

# COMMUNIQUE

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## Alumni Focus— Times Three

Doris Thomas ( M.A., 1990) is a perfect example of the places a Communication degree can take a person. Ms. Thomas works for Commonwealth Health Corporation (CHC), the parent company of south central Kentucky's largest hospital, and has been employed there for 26 years. She is currently Vice President of Marketing, Community Outreach and Development, and also the corporate spokesperson. Ms. Thomas has spent much of life in the field of Communication and wouldn't have it any other way.

She received both her B.A. and M. A. from WKU's Department of Communication. One of her favorite classes at WKU, and one that she notes as having helped her in her career,

was Crisis Communication taught by Dr. Larry Winn. One of the biggest benefits of WKU's Communication program, according to Ms. Thomas, is the fact that it is very diverse.

After completing her master's degree in 1990, Ms. Thomas taught Business and Professional Speaking for the department. Ms. Thomas enjoyed teaching the class and getting to know the students and hopes to do that again in the future when she has more time. Ms. Thomas enjoyed her time at WKU and spoke so highly of the department that her daughter, Kathryn, followed in her footsteps and became a graduate



Doris Thomas

of the program. Upon graduation, Kathryn went on to law school and now has her own law firm in Glasgow, Kentucky.

~ Ashleigh Miller, Student

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## If You Build It, They Will Come



Charlotte Elder—  
Faculty Instructor

Upon her arrival to the Department of Communication in the summer of 2011, Dr. Helen Sterk asked Professor Charlotte Elder to take charge of revamping the department's recruitment and retention efforts. With a friendly faculty, enthusiastic students, and one of the highest graduation rates on campus, the Department of Communication has a lot to offer WKU students. However, the department recently graduated two of the largest classes the department has seen in

December 2010 and Spring 2011, so recruitment is vital.

To keep up with student preferences, the department's recruitment plan is going viral. The department has created a Facebook page and has updated its web page to allow students easier access to information about departmental policies and events. Other flashier, recruitment efforts are also being implemented. For example,

- Cont'd on page 2



## If You Build It, They Will Come *(cont'd from page 1)*

Professor Elder developed a “candy teaser” to be eye-catching and humorous. For this effort, “Big Red” chewing gum was placed on a card that read, “*Big Red* wants you to major in Communication!” “Airheads” were accompanied by the statement “Don’t be an *Airhead*, major in Communication!” and the “Now or Later” teaser stated, “A degree in Communication can help you *Now and Later*.” The department also participated in the Academic Advising and Retention Center’s Major Discovery Event during the Fall semester.

Efforts are also being taken to promote the benefits of pairing the Communication Studies major with some of the majors that recently have been added at WKU, for example Popular Culture

Studies. These new majors are very attractive and exciting to incoming freshman, and can be enhanced with a strong communication foundation.

Professor Elder seems confident the faculty, staff, and students will work hard to ensure the department’s success stating, “Students comment about feeling welcomed, encouraged, and challenged by the faculty in our department. The Department of Communication faculty needs to continue to not only reach out to students but we also need to focus on our research so we are current and fresh.”

- *Felix Perrone, Student*

## Message from Helen Sterk, Department Head



Fall term, 2012, produced a Communication undergrad Homecoming Queen, a new Dr. in the instructor faculty (Donna Renaud), faculty lectures on Abraham Lincoln’s leadership and communication style and a

communication primer for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a *WKU Herald* story on a \$100 Solution for the Kelly Autism program, recognition of an outstanding alumnus, and an undergraduate honors thesis on Facebook, face to face and intercultural communication. Faculty and students attended and presented papers at the Kentucky Communication Association and the National Communication Association conferences. Staff members kept the office humming. Business as usual in the Department of Communication!

We look forward to a productive and energetic spring. Guest lecturers will take us ‘above and beyond’ usual departmental offerings, presenting on topics ranging from the challenges of polling for the Iowa caucuses to women’s challenges in business to

how Facebook and other social media influence our relational lives to an important, but under-appreciated, Black woman who spoke on civil rights. Faculty and students will work on research to be presented at conferences. Students will take courses from computer-mediated communication to gender and communication to on-line courses in intercultural communication.

To make it easier for everyone to get to know each other and to work together, we have made shared spaces more welcoming. We opened a new hangout room for students and faculty to share, FAC 135. The room has coffee and tea for a quarter, a fridge, a library, and places to sit and work. Instead of having to sit on the small benches in the hall, students can make themselves at home in the new lounge. Outside of the department office, new soft furniture replaces the old chrome and blue fabric seating. Bulletin boards let students and faculty know of upcoming events and news from alums.

Student organizations take leadership in developing professional and social opportunities within the department. If you’re a major here, look into joining IABC (International Association of Business Communicators), Lambda Pi Eta (honorary society), or Communication Ambassadors (our department’s ‘spirit masters’). There’s a place for everyone.

WKU’s Department of Communication is building its capacity for leadership in the Communication discipline, in the university, nationally and internationally. Things are happening—it’s a great time to get with the program!

## Alumni Focus... (cont'd from page 1)

### A Masters in Communication Can Lead to a Life of Yum!

Kasey Mathes (B.A. 2009, M.A. 2011) works for Yum! Brands, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky as an Associate Account Manager on the Creative Services team. She has been with Yum! since mid January, having been offered the job one month prior to her graduation from WKU with a Master of Arts in



Communication. Ms. Mathes also received her undergraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Marketing at WKU. Ms. Mathes is a prime example of how a background in communication can lead to various opportunities for students even straight out of college.

Ms. Mathes describes a Communication degree as something that is invaluable. She

notes that she wakes up each day knowing she will use what she has learned not once that day, but with every interaction she has. When asked how her degree has been beneficial in her current job, Ms. Mathes replied, "I use my degree on a daily basis as I am the communication liaison between clients and art directors and often have to coach our clients on the most effective way to communicate employee programs through established branding and creativity."

Ms. Mathes enjoys her career at Yum! and describes the most exciting part of her job as having the ability to shape the perception of the global audience. When asked what courses were beneficial to her job, Ms. Mathes listed Corporate and Organizational Advocacy, noting that she frequently acts as an advocate on

her clients' behalf when it comes to the actual branding/creativity of a project. She also works very closely with advocacy groups in the community on behalf of the organization. Other classes/areas of concentration that Ms. Mathes draws from in her career are Employee Communication, Persuasion, and Crisis Management. Lastly, Ms. Mathes asserted, "The best advice I have to give current students is to become involved in your program. Whether it is taking the time to build rapport with your professors, becoming an active member in a student organization, or taking on a Graduate Assistantship, WKU will become your biggest advocate when you leave The Hill. Making the effort while you are in the program will lead you to great opportunity and provide you with a life-long network of connections across the nation (Professors know everyone!)."

~ Katie Beth Harmon, Student

### A True Example of Success: Wade Pierce



With a degree in Corporate and Organizational Communication and a minor in Political Science, Wade Pierce (B.A. 2011) possessed the qualities necessary to be successful in the hospitality business. During Mr. Pierce's college career, he stayed active in Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, College Republicans, and Student Government Association. When asked about his time at WKU he responded, "I found that communicating and studying the way people interact in a business setting was very interesting to me. I decided that by becoming a Communication major, I would be able to learn valuable skills that I could adapt in the business world."

After graduating in May, he quickly found a position at Holiday Inn-University Plaza in Bowling Green, Ky. as Assistant Front Office Manager. He was first introduced to Holiday Inn during his summer internship. Success in his internship helped him land his current

position. As Assistant Front Office Manager, Mr. Pierce has implemented the skills and knowledge he gained as a student at Western Kentucky University into his everyday life in the professional world.

According to Mr. Pierce, the courses that were offered in the Department of Communication gave him the ability to think creatively when solving problems in the business structure. Also, he found it helpful that the courses focused on interactions among all cultures and racial backgrounds. This prepared him for the variety of interactions he faces everyday in the hospitality business. With a great job straight out of College, Mr. Pierce plans to further his education with a Masters in Business Administration while continuing his career at Holiday Inn.

~ Nick Miller, Student

# EVENTS

## Alumnus of the Year Sam Ford Speaks to Students

Sam Ford's resume of accomplishments features many more entries than he has experienced birthdays. The 2005 WKU graduate whose list of four majors begins with Communication Studies has been honored for varied achievements from an equally diverse assortment of organizations.

His most significant in the city he and his family call home—Bowling Green—is being named 2011 Alumnus of the Year by the WKU Department of Communication.

A reception was held in his honor Nov. 16 in the Fine Arts Center, hosted by the Department of Communication. Faculty, students and friends gathered to pay their respects and to hear comments from a young man who already has become well-known and respected on a much wider scope.

Department Head Helen Sterk, who introduced him to those gathered, said the award is for "his brilliance, tenacity, curiosity and creativity in using his Communication degree."

Ford demonstrated his communication skills as he talked about his life, his interests, his motivation, and his decision to live in Bowling Green. "Sam, his wife and family chose to live in Bowling Green when they could have chosen to live anywhere," Dr. Sterk noted. Ford, who married his childhood sweetheart before they left Ohio County High School for WKU, said his

wife works for the University of Southern California.

Sam is currently Director of Digital Strategy with Peppercom Strategic Communications, flying out of Nashville when the job calls for work that needs to be performed in person rather than online. He has extensive electronic skills, however, evidenced by his recently being named Social Media Innovator of the Year by the *Bulldog Reporter*, publisher

Ford's wide array of interests is demonstrated in the books he has co-authored, *Spreadable Media: Creating Value and Meaning in a Networked Society* and *The Survival of Soap Opera: Transformation for a New Media Era*. He also has been a wrestling promoter and has even wrestled professionally himself, even though he is not built like Hulk Hogan. His first venture into marketing words came as a middle school student as "community correspondent" for the Ohio County newspaper. He later wrote columns for the newspaper which earned him Kentucky Press Association awards.

He has gone on to write for *BusinessWeek*, *The Huffington Post*, *Portfolio*, *Chief Marketer*, *The Public Relations Strategist*, *PR News*, *Bulldog Reporter* and *The Christian Science Monitor* and has been quoted in everything from *New York Times Magazine* to *The Hollywood Reporter* to *ESPN: The Magazine* to *Soap Opera Weekly*.

Dr. Sterk said, "I love that about him—his career shows how people who do Communication Studies are among the luckiest in the world—they can study virtually anything!"

~Jim Turner, Instructor



Sam Ford receives "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" Award from Dr. Helen Sterk.

of the *Daily Dog* online trade journal, which is the public relations industry's largest circulation publication.

After piling up majors in Communication Studies, Journalism, Mass Communication and English along with two minors in four years at WKU, he earned his masters degree at MIT. He teaches and consults with the Comparative Media Studies program at MIT and the Popular Culture program at WKU.



# Upcoming Events

## Inside the Iowa Caucuses: A Pollster's View

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.

Thursday,  
February 2,  
2012

7:00 p.m.

Russell Miller  
Theatre

Fine Arts  
Center



J. Ann Selzer, pollster for Bloomberg News and *The Des Moines Register* has polled in five of the last six cycles when Iowa is the epicenter of presidential politics. Join her as she shares her strategies and stories of what happens behind the scenes in the lead-up to the 2012 caucuses.

Sponsored by WKU departments of: Political Science, Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility, Sociology, Journalism and Broadcasting, Gender and Women's Studies, Communication, Gordon Ford School of Business, Mathematics & Computer Science, and Forensics.



## Social Influence in Social Media: Implicit Persuasion in Facebook, YouTube, Amazon, and Elsewhere

Dr. Joseph Walther



Monday, April 2, 2012—7:00 p.m.

FAC Russell Miller Theatre

Joe Walther is a Professor in the Department of Communication and the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies & Media at Michigan State University. His teaching and research focus on the dynamics of computer-mediated Communication and the Internet in interpersonal relationships, work groups, social support, and educational systems. He has previously held appointments in Information Technology, Psychology, and Education and Social Policy at universities in the US and England. He was chair of the Organizational Communication and Information Systems division of the Academy of Management, and the Communication and Technology division of the International Communication Association.



Sponsored by:  
Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Department of Communication  
Department of English

Dr. J. Ann Selzer will also present at two additional events:

Thursday, February 2, 2012— 4:00 p.m.—Russell Miller Theatre

“Why a Communication Major Matters  
in Your Career”

Friday, February 3, 2012—noon—Faculty House

“Women and Business Give and Take”

# Congratulations

## Additional Upcoming Events

Monday, February 27, 2012  
Mittie Carey will present “Mission (IM)possible: Rhetorical Situation and the Hybridized Freedom Faith Discourse of Prathia L. Hall (1962—1965)” in FAC 156 at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 1, 2012  
Dr. Joseph Walther will present several topics:  
“Digging Deeper in the Social Information Processing Theory of Computer-Mediated Communication” at 10:00 a.m.  
“(Mis)Attributions in Virtual Groups” at 12:30 p.m.  
“Social Influence in Social Media: Implicit Persuasion in Facebook, YouTube, Amazon, and Elsewhere” in Russell Miller Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

## Hilltoppers Communicate State Wide

Western Kentucky University’s students and faculty are making a big impact on the Kentucky Communication Association. Dr. Holly Payne, Associate Professor of Communication is now President of the association. She recently finished her term as First Vice President where she planned, coordinated, and oversaw the running of its Fall 2011 conference.

The Kentucky Communication Association, more commonly known as KCA, is a professional higher education/academic organization for professors, instructors, and graduate students in Kentucky. Its members come together to share their teaching and research to help strengthen the communication discipline at collegiate institutions across the state.

networking opportunity strengthens our ties across the state and keeps us informed of the initiatives and innovations at other institutions.”

This year, Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith won KCA’s Excellence in the Art of Teaching Award, and graduate student Ashley Miller won the Michael S. Shelton Top Graduate Student Paper award. Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith, Dr. Holly Payne, and Dr. Blair Thompson also presented on a panel which focused on weaving communication theory into a variety of classes. Graduate students Wei Huang and Katie Payne also presented papers. Dr. Helen Sterk, Dr. Donna Renaud, Mr. Gary Hughes, and Mr. Clint Haynes also attended the convention this year.



**Dr. Helen Sterk, Katie Payne, Wei Huang, Dr. Blair Thompson, Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith**

Of the role of KCA in the lives of students and faculty, Dr. Payne said, “These conferences present an opportunity to share academic work and to learn from others. This

*~Lindsay Heath, Student*

## Communication Student Interns Abroad

Recent Communication Studies graduate, Madeline Gannon, (B.A., December 2011) journeyed all the way to St. Stephen's Green in Dublin Ireland for 47 days during June



**Residence Member's Club—  
Restaurant 41**

2011 for an exciting internship opportunity with Residence Member's Club – Restaurant 41. The knowledge gained in her Communication courses assisted her during her excursion.

“Learning about Intercultural Communication in my classes prepared me for dealing with the cultural differences I dealt with in Ireland. Also, learning about Organizational Communication helped my transition into the professional atmosphere,” says Ms. Gannon about how well the Department of Communication prepared her for life beyond the classroom. She noted that sev-

eral departmental courses played a role in her success. For example, she credited the department's course in Organizational Communication with advancing the communication skills she needed to flourish in the work place, and the Intercultural Communication with teaching her how to interact in with people from different cultures, backgrounds, and values. Ms. Gannon also credited Communication Foundations for preparing her for her journey. Doing her internship she found herself able to apply a variety of communication theories she learned in WKU classrooms to unclear communications she found herself in during her internship

process. She was able to apply the concepts in the workplace, and in general, everyday life. Having this knowledge made it easier for her to fit in and surpass the expectations of her manager. Some of her tasks included: social media research, contacting potential members, planning for a marketing event,

managing social media for Residence Members Club, and speech writing.

Ms. Gannon offers the following advice to current departmental majors about internships: “Do what interests you the most. I chose to do an internship abroad because I wanted to travel, but I was able to learn so much more about communication (especially intercultural communication) than if I had participated in a program in the states.”

Ms. Gannon is currently participating in the Professional Internship Program with the Walt Disney Company. She plans to begin a Communication master's degree program next fall.



**Madeline Gannon visits town of  
Dalkey, Ireland during her time off work.**

- DeAnna Critchlow, Student

# International Internship

# LAMBDA PI ETA (ΛΠΗ)



**Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith—  
Faculty Advisor**

It was a busy fall semester for Lambda Pi Eta, which was established on campus in 2005 by Dr. Ellen Bonaguro. We have continued to grow; fall recruitment brought 10 new members to our chapter. To be eligible for an invitation, students must have 60 credit hours completed, including 12 hours of communication, study, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a 3.25 GPA in the Communication discipline. Students must also be in good standing with the university.

The semester started off with LPH's participation in the Steamer Seafood Bash, an Alumni Association tailgate event held before the WKU vs. Navy game on September 10<sup>th</sup>. LPH volunteers were on hand to help the alumni staff with set up and cleanup.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, LPH held a fundraiser with the help of Stakz Frozen Yogurt here in Bowling Green. 20% of the day's sales was donated to the chapter.

From November 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, officers Felix Perrone, Ashleigh Miller and Becca Schaefer attended the National Communication Association convention in New Orleans, LA. The convention provided these students with an opportunity to network with communication scholars and attend various sessions of interest. They also attended the LPH business meeting to gain insight into how other LPH chapters operate and to get ideas



for events to implement at WKU. NCA proved to be an exciting opportunity for these students.

In preparation for travel to NCA, fundraising coordinator Katie Beth Harmon solicited donations from local businesses. Several generous monetary donations were made, and LPH received several donations for gift baskets for a future gift basket raffle.

With this exciting semester coming to a close, LPH looks forward to an equally exciting Spring semester and new year.

- Rebecca Schaefer,  
LPH Officers



**Rebecca Schaefer, Ashleigh Miller,  
Dr. Angie Jerome, Meredith Campbell,  
Jenna Haugen, Felix Perrone**



**Felix Perrone, Ashleigh Miller, Dr. Helen Sterk,  
Rebecca Schaefer, Dr. Angie Jerome**

# COMMUNICATION ORGANIZATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (COGS)



**Dr. Holly Payne—Faculty Advisor**

The Communication Organization for Graduate Students (COGS) had a wonderful fall 2011 semester. We hosted sessions to enhance interviewing skills and to polish resumes/CVs. COGS also elected new officers for 2012—Jessica Paulsen, president, Ryan Cummings, vice president, and Ian Brandon, secretary. We held our last meeting at Lost River Pizza to wish everyone good luck on final exams and to congratulate the December graduates. We have a full spring 2012 semester planned and are looking forward to welcoming the new students into the program!

The Communication Organization for Graduate Students (COGS) had a wonderful fall 2011 semester. We hosted sessions to enhance interviewing skills and to polish resumes/CVs. COGS also



**Ian Brandon, Jessica Paulsen, Katelin Frederick,  
Ashley Miller, Ryan Cummings, Evey Chau**





Rachel Clark



Madeline  
Gannon



Bethany Hughes

# Fall 2011 Student Workers



Kimberly  
Cooper



Missy Meige



Mattie Russell

# Join us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/31890129066/>

## ***Congratulations to our Students***

Three students had papers accepted for presentation at the Kentucky Communication Association (KCA) annual convention in September 2011:

### **Wei Huang**

"Organizational Identification and Communication: An Application to Overseas China Education Foundation" from Dr. Ishii's Applied Organizational Communication Course.

### **Ashley Miller**

"Student Affairs Administrators' Expression Management Strategies: An Exploration of Administrators' Communication with Students" from Dr. Blair Thompson's Qualitative Research Methods course. This paper won the Michael S.

Shelton Top Graduate Student Paper award.

### **Katie Payne**

"Group Communication Dynamics in Discover College" from Dr. Kumi Ishii's Applied Organizational Communication course.

Two students had papers accepted for presentation at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) annual convention in April 2011:

### **Kasey Mathes**

"UNTHINK What You Thought about KFC: Burke's Concept of Identification

Applied to the UNTHINK Campaign." This paper won the Dan Millar Award for Top Paper in the Public Relations Division.

"Shoes for Tomorrow: Compliance Gaining Strategies Identified in Pre-inception of TOMS' One for One Movement" was also presented by Kasey Mathes.

### **Amanda Grego**

"A Sweet Surprise: An Analysis of The Corn Refiners Association's Image Restoration Strategies"

**Student Achievement**

# New Faculty Member



Helen Sterk, Ph.D.

## Becoming Part of the Hill Again...

While her academic journey began at WKU back in 1979 as a graduate student, in July 2011 Dr. Helen Sterk made her way back to the Hill joining the Communication Department again as Department Head and Professor. Dr. Sterk has brought new energy as well as a new vision to the communication department. Her vision is for the communication department to, "Become a leading American Communication Department with International Reach." She comes to WKU with the experience needed to guide department faculty, staff, and students on this journey.

In 1974, Dr. Sterk graduated from

Calvin College with a B.A. in Speech and started her career as a high school teacher. After following her husband to WKU in 1979, she went back to school and graduated with a M.A. in Speech and Theatre in 1979. Dr. Sterk went on to complete her educational journey with a Ph.D. in Rhetorical Studies from the University of Iowa in 1986. Throughout her career, Dr. Sterk has made her way from Marquette University all the way to Toronto, Canada as a successful professor. In the spring of 2011, Dr. Sterk was a visiting communication professor in Pohang, South Korea.

While being a professor is a big part of Dr. Sterk's life, she is also well known as a researcher and author. Her main research focus is rhetoric by and about women. Her research topics have included mother/daughter communication, romance novels, birthing experiences, and lingerie advertising.

As an author, Dr. Sterk has written several books and book chapters. In 2009, she published *Gender, Culture, and Physicality: Paradoxes and Taboos* with Annelies Knoppers.

Her most recent book is *Mothers and Daughters: Connections across Cultures*, which was co-authored with Alice Deakins and Rebecca Lockridge; which, will be out later this year. Dr. Sterk gives two communication recommendations for mothers dealing with daughters. 1. Never criticize your daughters; they get enough of that from the world they live in. 2. Always encourage them in everything they do.

Welcome!  
Dr. Helen Sterk

While research matters to Dr. Sterk, her primary professional pleasure is contributing to the quality and value of the communication program at Western Kentucky University.

- Brittany Jones, Student

# Faculty News

## Ellen Bonaguro, Ph.D.

Ellen Bonaguro received the National Academic Advising Association Outstanding Advising Award.

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## Cecile Garmon, Ph.D.

Cecile Garmon presented "Ubuntu: Leadership Communication Development through Worldview Creation" at International Leadership Association in London, United Kingdom in October 2011. She was invited to present at several lectures: Communication Workshop for the Glasgow B & PW young leaders training program on September 13, 2011, Workshop on Communication to the Kentucky State B & PW Executive Committee at Barren River Lodge on November 18, 2011, and "Lincoln's Leadership and Communication Style" during Helms Library series on December 6, 2011.

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## Kumi Ishii, Ph.D.

Kumi Ishii hosted Japanese Traditional Dance and Music Education Tour in Van Meter Hall in November, 2011.

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## Carl L. Kell, Ph.D.

Carl Kell participated in an international conference for communication consultants in Istanbul, Turkey, in November, 2011. He was also invited to lecture on "Dealing with Delightful People" at the Lions club on December 13, 2011, and "Let's Talk Business: A Communication Primer for the 21st Century" during 'The Last Lecture' series at WKU on December 6, 2011.

## Holly Payne, Ph.D.

Holly Payne held the position of President of Kentucky Communication Association (KCA) during 2011. She gave conference presentations on "Interweaving Message Design Logic with Interpersonal Communication Goals, 'I' Statements, Perception Checks, and Assertive Messages. Kentucky Communication Association (KCA) at Lake Barkely, Kentucky in September 2011, and "Constraining Voices and 'Getting the Ugly Out of the Way': The Role of Email in Dissent Expression" at National Communication Association (NCA) in New Orleans, Louisiana in November 2011.

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## Donna Renaud, Ed.D.

Donna Renaud completed the doctoral program at WKU in Fall 2011. Her dissertation, "An Analysis of Burmese and Iraqi Resettlement Location and Assimilation in a Midsized City: Implications for Educational and Other Community Leaders" (MS #1016) has been posted in Dissertations <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/diss/17>

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## Jennifer Mize Smith, Ph.D.

Jennifer Mize Smith received the Top Teaching Award at Kentucky Communication Association annual meeting. She held the office of Marketing Director and Executive Council member for Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) in 2011. In addition, she presented a paper "Learning to Give: Faith and Family as Sources of Philanthropic Identity." at the National Communication Association (NCA) in New Orleans, Louisiana held November 2011. She also presented a paper "Systems Theory in

Organizational and Small Group Contexts" at Kentucky Communication Association (KCA) at Lake Barkely, Kentucky in September 2011.

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## Helen Sterk, Ph.D.

Helen Sterk served on the Executive Board of the Association of Communication Administrators. She presented conference papers "Performing Wisdom" at Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender at Evanston, Illinois in October 2011, and "Women's Voice: Progress and Obstacles" at National Communication Association (NCA) at New Orleans, Louisiana in November 2011.

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## Blair Thompson, Ph.D.

Blair Thompson served as Officer for Instructional Development Division Nominating Committee of the National Communication Association, Secretary for Basic Course interest group for Central States Communication Association, and Vice-president for Professional Development interest group for Central States Communication Association. He also presented "Positives and Negatives of Similarity and Difference: Applying Relational Dialectics in Interpersonal Relationships" at the Kentucky Communication Association in Lake Barkely, Kentucky in September 2011, and "Student Academic Support: A Validity Test" at National Communication Association (NCA) in New Orleans, Louisiana during November 2011.

# Student Events

## Homecoming Parade



Dr. Carl Kell, Laura Ringer, Cody Ray Moore, Jordan Boggs

## Congratulations! Homecoming Queen & 2nd Runner-Up

Congratulations!  
from the  
Department of Communication



Ashleigh Miller  
2011 Homecoming Queen  
Communication Studies major

## Graduation



Dr. Donna Renaud



Whitney Churchman  
Homecoming Queen 2nd Runner-Up  
Communication Studies major

Western Kentucky  
University  
Department of  
Communication

130 Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #21029  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone: 270-745-3296  
Fax: 270-745-3295

We're on the Web!  
[www.wku.edu/communication](http://www.wku.edu/communication)



For more information on giving to the  
Department of Communication  
contact:

### Leslie Watkins

Senior Director of Development for Potter  
College of Arts and Letters  
Institutional Advancement  
Western Kentucky University  
1906 College Heights Blvd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Phone: 270-745-3399

Fax: (270) 745-5300

E-Mail: [leslie.watkins@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.watkins@wku.edu)

## CommuniQuotes

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

*Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Communication works for those who work at it.

*John Powell*

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion  
that it has taken place.

*George Bernard Shaw*