workload is when you are vice-president,” said Dr. Kinsella.

Despite budget cuts Dr. Kinsella and several other dedicated faculty members still plan to show their devotion to the field of communication by attending the NCA conference without financial support from the university. Faculty members have volunteered to pay costs that the department cannot fund in this year’s difficult budget climate.
On Monday, April 6, after months of diligent preparation, the NC State University chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) hosted PR Day 2009.

The all-day conference was open for all members of PRSSA, faculty, any interested students at NCSU, as well as public relations students from other universities around the state.

Paul Jones, vice president of PRSSA and event coordinator, said, “PR Day was a great way for students to learn about different career paths in the PR industry. It is also a wonderful chance to network with professionals and learn from their experiences.”

The day consisted of several panel discussions with PR professionals from around the Triangle who discussed several different topics in public relations, such as social media, nonprofit PR, corporate PR and entertainment PR. Attendees participated in the discussions, asked questions and interacted with each other.

There were also two different interactive activities involving both students and professionals — a university catered breakfast and lunch, and a career fair. Jones said, “We received positive feedback from all the activities, but I think most students benefited from the one-on-one time they were able to spend with the professionals. The networking opportunity is invaluable.”

There were more than 100 students from six universities who attended, and some 25 organizations that participated. Jones said, “This was a tremendous turn-out. There is broad interest throughout the state on the topic of public relations, and how it can help organizations thrive.”

Dr. David Berube is the lead author of The National Science Foundation funded white paper, “Communicating Risk in the 21st Century.” The National Nanotechnology Coordinating Office is issuing this paper to guide government officials in communicating on the potential risks associated with nanotechnology with the public and the media.

According to Dr. Berube, a professor of science and technology communication, in addition to its impact in government circles, the white paper may likely “craft the direction of risk communication for years to come on not only nanotechnology, but the risks of any emerging technologies.” He and his team included two faculty members: Brenton Faber, formerly of NCSU and Dietram Scheufele of Wisconsin. It included as well four graduate and doctoral students from NCSU (Chris Cummings, Grant Gardner, Kelly Martin, and Nick Temple).

They spent nine months compiling the 150 page document and negotiating the edits. This project has to be acceptable to all 25 federal agency and departmental partners in the National Nanotechnology Initiative across two administrations.

Dr. Berube said that public distrust of nanotechnology, or any new technology, is not necessarily due to a lack of scientific or technological understanding. Instead, the distrust could stem from the fact that the new technologies may challenge the public’s personal beliefs or values. This process is complicated with the power of the Internet as a source of information. As a result, Dr. Berube said, government and industry experts need to have at least a basic understanding of the social science of science and risk communication to communicate to the public and the media more effectively.

Nanotechnology is generally defined as technology that controls matter at dimensions between approximately 1 and 100 nanometers (a sheet of paper is 100,000 nanometers thick). At that level, matters has some unique properties leading to predictions of a widespread uses in medicine, consumer products and industrial processes.
By Sydney Stone

Each year NC State honors its exemplary educators with the “Outstanding Teacher Award,” and this year’s winner is Dr. Deanna Dannels, an associate professor in the Department of Communication.

Dr. Dannels teaches various graduate and undergraduate courses, including Small Group Communication, Communication and Conflict Management, Qualitative Methods of Applied Communication, and Teaching College Communication.

“My favorite undergraduate course to teach is Communication and Conflict and my favorite graduate courses I teach are Teaching College Communication and Qualitative Research Methods. It is difficult for me to choose one — teaching conflict management allows me the opportunity to engage students in material that is fundamental to the success (or lack thereof) of their interpersonal and workplace relationships,” she said.

According to Dr. Dannels, “Teaching research methods provides me with an opportunity to help students understand a new way of looking at the process of asking questions and getting answers through close observation and intent listening.”

Dr. Dannels said she was extremely flattered to be nominated for the Outstanding Teacher Award and even more so when she became the recipient.

Upon winning this award she was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Teachers and has since been voted by the Senior Student Council to be one of only four of the teachers to win the award and who also received a monetary award.

“It is really fulfilling to be recognized for something I hold near and dear to my professional heart and soul and an honor to be recognized among such talented teachers here at NC State University,” Dr. Dannels said.

In addition to being an Associate Professor, Dr. Dannels is also an Associate Director of the Campus Writing and Speaking Program and the Director of Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Development.

On Directing GTA Development Dr. Dannels commented, “Teaching new teachers allows me the opportunity to watch students grow and change in their teaching development over time.”

Dr. Dannels has also conducted extensive research on various topics, much of which has been published, which she believes is one of her biggest accomplishments.

“I am proud to have published important theoretical and empirical contributions in communication across the curriculum scholarship. Specifically, I am proud of my work that suggests an ethnographic, discipline-specific approach to administrative work in communication across the curriculum and my more recent work that calls attention to the relational nuances of learning to speak in your chosen discipline,” she said.

In addition to research, she feels that her relationships with her students are both inspiring and rewarding.

Dr. Dannels said, “Outside of scholarship, my students are my best accomplishments. Every time I hear from someone who has gotten a new job, solved a relational problem, been successful as a new teacher — those are the marks of my success.”

How is all of this possible?

Dr. Dannels credits her parents, mentors, and family for their continuing support of her throughout her collegiate and teaching career, as well as her students for their willingness to engage with her on a daily basis.

And what is next for Dr. Dannels?

Currently she is working towards promotion to full professor, several book projects, and even training for a marathon!

Dr. Deanna Dannels

By Ali Pearson

Dr. Victoria Gallagher and Dr. Kenneth Zagacki are anticipating the publication of their fourth article together, “Rhetorical Depiction of Nature: The Case of the Museum Park at the North Carolina Museum of Art.”

Dr. Zagacki, head of the Department of Communication, studies the rhetoric of scientific argumentation, the rhetorical aspects of visual communication, the rhetoric of foreign policy argument, and the relationship between philosophy and rhetoric. Dr. Gallagher is a professor and associate dean for graduate studies for CHASS, and a scholar of rhetorical criticism of commemorative sites and public art. With their mutual interest in the rhetorical dimensions of visual artifacts, the scholarly essays co-authored by Dr. Gallagher and Dr. Zagacki have led to a particularly satisfying collaboration.

The article on the Museum Park strives to understand how this space — the spacious area surrounding the outside grounds of the museum — evokes a sense of consciousness and cultural understanding through its diverse installations and sculptures. Dr. Gallagher says the article is most important for its ability to help us, as citizens, rethink our experiences with nature and to examine the power of space and setting as influential factors in the public’s understanding of the human/nature interface.

The article will be published in May in Quarterly Journal of Speech, the most prestigious academic journal of the National Communication Association.

Two Scholars Explore Rhetorical Aspects of Museum Park

North Carolina Museum of Art
If you happen to be walking through the halls of the Department of Communication and stumble on a room full of students listening to their favorite music, don’t worry, the students haven’t taken over the class. Their teacher, Dr. Kami Kosenko, assembled playlists of her students’ favorite songs to get them energized before lectures. This is just one of the unique methods she utilizes to enhance her teaching of Interpersonal Communication.

Dr. Kosenko became an Assistant Professor of Interpersonal Communication at NC State last August. Since then, she has become an integral part of the Department of Communication, providing a fresh approach to teaching and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.

One of the challenges for Dr. Kosenko has been teaching large classes, which necessitates the adjustment of teaching strategies. “I’ve tried to gather as much information about the students’ interests as possible to adapt my lectures and examples to my audience, but that’s something I have always done,” said Dr. Kosenko. She has also sparked many conversations about her head-on approach to dealing with uncomfortable subjects, including sex and the dangers of not practicing it safely. She has previously conducted extensive research on the significance of the communication between sexual partners in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and is continuing this trend here.

According to Dr. Kosenko, “I’m beginning an interview study with women living with HPV, and I’ve begun a meta-synthesis (a large research project involving gathering and synthesizing all of the published, qualitative research on a topic) on HIV disclosure.” She feels that the best way to overcome socially awkward topics that are usually considered taboo is to openly talk about them. “My students speak freely about sex in class, so I think that’s a good sign, but I’m not sure if that means they are talking about it more outside of the classroom. That’s the hope,” she said.

“I’m always cautiously optimistic when I start teaching at a new school, but NCSU has exceeded my expectations... I am most happy about the students I’ve met since being here. The students that I’ve had the pleasure to meet are hard-working, kind, funny, and intellectually curious. I also think my colleagues are an amazing group of people.”

For most faculty members at NC State University, the summer is a time to relax and enjoy the warm, beautiful weather North Carolina has to offer. But this is not the case for one faculty member in the Department of Communication. As he puts it, his summers are spent terrifying little kids at the Tower of Terror at Disney’s Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Richard Waters has been an assistant professor in the Department of Communication since the fall of 2007. While finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Florida, Dr. Waters got the opportunity of a lifetime. In 2006, Dr. Waters was asked to present his dissertation research to the university’s Department of Public Relations’ advisory council, which consisted of the nation’s leading public relations executives. After the conference, Dr. Waters was approached by one of the public relations executives and was offered a job doing consulting work based on his research. This person was the Vice President of Public Affairs for Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts.

While working on different consulting projects for Disney, Dr. Waters was able to interact with different employees throughout the company and particularly enjoyed his time with the bellhops at the Tower of Terror at Disney’s Hollywood Studios. The Tower of Terror plummets its riders 200 feet straight down, making most men scream like babies.

Last May after weeks of training, Dr. Waters became the newest bellhop at the Tower of Terror.

“From a public relations perspective, working as a cast member is the ultimate experience because you are the face of Disney and are empowered to make people feel like their dreams have come true,” he said.

Now whenever Dr. Waters gets a chance, he books a flight into Orlando, puts on his bellhop costume and scares people half to death. But as he says, “Working at Disney World is a stress reliever. I would work at Disney just for the fun of it.”
Zagacki Study Finds ‘War on Terror’ Justification Has Limits

By Sydney Stone

Just when it was thought that grassroots movements were dead, citizens of rural Washington and Beaufort Counties, along coastal North Carolina, successfully organized to thwart attempts by the U.S. Navy to build an outlying landing field near the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Their struggle against the Navy is the topic of a new study by Dr. Kenneth Zagacki, head of the Department of Communication.


Perhaps the most surprising finding of this study is that ordinary people -- many of them very conservative and pro-military -- were able resist the Navy’s efforts to justify building the OLF as part of the “War on Terror” at a time when almost all of the U.S. government’s foreign and domestic policies were framed as connected to that “war.”

“The government can no longer rely solely on the ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘national security’ as arguments to maintain a crisis situation where local people willingly sacrifice protection of their ‘homeland’,” said Dr. Zagacki.

In fact, the citizens in North Carolina relied upon some of the same arguments as did the Navy, invoking core values such as liberty, democracy, private property, national security and patriotism, to present themselves as the guardians of these values. According to Dr. Zagacki, they “defined themselves as patriotic, common-sense citizens trying to preserve their way of life, their farms and the nature reserve – and appeared more credible than the Navy representatives who tried to define the OLF debate largely as part of the war on terror.” Therefore, local citizens turned their justifications around on Navy officials, placing the Navy in the awkward position of appearing to be what the citizens called an “authoritarian” force threatening the nation’s “heritage” while they, the local people, claimed to be protecting it.

Not only did the Washington and Beaufort county residents prevent the Navy from building the OLF, but in doing so they may have provided citizens elsewhere with a model for how to challenge government land-use projects which threaten to destroy local lands under the guise of the “War on Terror” or other government initiatives. This study “provides an effective blueprint for how to build an effective alliance out of disparate bedfellows,” explains Dr. Zagacki.

Dr. Zagacki asserted that “evidence suggests that the Navy may face similar problems at other sites it is considering for OLFs in eastern North Carolina.”

According to Professor Zagacki, “The strategy employed by the opponents of the OLF proves that so-called common-place or ordinary people from different walks of life are able to band together to challenge the government’s claims of necessity concerning an alleged ‘crisis’ and show how the government’s actions undermine their American way of life.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JOHN COGGIN STUDENT EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Ashley Culpepper

John Coggin, a senior in communication media and interdisciplinary studies, is both a William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award winner and a Park Scholar. Coggin is from Sanford, N.C. and has a 4.0 GPA. Coggin has done his fair share of globe-trotting, spending a summer at Oxford, England, and a summer in India. He spent a spring break in the Galapagos Islands, where he worked on a plant pathology project, and a spring break in the Peruvian Amazon studying the shaman healing rituals in Amazonian tribes. Coggin spent the summer of 2008 shooting news video for a television channel in New York City.

When he found out the good news Coggin was in New York. “I was visiting an art gallery when I got the e-mail, and I ran over to my friend and started jumping up and down in the gift shop,” Coggin said. “I am so excited because now I can afford to go!”

Coggin is grateful for the time and experiences he’s had at the university. Coggin said he has enjoyed being a part of a program that is small enough for small classes and one-on-one time with great professors. Getting into Harvard, he says, “validates that experience even more, and it speaks well for the education I have received at N.C. State.”

Ed Funkhouser, Coggin’s Park Scholar mentor, said Coggin’s achievement was well deserved. “John is stunning evidence that experiences offered by our university help build leaders across all disciplines, making today’s world, with its challenges and opportunities, accessible to young people from N.C. communities large and small, and help those young men and women develop marvelous talents, skills, and intellectual abilities.” Funkhouser said. “John is evidence that this university is doing what a great university is supposed to do.”
O
n the basketball court, Courtney Fells is a key component of the Wolfpack’s basketball team. Standing at 6’6”, 210-pounds, Fells leads the university’s intercollegiate team as a shooting guard. Fells is a senior in interpersonal communication. A native of Shannon, Miss., he impacts people on the court and in the community.

Although his busy schedule does not permit him to join campus organizations, Fells still finds time to reach out to the community with some of his teammates. Using his skills in interpersonal communication has allowed Fells to help kids and be the male role model that he did not always have growing up. “Sometimes we would go to a camp and help out with the kids, or sometimes we would just go and read books to the students.” Fells said. “You never know how much you can help someone else. I just want to be able to give something to somebody that I wasn’t able to have myself.”

While Fells plans on going on to play basketball professionally, he is confident that he has picked a field that has taught him a lot. His communication skills can come in handy on and off the court.

“Working in groups is a key factor in helping me understand that everyone is different and that you have to develop relationships with people on an individual basis.”

Fells has not made a final decision concerning what he will do if professional basketball does not work out, but he knows that his degree in communication is versatile and meaningful enough to find a job that will give him the opportunity to make a positive impact in the community.

HOLLYWOOD DREAMING: MARTIKA RUSH WANTS TO DANCE, SING, ACT

By Pierrea Currence

Sophomore Martika Rush aspires to become a triple threat in Hollywood. She is a dancer, singer and actress. Rush plans to enter the entertainment world by becoming a singer. “I want to be the first singer to have No. 1 albums in both R&B and Rock. I have a love and appreciation for so many different kinds of music that I don’t want to be limited to just one,” she said.

Rush is from Richmond County, N.C. According to her, there wasn’t much to do in her small town. Rush started her career in singing by entering numerous talent shows. She has enjoyed singing and dancing since she was three years old. According to Rush, she has been singing for anyone who will listen. “When I was little I loved anything from Whitney Houston, her voice was amazing. Despite all her controversy, Houston is still one of the best singers of all time.”

According to Rush, acting is something she is very interested in pursuing. “I know it is not something you just jump into, but eventually I would like to look into acting when the time is right.” She said she is inspired by popular R&B artist Beyonce.

“Beyonce is an energetic performer; she owns the stage and never disappoints. I admire her vocal abilities and her humble attitude. One day we’ll be performing together,” said Rush.

Rush said she has dreams of being successful and hopes her degree in communication will help her in the entertainment industry. With her singing, dancing and developing acting abilities she is well on her way to Hollywood. Rush said she knows what she wants and plans on working hard to get it. According to her, no matter how far Hollywood is, Richmond County will still be the place she calls home.

RUNNING, YOGA POWER OBREMSKI TO PHYSICAL, MENTAL HEALTH

By Faran Dulberg

Her heart was pounding in her ears so fast and hard she felt as if it would explode, her feet had gone numb 20 minutes ago, and the cheering people were a blur. The only thing clear to Amanda Obremski was the finish line. The solid white line was her salvation, and she made it in 54 minutes. Obremski, a junior in public relations, completed her first 10k race, “The Old Reliable,” in November for her run conditioning class. The race supports health and human services around the Triangle.

Obremski has caught a running bug. “Since the race was such a great experience, I have made it my New Years’ resolution to stay fit.” So far, Obremski is on track with her running and hopes to one day run in an iron man marathon.

Obremski plans to study under a yogi. She said she loves yoga and the inner peace it provides. She said it is not only a great physical experience, but a mental experience as well. According to Obremski, yoga releases her from the stresses of college life. She wants to learn the ways of a yogi to reach a happy and balanced lifestyle. Obremski also believes yoga will help her in her career after graduation.

She intends to work for a nonprofit organization. Obremski and her sister, who is majoring in hospitality at East Carolina University, plan to open a nonprofit company. The sisters know they want to dedicate their lives to making a positive difference in the lives of others.
ELIAS AWARDED MATTHEWS MEDAL

By Ashley Culpepper

John Cooper Elias, a senior in public relations, has been awarded the prestigious Matthews Medal, which honors graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to the university during their tenure as undergraduate students.

The award is modeled after the Watauga Medal, which is the highest non-academic award given to alumni who serve their university. It is named for Walter J. Mathews, the first student enrolled at the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1889.

In his senior year, Elias became president of the university’s yearbook, “the Agromeck.” As president of the Agromeck, Elias was credited with keeping the tradition of the Agromeck alive. He is an active member of the Wolf Pack Club, serving as a board member for three years and as president of the club his junior year.

Elias worked in the department of communication office for two years. He is a member of the Society for Collegiate Journalists. Elias maintained excellence in the classroom as well.

“When I learned that I was going to receive the award, I was in shock. I was most grateful to all of my friends, professors and co-workers who helped give me the opportunities that helped me achieve all that I have,” said Elias, who hopes to leave behind a legacy and an example of what it means to give back to and serve our university.

COSTNER LOOKS TO NBA FUTURE

By Devon Cartwright

The Wolfpack basketball team’s starting forward, Brandon Costner, is also a senior in interpersonal communication. He is set to leave before his final season of eligibility. Costner has been a vital part of the Pack’s basketball team, leading the team in scoring this past season with a 13.3 point average per game. He has plans to fulfill his dreams of playing in the NBA.

While taking classes this spring semester, Costner has started the demanding task of preparing himself for the NBA draft. According to him, he is going to have to stay in tip top basketball shape these next few weeks before he goes to work out for trainers that might want to represent him through the draft process. Costner will travel to cities across the country to work out with the trainers before his pro workouts for scouts begin. He is focusing on choosing an agent that will be able to best represent him.

Costner’s decision to leave the university a season early was not finalized until he knew he was going to be graduating this spring. His early graduation was a deciding factor in the choice not to return to NC State for his senior season. Costner said he had achieved his goal of obtaining a degree. According to him, it was time for him to move on to bigger goals for himself. After Costner’s basketball days are finished, he has dreams of using his degree to start non-profit organizations and inner-city youth programs in his home state of New Jersey.

DANCER CURRENCE HAS SIGHTS SET ON TALK-SHOW CAREER

By Martika Rush

Pierrea Currence is a member of the Dance Team, honor student and is driven to become a new face on television. Currence hopes her striking beauty and matching persona catches the attention of many around campus. She uploads her singing and dancing videos on Facebook and wants to be what people call a “T.V. personality.” According to her, she has always aspired to become the first woman of prime time late night television. Currence has always had a hunger for fame and an undeniable confidence.

She has been a dancer since she was two years old. According to Currence, she was able to connect with her main passion for television by appearing on Showtime at the Apollo, a popular, televised talent show. When Currence was 20, she was featured on BET’S 106 & Park Video countdown as the winner of Beyonce’s “Single Lady Dance Contest.” Although Currence is proud of her moments on television, she would rather be a host on her own television show.

“Every time I watch the late night shows, I always see males, and I think to myself, I want to do that. I love how the shows are so unscripted,” Currence said. “I am unscripted; I love to express my views and opinions, and I have always wanted to have my own show. I want to create a platform to discuss the issues of the world, particularly politics and the entertainment industry.”

According to Currence, she is prepared for the competitive world of talk shows thanks to her degree in communication. She feels that with a magnetic voice and a desire to connect with the listener in a conversation, she has strength in speech. Currence said her writing skills, and creativity, are key to surviving the hardknocks world of television. “The time for me to make my dream come true is right around the corner.”

Currence is currently collaborating with her brother, Jamal Currence, on her own show on SWAGGER T.V. based in Charlotte, N.C. Currence plans to cover the latest news in film, music, and politics with her show. “This is a great opportunity for me to get experience in the field and learn more about the processes I need to master. I want to acquire a better sense of how to host a great talk show, and improve my skills so I can be the best at what I do now and in the future and what’s even better is I get to do it with family.”
Over the past few years Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for undergraduates in communication, has veered from the communication studies focus that it was founded on and has been moving more toward a service-based organization. But this year, a new application and points process was implemented in order to redirect its focus back to communication studies.

Eligible students were invited to apply to Lambda Pi Eta based on GPA and credit hour requirements. These requirements include a 3.0 or greater overall GPA, with at least a 3.25 GPA in communication courses and at least 60 completed credit hours. Twelve of the hours must be from communication courses. Students are then required to submit a letter stating why they want to become a member, what specific research interest they have and how they intend to complete their research before they graduate. This letter was implemented to discourage people whose sole intention was to take credit for membership in the organization without serving as an active member.

Under this new process, 19 students applied and 15 were inducted on April 14.

The benefits and experience students receive by becoming a member of this organization are everlasting. Students are required to think critically about an issue and then develop an in-depth research plan and see it through to completion. By going through this process students are able to develop in-depth knowledge about a particular subject, which looks impressive on a graduate school application.

"Lambda Pi Eta is extremely helpful if you are going to graduate school," says Dr. Jessica Jameson, "By completing your undergraduate research study and receiving a letter of recommendation from your mentoring professor, your application or resume will be enhanced."

"If you get an invitation to apply to Lambda Pi Eta, I would definitely take full advantage of what it has to offer and get a leg up on other graduate school or job applicants," said Dr. Jameson.

On March 16, Lambda Pi Eta held its annual Forum at Tally Student center. This night was dedicated to showcasing student research. This year three students presented their papers to an audience of about 20 students and four faculty members. Each paper addressed topics affecting the community.

Jamie Batey, a senior with a concentration in communication media, presented her paper on President Obama and the media. Batey’s paper looked at how President Obama handled himself when confronted with questions about race. Batey found that Obama would always veer the conversation back to his policies and never took offense to those types of questions.

Vanessa Gray, a senior with a concentration in public relations, talked about freedom of speech and the popular social media site Facebook. Gray looked at how over the past year students are disciplined by the university based on their posting on Facebook. The question is where do you draw the line with regard to First Amendment rights?

Gray said that outside the university most of these postings are acceptable. University guidelines are stricter, she found.

Whitney Watson, a senior with a concentration in communication media, also spoke about freedom of speech, but as it pertained to the incident that happened in the Freedom Expression Tunnel and the repercussions of the incident for the students involved.

Dr. Jessica Jameson, one of the faculty members in attendance, said, "The night was filled with great discussions between the presenters and the faculty."

Lambda Pi Eta President Angela Giannetto said that Lambda Pi Eta has come a long way this semester by creating a better environment for the students to think critically about specific topics. She also wishes that one day this forum could be incorporated into the department’s Communication Week, allowing for more students and faculty to participate.
THREE STUDENTS PRESENT ESSAYS AT COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

By Sydney Stone

Three undergraduate students presented essays at the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) Convention from April 1 to April 5 in Norfolk, Va.

The SSCA is a non-profit organization focused on expanding knowledge of education, science, and literature. Its mission is to promote the study, criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication.

Students’ essays were chosen by a double-blind process in which committees decide which papers qualify to be presented at the convention each year.

De’Ericka (Ericka) Aiken, a junior in political science with a concentration in criminology, presented her essay, “The Influence of Voter’s Perception of the Economy on Their Commitment to Their Political Party.”

The essay focused on the impact that media, candidate communication, and interpersonal communication has on citizens’ views on the condition of the economy.


According to Aiken, the portrayal of the economy is what citizens base their views on. Aiken said people ignore the state of the actual economy, which is best represented by statistics. According to her, people rely on speculation and personal biases.

Aiken said candidates who could successfully convince voters of their opposition to the economic status quo while blaming the appropriate party and advocating change and hope ultimately prevailed in acquiring the presidential nomination.

Moreover, she found that some research proposes that the state of the economy as perceived by citizens is a direct cause of party divisions.

Aiken credits Dr. Craig Smith from the Department of Communication for encouraging her to submit her essay.

Emily Reass, a senior in communication media, presented the convention. Her paper, “The Unfair Lady: Lessons about Identity and Rhetoric in My Fair Lady,” examines Eliza Doolittle’s difficulty with words as symbolism for women’s struggles with traditional conservative rhetoric and identity.

“We encourage all of our undergraduates... to become more actively involved in the rewarding experience of academic research.”

Dr. Ken Zagacki, head of the Department of Communication, said he is proud of the students presenting at the conference.

“In many ways our current group of student attendees represents the direction and tone of the department, which has moved from what was at one time a mainly service-oriented department to a department staffed with cutting-edge research faculty and students,” Dr. Zagacki said.

“We encourage all of our undergraduates to be like the students participating in SSCA this year — to become more actively involved in the rich and rewarding experience of academic research.”

TV REPORTER, GRAD STUDENT TO PRESENT JOURNALISM STUDY IN ENGLAND

By Pat Ferguson

Former NC State grad Michael Charbonneau is making an impact in the world of communication as well as in the greater Raleigh area. Charbonneau, a 2001 graduate, is back at State enrolled in the Department of Communication graduate program. He works full-time as a reporter for Raleigh television station WRAL since 2003. It was in the winter of 2007 that Charbonneau decided to return to NC State’s grad school to study media convergence that is impacting the field of journalism.

Currently Charbonneau is working with Professor Debora Wenger of the University of Mississippi and Dr. Lynn Owens of Peace College on a study of the convergence of new media and how it is impacting the hiring practices of news organizations. The project looks at different media technologies and how they change journalism. This study focuses on how news companies are now looking at new media skills as requirements for their current job openings. He explains that the study is still under way, but it has been accepted into the Future of Journalism Conference to be held in Cardiff England in September. “Going back to grad school and working on projects like this one is helping me become a better communicator overall and giving me new ideas about how to evolve as a better 21st century journalist.”

As a full-time reporter at WRAL, Charbonneau’s day consists of researching story ideas, making contacts, interviewing people, shooting video and more. His skills have benefited from the work he has done in both the communication undergraduate and graduate programs at NC State. Although his job can get stressful at times because of the tight deadlines, “I love experiencing new things, meeting new people and telling their stories,” Charbonneau said.
Alumni are helping to pave the way for future students by participating in the commemorative brick tradition. On your next visit to campus, take a moment to visit Winston Hall where you will notice engraved bricks on the Hillsborough Street walkway entrance.

The engraved bricks are part of a CHASS program to honor graduates and friends in a permanent way. You are invited to purchase an engraved brick and become part of the CHASS Walk of Honor.

Engraved bricks can be purchased for $100.00. Each paver measures 4” x 8” with room for three lines of text. All brick purchases are tax deductible. Proceeds from the brick purchases directly benefit the Department of Communication (or the department of your choice).

Funds raised through the brick program support both student and faculty needs including graduation ceremonies, travel to conferences, faculty relocation and start-up expenses, and other necessary expenditures where state funds may not be used, or simply do not exist. For more information on the brick program visit http://www.chass.ncsu.edu/bricks

Be a part of the permanent NC State landscape and express your CHASS pride! Visit the CHASS Web site or contact the CHASS Development Office, Campus Box 7011, or call 919-515-5973 during normal business hours and staff will be happy to answer any questions you have.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT TO WELCOME PARK SCHOLAR IN FALL

By Daniel S. Bassett

One student among the university’s 55 Park Scholars named for the Class of 2013 is entering the Department of Communication. Leah Katharine Haile, 17, will graduate from Asheville High School and attend North Carolina State University in the fall, majoring in Communication Media.

While attending Asheville High School, Haile participated in Student Government serving terms as both student body president and vice president. In the school’s Wind Symphony, Haile played the French horn.

Haile also served as a captain on the swim team and was involved in the Spanish Club, receiving the award of excellence in both Spanish II and Advanced Placement Spanish Language. She was also an assistant teacher of English as a Second Language.

Until she visited the campus this year, Haile had not given much attention to NC State.

“Everyone I know has good things to say about the school,” said Haile. “So that made my decision much easier.”

The Park Scholarship is an undergraduate scholarship which pays for four years of tuition at NCSU. The scholarship is valued at $75,000 for N.C. residents and $130,000 for out-of-state students. The Class of 2013 received more than 1,200 applicants. The rigorous three-staged selection process is completed after 100 finalists are invited for a weekend of activities. The final selection is made after the conclusion of the weekend.

Haile applied for the Park Scholarship after she was nominated by her school. Recalling the final selection weekend, Haile believed it to be both nerve wracking and exciting.

“I was most nervous during the group activity because we were trying to simulate a meeting,” said Haile. “There were judges around the room watching us, and it was hard to block them out and focus on the task.”

Upon graduation in 2013, Haile believes she will go into broadcasting. Until then, Haile will enter school for the 2009 fall semester and is looking forward to the opportunities that NCSU and the Park Scholarship have to offer.
ALUMNI PROSPER IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

By Kylie Kenworthy

The University currently has 156,300 alumni, and in this issue we caught up with three to learn about their lives since graduation.

Kassandra Watson. originally from Shelby, NC, graduated from State in December of 1989 in speech communication. She and her husband, Morris, have two children. Watson is currently a database and contracts coordinator at UCB, Inc. in Raleigh. She is responsible for the coordination of all global outsourcing and contracts database activities, as well as the coordination of contracts for the local RTP office.

According to Watson, two of her most memorable campus moments were when she walked across the lawn at Carter Finley stadium and heard Maya Angelou give the commencement address. Watson also remembers the day she received her MBA.

Watson said she valued her experience at the University. "Just the feeling of no other responsibilities but my studies. I miss walking to Reynolds’ coliseum for the basketball games and just hanging out on the brickyard." Watson said that her advice to the current students at NC State is “to take advantage of the clubs and student organizations on campus. Get involved! I would also advise getting to know professors and others within your department who can offer advice during your time at school and after graduation.”

Matthew Rushing graduated in 1997 in mass communication and later in 2007 with a master of education in training and development. His hometown is Wilmington, N.C. Although Rushing did not know what he wanted to do after graduation, he now works with life sciences companies in the Triangle area. Rushing assists these companies with development and policy implementation. He found his first job by landing an interview with a software company. Rushing is now a strategic analyst with the Foxhall Group.

Rushing said if he could go back to school, he probably would have put in more time for his studies. He said he missed being on campus. "The constant energy of a college campus is contagious — even now when I go back to campus for various events." My roommate and I always joked that he lived vicariously through me, and I went to class vicariously through him." As a student, Rushing was involved with the Caldwell Fellows, The Grains of Time and University Bands. He received lessons about leadership, cooperation and success from organizations that he never would have gotten in a classroom. Rushing delivered the alumni address at the Department of Communication graduation ceremony in 2006.

Rushing managed the training department that was named the top-rated computer training facility for post-doctoral researchers in the United States, according to a 2004 survey published by “The Scientific Magazine.” Since then, he started training departments for two separate biotech companies in the Triangle.

Rushing’s advice for current students today is, "Revel in the quality education you are receiving at NC State. The faculty is outstanding... the foundation for your career success is being laid each and every day," Rushing said. "You should take the time to nurture that foundation so that it is as solid as you can make it. Take the time not only to learn the information being presented, but also to figure out what you think about the material; you will find that it greatly enhances your experience."

Ellen Stewart graduated in 2001 with a degree in mass communication with a concentration in public relations. The Raleigh resident is currently a manager of supplemental retirement programs for the NC Department of State Treasurer. Stewart oversees the administration of the state’s 401(k) and deferred compensation retirement savings programs. Stewart is also back at NC State as a part-time student working on a masters in international studies and is expecting to graduate next spring.

Among many of her accomplishments, Stewart was fortunate enough to be a part of coordinating a program to teach kids about business development that led to an opportunity to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

"I can’t stress the value of internships enough,” she said. An internship and work experience while you’re still in school is great way to make your resume stand out.” She added, “Study abroad experiences carry a lot of value because they show a willingness to experience other cultures and an understanding of how our world is interrelated.”

"The Alumni Association was established in 1895 to connect alumni and their alma mater."
Dr. Jameson said, “Several students have contacted faculty since COM Week, so that seems to have been successful and we look forward to having more students involved in research.”

In addition to the panel discussions and research presentations, COM Week held a Study Abroad Question and Answer Session, a “Becoming a Successful Intern” discussion with internship supervisors from around the Triangle, and a Business Etiquette Seminar.

All the events combined “introduced students to the variety of ways communication is relevant to their daily lives, suggested possible career paths, provided networking opportunity with alumni and communication professionals, and piqued student interest in getting involved in scholarly research in communication,” said Dr. Jameson.

The experience it provided for students should help them as they grow through their careers, “We had excellent attendance at the events, students got to hear from professionals in communication, and several students have followed up with faculty about getting involved in their research projects,” she said.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATION

By Jason Marone

MAY 9 IS THE BIG DAY FOR 178 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDENTS

CONGRATULATIONS MAY GRADUATES!

The Department of Communication’s graduation ceremony will be held in Reynolds Coliseum May 9th at 1 p.m.

Approximately 162 undergraduate students will walk the stage including 47 students from the Communication Media concentration, 56 students from the Public Relations and Organizational Communication concentration, 40 students from the Public & Interpersonal Communication concentration, and 19 students from the Communication Disorders concentration.

The ceremony will also honor the 16 graduate students who completed their M.S. degree this spring.

DEPARTMENT HEAD, DR. 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. A member of Lambda Pi Eta will announce the faculty member chosen by the graduates to receive the Outstanding Professor Award. In turn, the faculty will choose a recipient for the Outstanding Graduate Award.

STALLINGS IS AWARD NOMINEE

By David St. John

The Department of Communication is proud to announce that Sandra Stallings, assistant head – advising, has been nominated for the Barbara Soloman award, which is given in recognition of dedicated service to students in a primary advisory role. Stallings joins a nominee from each college with one to be honored as the university’s award winner on April 30. She has twice been recognized with the university’s Advising Administrator award that recognizes an administrator whose primary responsibility is overseeing an advising program.

NC State University is dedicated to equality of opportunity. The University does not condone discrimination against students, employees, or applicants in any form. NC State commits itself to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation.