

COMMUNIQUE

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Crawley WKU Advisor of the Year

Communication Instructor and Undergraduate Advisor Bruce Crawley feels that students are looking for two things as they visit his office: correct, current information and empathy. Putting this philosophy into practice has resulted in Crawley being named recipient of the 2010 WKU Faculty Award for Student Advisement. Announced at the May 15 commencement exercises, the award will be presented at WKU's Fall 2010 Faculty/Staff convocation in August. Crawley became eligible for the University award after first receiving the Student Advisement Award for Potter College earlier in the Spring.

"This is a huge honor, but I definitely don't do this by myself," said Crawley. Administrative support is outstanding in the department and across the University, our Professors help remind students when it's time to make appointments, and our students are really good about seeking information. I think we've had some success making this part of our departmental culture." Crawley has served as the department's advising coordinator since 2005. Before he took over serving all of the majors in the department, several different



Bruce Crawley, M.A.

faculty members were assigned a group of students to advise. With one person leading the advising efforts in a department, all students receive the same information. Additionally, any incorrect information can be traced back to one

- Cont'd on page 5

New Undergraduate Curriculum Unveiled!

The Department of Communication is delighted to announce that revised versions of both undergraduate majors (Communication Studies and Corporate and Organizational Communication) will begin in the Fall 2010 semester. The revision of the majors was a daunting process, involving a 6 person committee chaired by Dr. Blair Thompson. Once the committee developed a revised curriculum that they were pleased with, they brought the updated curriculum to the entire department.

The department met several times to discuss the proposed revisions, and in the end voted unanimously to pass the proposed revisions. Dr. Thompson was then made project manager over the summer of 2009, developing over 30 proposals to bring forward for approval to both the Potter College and University Curriculum Committees as well as the WKU Senate. The revisions passed through each committee successfully.

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Steelers Even



CEO Speaks to WKU Students



**Tracy Harder &
Stan Bikulege**

Stan Bikulege has boosted organizations out of bankruptcy, saved thousands of livelihoods by wisely buying and selling companies, managed crisis situations in a variety of fields, lived all around the world, and endured a lifetime of joys and sorrows of being a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. But the common denominator in all of these experiences, Bikulege says, is the relationship he enjoys with his family.

The President and CEO of Hilex Poly Co., LLC incorporated family as a common thread throughout his conversation with WKU students on March 18 in the Russell Miller Theatre. Staying close to your own family, treating employees as if they were family, and always being upfront and honest about the challenges occurring at home and at work are keys to overcoming any crisis.

In his hour-long discussion, Bikulege reminded the audience that a leader does not have to be the quarterback.

"You don't have to be a CEO to be a leader," he said. Leaders have integrity, practice fairness, have an

ability to listen, and the ability to create an environment where people can have fun. Leaders at every level of an organization can do these things as well as take ownership of their area. Even if a person is the janitor, if that person does the job to the best of his or her ability, a good organization recognizes that contribution to the company.

Bikulege has participated in his share of crisis situations during his career. He defined crisis as "anything not going as anticipated." This could be a positive crisis, such as the birth of a baby or a move to a new city or a negative crisis, such as a job loss. He provided three steps to handling a crisis. First, you can't go to sleep during change. You

issue and preventing it from happening again. First, leaders must define the issue. Identify the key players and the available resources at hand. Second, develop an action plan with measurable goals. Lastly, communicate the issues and the plan so that everyone understands the situation. After eliminating the crisis, though, a leader's job isn't over. Bikulege says that an organization must put a process in place in order to eliminate any reoccurrence of the crisis and then communicate that process to all key players in the organization. If people do not recognize the factors that created the crisis in the first place, then situations will re-emerge at the worst possible times.



Stan Bikulege giving presentation to packed house

~ Photo by Shelby Gish ~

must stay alert and ready to fight. Second, you've got to be prepared and anticipate next steps to take during the problem. Third, you must take action. Many times, leaders are stymied by a crisis situation and don't take swift, decisive action. This, Bikulege said, can be detrimental to an organization.

Communicating during a crisis is crucial to quickly dissolving the

All organizations should celebrate their successes, Bikulege says. Even if you only have a few minutes to do it, let them eat cake! This helps build an environment where people will want to continuously improve themselves and the organization so that crises are minimized.

- Stacey Gish, Instructor

New Undergraduate Curriculum Unveiled! *(cont'd)*

The curriculum revisions for both majors center around the development of a newly designed set of core courses: COMM 200: Communication Foundations, COMM 300: Introduction to Communication Research Methods, COMM 345: Advanced Public Speaking, COMM 348: Interpersonal Communication, COMM 362: Organizational Communication, COMM 463: Intercultural Communication, and COMM 494: Capstone in Communication (now 1 hour portfolio-style course). Additionally, the Communication Studies major includes a reorganized set of elective choices from which students will take one course in each respective area (Organizational, Interpersonal, and Public Communication as

well as Communication in Specialized Contexts). The Corporate and Organizational Communication major will also see the development of a set of Organizational Communication Core Courses which includes Persuasion, Small Group Communication, Advanced Organizational Communication, and an Internship in Communication. The outside courses (required courses and electives) for the Corporate and Organizational Communication major were also updated.

The department is overjoyed to offer students new courses in both majors that reflect the direction of the discipline. Equally important, students will now have the opportunity to take a wider variety of

courses, which will more effectively prepare them for their lives after college. The new courses outside of the core include Leadership Communication, Advanced Interpersonal Communication, Advanced Organizational Communication, Family Communication, Health Communication, and Organizational Relationships. These new courses will provide students a broader perspective on the communication process. It is our hope that these revisions will create a more positive experience for students and faculty alike.

- Blair Thompson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

I Need an Internship...

Internship in Communication (COMM 489) is a course that puts into practice communication theories and skill sets in the workplace.

On average, 15-20 students enroll in the fall and spring semester of an academic year with often double that number in the June/July summer session.

Numbers are impressive as to the undergraduate major community, but the real test comes in a 240-250 hour work/internship.

At the end of the day, the internship course is a critical culmination of coursework. Can the undergraduate connect the classroom to the workplace? Over the years, the answer is a resounding **YES!**

Students have served in internships around the world and close to home. More often than not, the internship is a first step to full-time employment at the internship workplace, or in the career/job

type of the internship.

Whether in the field of politics, human resources, personal services, and so on, the theory core and skill sets acquired in the Department of Communication undergraduate programs place our students at the head of the employment line.

To learn more about the internship program, go to: www.wku.edu/pcal/internships-2.

- Carl L. Kell, Ph.D., Professor

Announcements

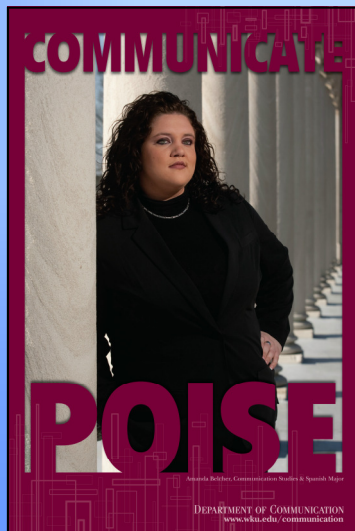
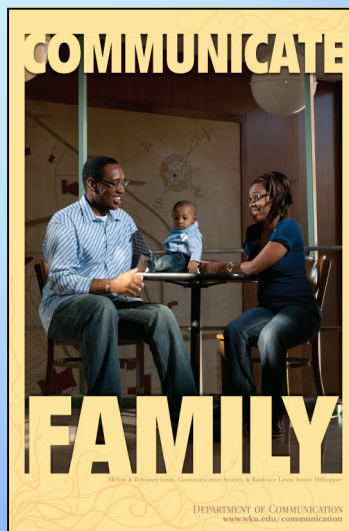
New PR Image Hits Halls of FAC

Of all the forms of nonverbal communication, color can be one of the most instant and effective methods of conveying a message. Research shows that people respond differently in the office, in the classroom, and in the shopping mall depending upon the color and décor of the area. It is in this vein that the department decided to revamp and modernize its hallway and classroom décor.

Utilizing the keyword “communicate,” instructors Stacey Gish and Bruce Crawley developed a list of phrases that would best demonstrate what we’re trying to accomplish through our teaching, research, and service. Once the phrases were developed, students and alumni who personified a specific quality were identified and asked to be a part of the new poster campaign. The first five qualities are: family, spirit, poise, confidence, and leadership. Gish and Crawley are continuing to develop phrases and identifying those who demonstrate the qualities.

The department will utilize the phrases not only in the poster campaign that is shown below, but in newly designed brochures and other publicity materials.

- Stacey Gish, Instructor



WKU IABC Wins Award



Donna Renaud, IABC Faculty Advisor

Donna Renaud recently returned from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) annual leadership conference and awards presentation in San Diego, California.

IABC's Western Kentucky University Chapter received the award for Commendable Achievement in Publicity and Public Relations.

The award was the result of a competitive entry based on student chapter activities during 2009. IABC WKU has 35 members and concentrates on activities involving networking with communication professionals in national corporations. The Western Chapter is under the guidance of the professional IABC Chapter in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I felt proud to accept this prestigious competitive award on behalf of our IABC student chapter at Western Kentucky University.

Students are exposed to communication professionals who are leaders in their companies and who are willing to share their expertise with our students" said Renaud.

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) is a global network of communication professionals committed to improving organizational effectiveness through strategic communication. Established in 1970, IABC serves more than 15,000 members in 70 countries and 100 chapters. For more information, visit <http://www.iabc.com>. (from website)

Crawley WKU Advisor of the Year (cont'd)

source and quickly corrected. This one person can also receive proper training from the university and dedicate a great amount of time to the advising role, as Crawley clearly does.

Being available for students is extremely important to Crawley. He can be seen at all hours of the day sitting at his bright white desk, coffee pot half full and desk fan on high with a student sitting on the opposite side. He spends at least 30 minutes with each of the 261 Communication Studies and Corporate & Organizational Communication students, seeing some of them more than once if they are truly anxious about their plans to graduate!

"I'm sure others around campus can get the job done much faster than I," Crawley said. "But for whatever reason, it just takes me

30 minutes to make sure I've done everything I need to do."

Phone calls and e-mails go unanswered when a student arrives for advising. He arranges his meeting schedule, his workout schedule, and his lunch schedule based on student needs. He often can be seen in the office late in the day and on weekends, as that is one of the only times he can complete his class prep and grading. Crawley has also been known to answer phone calls from students who think of questions after their appointments end – even in the middle of the night!

Students all across the department relate that they know Crawley cares about them because he asks about their other classes, their personal

lives, and their career plans. Senior Morgan Wickline speaks for many students when she says: "I first and foremost have to thank Mr. Crawley for advising me not only in school matters but also in life, and for listening to me rant and stress about what was going on in my life!"

Crawley sums up his advising philosophy like this: "Advisors are coaches, customer service representatives, defense attorneys and advocates, mentors, cheerleaders, dot-connectors, and champions of our disciplines. We fail our advisees, their supporters, our discipline, and the University when we do anything less than our best to help our advisees succeed."

- Stacey Gish, Instructor

Congratulations

Student Organizations

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS



**Donna Renaud—
Faculty Advisor**

IABC Nashville Career Panel

IABC Nashville hosted the annual Career Night on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at StagePost studios. Top communication panelists provided insight into the communication field. Mimi Bliss, founder of Bliss Communications facilitated the panel discussion. The panelists were Glenda Betts, senior project manager for TVA Economic Development, Paul Lindsley, director of communications for St. Thomas Hospital, and Rob Robinson, director of social media for

McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations. Western Kentucky University students in attendance were: Amanda Belcher, Trina Boone, Darcy Davenport, Amber Duncan, Michelle Morrison, Casey Sloan, and advisor Donna Renaud. Participants were treated to hors d'oeuvres and a guided

tour of the communication studio.



Amber Duncan, Michelle Morrison, Casey Sloan, Darcy Davenport, and Amanda Belcher



2010-11 IABC Officers
Michelle Morrison, Casey Sloan, Trina Boone, Jeffrey Clagg, Darcy Davenport, Jason Nsoafah



Glenda Betts, Rob Robinson, Mimi Bliss



IABC

- Donna Renaud, Instructor

LAMBDA PI ETA (ΛΠΗ)



**Jennifer Mize Smith—
Faculty Advisor**

This has been an exciting semester for Lambda Pi Eta! We are celebrating our 6th 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. Lambda

Pi Eta now has record high membership of 41 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 28, Lambda Pi Eta held an Induction Ceremony to honor new members for their achievements. In addition to the induction of new members, Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith presented an inspirational speech to attendees about the importance of Lambda Pi Eta.

Additionally, Dr. Dan Modaff was voted by LPH members as "Faculty of the Year". Dr. Modaff was

presented with a plaque to honor him for this recognition.

Also this semester, Lambda Pi Eta held an alumni panel discussion on life after graduation to allow former WKU Communication graduates to share their career knowledge with current students in the program. Included in the panel were Matt Fuqua, Julie Denton, Leslie Peak, and Brent Richie. Attendance at the event in



Garrett conference center was outstanding. The students involved in the panel

discussion were able to gain knowledge that is not only practical, but honest.

To wrap up the semester, Lambda Pi Eta hosted an Etiquette Dinner for members on April 29th. This event was held on campus in the Cupola Room and was catered by Aramark. The purpose of the dinner was to place students in a professional dinner environment and teach them "rules" for eating in social and business situations.

Spring 2010 has been a busy one! We are excited to continue growing and succeeding as an honor society. Fall 2010 will bring with it a host of new events and opportunities as well as new members and officers. Thank you to everyone who has made this semester a success! If you have any questions please contact the LPH faculty advisor at jennifer.mize.smith@wku.edu.

- Morgan Wickline,
LPH President

COMMUNICATION AMBASSADORS



**Jessica McClanahan—
Faculty Advisor**

The 2010-2011 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

WKU, and ATP. 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: Kayla Nall (Chair), Allison Sterbling (Vice Chair), Aarika Hutton, Jordan Reid, Jason Nsafoah, Jennifer Harry, Lainey Stricker, Ashlyn Lyles, Vashae Swope, Suzanne Devers, Lindsay O'Neill, Katie Fane and Toni Marvel.

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.*



Danielle Averil



Aarika Hutton



Kayla Nall



Jessica Paulsen

Spring 2010 Student Workers



Morgan
Wickline



Wade Pierce



Jordan Reid



Casey Sloan

Department of Communication Participates in 4H Career Shadow Event

On March 24, Anthony Ross, a Bowling Green 9th grader, spent his day at WKU as a Warren County 4H Career Shadower in the Department of Communication. But, this school day was very different than most of Anthony's regular school days as a home schooled student. Not only did he participate in the college classroom setting, but he also learned about WKU academic options, toured the campus and had brunch at the DUC. Anthony said he enjoyed the campus experience. Who knows, he might become a future Hilltopper and a future Communication major!

Tracy Harder, an instructor for Business COMM 161, hosted the event. "My daughter participated in the 4H Career Shadow Program this year; and, I wanted to reciprocate by being a host for another 4H member. It was a great day and my students enjoyed having Anthony in our class."

- Tracy Harder,
Part-time Instructor



Congratulations to our Students

Danielle Averill

Daniel has been accepted into four different graduate school programs where she will study Sport Administration. Her options are: Florida State University, Belmont University, Xavier University, and the University of Louisville.

Jessica Fergerson

Jessica was accepted to the Communication Doctoral Program at Ohio University. While working on her graduate degree, she will also be a Graduate Assistant for the Forensics Program at OU.

Jenna Haugen

The "green" theme is very popular in today's society and served as a major research focus for communication graduate student Jenna Haugen. Her research focused on the mission of the Liberty Group Printing company, which is: "Live Green, Print Green" and how employees there identified with that mission in their daily work lives. Jenna has presented pieces of this research at several major conferences within the discipline. Her research also has helped her land a prestigious teaching assistantship in the Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas.

Jenna will be working with Dr. Robert Rowland starting this August and seeking out a larger organization to continue her research theme. The native Crittenden Countian says she's ready for new adventures in the Sunflower State.

"I am looking forward to eating Ramen noodles for the next four years," Jenna said. She joked, too, about the university's recent NCAA tournament woes. "I'm glad I didn't pick my school based on basketball!"

Morgan Wickline

Morgan Wickline can hardly contain her excitement about classes starting up this upcoming fall semester. Not only does she anticipate challenging coursework and stimulating class discussions, but the fact that she will be a mere mile from her mom's home cooking will make this fall a very unique experience. The Lexington native will be "back home" to continue her studies at the University of Kentucky, where she earned a full-tuition scholarship and graduate assistantship in the communication department.

She plans to study crisis communication under Dr. Tim Sellnow and also looks forward to teaching basic public speaking courses.

Education is important to the Wickline family and Morgan credits her parents

for offering life-long support to her endeavors. She also heaps praise on WKU's faculty and staff for pushing her toward the decision to pursue graduate studies.

"I first and foremost have to thank Mr. Crawley – he is a great advisor and an even better therapist!" she said.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students:



Amanda Drake

Outstanding Communication Studies Major



Lesley Greenwell

Outstanding Corporate & Organizational Communication Major

Outstanding Graduate Student:

Patricia Grice

Student Achievement

Renaud honored during International Listening Awareness Month

Communication Instructor Donna Renaud from Western Kentucky University was honored with the prestigious ILA Special Recognition Award by the International Listening Association during ILA's 31st annual convention in Albuquerque, N.M. March 24-27.

Over 100 listening professionals attended the annual event during the 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 convention, Renaud served as Volunteer Coordinator. In addition, Renaud, as lead planner, helped to provide the last of the training opportunities required for those completing listening certification. The activities at the convention were the culmination of a year-long pilot.

In her role as Executive Board Member-at-Large for Special Projects, Renaud also presented the details of Certified Listening Professional© (CLP) during the annual association's business meeting. She was in charge of the difficult task of creating an international listening certification. Renaud's work in creating the CLP was cited when her Special Recognition Award was presented.

One of the highlights of the convention for Renaud was meeting distinguished author, Judi Brownell from Cornell University,

whose book was part of the training process and is the text that Renaud uses when teaching listening at WKU.



Donna Renaud and Judi Brownell

The International Listening Association is a professional organization whose members represent 16 countries and 38 U.S. states, as well as Washington, D.C. Associates are dedicated to advancing the vision of the ILA, which is to be the international leader of listening practices, teaching, and research. For further information about the ILA, visit www.listen.org.

Message from Dan Modaff, Department Head



Daniel P. Modaff, Ph.D.

Communication Recruitment Committee assisted Professor Tracey Harder as she brought Stan Bikulege to speak to a packed Russell Miller Theater in March. Mr. Bikulege's message was inspiring and his passion was contagious.

In April, students, faculty, administrators, and community

Spring semester has been a busy one here in the Department of Communication. We were fortunate to have had several exciting activities for our students and faculty. Early in the semester, Lambda Pi Eta sponsored an alumni panel, which was a tremendous success. We are hopeful to make this a yearly event, and look forward to hearing from those of you in the Bowling Green area who might consider participating in the future. IABC, Communication Ambassadors, and the Department of

members from around the region gathered to thank Dr. Carl Kell for his years of service to Western Kentucky University. Thanks to the organizing efforts of Office Associates, Cyndia Tarrence and Laura Wagoner, everyone enjoyed a few hours of socializing and sharing stories about Dr. Kell, and recounting how he has come to define the department of Communication over the years. Thank you Carl, for all you have done for us—we appreciate it more than you will ever know.

The department is excited to welcome a new faculty member in the Fall. Sabine Chai will join us from the University of Maryland where she is completing her PhD. Professor Chai will help bolster the department's efforts in the area of Intercultural Communication and Research Methods. Please stop by to welcome Sabine this Fall.

We will unfortunately be losing a valuable member of the faculty this summer. Dr. Jenifer Lewis will be leaving the university, but in typical style has offered to help the department and students as long as she can. Jenifer has been a tremendous asset to the program over the past few years, and her loss cannot be measured.

Thank you to all of our students, faculty, alumni, and friends for making this a very positive year. We had a tremendously successful year, and we look forward to an even better one next year.

Carl Kell toasted and roasted at retirement reception



Dr. and Mrs. Carl L. Kell

"King for a Day"

Alternating between a toast and a roast, a retirement reception for a staple in the Department of Communication was a joyous celebration of a life well-spent April 22 at the Faculty House.

Dr. Carl Kell is entering Option Retirement at the close of this school year, his 38th on The Hill.

Friends, family and faculty gathered to wish him well as he enters this new phase of his career. No one was telling him goodbye, since none of those assembled really believes that he will fade into the sunset. In fact President Gary Ransdell, one of the many speakers who paid tribute to him, said he has many ideas for Kell's involvement in the future of WKU.

Kell's devotion to Western Kentucky University was a recurring theme of the speakers. In 2007, Ransdell presented him the President's Spirit of Western Award. Kell was the founder of the Spirit Masters, a group of select students who represent the university at many public occasions. After originating the group in 1980, he served as its advisor for 22 years. As many of the current Spirit



Masters who could were present at the reception and surrounded him at one point of the program. Communication major and student office worker Aarika Hutton spoke for the group.

Another student group honoring Dr. Kell was the WKU Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. Speaking for them were President Amanda Belcher and faculty advisor Donna Renaud.

Dr. Larry Caillouet, a long-time colleague of Kell, was introduced by Dr. Dan Modaff, who is serving as department head this year, a position that Kell held on an interim basis during the 2008-09 school year. Caillouet served as master of ceremony and offered his comments about his friend.

Much of the roasting was done by three of Kell's long-time friends and colleagues, Dr. Larry Winn, Dr. Dale Wicklander and Jim Turner. They pointed out his talkative, story-telling tendencies and his willingness to drive for hours to be part of any gathering, regardless of the size. Winn light-heartedly presented Kell with honorary status as a Clifty Colonel, referring to Winn's small hometown in Todd County.

Also speaking were Dr. David Lee, Dean of Potter College of Arts and Letters, Dr. Randy Capps, the founding head of the Department of Communication who hired Kell has one of the first professors in the department, and Dr. Angela Jerome, who cited Kell's influence in her becoming a communication major and in earning her doctorate.

Music was provided by department instructor Tracy Harder and her husband Bob. The reception was organized and made a reality by office staff members Laura Wagoner and Cyndia Tarrence.

A graduate of Kansas University, Carl Kell taught at Texas A&M University and the University of Georgia before

coming to WKU. He has been honored for his teaching by three Greek groups and received the Potter College Award for Public Service in 2003.

The author of a series of books on divisions involving the Southern Baptist Convention, he has received the Religious Communication Association's Book of the Year Award. The Kentucky Communication Association presented him the James Applegate Award for Excellence in Research and the Southern Communication Association chose him as the national winner of its 75th Anniversary Design Award in 1989. A founding board member of the Associated Baptist Press, he has twice served as president of the Kentucky Communication Association.



Dr. Kell was selected to be the inaugural speaker for the Potter College Faculty Series in 2009. A poster promoting that special presentation was framed, matted and signed by his admirers as one of his gifts at the reception. The department also presented him a set of engraved cufflinks.

Among those attending the reception were his wife Mary Ann, his daughter Kris and her husband, Dale Bernhardt.

- Jim Turner, Instructor

Faculty News

Jenifer Lewis, Ph.D.

Dr. Jenifer Lewis is leaving Western Kentucky University to pursue mission work with her husband. She has recently been serving as Interim Graduate Director for the Masters Program in Communication during the Spring 2010 semester.

Jennifer Mize Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Mize Smith is currently conducting research on philanthropic identity and workplace giving.

Her article, *Philanthropy in the Workplace: How a Financial Institution Communicates Charitable Giving Values*, was among five of 118 submissions to be selected for publication in the upcoming qualitative issue of Southern Communication Journal. Dr. Beverly Davenport Sypher, Purdue University, is a co-author. The special issue is expected to come out fall 2010.

In addition, Dr. Mize Smith's paper, entitled *Philanthropic Identity at Work: Employer Influences on the Charitable Giving Attitudes and Behaviors of Employees*, received Top Paper honors from the Organizational Communication division of the National Communication Association. The division received a record 170 paper submissions. Dr. Mize Smith will present her research on the Top Four Paper panel at the

annual 2010 conference in San Francisco in November.

Blair Thompson, Ph.D.

Dr. Blair Thompson was nominated for the 2010 Potter College Research Award. This prestigious award focuses on significant contributions in the field of (1) basic or applied research, (2) creative production, or (3) other scholarly achievements. Dr. Thompson has published eight articles since his arrival at WKU three years ago, publishing in the top international, national, and regional journals. The National Communication Association has featured his dissertation research on its website via press releases which point viewers to key research findings which are relevant to both communication scholars and the general public. In addition, since his arrival at WKU Dr. Thompson has given guest lectures in education courses for student teachers on multiple occasions as well as conducting several educational workshops for FACET based on his research. Sharing his findings with future and current teachers has been truly rewarding experience for Dr. Thompson.

Dr. Thompson's research investigates pedagogical relationships in order to better understand communication and student learning in an instructional context. This includes examining how computer-mediated communication

(CMC) is transforming various pedagogical relationships (i.e., student-teacher, parent-teacher, and parent-child), learning how students communicate academic support, and addressing how power is communicatively constructed and maintained between teachers and students. His goal is to create a fuller picture of the role communication plays in the educational process and in the relationships therein.

Four key principles guide Dr. Thompson's research. First, his research seeks to discover answers to the questions which arise in his teaching. Because the research he conducts stems from his personal experiences, Dr. Thompson believes strongly in applying the findings to assist those who deal with similar challenges. Second, due to his instructional communication research background Dr. Thompson's teaching and research naturally intersect. Third, he believes that the research question should determine the research methodology, leading to a mixed methods focus in order to answer questions which arise in my research program. Fourth, he feels research should be both theoretical and programmatic. Adhering to these principals, Dr. Thompson's research agenda has been productive, and rewarding.



Alumni Updates

Catherine Cassady, 2006 - B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Catherine is currently the East Tennessee Account Manager for Enterprise Fleet Management of Tennessee, a division of Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Her customer base consists of companies headquartered in East Tennessee that have a growing fleet of vehicles utilized for business purposes. She acts as a consultant and partner to customers in managing their vehicles in a time and cost efficient manner so that they can focus on growing other aspects of the business.

Hannah George, 2009—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Hannah was accepted into the University of South Carolina graduate program where she will study Student Affairs.

Jenna Haugen, 2008—M.A. Communication—Jenna has been accepted to the University of Kansas Communication Doctoral Program. She has recently been working at WKU in the Department of Independent Learning. In addition, she has taught a course in public speaking for the past two semesters.

Lorin Isaacs, 2009—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Lorin is currently working as an Admissions Representative at ATA College in Louisville, Kentucky.

Caroline Ramsey, 2008 - B.A. Corporation & Organizational Communication - Caroline is attending the University of Louisville School of Law.

Mackenzie (Keaster) Walton, 2007—B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—working as a Communication Specialist at The Carlisle Group in Edinburgh, UK.

Erica Lee Williams, 1999 - B.A. Corporate & Organizational Communication—Erica Lee is a Jefferson County District Court Judge. She received her law degree from the University of Kentucky. Erica mentors students in the law and government program at Central High School in Louisville, Kentucky. She will serve as the honorary chair of the 2010 Walk for Lupus Now on September 25, in Louisville, Kentucky.

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/
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We look forward to
hearing from you!

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



For more information on giving to the
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Communication Quotes

*Public speaking is the art of diluting a two-minute
idea with a two-hour vocabulary.*

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy ~

Communication works for those who work at it.

~ John Powell ~