

# COMMUNIQUE

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## Alumni Focus—Renee Shaw

Renee Shaw is the host and co-producer of *Connections with Renee Shaw*, a Kentucky Education Television (KET) production. She is also co-producer of *Comment on Kentucky* and produces numerous other public affairs programs for KET.

Before joining KET in 1997, she worked in commercial television and public radio and television in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and broadcast journalism and a master's degree in organizational communication from Western Kentucky University and serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown College.

*Connections with Renee Shaw*, a KET interview and discussion series, explores the cultures and concerns of Kentucky's diverse minority communities and celebrates everyday heroes. "The goal of *Connections* is to focus on what's right with a culturally blended society," says Renee Shaw, who is also the producer, writer, managing editor, and host of KET's legislative coverage. "Instead of just harping on what's wrong in our minority communities—as is so often seen in mainstream media—we hope *Connections* will afford us the time to really discuss the issues with the people who are out there making things happen."



Renee Shaw

*Connections* airs each week on Friday at 4:00/3:00 p.m. CT on KET2, and Sunday at 1:30/12:30 p.m. CT on KET1.



## Jerome 'thrills' audience by communicating on sports



Dr. Angela Jerome

The relationship between sports and communication was made clear to an appreciative audience April 7 as part of the Department of Communication 2009 Faculty Lecture Series.

Dr. Angela Jerome, a member of the Communication senior faculty, discussed "The Thrill of Victory and The Agony of Defeat: Contemporary Modes of Persuasion in Sports" before

a full house at Russell Miller Theater.

This was the second in a series of presentations by members of the Communication faculty. The series was initiated by Interim Department Head Dr. Carl Kell. In the fall, Dr. Jennifer Lewis had spoken on the use of Facebook in political communication.

- Cont'd on page 3

# EVENTS

## Lt. Governor Mongiardo communicates with WKU students

Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo presented students a dynamic vision of future employment opportunities in Kentucky while demonstrating successful communication skills and success in the political realm during a visit to Western Kentucky University February 26.

A medical doctor who is one of Kentucky's best-known and most successful political figures, Mongiardo was the guest of WKU's Department of Communication and the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). He addressed a full house in the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

Mongiardo used personal examples of the death of his infant brother and medical problems experienced by



**Dan Mongiardo with Genevieve Lucarelli and Nicole Lyons, President IABC**

others in his Eastern Kentucky hometown to explain why he decided to

become a doctor.

"I soon realized I couldn't fix health care from inside, that we can't have a strong health care system without a strong economy and strong education," the grandson of Italian immigrants said. "When I complained to a local official, he told me he was tired of people complaining but not being willing to be office holders themselves. So I decided to run for office."

Mongiardo served as a state senator, was the Democratic nominee for U.S. senator five years ago, and was elected lieutenant governor last year on a ticket headed by Steve Beshear. He is expected to seek the U.S. Senate seat next year when it comes open again.

*Cont'd on page 3*

## IABC Bowls for Kids Sake

IABC is always looking for opportunities to be involved in the community. By being involved in the community, we not only add value to the lives of those affected by the project, but we also add value to the lives of those who participate in the project. IABC is not just about being involved in a professional setting, it is about building a relationship with the community in which we work.

IABC was proud to participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowling for Kids Sake 2009. With the help of many other student organizations, Big Brothers Big Sisters was able to raise over \$9,000 for the WKU bowling night.

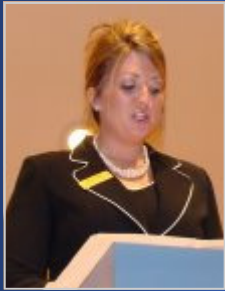


**Destiny Smith O'Rourke, Nicole Lyons, Shelley Arant, and Bobby McCandless**

*- Shelley Arant, IABC Officer*



# Mongiardo—*cont'd from page 2*



**Genevieve Lucarelli**  
Introducing Dan Mongiardo

A digital network for health care providers is at the center of his health care plan, Mongiardo explained to IBAC members and their guests.

He said it will help make what he calls ‘well-care’ more accessible, more efficient and less expensive. He said each person usually has about five doctors, and one of the main reasons each doctor orders radiology is that they don’t have access to X-rays previously done for other doctors. A secure digital system will eliminate the need for additional X-rays and speed up medical decisions, he reasons.

If Kentucky is to become the pioneer of this digital network,

well-educated computer programmers are going to be needed. This will provide jobs in health care, computer science and education, Mongiardo. Because computer whizzes are tired of living in big cities, they will likely be interested in moving here to take advantage of Kentucky’s Adventure Trails that provide outdoor activities.

“We have every kind of outdoors attraction here except salt water,” Mongiardo said. “So our slogan can be Kentucky: No Sharks.”



**Dan Mongiardo, Donna Renaud, IABC members, and Communication Ambassadors**

The lieutenant governor says he hopes to see the first piece of information flow on the digital health network within six months and for Kentucky’s healthcare system to be completely digitized in three years.

- Jim Turner, Instructor



**Audience in Recital Hall listens to Lt. Gov. Dan Mongiardo**

# Jerome ‘thrills’ audience... *(Cont'd from page 1)*

An avid sports fan, Jerome quickly established her credibility on the subject. Alex McBeath, one of the students in public speaking classes who attended, said, “The speech was appropriate for the speaker because she has experience in the field. It was appropriate for the audience because the majority of people are sports fans of some kind.”

Jerome covered communication in a variety of sports, including auto racing, swimming and football. “You could tell she is passionate about sports,” student James Whitaker said.

A number of other students talked about the speaker’s passion for sports.

Little research had been done about the role of communication in sports when she began tackling the subject, Jerome said. She has added to that field of knowledge. Others are getting involved. Jerome noted that *Public Relations Review* devoted an entire issue to the subject last June. “It sounds like a fun job,” said freshman Georgia Smith, a member of the WKU swim team.

The popularity of sports is shown by comparative viewership. Jerome noted


that President Obama’s inauguration drew the second highest television viewership in history with 37.8 million people watching. Yet a couple of weeks later, an estimated 99 million people watched the Super Bowl.

Athletes often make mistakes that become very public. Part of the communication process involves public statements and apologies about those errors. Researchers are now studying how that process can be better handled.

- Jim Turner, Instructor



# Announcements



**Graduation Celebration**  
for all  
**Department of Communication  
Graduates**

**Sunday,  
May 17, 2009  
11:00 a.m.  
DUC 340**

The Faculty of the Department of Communication is honored to celebrate this milestone with you and your families.

Please bring your family by for light refreshments.

The Department will be providing a photographer.

# Undergraduate




**You're Invited**  
to a  
**Graduation Reception**  
Sponsored by the  
Department of Communication


**DUC 310**  
**Friday, May 15, 2009**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Please bring your family & friends to share in your accomplishment.

# Graduate



Outstanding  
Communication Student  
Award Recipients  
- 2008-09 -



Rebekah Golla  
Outstanding Communication  
Graduate

Hannah George  
Corporate & Organizational  
Communication

Kaylee Carnahan  
Communication Studies



Congratulations

# Student Organizations

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS



**Donna Renaud—  
Faculty Advisor**

### IABC tours Dollar General, attends IABC Nashville Student Career Panel

The WKU chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) traveled to Goodlettsville, Tennessee on April 2 where they toured Dollar General Headquarters. Following the tour, IABC Nashville hosted a Career Panel for WKU, Middle Tennessee State University, and Austin Peay State University students at Amerigo's restaurant on West End Avenue.

Guest panelists included: Paul Lindley, Director of Communications at St. Thomas Hospital, Mike Machak, Director of Public Relations for Crye-Leike and former Channel 4 TV News Anchor, Brenda Ellis, Information Officer, Vanderbilt Department of Engineering, and Marcia Colburn, Manager of Corporate Communications at Caterpillar Financial Services. Panelists presented their top five pieces of advice for students in an informative yet entertaining exchange.

Twelve WKU students and one recent graduate attended these events. Students who attended the events were: Nicole Lyons, president, Amanda K. Belcher, Michelle Morrison, Carmen

Trimpe, Laura Chaney, Kristen Calloway, Stacy Wells, Caleb Parrigan, Caleb Johnson,



**Marsha Colburn, Manager of Corporate Communications at Caterpillar Financial Services**

Bobby C. McCandless, Colton Wherry, alumnus Andrea Collins, and faculty advisor, Donna Renaud. WKU's IABC chapter currently has thirty-two active members.

Founded in 1970, The International Association of Business Communicators provides a professional network of over 15,500 business communication professionals in over 80 countries. IABC's Nashville Chapter serves as the parent chapter for WKU's student chapter. The President of IABC, Glenda Betts, is project director for Tennessee Valley Authority.



First Row (L to R): Bobby McCandless, Carmen Trimpe, Nicole Lyons, Stacy Wells  
Second Row: Caleb Johnson, Caleb Parrigan, Laura Chaney, Michelle Morrison, Amanda K. Belcher, Colton Wherry  
Not pictured: Kristen Calloway, alumnus Andrea Collins, and Donna Renaud



**IABC**



# LAMBDA PI ETA (ΛΠΗ) - CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS



**Jennifer Mize Smith—  
Faculty Advisor**

include: Amber Alexander, Cara Dickerson, James Falin, Karoline Johnson, Lauren Nelson, Jasmine Pang, Kelli Perkins, Devin Roos, Carmen Trimpe, and Sydney Waddell. Lambda Pi Eta now has record high membership of 31 members.

This has been an exciting semester for Lambda Pi Eta! We are celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary at WKU. Lambda Pi Eta was established on campus in 2005 by Dr. Ellen Bonaguro, Director of Academic Advising and Retention. LPH has continued to grow and succeed over the last five years to be the thriving organization that it is today.

Spring recruitment turned out to be a great success, resulting in 10 new members. Our newest members

To be eligible for admission, students must have completed 60 semester credit-hours, including 12 hours in communication studies; have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken and a 3.25 GPA for all communication courses; and be in good standing with the university.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> Lambda Pi Eta held an Induction Ceremony to honor new members for their achievement. In addition to the induction of new members,

Dr. Bonaguro presented an inspirational speech to attendees about the importance of Lambda Pi Eta. Additionally, Dr. Jenifer Lewis was voted on by LPH members as “Faculty of the Year”. Dr. Lewis was presented with a plaque to honor her for this recognition.



To wrap up the semester, Lambda Pi Eta is hosting an Etiquette Dinner for members on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. This event will be held on campus in the Cupola Room and will be catered by Aramark. The purpose of the dinner is to place

students in a professional dinner environment and teach them “rules” for eating in social and business situations.

Lastly, Lambda Pi Eta, in conjunction with IABC and Communication Ambassadors, is hosting a Faculty Appreciation Dinner on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mariah’s. Seniors will have the opportunity to attend and express their gratitude to professors for their dedication to our education.

Obviously, Spring 2009 has been a busy one. We are excited to continue growing and succeeding as an honor society. Fall 2009 will bring with it a host of new events and opportunities as well as new members and officers. Thank you to everyone who have made this semester a success! If you have any questions please contact me at [Danielle.England@wku.edu](mailto:Danielle.England@wku.edu) or the LPH faculty advisor at [Jenni-fer.mize.smith@wku.edu](mailto:Jennifer.mize.smith@wku.edu).

- Danielle England,  
LPH President

## COMMUNICATION AMBASSADORS



**Jessica McClanahan—  
Faculty Advisor**

course, 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. For the upcoming academic year, we are pleased to have the following members: Kayla Nall (President), Allison Sterbling, Aarika Hutton, Daymond Walton, Danielle Averill, Whitnee Thorp, Kelli Rush, Jordan Reid, Jason Nsafoah, Jennifer Harry, Lainey Stricker, Kenneth Thomas, Sydney Waddell, Amanda Belcher and Gretchen Lynum. Other officers will be chosen at the first member meeting in the fall. Jessica McClanahan is the Faculty Advisor.

- Jessica McClanahan,  
Communication Instructor

The 2009-2010 Communication Ambassadors have been chosen, and are already making plans for the upcoming academic year. Plans are already underway to participate in several events, including the Majors Fair, Focus on Western, and ATP. Of

*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.*

# Intercultural

## Intercultural Communication Class Compares American and International Cultures

Dr. Kumi Ishii has been conducting a joint project with the English as the Second Language International (ESLI) program for her COMM263 (Fundamentals of Communication and Culture) course since Fall 2007. The project was originally to assist the adaptation process of international students to an American culture, and the students who were enrolled in COMM 263 taught various aspects of American cultures to the ESLI students in the past semesters. The joint project has been enhanced since then, and in the fall semester, 2008, a “real” joint project was achieved. The students from



International student Alex Chen and Jessica Furgerson, with Tiffanie Foster and Will Thomas in background

including gender roles, formal ceremonies, popular food, university life, dating/marriage, entertainment, and holidays. The members of each group jointly delivered a presentation on December 2 and 4, 2008.

chance to see how university classes work and given them new contacts within the university community.”

Amanda Belcher, a junior in the Communication Studies program, actually engaged in group work with the ESLI students in the fall semester. Amanda said, “Working with others from a different culture is always a challenging, but rewarding experience. I was fortunate to work with a girl from China and another girl from Vietnam for my ESLI Project. I enjoyed learning about different cultures by interacting with real people from those cultures. It definitely expanded my knowledge and appreciation for others who are not exactly like me.”



International students Annie & Crystal, Amanda Belcher, Josh Thompson, and Amanda Bonds

both COMM263 and the ESLI program engaged in a group project throughout the semester, did research together, and introduced similarities and differences in the members’ cultures on a variety of topics

Ms. Stewart, Assistant Director of the English as a Second Language International commented, “The joint project with Dr. Ishii’s class has been a wonderful opportunity for my students. It has allowed them a

- Kumi Ishii, Ph.D., Assistant Professor



# Communication Honors Students Present Research at Murray State University

Communication Honors students Ashley Payne and Monique Braun presented their research at the Kentucky Honors Round Table on February 21, 2009 at Murray State University. Monique's study, "The Organizational Culture of Google, Inc." was first submitted as a paper for Dr. Holly Payne's Organizational Communication course (COMM 461). Ashley's study, "The New Campaign: Social Networking Sites in the 2008 Presidential Election" is part of her Honor's Thesis under the direction of Dr. Jenifer Lewis. Dr. Lewis traveled to Murray State to support the students as they gave their research presentations.



Monique Braun, Dr. Jenifer Lewis, and Ashley Payne

## Joele Denis, Communication Studies Major

Joele Denis received first place in Poetry Interpretation during the National Forensics Association (NFA) tournament. He also received first place for Individual Sweepstakes at the tournament.

## Christopher Nation, Communication Graduate Student

Communication graduate student Christopher Nation presented his research at the WKU Student Research

Conference on February 21, 2009 at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center. His study entitled "An Examination of Communication Patterns: Understanding City Year's Nonprofit Communicative Messages" was first submitted as a paper for Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith's Communication in the Nonprofit Sector course (COMM 528). Chris is continuing to work with Dr. Mize Smith on revisions for submission to the 2009 Kentucky Communication Association conference.

## Sarah Pitts, Corporate and Organizational Communication Major

Sara Pitts was elected to serve as a student member on the Potter College Curriculum Committee for the 2009-2010 Academic year.



**Student Achievement**

## Lambda Pi Eta Inducts New Members



Front row: Danielle England, Lauren Nelson, Dianna Fuda, Amber Alexander, Morgan Wickline, Ryan Warren  
Back row: Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith, Dr. Jenifer Lewis, Chris Drury, Danielle Averill, Allison McClure, Elizabeth Thornton, Elizabeth Foster, Cara Dickerson, Sara Pitts, Mahlon Cowan

The WKU chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) Communication Honors Society held its induction ceremony on Sunday March 29, 2009. The ceremony was held at 2:00 in The Learning Center at Downing University Center, new inductees invited their family and friends to join the celebration. The chapter inducted 17 new members this year, including two of our officers. Dr. Ellen

Bonaguro was the featured speaker, who said a few words about why she was inspired to start the LPH chapter at WKU five years ago. The chapter also chose to honor Dr. Jenifer Lewis as its honored faculty person of the year and was presented with a plaque on behalf of the chapter. After the induction ceremony guests were invited to mingle and have some refreshments specially prepared by the chapter officers. The event was a great success thanks to all the hard work put in by officers and members and our adviser Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith. Be sure to check out the communication website and the LPH bulletin board in FAC for updates.

*- Morgan Wickline, LPH PR Chair*

## IABC Announces 2009-10 Officers

- Amanda K. Belcher—President
- Jeffery Clagg—VP Programs
- Cara Dickerson—VP Membership
- Amber Duncan—VA Projects/Historian
- Genevieve Lucarelli—VA Fundraising
- Caleb Parrigan—SGA Representative
- Amanda Adams—Secretary
- Karoline (Kari) Johnson—Treasurer
- Michael Schultz—Webmaster



**2009-10 IABC Officers**

L to R: Jeff Clagg, Amber Duncan, Amanda K. Belcher, Amanda Adams, Karoline Johnson, Genevieve Lucarelli, Caleb Parrigan  
Not pictured: Cara Dickerson and Michael Schultz



# K.H.S.S.L.

## Kentucky High School Speech League

### Speakers and Debaters Invade WKU

The “March Madness” moniker took on new meaning for the Department of Communication this semester as more than 950 junior and high school students converged upon WKU to take part in the Kentucky High School Speech League State Speech Tournaments over two weekends in March. “Confessions of a Speech-a-holic” was the theme for both senior high and junior high tournaments.

The KHSSL State Debate Tournament was first on the agenda as students competed in Lincoln/Douglas Debate, Policy Debate and Student Congress on March 12-13. This tournament doubled its numbers from last year, proving that many schools are teaching their students lessons in current events, critical thinking, and impromptu argumentation. Larry A Ryle High School in Boone County captured the Debate Sweepstakes Championship for the second consecutive year.

The KHSSL State Senior Division State Tournament, held March 13-14, saw more than 530 high school speech-a-holics compete in 12 events – Broadcast Announcing, Duo Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Improvisational Duo, Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Poetry Interpreta-

tion, Prose Interpretation, and Storytelling. Danville High School was named the Class AAA champion as well as the Overall KHSSL State Champion for the third consecutive year. Calloway County High School won the Class AA championship and LaRue County High School captured the Class A championship. Boone County High School, who was a mere four points away from winning the

in a meaningful, clear, and articulate way will benefit them in any career path, in every walk of life, in every endeavor – both professional and personal.”

More than 400 Junior High competitors came to WKU the weekend of March 20-21 to compete in 11 speaking events. The School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Bluegrass, continued its domination over the competition as it was named the Class AAA champion and Overall KHSSL State Champion for the sixth consecutive year. East Hardin Middle School won the Class AA championship while Carr Creek Elementary School captured the championship for Class A schools. Kentucky Country Day School from Louisville earned the Sustained Excellence Award.

KHSSL is the oldest high school co-curricular organization in the state of Kentucky and has been headquartered at WKU since 1988. KHSSL provides resources and opportunities for thousands of students to participate in speech, debate, and drama each year and is endorsed by the Kentucky Education Association, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators and the Kentucky State Legislature. Stacey Durbin Gish is Executive Director of KHSSL.

*- Stacey Gish,  
KHSSL Executive Director,  
& Communication Instructor*

# HELLO

MY NAME IS

## Speech-a-holic

KHSSL 2009

Class AAA championship this year, earned the Sustained Excellence Award, a traveling trophy going to the speech team with continued success at the state level.

“KHSSL gives students an opportunity to compete in events that showcase an incredibly important skill set and enables them to pursue the goal of becoming practiced and eloquent communicators,” said Katy Cecil, coach of the LaRue County High School speech team. “More than anything else students learn in school, knowing how to communicate



## Spring 2009 Student Workers



Lorin Isaacs



Shane Webb



Aarika Hutton



Jessica Paulsen



Anne-Taylor Wilson

## International Listening Association Closes International Listening Awareness Month with Annual Convention

Donna Renaud of *Western Kentucky University* recently returned from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the *International Listening Association (ILA)* that was held at the *Hyatt Regency Milwaukee* March 19-21, 2009. The annual convention is usually held in March as 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.



Renaud, as chair of the Certification Committee, unveiled the details of the new *International Listening Certification* program—Certified Listening Professional—that will be made available later this year. In addition to Renaud's workshop, the convention featured a variety of breakout sessions, a number of hands-on workshops, attention-grabbing speakers, a book and CD display, great food, and so much more.

Renaud also hosted the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 21 during which President Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 *Listener of the Year*. *StoryCorps*, the organization behind "Listening Is an Act of Love" (book/CD) that was promoted and sold through *Starbucks* during the 2007 holiday season and the sponsor of *National Day of Listening*, earned a *Special Recognition Award*.

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. We meet at annual conventions and regional conferences to share information, to support research efforts, and to promote the practice and teaching of effective listening. Our cooperative and engaging atmosphere also provides the opportunity to share applied, theoretical and strategic ideas.



**Dr. Susan Timm and Ms. Donna Renaud  
Inside Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, WI  
during ILA Conference**

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. So, it's no surprise that our members have diverse backgrounds. Consult our directory and you'll find professionals working in education, business, government, medicine, human resources, training and development, the media and the arts. For further information about the ILA, visit [www.listen.org](http://www.listen.org).

- Susan Timm, ILA PR Chair

# Faculty Spotlight

## The Faculty of the Communication Department Congratulates Dr. Holly Payne on her Promotion to Associate Professor



If you ask Dr. Holly Payne, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, about her research, you'll get a quick grin as she explains the continuum of competent to incompetent communication. Now in her sixth year at WKU, Dr. Payne has built a program of research on employee communication patterns focusing on communication competence, deception, organization-based self-esteem, and more recently, organizational dissent expression. Her work has appeared in *Communication Research Reports*, the *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*, and *Employee Relations*, as well as numerous conferences of the National Communication Association, Southern States Communication Association, and the Kentucky Communication Association.

According to Dr. Payne, "Employee voice is an important component of successful organizational relationships with direct impact on employee satisfaction, upward mobility, and ultimately organizational success." Her current research projects explore the ways employees express their

disagreement and how organizational variables impact an employee's decision on how or to whom to communicate disagreement.

"We know that when employees have a strong sense of worth in their jobs, and perceive high levels of workplace democracy, they are more likely to communicate their disagreements to managers and coworkers in an effort to promote change. This level of feedback is critical for organizations to engage in continuous improvement; however, when organizations lack

open dialogue or the structure to deal with disagreement, they lose out on an important resource. There are very public cases of how employees become whistle-blowers because their organizations fail to listen." Dr. Payne's organizational experience in training and human resources at Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems and The Reserves Network motivated her interest in studying more about organizational communication, and prompted her doctoral work at the University of Kentucky under the

direction of Dr. Derek Lane.

In addition to her research work, Dr. Payne has a strong focus on teaching students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. "Students motivate me to continue growing as a teacher and a scholar. My favorite part of teaching is the 'flow' that is created when we can truly engage each other in new and interesting concepts in communication. By the end of the semester, I'm really sad to see them move on, but if I'm lucky I'll have them again in an upper-level class where I get to see how they have grown academically." Dr.

Payne served as the Director of Basic Courses in the department for four years, and has multiple pedagogical pieces published in the *Basic Communication Course Annual*, *International Journal for Case Studies*, and *Teaching Ideas for the Basic Communication Course*. Her service extends beyond the classroom in her active engagement on numerous committees and the University Senate. When asked about the next phase of her career as an associate professor, Dr. Payne joked, "I hate to think of my career as a progression of phases as if it's building to a grand finale. Instead, I think I'll take one day at a time trying to participate in meaningful experiences with students and colleagues. What other profession provides such a range of possibilities?"

Congratulations  
Dr. Holly Payne



# Faculty News

## Cecile Garmon, PhD

Dr. Cecile Garmon spent the spring break traveling in West Africa on a two-fold mission. She used the occasion to join with five other WKU faculty members to explore the feasibility of using Ghana as a site for study abroad in the areas of political science, African-American studies, and leadership. In addition, she was able to make a concentrated study of the communication practices of leadership in Ghana. The trip offered the opportunity to study at close range the two distinct leadership systems that exist in Ghana, the political structure and the tribal or community structure. Both these systems have very different styles of communication; they function at different levels and with varied purposes; and the selection of leaders for each system varies significantly. Since Dr. Garmon's interest relates to the impact culture has on communication patterns in various contexts, this research opportunity provided information that differs greatly from her previous research in such locales as Mexico and Dubai. Dr. Garmon interviewed traditional leaders, called "nanas," in three different sites and also met with the regional minister (a position similar to US state governors) in the Central Region which includes the coastal cities of Cape Coast and Elmina. In addition, the group was able to spend several hours each day for five days working in a small village, Sanka, and to interact with the local chief and the village elders and to visit the village schools. Dr. Garmon is already sharing the information she gathered with multiple groups at WKU and in this area.

## Kumi Ishii, PhD

Dr. Ishii has been engaging in research on how people manage conflict with their online partners. Her research paper has been accepted by the International Association for Conflict Management, and she is presenting her research at its annual meeting in Japan in June, 2009.

In addition, she has been doing research on multinational corporations funded by WKU Office of Sponsored Programs. Her research paper has been accepted by the World Communication Association, and she is presenting a paper titled, "The Effect of Cultural Differences in Communication and Feedback Styles on Employee Adaptation to a Multinational Corporation (MNC) in Ireland in July, 2009.

## Jenifer Lewis, PhD

Campaign season is always a busy time for a political communication scholar and Dr. Lewis has been busy this year with several research lectures. In December 2008, she presented, "I'm friends with him on Facebook: The influence of the Internet on Political Campaign Communication and Young Voters" for the Department of Communication Research Lecture Series. She was also invited to present, "Politics and Gender in Campaign 2008" for the WKU Women's Studies Program's Generations Series in October 2008. In April 2009, she presented a session for the Women of Western Conference entitled, "Women in Politics: We've Come a Long Way Baby...or Have We?" In addition to the lecture presentations, Dr. Lewis has presented the following papers at conferences this year:

- *Obama is my friend on Facebook: The influence of new technologies on young voters in the 2008 Presidential campaign.* Central States Communication Association, April 2009.
- *Unconventional Voices in Political Communication: The Use of New Communication Technologies to Reach Voters in the 2008 Campaign.* National Communication Association, November 2008.
- *Unconventional Political News Sources: Examining the Gendered Nature of The Colbert Report.* National Communication Association, November 2008.
- *Homophily and Candidate Favorability: An examination of young voters and political candidates.* Kentucky and Tennessee Communication Associations, September 2008.
- *Political Engagement Project: Preparing Students to be Responsible Citizens.* Session presented at WKU Engaging the Spirit Conference, August 2008
- *Endemism and Inertia v. Innovation: Cautionary Tales for Civic Engagement.* American Democracy Project National Meeting, June 2008. Co-authored with Dr. Doug McElroy, Alecea Davis (Communication M.A. student), and WKU Provost Barbara Burch.

## Holly Payne, PhD

Dr. Holly Payne published "Improving speech introductions with audio recordings" in *Teaching Ideas for the Basic Communication Course, 12*. She also presented "Interpersonal Skills in Advising: What do Students Really Want?" at the Kentucky Communication Association, Montgomery Bell State Park, Tennessee and "Writing for Dear Abby: Analyzing Issues and Constructing Advice Using Interpersonal Communication Concepts" at the National Communication Association Convention in San Diego,

California. The Kentucky Communication Association elected Dr. Payne as the West Regional Representative. She will be in charge of planning the annual conference in 2011. Over the summer 2008, Dr. Payne served as an adjunct reviewer for *management Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports* and continues to serve on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies* and the *Kentucky Journal of Communication*.

## Jennifer Mize Smith, PhD

Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith, Assistant Professor, attended the Southern States Communication Association conference in April, 2009 in Norfolk, VA. Dr. Mize Smith organized a panel discussion entitled "Applied Pedagogy: Connections Beyond the Classroom" where she shared instructional information on integrating service learning into the Small Group Communication course. In addition to her presentation, Dr. Mize Smith served as the 2009 Vice Chair and Program Planner for the Applied Communication Division where she facilitated paper/panel submissions and reviews. She also chaired the Top Four Papers in Applied Communication panel and chaired and responded to papers presented on a panel entitled "Communication Research Making a Difference at Home and Abroad." Dr. Mize Smith will serve as Chairman of the SSCA Applied Communication Division for 2009-2010.

Dr. Mize Smith's research explores issues of communication and identity as they relate to philanthropy and charitable giving. She has received a New Faculty Scholarship Award that will be used to fund summer travel to examine communication as it relates to volunteer vacations. More specifically, she will examine the identity and discourse of volunteer tourists, as well as the potential change in organizational identification that my result from doing volunteer work while on vacation.

## Blair Thompson, PhD

Dr. Blair Thompson, Assistant Professor, in the Department of Communication had two more articles accepted for publication during the Spring 2009 semester. The first article, Parent-teacher e-mail strategies at the elementary and secondary levels, was accepted for publication in *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*. This article represents the fourth publication from Dr. Thompson's dissertation. The second article accepted for publication, College students ratings of student academic support: Frequency, importance, and modes of communication, will appear in an upcoming issue of *Communication Education*. *Communication Education* represents one of the top level journals in the Communication discipline.



# Alumni Updates

**Charmaine Hunt, 2001—B.A.**

**Corporate & Organizational**

**Communication**—Currently working for Cook Medical and is responsible for sales, maintenance, and usage of medical equipment.

**Allison Hunter, 2008—B.A.**

**Corporate & Organizational**

**Communication**—Currently working as a Marketing Associate at Morning-side Assisted Living of Bowling Green, KY. Allison has also been placed in charge of activities at the center.

**Chris Nation, 2007 - B.A. \_\_\_ -**

Currently working on M.A. in Organizational Communication at WKU.

**Emily Rauscher, 2008—M.A. Organizational Communication**—

Currently working on her Ph.D. in Interpersonal Communication at the University of Missouri.

**Laura Rawlins, 2008—M.A.**

**Organizational Communication**—

Currently working on her Ph.D. in Communication at Wayne State University.

**Renee Shaw, 1996—M.A.**

**Organizational Communication**—

Host and co-producer of *Connections with Renee Shaw*, a Kentucky Education Television (KET) production. She also produces many other public affairs programs for KET.

**Miranda Shipley, 2008 —B.A.**

**Corporate & Organizational**

**Communication** —Currently working as an Office Manager/Assistant to Accounting and Human Resources at Hitcents.com, a web development and technology company. Hoping to work for Enterprise as a management trainee.

**Katie Stewart, 2008—B.A.**

**Communication Studies**—Katie was

accepted at Michigan State University where she will be working on her masters degree.

**Heather Strode, 1998 - M.A.**

**Organizational Communication**—

Currently working for WKU as an Instructor at Bowling Green Community College (South Campus). Heather has been elected to the position of Secretary for the University Senate.

**Dustin Wood, 2007— B.A.**

**Communication Studies**—

Currently working on his masters degree in communication at the University of Cincinnati, Dustin has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University starting fall 2009.

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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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)



## Spring 2009 Activities:

- February 26, 2009 Lt. Governor Dan Mongiardo presentation  
*Sponsored by LABC and Department of Communication*
- March 12-14, 2009 K.H.S.S.L. Senior State Speech Tournament
- March 20-21, 2009 K.H.S.S.L. Junior State Speech Tournament
- April 7, 2009 2009 Faculty Lecture Series—Dr. Angela Jerome @ 7:00 p.m. in Russell Miller Theater  
- “The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat: Contemporary Modes of Persuasion in Sports”
- May 15, 2009 Graduate Commencement Reception—5:30 p.m. @ DUC 310
- May 17, 2009 Undergraduate ‘Graduation Celebration’—11:00 a.m. @ DUC 340