

COMMUNIQUE

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WKU Forensic Team sweeps major titles, again

A journeyman professional baseball player was once asked, "Would you like to bat .300 this year?" He quickly answers, "No, if you do it once, they expect you to do it again every year."



The collective attitude of Western Kentucky University's forensic team has proven to be exactly the opposite. After having achieved virtually every goal imaginable and having won every major honor available years ago, Coach Judy Woodring's team neither rested on its laurels nor shied away from showing it was no fluke. Instead the WKU speech team is setting records for sustained excellence that may never be duplicated, at least not by any other school except WKU.

For the third consecutive year and for the fifth time in six years, the WKU forensic team has swept the major national and international speech and debate championships.

This year's successful run culminated when WKU won its seventh National Forensic Association National Tournament championship in debate and its fifth championship in individual events in Nashville, Tenn. April 17-21.

Earlier this semester, WKU won the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament for the fifth time in six years and its ninth International Forensic Association championship in 10 years. WKU also won the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament and its 18th consecutive Kentucky Forensic Association State Championship.

- Cont'd on page 9

A Day at the Track: The Skills Needed for Success

Critical Listening Class: Spring 2008 Service Learning Project



Maria Irvin and athlete

Photo by Amanda Belcher

The athletes stand in anxious anticipation at the starting line, and they begin to lunge toward the finish line at the sound of the gun.

Everything is silent to them except their rapid heartbeat and the sound of their sprinting feet as they hit the pavement. The finish line is closing in; the runners burst through the ribbon as the crowd erupts with cheers and congratulations. This is a day when an extraordinary group of people of all ages gather to showcase their talents; this is the Special Olympics.

The area Special Olympics were

held at Bowling Green High School on April 19th and many special athletes from surrounding areas came out to let all of their hard work pay off. Not only was the track filled with anxious athletes, but many coaches and volunteers were also present to cheer the athletes on and make sure everything ran smoothly. Volunteers did a variety of jobs from timing the races to escorting the athletes to get their awards. With so many people gathered at this event, success would not have been possible without great communication and critical listening skills.

- Cont'd on page 9

EVENTS

Visiting scholars demonstrate broad scope of communication

A pair of highly respected Communication educators with unique specialties headlined the WKU Department of Communication Visiting Scholar Series in the fall of 2007. Both were well received by both faculty and students.



Dr. Petronio and Dr. Sally Ray

A renowned authority on what would seem to be the opposing theories of communication and personal privacy discussed how the two concepts can mesh. **Dr. Sandra Petronio** shared her expertise on the “world of privacy paradox” Sept. 17-19, 2007. Dr. Petronio is a professor in the Department of Communication Studies at IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis) and Core Faculty in the Indiana University Center for Bioethics in the School of Medicine.

In addition to conferences with faculty and Communication majors, she spoke on “The World of Privacy Paradox: How We Manage Being Open and Private Simultaneously in Health, Family and Significant Relationships” at

a public event which was attended by many medical professionals as well as WKU faculty and students. Afterward Dr. Petronio signed her highly acclaimed book, “Boundaries of Privacy: Dialectics of Disclosure.”

Dr. Petronio has done extensive research in privacy, disclosure and confidentiality, primarily in health and family contexts. She has developed the “Communication Privacy Management” theory and is an award-winning author for a book explaining her theory and how to put it into practice.

Then in late October, **Dr. Phillip Tompkins** spent most of a week at the Fine Arts Center talking with faculty and students about his role in consulting NASA on organizational communication.

Tompkins began advising NASA on organizational communication in 1967 at the request of legendary rocket scientist Wernher von Braun. He continues to serve as a consultant and workshop presenter for the agency.

His findings about the miscommunication that led to the Challenger disaster were

cited in congressional hearings. His 2005 book, *Apollo, Challenger, and Columbia: The Decline of the Space Program*, chronicles 45 years of communication triumphs and defeats by NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center.

He, too, made a public presentation before an overflow crowd in the Mass Media Auditorium. His subject was “Apollo, Challenger, Columbia: Communication as Risk Management at NASA.” He also addressed the Department of Communication on “Rhetorical Foundations of Organizational Communication” and spoke to graduate students on “Public Scholarship.

Tompkins is a Fellow and Past President of the International Communication Association. He is professor emeritus in communication at the University of Colorado; a former dean of the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at Purdue University; and the founding chair of the Organizational Communication Program at the State University of Albany.

Both visiting professors enriched the lives and professional understanding of WKU Communication faculty and students.

-Jim Turner, Communication Instructor



British Debates a Smashing Hit



VS.



The British came to WKU again this year, and once again they were armed with quick wit, experience in the heat of battle, and an arsenal of facts and sources. Also, they brought with them appealing good humor.

The British Debate team returned to Western Kentucky University November 1, 2007, and matched arguments and sarcasm with WKU debate coaches in the Recital Hall of the Ivan Wilson Center for the Fine Arts.

Year after year, the British Debate session at WKU is popular and draws large numbers of spectators. The debate format is British, which includes audience participation. Judy Woodring, WKU's highly successful Director of Forensics, has explained: "The British style of debate typically emphasizes spontaneous reaction,



while the American style places a greater value on advance preparation. If you've ever watched the British Parliament, there is heckling and audience participation."

The British team consisted of Scotland native Alex Just, who is a former president of the Oxford Union and a grand finalist in the World Schools' Championships in both Singapore and Malaysia, and England native Alistair Cormack, who is a former president of the Durham Union Society and has been ranked among the top ten European speakers.

The WKU team consisted of Debate Coach Glenn Prince, a former national champion debater who has helped Woodring make WKU the dominant collegiate debate team, not only in the United

States but also in international university competition.



Joining him was former Northern Arizona University debater Carrie Menapace, a graduate of that university who has extensive debate experience on national and international levels. In fact, she had previously debated the Irish national team.

A large crowd attended. They cheered (maybe more for the visitors than the home folks), they jeered, they laughed, and they had a good time. It was a great night of communication on The Hill.

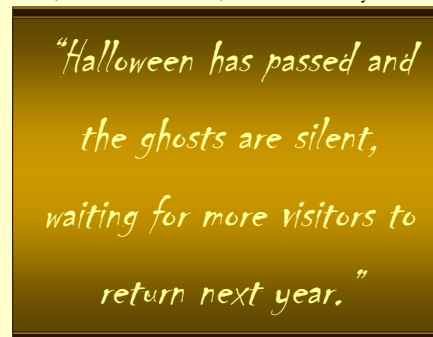
*- Jim Turner,
Communication Instructor*

Haunted Hills Tours a Success

It was a dark and chilly night. All Hallow's Eve, and the ghosts were awake and watching as troops of students and alumni traipsed through the spaces where eternal unrest confined them. Loud, clear voices told their story to members of the community, whether gruesome, saddening, or comforting.

The Haunted Hills Tour, hosted and led by Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society on October 28th through the 30th, was a success. Thankfully to some, and disappointingly to others, there were no unnatural sightings or apparitions. A brave crew, armed with

HotHands™, flashlights, and stories, led the tour of the Haunted Hill that began at the Helm Library and visited the bewitched sites of McLean Hall, Schneider Hall, Rhodes-Harlin, the Kentucky



Museum, Van Meter Auditorium and Potter Hall.

The turnout for the tours was higher than ever. Thrill-seekers who braved the cold for a taste of adventure ranged from college and high school students to WKU faculty, staff and alumni.

Halloween has passed and the ghosts are silent, waiting for more visitors to return next year. Maybe next time, they'll make their presence known...

- Hannah George, Senior

Announcements

Student Achievement

Let us hear about your achievements! We will announce them in the next issue of the *Communique*' newsletter.

Spirit Masters

Congratulations to new
Spirit Masters

Narika Hutton

&

Stephanie Ford

Lambda Pi Eta Inducts New Members

On February 24, 2008, the Rho Nu chapter of Lambda Pi Eta held its fourth annual induction ceremony, initiating 28 new members.



Sarah White lighting candles representing the three modes of persuasion

Lambda Pi Eta is the National Communication Honor Society for undergraduates. Membership is offered to students in the field of communication who have completed at least 60 hours of undergraduate study and who have demonstrated continued academic excellence in their coursework.

This year's inductees include Hannah George, Kristen Fort, Andrea Collins, Caelin Smith, Shae Manning, Caroline Ramsey, Clint

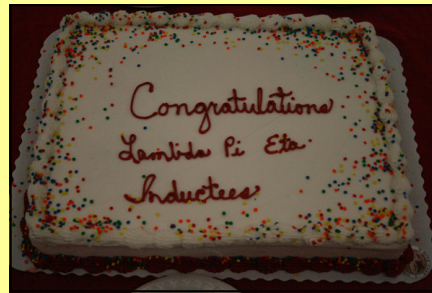
Conrad, Colleen Mathews, Elizabeth Thornton, Emilee Duvall, Erika Pedigo, Lacey McFadden, Lindsay Lundergan, Lindsey Lilly, Denise (Nicole) Grimes, Jaclyn Sparks, Ashley Moore, Danielle England, Amanda Kidd, Mahlon Cowan, Miranda Shipley, Stephanie Malazarte, Benjamin Pyle, Katie Robinson, Aaron Strawn, Ryan Warren, Sara Pitts, and Natasha Walker. The chapter advisor is Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith.

Friends, family, and members of the department's faculty were on hand at the ceremony to applaud the

students for their accomplishments.

Professor Bruce Crawley was also recognized as an honorary member of Lambda Pi Eta for his hard work and dedication as the departmental student advisor.

- Lindsey Lilly, Senior



Dr. Mize Smith congratulates Miranda Shipley



New Inductees

Congratulations

Student Organizations

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS



Donna Renaud
Faculty Advisor

IABC Spring Speakers and Projects

February—Todd Shomo from Leadership Strategies

March—Two representatives from Stagepost Studios in Nashville, Tennessee were our guest speakers. Stagepost Studios are specialists in business and marketing communication, and provide services to many high-profile clients. Gary Jindrak, producer/writer, and Craig Ciali, producer/director/editor provided IABC members an overview of their careers at Stagepost Studios.



For more information on the International Association of Communicators chapter at Western Kentucky University, contact Donna Renaud at 745-5880 or call the Department of Communication at 745-3296.

- Donna Renaud,
Communication Instructor



Todd Shomo from Leadership Strategies spoke to IABC students during meeting

spoke to IABC about communication consulting and offered students an opportunity to work on a telephone survey consulting project. Several students worked under the direction of Shelly Arant, over a three-week period, and Leadership Strategies contributed \$500 to the organization.

April—IABC held 2008-2009 officer elections at Barnes and Noble booksellers. Shelly Arant received the IABC President's Award for her contributions to the organization. A summer social will be held, the date to be announced later. President Nicole Lyons congratulated our graduating seniors.



IABC

LAMBDA PI ETA (ΛΠΗ)



Jennifer Mize Smith
Faculty Advisor

The 2007 fall semester was a great one for the Lambda Pi Eta honor society. During recruitment week in early September, nine new members were successfully recruited. Although our annual induction ceremony is normally held in the fall semester, Lambda Pi Eta members chose to postpone this year's induction until spring 2008 due to busy schedules.

The weekend before Halloween Lambda Pi Eta held its annual Haunted Hill Tours fundraiser. Lambda Pi Eta members escorted tourists around the hill, telling them the chilling tales of ghosts in Van Meter Hall and Potter Hall, among other buildings on campus. The 2007 Haunted Hill Tours was the most successful fundraiser for Lambda Pi Eta to date and the society looks forward to many more years of passing on the stories of the ghosts that haunt the hill.

In mid-November, two LPH officers attended the National Communication Association convention in Chicago, Illinois. Hannah George and Amanda

Daniel attended presentations on everything from gender communication to crisis communication. They also attended the



presentations of WKU Communication Department faculty Dr. Angela Jerome and Dr. Kumi Ishii. "It was great to get the opportunity to hear about the research being done across the nation in the field of communication" Amanda Daniel said. She added, "The Chicago style pizza didn't hurt either."

In late November, members of Lambda Pi Eta attended a résumé workshop conducted by Career Services Assistant Director Tess McKinley. She advised students on résumé formats and general tips regarding everything from résumé paper to how many pages a résumé should be. Special thanks to Tess for conducting the workshop.

While fall 2007 was a great semester, Lambda Pi Eta is excited about spring 2008. With membership at a record high, it looks to be another great semester. Look for new and exciting activities from the Rho Nu chapter of LPH this spring. For more information, please contact LPH advisor Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith at jennifer.mize.smith@wku.edu.

- Jennifer Mize Smith, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor

COMMUNICATION AMBASSADORS



Jessica McClanahan—
Faculty Advisor

The 2008-2009 Communication Ambassadors have been chosen, and are already making plans for the upcoming academic year. Plans are underway to participate in several events, including the Majors Fair, Focus on Western, and the

newly revised ATP (Academic Transition Program). The Ambassadors will also continue to support other departmental events. While the group already promotes the field of Communication, and the majors available to current WKU students, one major focus for this coming summer and fall will be working with incoming freshmen who are planning to study Communication in our department.

The Ambassadors are chosen by interview format only during the spring semester of each year, and

accept a maximum of 20 members. This year, we are pleased to have the following members: Colleen Mathews (Chair), Hannah George (Vice Chair), Aarika Hutton (Secretary/Treasurer), Lorin Isaacs (Faculty Liaison), Daymond Walton (Public Relations), Lindsey Lilly and Colton Wherry (co-Community Liaison), Allison McClure, Shae Manning, Caroline Ramsey, Kayla Nall, Danielle Averill, Stefanie Ford and Jane Shubrooks. Jessica McClanahan is the Faculty Advisor.

- Jessica McClanahan,
Communication Instructor

*The Department of
Communication
would like to say
"Thank You" to all
the students who
participate in the
student organizations
and for the service
you provide the
Department and
community.*

Student Engagement

IABC Heritage Conference, Greater Cincinnati area, October 14-16, 2007

Instructors Donna Renaud and Gayle Allison traveled with 13 students (Vanessa Pierrard, Shelly Arant, Andrea Collins, Karl Johnson, Nicole Lyons, Megan Noah, Lucy Clark, Kyle Sykes, Torrance Douglas, Aaron Strawn, Jordan Pauly, Daniel Norwood, and Matt Robison, Gayle Allison, and) to the IABC Heritage Region conference in Covington, KY. A tour bus was provided by the parents of one of the WKU students, Andrea Collins.



Students participated in a group competition sponsored by companies such as L.L. Bean and Proctor and Gamble. Two WKU students, Matt Robison and Daniel Norwood were among the winning team members. Another student, Nicole Lyons received an offer of an internship at L.L. Bean headquarters in Maine.

Students also attended several sessions on differing topics such as crisis communication, pod casting, and internal communication. Many students reported that they returned with a new understanding of the importance of networking and being involved in student groups such as IABC. Some of the newest members immediately ran for election to replace December graduates.

More students from WKU attended this conference than any of the other universities combined, including University of Louisville, Austin Peay State University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, and some other colleges from the east coast. The organizers of the conference and IABC professionals commented on how professionally our students

behaved, and appeared to be quite impressed.

Following the successful conference, IABC National decided to pilot its first ever national student conference at the 2008 Heritage region in Hartford, Connecticut. Donna Renaud was selected to serve on the IABC conference board where she will organize the student portion activities, such as a student/professional speed networking opportunity.

- Jordan Pauly, Senior

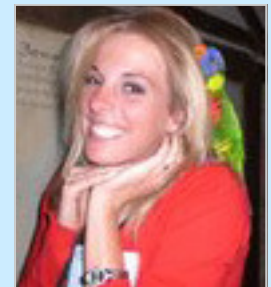
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Another Student Wrote:

The IABC Heritage Region 2007 Conference was a great experience for everyone who attended. It involved a lot of networking, great speakers, and a lot of high end workers from companies such as Proctor and Gamble, Starbucks, L.L. Bean, Watson Wyatt Worldwide, and many more.

IABC plans to attend the next IABC Heritage Region Conference being held in Connecticut, Fall 2009.

- Nicole Lyons, Senior



Lucy Clark with parrot on her shoulder while at Aquarium in Cincinnati

Funding came on a grant from Potter College and the WKU Department of Communication.

WKU Forensics Team... *cont'd from page 1*

WKU also swept the NFA, AFA and IFA titles in the 2002-03, 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons.

"We had a goal this season and we reached it," forensic director Judy Woodring said. "The NFA was an especially meaningful national tournament because the location in Nashville allowed President Gary Ransdell, his wife Julie, Provost Barbara Burch and Communication Department head Sally Ray to celebrate with us at the awards ceremony."

The forensic program is part of the Department of Communication. It is headquartered in the offices adjacent to the ballroom in Garrett Conference Center.

At the NFA National Tournament, Western was Debate Sweepstakes Champion with 105 points. Creighton University placed second with 68 points followed by Drury University, Northwestern University and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

WKU won Individual Events Sweepstakes with 642 points, far ahead of the second-place school, Bradley University, with 510.5 points. Joining them in the top five were University of Texas at Austin, University of Alabama, Kansas State University, and Arizona State.

Earlier in the season, Western Kentucky University's forensic team had claimed the championship of the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament.

In Colorado March 27-30, WKU was awarded the sweepstakes championship at the NPDA National Tournament, the largest intercollegiate debate tournament in the nation.

Finishing second through fifth were Washburn University, University of Oregon, Western Washington University and University of Wyoming. WKU also was awarded

the championship for Season Sweepstakes based on competition throughout the year.

The forensic team won its ninth world championship in 10 years March 16-18 at the International Forensic Association tournament in London, England. WKU was crowned world champion in team sweepstakes with a team half the size of second-place George Mason University.

With a record-breaking performance by senior Natalie Sintek, the forensic team won the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament. WKU swept the tournament sweepstakes to win its fifth AFA national championship in the past six years. The April 4-7 tournament in Austin, Texas, attracted participants from 93 schools.

Sintek of Eagan, Minn., was named to the AFA 2008 All American Team, acknowledging her forensics talent, academic

achievement and community involvement. She also broke a number of AFA records by attaining the most AFA final rounds in a career and by advancing to final rounds at AFA in the most events in a single year (six, which were all of her events). Senior Saeed Jones of Lewisville, Texas, was the national champion in impromptu speaking.

In the sweepstakes results, WKU placed first with 475 points followed by Bradley University with 413.5. The tournament attracted participants from 93 schools.

With all of those championships behind them, don't expect WKU's competitive speakers to become complacent. They're not worried about hitting .300. They've grown accustomed to batting 1.000.

- Jim Turner, Instructor

A Day at the Track... *cont'd from page 1*

Volunteers began arriving early in the morning and they were given instructions for their task at the event. Each volunteer had to listen carefully to all instructions in order to successfully complete their task. After instructions were given, good listening skills were still needed in order to communicate with other volunteers and even the athletes. In order to do this, the HURIER model was used; they had to hear, understand, remember, interpret, evaluate,



Opening Ceremony

and respond to messages. According to Judi Brownell, "Effective listening is achieved by focusing to a greater or lesser degree of the six essential components presented in the HURIER model."

The Special Olympics was a great event to practice the first step of the model: hearing. There were so many activities going on around the track that dichotic listening, receiving two messages simultaneously, was vital. Shadowing was another technique that many of the volunteers, including myself, used to ensure that we heard the instruc-

tions given to the volunteers because accuracy was essential. The third step of this model, remembering, was very important, for everyone there had to store information such as names, event times and locations, and responsibilities into their long-term memory. Many strategies were probably used by many different people to remember this information. For example, I used association, remembering where I last saw that person, to remember names, and I was able to remember the instructions for my job as a track timer by visualizing my task.

The ability to interpret and use empathetic listening was also very important at this event, because each of the volunteers and coaches needed to look at the event from the athletes' perspectives and be able to interpret their body language in order to appropriately respond to them. For example, if an athlete finished the race, but their nonverbal behavior suggested they were unhappy; volunteers may need to pay special attention to cheering that person up through congratulations and

praise. Although evaluating was not very important in this situation since no persuasion was



used, the last step of the model was essential: responding. Volunteers were expected to respond appropriately to the athletes' and coaches' questions and were also expected to respond to the athletes' participation in the events through congratulations and cheers.

The Special Olympics is a great opportunity for athletes of all ages to complete in events in which they would normally not be able to. This is a day that most of these athletes anticipate and practice for all year long, and for



Maria Irvin, Amanda Drake, Amanda Belcher, Alison Hall, and Sally Fakes, along with one of the athletes.

some, this is merely a stepping stone as they advance on to higher levels of this program. Regardless of the levels of the programs, the Special Olympics would not be possible without the listening and communication skills of everyone involved.

- Amanda Drake, Junior

Donna Renaud Elected Co-Director of International Listening Association South Central Region



Lighthouse, Portland, Maine

Donna K. Renaud of Western Kentucky University has just returned from Portland, Maine, where she presented at the 29th annual convention of the *International Listening Association (ILA)*. The annual convention is a celebration of *International Listening Awareness Month*,

which marks the global celebration that was started in the late 1990s by the ILA as an effort to bring greater attention to the critical role listening plays in all human activity. At the 2008 Convention, Ms. Renaud was elected Co-Director of the ILA South Central Region,

appointed Chair of 2009 ILA Awards Committee, and selected to spearhead the development of a professional certification program for ILA.

The International Listening Association (ILA) is a professional organization whose members represent 15 countries and 49 U.S. states and are dedicated to learning more about the impact that listening has on all human activity. Since its formation in 1979, ILA has promoted the study, development, and teaching of effective listening in all settings. Although listening is at the root of communication, it remains an interdisciplinary topic.

IABC Announces 2008-09 Officers

IABC is glad to announce and congratulate the new 2008-2009 officers.

- Nicole Lyons – President
- Megan Noah—Vice President of Programs
- Bobby McCandless—Vice President of Projects
- Benjamin Yunt—Vice President of Membership
- Shelley Arant—Vice President of Fund Raising
- Leeza Prather—Secretary
- Lucy Clark—Treasurer
- Cara Mastrianni—Trip and Social Committee Head



2008-09 IABC Officers

Back Row: Bobby McCandless, Benjamin Yunt, Megan Noah
Front Row: Shelley Arant, Leeza Prather, Cara Mastrianni, Nicole Lyons



Nicole Lyons presents Shelley Arant with the President's Award

We are looking forward to a great and successful school year!

- Nicole Lyons, Senior

K.H.S.S.L.

Kentucky High School Speech League



About 800 young speakers and interpreters were on the WKU campus in mid-March along with hundreds of coaches, parents and judges for the two state tournaments conducted by the Kentucky High School Speech League (KHSSL).

KHSSL had been overseen by the Forensics Department for the past two decades, but when Forensics Director Judy Woodring relinquished KHSSL executive director duties this year, it took a department-wide effort to continue the degree of excellence that Judy and her staff had developed over the years.

In addition to KHSSL Executive Director Jim Turner, Department Head Sally Ray, Communication office staffers Laura Wagoner and Mary Schneider, Chris Chandler, faculty member Stacey Gish, and countless others were deeply involved in making a

success of the state tournaments, which involve the use of about 100 rooms across campus in the five days of competition.

Danville High School and Larry A. Ryle High School won state championships during the senior tournament March 13-15. For the third straight year, Danville won the Sweepstakes championship, based on cumulative performances in 13 "individual events." Coach Steve Meadows' team scored 238 points, significantly ahead of second place Grant County, which had 165 points, and third place Louisville Assumption with 138 points.

Finishing fourth through tenth among the 41 high schools competing were, in order, Lexington Paul Dunbar, Graves County, Boone County, Lexington Lafayette, Knott County Central, East Jessamine, and Lexington Henry Clay.

Earlier in the three-day tournament, Larry A. Ryle High School of Boone County won the state debate championship. The team coached by Eric Blankenship and Durrell 'Butch' Hamm scored 100 points, more than doubling the

point total of second-place Danville. Defending state champion Lexington Henry Clay placed third with Grant County fourth, Scott County fifth, and South Oldham sixth.

SCAPA, the School for Creative and Performing Arts Bluegrass, dominated the Junior State Tournament March 21-22. SCAPA captured its 11th consecutive team Sweepstakes state championship, beating second place Ockerman Middle School of Boone County by 120 points. Kentucky Country Day of Louisville finished third among the 33 schools competing.

Additionally, SCAPA competitors won 7 of the 11 state individual championship and were runner-up in seven of the events

The two-day tournament began with SCAPA coaches Beth Randolph and Debbi Dean being inducted into the KHSSL Hall of Fame. Two of their former students and a pair of parents of speakers spoke in introducing them.

*- Jim Turner,
Communication Instructor*

Spring 2008 Student Workers



Lorin Isaacs



Shane Webb



Amanda Daniel



Aarika Hutton

INTERCULTURAL

Intercultural Communication class presents American Cultures to International Students

Approximately 40 international students from the English as the Second Language International (ESLI) program visited Dr. Ishii's Fundamentals of Communication and Culture (COMM263) classes on December 4 and 6, 2007. The students in COMM263 gave presentations on American cultures for these international students to help their adaptation process to American cultures. The presentation topics included American Holidays (The 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas,



Interacting with International Students in FAC 135

New Year's Day, and Valentine's Day), Landmarks to Visit, American Dialects, Voting System, and American Sports (Baseball, Football & Tailgating!). Through these topics, COMM263 students taught important American cultural values and traditions, singing an American song together, playing a traditional game together, etc. After the presentations, they also enjoyed casual interactions each other over American snacks.



Everyone enjoys pizza

- Kumi Ishii, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

New Faculty Member

The Communication Department Welcomes Dr. Blair Thompson

Dr. Blair Thompson, Assistant Professor, is the newest faculty member to join us at WKU. Dr. Thompson joined us in August 2007 and serves as our Basic Course Director.

Dr. Thompson received his Ph. D. from the University of Nebraska where he studied instructional and interpersonal communication. He received his M. A. in Communication from Minnesota State University, Mankato and his B.A. from Concordia College in English and Communication with an emphasis on secondary education. His dissertation research explored e-mail communication between parents and teachers from the elementary through high school levels. Dr. Thompson's primary research emphasis is instructional communication and interpersonal/family communication. His recent publications in *Communication Education* examine how college students communicate academic support, the impact of new technology on parent-teacher communication, and issues of power construction between students and teachers. You can read about more about his study on parent-teacher e-mail communication in the April issue of *Communication Currents* online at <http://www.communicationcurrents.com>.

At WKU, Dr. Thompson will be teaching graduate courses in Interpersonal Communication and Family Communication. At the undergraduate level, he has taught the Communication Theory course and the Honors Public Speaking course. In addition to his research and teaching, Dr. Thompson's role as Basic

Course Director keeps him busy. As our BCD, he is primarily responsible for the 80-90 general education Public Speaking (COMM 145) and Business and Professional Speaking (COMM 161) courses taught at WKU. Dr. Thompson creates the standard syllabus used in every class and makes decisions regarding the assignments that all students in these classes will complete. He also directs

through collaboration and cooperative learning. He is also presenting a FaCET seminar on April 1st entitled "Strategies for Constructing & Presenting Course Syllabi." This seminar, based on research that Dr. Thompson has conducted, will discuss innovative communication strategies that instructors can utilize when constructing and presenting their course syllabi.



our Instructors and Graduate Teaching Assistants who teach these courses to ensure that all of our students are receiving equivalent educational experiences across the sections. We are certain that our students will benefit from the expertise in pedagogy that Dr. Thompson brings to our basic courses.

The WKU community has caught on quickly to Dr. Thompson's expertise in pedagogy. He has quickly become a regular presenter of workshops and seminars through WKU's Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching (FaCET). Last semester he was a panelist for a workshop discussing "helicopter parents." This semester he has already participated as a leader in a workshop dealing with helping students connect

Despite the time that it takes to compile such an impressive list of accomplishments and activities, Dr. Thompson does find time for a little fun outside of academia. He is an avid golfer and can be seen out on the local courses when not in class. He lives in Bowling Green with his wife, Jessica

Thompson, who is the Communication Coordinator for the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce. They have two dogs and a cat, who are all named after states: a Sheltie named Montana (Tana for short), Alabama (Bama) the cat, and the newest addition, a Yorkie named Kentucky (Tuck).

As you can tell, Dr. Thompson brings a superb background and resume with him to WKU. If you work with or know a group that might benefit from a workshop or seminar led by Dr. Thompson, please don't hesitate to contact him at blair.thompson@wku.edu. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Thompson to the Communication Department.

Jenifer L. Lewis, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Faculty News

Sue Fleschner, PhD

Dr. Fleschner, an adjunct instructor, presented at the American Counseling Association's Annual Conference in Hawaii this Spring. She also published "Counseling Across Generations: Bridging the Baby Boomer, Generations X, and Generations Y Gap" in the book *Compelling Counseling Images: The Best of VISTAS 2008*. The publication is produced by Counseling Outfitters for the American Counseling Association.

Kumi Ishii, PhD

Dr. Ishii presented "Predictors of information needs during organizational change" at the 2007 annual meeting of the National Communication Association (NCA), Chicago.

She co-presented "Organizational identification with a Japanese multinational manufacturer in the United States" at the 2008 annual meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Ishii served as chair of a competitive panel session on Technology in the Workplace for the Communication and Technology division of ICA in Montreal in May.

Carl L. Kell, PhD

Dr. Carl Kell contracted with the University of Tennessee Press for book three of the series on the

Southern Baptist Convention Holy War. This third addition to the trilogy is entitled *Against the Wind: - The Moderate Voice in Southern Baptist Life*. A fourth book is in progress and will be added to the original series. The fourth book will be entitled *Exiled II: The Lost Generation*.

Jenifer Lewis, PhD

Along with the Faculty Fellows for the WKU Center for Leadership Excellence, Dr. Jenifer Lewis had an article entitled "Evaluating Campus-wide Attitudes on Leadership" published in *Academic Leader* in November 2007.

Dr. Lewis represented the Communication Department as a Distinct Dialogue Facilitator at a community event for the University Honors College in October 2007. In this role, Dr. Lewis, with the assistance of Lindsey Lilly (a Communication Honors Student), facilitated a discussion between eight community members on the topic of the 2008 Presidential Primary.

Holly Payne, PhD

Dr. Holly Payne published "Targets, Strategies, and Topics of Deception among Part-Time Workers" in *Employee Relations*, an international journal and "Grade Distributions in the Basic Public Speaking Course: Exploring the

Differences and Pedagogical Implications of Faculty Rank" was published in the *Basic Communication Course Annual, Volume 20*. She presented "Workplace Dissent Expression: A Test of Individual, Relational, and Organizational Influences," at the National Communication Association (NCA) annual convention. Dr. Payne serves on the editorial boards of Management Research News and the Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies. She presented a session "Communication and Interpersonal Skills Needed for Advising" as part of the Master Advisor Certificate program through the Academic Advising and Retention Center.

Blair Thompson, PhD

Dr. Blair Thompson published "Characteristics of parent-teacher e-mail communication" *Communication Education*, and "How college freshmen communicate student academic support: A grounded theory study." *Communication Education*, 57, 123-144.

Thompson, B. (2007). The syllabus as a communication document: Constructing and presenting the syllabus. *Communication Education*, 56, 54-71.

Alumni Updates

Kristin Fort, 2008—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication

— Employed by Fruit of the Loom Corporate office in Bowling Green, Kentucky for a position as a buyer.

David Givens, 1997—M.A. Communication

— David won the Republican primary for the Kentucky State Senate representing the 9th District. He will be on the November 2008 ballot.

Tiffany Graham, 2008—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication

— Employed by Citizens First Bank as a Customer Service Officer and Teller.

Elena Pak, 2005—M.A. Communication—serves as the Assistant Director of the Atlantic Council of the United

States. Elena is responsible for all media relations as well as membership program. Her principal role is to coordinate the British-North American Committee (BNAC), a forum comprised of business, academic and labor leaders from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Atlantic Council is the BNAC secretariat in North America.

Lindsey R. Ransdell, 2007— B.A. Communication Studies - Currently employed by The Community Foundation of Louisville as a Donor Services Associate.

MacKenzie Keaster Walton, 2007—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Employed as a Communication Specialist for The Carlisle Group, a Marketing/PR consulting firm with offices in Toronto, New York and Los

Angeles. MacKenzie works on-site with The Carlisle Group's primary Indianapolis client, Rolls-Royce Corporation, a global aircraft and helicopter engine producer. Her work involves management and internal communications coordination, message composition and distribution, and the integration of new and existing internal communication channels. She also will have her personal account published in the book *It's All in Your Head, and That is a Good Thing* that will come out later this year.

Cindy Wells, 1998—M.A. Communication—Cindy is Human Resource Services and Reporting Manager, People Services at The Coca-Cola Company—Shared Services in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Department of
Communication would like to
reconnect with you.

Please update your information on our web site:
[http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/Communication/
alumni/information_form.html](http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/Communication/alumni/information_form.html)

We look forward to
hearing from you!

Western Kentucky
University
Department of
Communication

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Fax: 270-745-3295

We're on the Web!
www.wku.edu/Communication



Spring 2008 Activities:

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| March 13-15, 2008 | K.H.S.S.L. Senior High State Speech Tournament |
| March 21-22, 2008 | K.H.S.S.L. Junior High State Speech Tournament |
| May 7, 2008 | Graduate Students Awards Reception—FAC Art Gallery @ 11:00 a.m. |
| May 10, 2008 | Graduation Celebration—1:00 p.m. @ DUC 310 |
| May 12, 2008 | Reception for Dr. James Sun—Visiting Scholar from Beijing, China—10:30 a.m. in Leadership Studies Office |