Sydney Machesky, a public relations and theater major, says she is ready for her senior competitive season in forensics.

Machesky’s sixth place national finish is the highest individual forensics placement the team has earned in more than a decade.

Forensics champ shines in tournament with a topic that’s close to home

Senior public relations and theater major Sydney Machesky capped her junior year on the Wayne State forensics team by placing sixth in persuasive speaking at the National Forensics Association’s national tournament.

It was the culmination of a year of competition in which Machesky brought home “a lot of hardware,” says Kelly Young, forensics and debate coach.

Involuntary sterilization of disabled women was the topic of Machesky’s award-winning speech. The practice, although little discussed, is still in place around the world and is a personal issue for Machesky, who has a cognitively impaired sister. Machesky mentioned her sister in her speech.

“Hearing about this problem really struck home for me,” she said. “I wanted to find a solution so my sister would never have the right of motherhood stripped from her.”

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture said: “Forced sterilization of women with disabilities may constitute torture or cruel or inhumane treatment, and that forced sterilization constitutes a crime against humanity.” Machesky used this quotation and others to bolster the persuasive impact of her speech.

Machesky explains that as a future public relations professional and actress, she wants to be able to market her brand. As a result, her speaking ability is being tapped by Wayne State in a number of ways. In October, Machesky was one of two hosts for the two-hour kickoff of the university’s capital campaign, a fundraising effort that seeks at least $750 million to bolster the university’s endowment. (Information about the campaign can be found on the university’s website.) She also has served as host for the annual founders’ day dinner, a university-wide celebration for Wayne State donors.

Machesky’s sixth place NFA finish is the highest individual forensics placement the team has earned in more than a decade. Machesky says she’s ready for her senior competitive season and is eager to climb the national ladder.

An assistant coach for a children’s speech team in West Bloomfield, Machesky is gearing up for the upcoming competitive season. She plans to graduate in May 2015.
With our history as a platform, we move toward the future

Taking it to the next level.

It’s a cliché, but it’s also what’s being demanded of us in the academy — by our students, by the voters who ever-more reluctantly support us, by donors and by our own standards. And the environment itself isn’t easy. Wayne State, like every other four-year program, is confronting a diminishing pool of 18-year-olds. Community college enrollment in Michigan has now returned to 2008 levels.

So, here’s the progress in the past year.

First, Assistant Professor Donyale Padgett is now Associate Professor Padgett. As a senior faculty member, she contributes to a department that is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of ethnicity and country of origin. Dr. Padgett is also a leader in the National Communication Association and on the Wayne State campus, particularly in the area of diversity and recruiting and retention.

Second, the department last year hired three new — and entirely terrific — faculty members: Stine Eckert, Michael Fuhlhage and Kelly Jakes (see Pages 4 and 5). To understand their energy and drive, you can review their contributions and emerging national standing in the faculty briefs (see Page 12).

Third, the department is seeking professional accreditation for its largest program at both the undergraduate and master’s level: public relations. Work on the self-study was completed Nov. 1, and the site review team from the Public Relations Society of America will arrive in Detroit in balmy February. Accreditation will make Wayne State’s program the only such accredited program in the Detroit metropolitan region and one of only two PRSA-accredited undergraduate public relations programs in the state.

Fourth, department faculty members continue to strive for academic excellence. This is reflected in doctoral student placement (Page 17), election to and service in national office in multiple scholarly organizations, including NCA, and an increasing tempo in publishing that is also winning awards.

But, the taking it to the next level cliché too often implies that the history of the previous level was somehow insufficient. In the case of Wayne State, history has instead become a launching platform.

Some of that history is outlined for you in the alumni briefs section (see Page 19). Current doctoral candidate Stephanie Wideman spent her summer tracking down as many Wayne Ph.D. recipients as she could — via email and then phone. Her job was to chronicle some history through the eyes of the people who helped make it and to record that for newsletter readers. This focus on history is entirely appropriate, considering the anniversary that NCA itself celebrates at this conference.

And the program’s excellence — and leadership at the national level — in forensics and debate continues. Whether it’s doctoral graduates coaching teams that are now challenging Wayne State’s own, or the outstanding work of undergraduate debaters and forensics team members, matching excellence with excellence remains the departmental standard.

So, what does the next level look like?

It means nurturing and promoting faculty at the assistant professor level.

It means encouraging and rewarding continued doctoral student excellence and expanding doctoral instruction to include the department’s emerging depth in mass communication.

It means putting students first, and applauding them when they achieve their goals, as membership in the revived Lambda Pi Eta attests.

It means for us — as it does for all of you — increasing efforts to seek extramural support from research agencies and private foundations and to seek transformative gifts as part of Wayne State’s capital campaign.

It means remembering who we are and from where we’ve come. And honoring the folks who made it possible.

So celebrate. And let’s see where aiming higher takes us in the next 12 months.

— Lee Wilkins
Matt Seeger: Hall of Famer

Who says deans can’t be in two places at once?

College Dean Matt Seeger made a quick trip back to Detroit during the National Communication Association conference this year to accept membership in the Detroit Public Relations Society Hall of Fame.

And he didn’t even take the Megabus.

It’s an honor made possible by Seeger’s work with the professional public relations community — as well as his academic scholarship. Seeger is the 34th person to receive this honor; he is the first faculty member at Wayne State to be recognized in this way.

Seeger was nominated by former student Mary Henige, now one of the top public relations professionals working with General Motors. In her nominating letter, Henige noted:

“While Matt has never been a member of the Detroit Chapter leadership, he has played a critical role in Detroit and for our chapter. Matt has taught at Wayne State for 30 years. He has personally taught and helped to mentor and coach countless PR students and leaders in Detroit, including me. He is a huge supporter of Wayne State’s chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, which is a feeder pool to active chapter members. When the PRSSA chapter was on probation for dwindling membership in the early ’80s, Matt stepped in to help keep the chapter solvent. He has a passion for our industry, students and for the city of Detroit.”

And unlike many academics, Seeger has always kept one foot in the professional world, particularly when it allows him to combine two of his passions: public relations and Detroit.

“In 2013 Matt led a team of Detroit professionals, many of whom are former students (Lisa Valle-Smitch, Mary Henige, Heather Monaghan, etc.), to work on reinventing Detroit’s reputation,” Henige wrote. “He hosted countless meetings and was hands-on throughout the process. His vision and initiative culminated in a symposium — PR|D — in March 2014, ‘Renewing Detroit: The Role of Public Relations.’ Speakers included Bill Nowling, spokesperson, Office of the Emergency Manager, and Alexis Wiley, press secretary and mayoral spokesperson, City of Detroit.”

Henige’s nomination also noted Seeger’s continuing productivity as a scholar in the field of crisis communication. The best evidence of that is perhaps his forthcoming book from Stanford University Press, co-authored with University of Kentucky faculty member and Wayne State alum Tim Sellnow.

More accolades for Wayne faculty from PRSA

Shelly Najor also was honored by PRSA’s Detroit Chapter. Director of the undergraduate public relations program, Najor received the Robert Hefty Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a practitioner for long and significant service to the Detroit Chapter.

Mary Henige, the WSU grad who nominated Dean Matt Seeger for his honor (see story above), also submitted Najor for her award.

“If there was ever an unsung hero in the PRSA Detroit Chapter, it’s Shelly Najor,” Henige said. “Shelly is, well, Shelly. To know her is to love her and her enthusiasm for this profession, Wayne State, PRSA and — most of all — her beloved students. She calls them her kids.”

Since coming to WSU in 1990, Najor has taught public relations, public speaking and professional writing courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She also serves as faculty adviser for the Public Relations Student Society of America. Prior to that, she earned her undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. degrees from Wayne State.

“It means a lot to be honored in this way and to have my students stand behind me,” Najor said. “My role has always been to stand behind them and cheer for them. That’s where I’m most comfortable.”

As PRSSA faculty adviser, Shelly Najor has been a strong advocate for her students.
Stine Eckert: Scholarship with an international focus

Journalism faculty member Stine Eckert was born in the small German town of Zeitz, near Leipzig and about two hours from Berlin.

She comes to the department with a freshly earned doctorate in journalism studies from the University of Maryland, where she also earned a graduate certificate in women’s studies.

Eckert’s work focuses on the intersection of gender and the Internet. By the time she arrived in Detroit, she was the author or co-author of four peer-reviewed articles, a book chapter and a book review. Her work has appeared or will be appearing in the peer-reviewed journal Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism, the International Journal of Communication, Journal of Communication Inquiry and Media, Culture & Society.

As might be predicted, her scholarship has an international focus; her dissertation examined how women bloggers in four countries defined their roles as women. At Maryland, Eckert taught journalism history. At Wayne she will be teaching both broadcast news reporting and editing, various courses in digital information collection, editing and online design.

Eckert remembers the fall of the Iron Curtain, which happened when she was 7. It had a significant impact on her parents, who as citizens of East Germany saw their lives and plans change profoundly. Eckert characterizes herself as a member of the “lucky generation” of now-former East Germans who have spent most of their lives in a united country.

She first came to the U.S. when she was 18 and attended high school in Nebraska, an experience she says that left her familiar with the “flyover country” of the Midwest. Her undergraduate degree, with a double major in journalism and American studies, brought her to the U.S. again in 2007, when she worked as an intern for National Public Radio in Athens, Ohio.

Athens was significant for other reasons. It was there that she met her future husband, an engineer who was raised in Michigan and currently works for Boeing in Seattle. Both he and Eckert are looking forward to living in the same time zone soon: destination Royal Oak or Ferndale.

Eckert’s professional experience also includes a stint at Al Jazeera in Washington, D.C., where she worked as a booker and honed her substantial interviewing skills.

Eckert is active in both the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and the International Communication Association. By the time you read this, she will have been elected to the officer corps of the Feminist Studies Division of ICA, a post that fits her research focus and will afford both her and the department access to scholarship that will help to influence current Wayne students.

Michael Fuhlhage: Flexibility and excitement

Even for a media historian, Michael Fuhlhage has lived through a lot of Detroit history since he arrived in the Motor City after a three-year stint at Auburn University.

First, there was the cooler-than-average summer. Then there was the rain — lots of it, some of which backed up, through the sewers, into Fuhlhage’s basement.

Then the freeways shut down.

Fuhlhage has morphed into a thoroughly online presence.

Fuhlhage had to break his lease. Then, after Detroit was declared a federal disaster area, Fuhlhage had to deal with FEMA and its forms and requirements.

So, he purchased a house — one without a basement — in Royal Oak. All within the first six weeks of a new semester at a new job.

This sort of flexibility characterizes Fuhlhage’s approach to teaching and research. A former copy editor at newspapers that ranged from the Des Moines Register to the Santa Fe New Mexican, Fuhlhage reinvented his journalistic self from the traditional newspaper editor into a thoroughly online presence. He is a Twitter advocate, requires even beginning reporting students to use audio in their work, and has developed courses in backpack journalism — something he plans to do at Wayne State.
Detroit appears to be a good fit for Michael Fuhlhage, whose research focuses on ethnicity.

His dissertation was “Eastern American Correspondents and the Othering of Mexicans in the Nineteenth-Century Press.”

Fuhlhage is teaching news reporting and editing and in the winter semester will offer a graduate seminar in public opinion and propaganda. He has been nominated for several national teaching awards.

He has been published in the American Journalism and American Journalism History and came to Wayne State with a number of manuscripts in preparation.

His flexibility also means he remains excited about his new community. Much in Detroit focuses on ethnicity, and it fuels Fuhlhage’s research: media portraits of Hispanics, particularly during the 19th century.

Fuhlhage began that line of research as a master’s student at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, where his thesis focused on how Hispanics were portrayed in media accounts in his home state of Kansas. His doctoral work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill deepened that line of scholarship.

Kelly Jakes: Rhetoric with a musical twist

Kelly Jakes was never headed toward a career in academe. According to her parents, Jakes sang before she could talk. Family restaurant outings in Durham, N.C., sometimes included taking toddler Kelly around to other tables in the restaurant so she could perform.

The instrument she plays is her voice. Her father played the guitar and sang, so music was always in the house. Jakes, who is a coloratura, began taking voice lessons formally when she was 12 and continued until she was a sophomore at Furman College in South Carolina.

That’s when a change in outlook happened, one that is benefiting the communication department and Wayne State. Jakes’ imagination and intellect were captured by a communication professor, specifically a rhetorician. “I remember he told me after I turned in a paper that I had a gift for this sort of analysis,” she said.

So instead of pursuing a solo vocal career, Jakes combined her lifelong study of music with rhetorical studies. For her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin, she examined how male French prisoners of war in German prison camps created and performed operettas. She explored how their music, librettos, diaries and photographs of the performances provide insight into how the prisoners maintained their national identity.

Jakes’ work, much of which was conducted in France and in French, received the Chateaubriand Fellowship, a national research award for Americans conducting archival research in France.

During her competitively funded dissertation research in France, she also taught at the Sorbonne.

Her publication record, even at this early stage of her career, also demonstrates the breadth, interdisciplinarity and significance of her scholarship. She has already published in the Quarterly Journal of Speech and is intent on taking her dissertation to the book level. She also is working on other projects.

Jakes hopes to find a choir to join at Wayne State. But her day job, at least for this first year, also includes teaching argumentation and debate and social movements — a class that leaves her singing, at least some of the time. *
The bully in the office

Playground bullying has received a lot of media coverage over the past two years, but when the behavior shifts to the workplace, media attention has not followed.

And watching bullying happen without challenging it may be just as important as documenting the initial behavior, according to research being conducted by Associate Professor Loraleigh Keashly.

Workplace bullying may be the most significant because most people spend more time at work than at home.

Keashly has invested more than two decades of time and insight into the topic. She has also received support for her scholarship from Wayne State.

In the 1980s, Keashly realized there was a lack of research on the issue. She began by studying college students because most hold entry-level positions, which makes them most vulnerable.

But bullying is found at all levels of employment. For example, Keashly had a friend who was hired at a Canadian university. On her second day, her boss told the new assistant professor that she needed to have a report done quickly. The next day she put the report on her boss’s desk and went about her day.

Eventually the boss called her in and upbraided her for failing to complete the report. After he was done with his tirade, she calmly pointed to the report on his desk. He went on to the next subject as if nothing had happened.

Loraleigh Keashly began by studying college students because most hold entry-level positions, which makes them most vulnerable.

The understanding that bullying is an ethical issue and must be addressed led Keashly to focus on, among other things, the role of the bystander in blunting the behavior and its impact.

Not all workplace bullying is this overt. Bullying can be as subtle as a backward compliment or as obvious as un concealed spite. This aggression hurts and can have a profound impact on a person’s identity.

“Everything is relational and we have accountability to everyone,” Keashly said.

And Keashly has been busy teaching people just how that accountability works. During her year-long sabbatical in 2013-14, Keashly consulted about the issue at three universities, two of which have invited her back for additional work. While she calls these efforts “training,” the consulting allows her to explore her own theories of how organizations, particularly universities, can lessen the impact of workplace bullying for staff and faculty alike.

The understanding that bullying is an ethical issue and must be addressed led Keashly to focus on, among other things, the role of the bystander in blunting the behavior and its impact.

In Keashly’s assessment model, there are two important steps to determine how to intervene. First, does the bystander have a responsibility — something Keashly believes is the case — and second, does the behavior constitute an emergency? Intervening can be as simple as interrupting a conversation that has turned awry to something more complicated such as speaking to the bully directly.

There are many ways to stop bullying in the workplace. But in order to be effective, Keashly believes, there have to be institution-wide guidelines.

Keashly has been cited more than 260 times and has written 19 scholarly publications. She has designed and is now implementing training on bystander action for staff and faculty in university environments.
Karen McDevitt had more than one sort of “An Affair to Remember” last January, when she chaired the sellout 40th anniversary bash for the Detroit Film Theatre. It is one of several community engagement activities that McDevitt leads, all the while teaching classes in film criticism and new media.

McDevitt, who has taught at Wayne State for 12 years, came up with the name for the celebration. “I’m a huge fan of the movies, from the ‘40s and ‘50s especially,” McDevitt said. “The name just seemed fitting for what we’re talking about.”

The film theater’s 40th anniversary weekend featured 10 films played over two days, each offered at the 1974 admissions price of $2. That’s 10 films for $20 to celebrate 40 years.

“It’s quite a celebration,” McDevitt said. “It’s the culmination of theater that originates in Detroit that has a national reputation.”

McDevitt, who worked as a graphic artist for more than 20 years before she obtained her individual interdisciplinary Ph.D. from Wayne State in 2002, is captivated by the visual image, which sparked her foray into film and media studies.

“I’ve always been very interested in the image and the power of persuasion,” she said. “Film’s such a great way to tell a story. I love knowing how it’s done, and I’m looking at how well it turns out and the meaning being made.”

As part of her research and teaching, McDevitt also studies the influence of new media on contemporary social practices.

“Media as a whole is converging,” she said. “When we see something that’s being produced by Netflix, and it’s got a film quality to it, and then wins an award, is that a movie or is that a television show? And then when we see something produced as a webisode, and it’s only available online, is that a film? What is that? It’s media.”

McDevitt said there always will be traditionalists who reject the new forms of media, but she’s definitely not one of those.

“Bring it on,” she said. “When you go to the theater, it’s one experience, but that doesn’t mean it’s the only experience. The point is, it’s a media experience.”

Despite her openness to new forms of media, as a scholar in the field and as a Detroit Film Theatre board member, McDevitt thinks the DFT is one of Detroit’s most important cultural gems. It supports smaller films, independent films and new filmmakers who aren’t getting the attention they deserve.

“The Detroit Film Theatre is a Detroit institution, part of the DIA, a national icon, across the street from Wayne State,” she said. “How much better can it get? Part of my mission is to let people know that it exists. It’s such a treasure…and being here at Wayne State, we have to think of it as one of our benefits, too.”

— Samantha Scannell
Winning chapter explores medical communication


Associate Professor Julie Novak often takes the road less traveled, and her award-winning book chapter titled “Barren and Abandoned: Our representations left unshared and uncharted” takes yet another step down that non-traditional path.

Novak wrote the chapter, which will receive the 2014 Ellis-Bochner Autoethnography and Personal Narrative Research Award at the National Communication Association, with her ex-husband, Eduardo Gargurevich, who is a faculty member at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn.

The chapter will appear in the book “Communicating Pregnancy Loss: Narrative as a Method for Change.” And, for those of you who can’t wait, Novak and the other authors will be at a book signing planned to coincide with NCA’s Chicago meeting.

In the abstract to the chapter, Novak and Gargurevich note, “We voice the physical, mental, and social dimensions of our health; we assert our participation in the written representations; we examine our abandonment/abandoning and the presence of guilty bystanders. Our representations here, which we woefully under-shared with each other and our health-care providers during our infertility journey, function as patient parallel charts.”

The piece is an extension of Novak’s current line of research on the meaning of participation. She began exploring this question as it unfolded in the workplace, but now is concerned with interaction between doctors and other medical caregivers and their patients.

“How do you create — or co-create — your own well-being during medical encounters in healthcare organizations or with family members during the final years of life?” Novak asks. The possibilities emerge from her analyses of in-depth interviews and participant observation.

Novak has been teaching at Wayne State for eight years and was awarded promotion and tenure in 2012-13. She teaches health communication and graduate-level coursework on qualitative methodology and interviewing.

Wayne scholars net top honors at AEJMC

Three WSU scholars — one faculty member and two doctoral students — won awards for their research at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference in Montreal in August.

* Assistant Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff took top honors for faculty paper in the organization’s International Division. That paper, “Differential Effect of Information-Rich and Information-Poor Internet Use on Citizen’s Demand for Democracy,” explored how Internet use can promote democratic attitudes in countries without democracy — specifically Russia and the Ukraine.

* Doctoral candidate Sherri Ter Molen received the 2014 KACA Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Korean American Communication Association. Ter Molen received this national award not just for a single paper but for her body of research that focuses on communication in Korea. Details of her publications and presentations may be found in the faculty briefs section on Page 18.

* First-year doctoral student Juan Liu was awarded third place in the Moeller Student Paper competition from the Mass Communication and Society Division of AEJMC. Liu’s paper explored framing of the controversy surrounding “Obamacare” (the Affordable Care Act) before, during and after the 2013 government shutdown in the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN and Fox News.
Three community outreach campaigns highlighted an active year for Wayne State’s James S. Measell Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, including:

• A book drive for the Detroit Public Schools’ Sampson-Webber Leadership Academy.

• An online WSU Red Kettle Drive.

• The North End Youth Improvement Council Adopt-A-Child event.

The chapter adopted a family with two young children. Chapter members were invited to watch the children open holiday gifts.

“I’m not sure who enjoyed the event more — the children or the PR students,” said Shelly Najor, PRSSA faculty adviser. “The enthusiasm and passion the PR students brought to this event was moving.”

New logo, new brand

The chapter also went through a rebranding in preparation for the annual PRSSA alumni spring luncheon. Members used the techniques they learned in the classroom to create a hip, urban brand that speaks to the organization’s mission.

The spring luncheon honored Daniel Loepp, a WSU alumnus, who is president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The department also awarded more than $12,000 in scholarships to PR students.

National exposure

Four chapter members went to Washington, D.C., in October for the 2014 PRSSA National Conference, where speakers such as Pam Jenkins of Powell Tate and Amy Robach of “Good Morning America” provided insights into the industry and the students’ role in its future.

The chapter looks forward to a busy end of the year with agency tours, professional development breakfasts and team-building social events.
Debate team chalks up a stellar season

The speech and debate teams racked up one of their most successful seasons in 2013-14.

Throughout the season, WSU debate cleared a team at every major national tournament.

The debate team finished the season ranked 18th nationally and qualified its 80th and 81st teams to the NDT.

Overall, the team reached elimination rounds 20 times at both national and regional tournaments in all three divisions of competition.

The teams also were effective with community outreach, hosting nine competitions on campus, including a high school student debate tournament with more than 200 attendees, a college speech tournament, a middle school speech tournament with more than 500 attendees, and five Detroit Urban Debate League tournaments.

Although several debate team members have graduated, most individual events team members have returned. The debate team features many talented students, which bodes well for the 2014-15 season.

Conflict resolution event sparks interest

The Dispute Resolution Program’s East Side Conflict Resolution Outreach project co-sponsored a community resource fair at Harper Woods High School in early October. The event, which brought together judges, elected officials, November election candidates and other community representatives, garnered great interest including front-page coverage in the local paper.

The fair covered topics such as services for senior citizens, animal safety and adoption, home improvement and crime prevention, renters’ rights and responsibilities, and more.

A special highlight of the event was a series of five “Speed Learning” workshops on core conflict resolution concepts that were offered three times in quick succession. WSU’s Dispute Resolution program was the star here. Our presenters included Loraleigh Keashly (core faculty), Edward Hartfield (one of our experienced adjuncts) and Barbara Jones (a Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution alumna).

The planning committee included representatives from the local public library, the court, the community dispute resolution service, the police, city council members, the school district and the city.
Lambda Pi Eta re-emerges

More than 65 undergraduate communication students were inducted in 2013-14 into Wayne State’s chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association’s honor society.

“I think it’s become a thing,” said faculty adviser Stephanie Tong, who has spearheaded reviving the dormant chapter.

Tong’s evaluation may be somewhat of an understatement. The first induction ceremony, at the end of the fall semester, was a standing-room-only celebration with more than 60 students, family members and faculty in attendance.

The spring ceremony, which included a welcome speech by jazz musician and Associate Dean for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Dennis Tini, was attended by more than 100 people.

Tong and other faculty members believe the society provides a boost to Wayne students, many of whom have not ever been recognized for academic achievement. Parents and grandparents were most delighted with the ceremony.

Beginning in 2014-15, master’s students who meet the honor society’s criteria also will be invited to join the Wayne State chapter.

WAYN sends out a strong signal on College Radio Day

WAYN Radio participated for the second year in October’s College Radio Day, a celebration of college radio and a bonding experience for WAYN Radio members.

The team was led by WAYN Radio Manager Angelina Czarnecki, Promotions Director Kevin Waltz and Business Manager Aaron Amos. On-air giveaways were featured in shows at St. Andrews Hall, The Fillmore Detroit, Royal Oak Music Theatre, The Loving Touch, the Majestic Theatre, The Magic Stick and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

College Radio Day added a “Sister Station” feature this year. WAYN radio was paired with Neumann Radio at Neumann University. Teams from both stations produced an original piece showcasing the station, its history and its impact.

Along with the giveaways and special live programming, WAYN hosted a panel discussion for the film “Men, Women and Children.” The panel focused on themes in the movie, which explores social media. The conversation covered social media’s impact on communication, parents monitoring accounts, texting versus real communication, sexting, posting photos, body image, suicide and bullying.
Kelly Donnellan’s “I is Another” captured two awards at the Underexposed Film Festival.

Kelly Donnellan’s short film produced in conjunction with the Michigan Adoption Resource exchange.

- “I is Another.” Underexposed Film Festival yc, Winner, Woman to Watch, Best Female Director, November 2013.

Stine Eckert

- ICA Annual Conference, Seattle, May 2014, Roundtable member: “Feminist Approaches to Social Science Research.”
- AEJMC Midwinter Conference, Norman, OK, Feb. 28-March 1, 2014, Panel co-organizer: “Where the Women Are: Can creating safe spaces and media training programs even the gender gap in online media?”

Michael Fuhlhage


Competitively selected conference presentations:

National service:

Grants:

Kelly Jakes


JUNGMI JUN


Conference papers:


Marc Ruiz: “Chase” commercial is a winner

Assistant Professor Marc Ruiz specializes in short films — or what many of us call commercials. They may be commercials, but they still tell a story. Although most of those stories center on products and services, in Ruiz’s case artistic vision is a large part of the work — and that has brought him a good deal of recognition over the last year.

Ruiz was hired to shoot commercials for a national campaign for Detroit-based Quicken Loans. Just getting hired for such work is a mark of distinction. He served as director, co-director of photography and executive producer on the project.

If commercials are judged by how well they sell products, Ruiz’s work has indeed been successful. However, that success is even sweeter when the artistic merit of the work is recognized at festivals and in contests.

Ruiz’s primary commercial for the Quicken campaign, “Chase,” depicted President Abraham Lincoln (representing money) being pursued through the streets of Detroit and eventually saved. The spot won the following awards:

• Automotive Film Festival 2014, official selection

• The Indie Fest 2014, award of merit

• Action on Film International Film Festival 2014, official selection

• California International Shorts Festival 2014 (Summer), best commercial

• Holly Short Film Festival 2014, official selection

• International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts (shorts and micro cinema) Los Angeles, official selection

A still from the award-winning commercial featuring President Lincoln — and the streets of Detroit.

LORALEIGH KEASHLY


KAT MAGUIRE

Book chapter:

Encyclopedia entry:

Conference presentations:
• Maguire, K. (2014). “Creating space for fruitful co-researcher collaboration: In interactive panel discussion about intentional design choices in qualitative research.” Panelist. To be presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago.

Kim Piper-Aiken noted for service to students
There is no greater honor than to be nominated for Wayne State’s Service to Students award by the very people you teach.

Several generations of students made sure that the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts gave Kim Piper-Aiken that honor in spring 2013.

“I don’t believe that I could have gotten where I am now if it weren’t for the leadership, compassion and motivation I received (and continue to receive) from Dr. Kim Piper-Aiken,” wrote a former student now working full time in broadcast news.

Piper-Aiken came to Wayne State eight years ago from Michigan State University to create the broadcast journalism program. She has more than 20 years experience in the field and aso serves as the key faculty producer at the new Midtown studio. She teaches broadcast news writing and digital editing, and television news reporting and digital editing.

Invited presentations:
• Mitra, R. (2014). “Environmental sustainability as competitive driver in emerging markets.” Presented to the Revisiting BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa): Are Opportunities in Emerging Markets Real? conference, organized by the University of Memphis and University of Connecticut Centers for International Business Education & Research (CIBER), at Storrs, Conn.

Conference presentations:

RAHUL MITRA

PATRICIA McCORMICK
“Communicative tensions of meaningful careers in sustainability.” Paper presented to the International Communication Association preconference on “(Re)defining and (re)negotiating the meaning of work, success, happiness, and the good life.

Awards:
• 2014 Visiting Fellowship, Institute of the North, Anchorage AK.
• 2014 Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, Wayne State University ($4,500).
• 2014 Dean’s Creative/Research Grant, College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts, Wayne State University ($7,000).

PRADEEP SOPORY
Grant activity:
• Senior/key personnel for a National Institutes of Health grant awarded to the Graduate School.
• National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research Workforce Innovation Award, Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training, 2013-2018. $1,250,000.

Conference presentation:

Encyclopedia entry:

ELIZABETH STOYCHEFF

STEPHANIE TONG

Praadeep Sopory was senior/key personnel for a National Institutes of Health grant awarded to the Graduate School.
Bill Warters’ app-building team was awarded second place in June at the Tech for Justice Hackathon for its “We’re With You” cyberbullying bystander activation app.

BILL WARTERS
- Bill Warters’ app-building team, including Nigerian attorney Ijeoma Ononogbu and San Francisco-based student interface designer Patrick Chan, was awarded second place in June 2014 at the Tech for Justice Hackathon for its “We’re With You” cyberbullying bystander activation app.

Conference presentation:

LEE WILKINS

Book chapter:

Conference presentation:
- “What journal editors are looking for.” Pre-conference workshop for new and tenure-track faculty at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, August 2014, Montreal.

KELLY YOUNG

Conference presentation:
GRADUATE STUDENT BRIEFS

FATIMA BARAKJI
• Panel — Ethnography Division. “Examining Urban Communication in Times of Resilience and Renewal: Ethnographic Narratives of Community Health in Detroit.”

KEITH BROWN

Conference presentations:
• Brown, K. “Objective advocacy: A media model in progress.” Accepted for peer-reviewed paper presentation at the National Communication Association annual conference, Society for Symbolic Interaction Interest Group, November 2014.
Award:
• Top Panel, “Elevating Traditional Theories in a New Media Environment.” Central States Communication Association annual conference, Media Studies Interest Group, awarded and presented April 2014.

MIWA ITO

JUAN LIU

Where are they now?
Wayne State doctoral students not only earned degrees in 2013-14, but many — including students who are ABD — landed academic work.
• Anna Zimmermann, Assistant Professor (tenure track), Marian College
• Ryan Stouffer, Assistant Professor (tenure track), Longwood University
• Jehoon Jeon, Assistant Professor (tenure track), Eastern Connecticut State University
• Vanessa Marr, Program Coordinator, Center for Engaged Academic Learning, University of Michigan
• Laura Pechta, Health Communication Specialist, Centers for Disease Control

SCOTT ADAMSON RICHMOND

Conference presentations:

DEBBIE SELLENOW
exemplification in organizational crisis communication." Journal of Applied Communication, 98(2), 53-64.

Conference presentations:
• Sellnow-Richmond, D. D. “Reconnecting you to your soul: Exploring patient narratives in a yoga-based eating disorder treatment program.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Conference, Champaign, Ill., May 2014.

2013 doctoral grads
• Sungmi Han
• Laura Pechta

2014 doctoral grads
• Vanessa Marr
• Jehoon Jeon
• Marylou Naumoff

SHERRI L. TER MOLEN

Conference presentations:
• Ter Molen, S. L. (2014). Presenter on the panel “‘Hey, Friend! Please Hold That Personal Thought While I Grab My Tape Recorder:’ The Ethics of Researching as an Insider/Outsider of a Community.” To be presented in the Communication Ethics Division at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago.
• Ter Molen, S. L. (2014). Participant in the “Teachers on Teaching” roundtable, honoring the Teaching of Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Award:
• 2014 KACA Outstanding Graduate Student Award. (July 2014). Awarded by the Korean American Communication Association.
DOCTORAL ALUMNI BRIEFS

1960s

ROBERT WILLIAMS, Ph.D. 1963
Dr. Williams retired from Brooklyn College of the City of New York at the rank of professor emeritus in 1995 and now volunteers with the Fox Run Village television studio.

In addition to a career as a broadcasting academic, Dr. Williams has consulted with Education International Inc. and has served as a judge for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

PETER ORLIK, Ph.D. 1968
Dr. Orlik is director and professor at the School of Broadcast and Cinematic Arts at Central Michigan University, a program he founded in 1969 in the speech arts area of the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts. The school has 17 full-time faculty, 325 undergraduate majors, and more than 50 graduate students. It operates two FM stations, a cable television channel and a record label.

Dr. Orlik has four textbooks in print and is working on the fourth edition of “Electronic Media Criticism.”

In 2001, the Broadcast Education Association honored him with its Distinguished Education Service Award, the organization’s highest honor. In 2003, he was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

L. PATRICK DEVLIN, Ph.D. 1969
Dr. Devlin, who retired in 2006, is an emeritus professor at the University of Rhode Island. He recently donated a collection of presidential television commercials from 1952 through 2012 to the URI library. His collection is thought to be the largest private presidential ad collection. During the 39 years he spent at URI, Devlin published two books, 10 chapters and 20 articles on political communication.

1970s

SHAHZAD RIZVI, Ph.D. 1971
Dr. Rizvi is an analyst with the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, where he works on issues vital to the security of the country.

Dr. Rizvi is also an internationally known story-teller and novelist. His literary work can be found at www.kahany.org.

ARTHUR GRACHEK, Ph.D. 1974
When Dr. Gracheck left WSU, he landed at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota where he was a professor of communication studies until he retired in 2003.

During his tenure at SCSU, he chaired the department for 13 years, ushering in a broad-based undergraduate curriculum that emphasized personal advising and opportunities for extra-curricular involvement. Dr. Gracheck also served as the faculty athletics representative for the university when it added Division I ice hockey programs for both men and women.

Dr. Gracheck’s major academic responsibility was to direct the teacher preparation program for students planning to teach speech communication in junior and senior high schools. He chaired the university’s international studies committee and directed on-site programs in Alhwick, England, and Lodz, Poland. He has lectured at program sites in Japan, Denmark, Germany and France.

CAROL DUNITZ, Ph.D. 1976
Dr. Dunitz is touring with a one-woman musical “Bernhardt on Broadway” for which she wrote the music, script and lyrics. Between performances, Dr. Dunitz is working on a new show, “Mrs. President Lincoln,” which she hopes will open in spring 2015. More info at www.BernhardtOnBroadway.com.

MARY ANN RENZ, Ph.D. 1977
Dr. Renz retired in August 2013 from Central Michigan University where she was a professor in the Department of Communication and Dramatic Arts. Since then, she has filled her time with many activities including camping, birding, photography and kayaking. She has continued academic writing and has worked on refreshing her German language skills in preparation for a trip to Europe in the not-too-distant future. Dr. Renz is also active in a local Citizens’ Climate Lobby group.

LYMAN STEIL, Ph.D. 1977
While he was completing his dissertation, Dr. Steil began work as the director of debate and forensics at McCallister College. After that, he took a position in the rhetoric department at the University of Minnesota, eventually serving as chair of the speech communication division.

Following a 20-year academic career, Dr. Steil launched a speaking consulting business, which led him to found the International Listening Association in 1979. He also co-founded the International Listening Leaders Institute.

Dr. Steil has spoken professionally in 19 countries. His book “Listening Leaders” has been instrumental in academia and in the corporate world. He has received multiple awards, is certified by the National Speakers Association and is included in its Hall of Fame.

Lyman Steil is the only person included in both the speaking and listening Halls of Fame.
the International Listening Association and was inducted to its Hall of Fame, making him the only person inducted into both the speaking and listening Halls of Fame.

**PAMELA J. BENOIT, Ph.D. 1979**

Dr. Benoit is the provost and executive vice president at Ohio University. After she received a master’s in communication from Central Michigan University and a Ph.D. in communication from WSU, Dr. Benoit joined the faculty at Bowling Green State University. In 1984, she accepted a position in the communication department at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The quality of Dr. Benoit’s work as a teacher and mentor has prompted a number of awards including the Outstanding Young Teacher Award (1980, Central States Communication Association), the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching (1995, University of Missouri), the University of Missouri Faculty-Alumni Award (2000, University of Missouri) and the Spirit of Martha Award (2007, Martha Griffiths Leadership Society).

Dr. Benoit’s research interests include narratives, communication theory, interpersonal persuasion and argumentation, and leadership. She has authored or co-authored a number of books, book chapters, articles and reports. Her latest book, “Persuasive Messages: The Process of Influence,” was co-written with her husband, William Benoit.

**WILLIAM L. BENOIT, Ph.D. 1979**

Dr. Benoit developed image repair theory (originally called image restoration) to help understand what people, groups and organizations can say when accused or suspected of wrong-doing. He also developed the functional theory of political campaign discourse to understand election messages. He continues research in both areas.

Dr. Benoit has held the following academic positions: visiting professor at Miami University of Ohio (1979-80), assistant professor at Bowling Green State University (1980-84), fellow at Hong Kong Baptist University (winter 2006), professor at the University of Missouri (1997-2009), and professor in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University (2009-present).

**Jack Kay’s research focuses on the language of oppression, examining contemporary hate groups such as the Aryan Nations, Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazi Skinheads and radical militias.**

**JACK KAY, Ph.D. 1979**

Dr. Kay is professor of communication in communication, media and theatre arts at Eastern Michigan University. Previously he was provost at Eastern Michigan University and at the University of Michigan-Flint.

His research focuses on the language of oppression, examining contemporary hate groups such as the Aryan Nations, Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazi Skinheads and radical militias. He is frequently called upon by local, state, national and international media, recently appearing on CBS National Radio, the BBC, Al Jazeera and ABC Nightly News. He conducts public lectures on his research.

**1980s**

**LEE CAHN, Ph.D. 1980**

While directing the intercollegiate debate program at Ferris State University, Dr. Cahn said he began to appreciate the value of earning a doctorate degree. After finishing his Ph.D. at WSU, he spent two years teaching at the University of Hawaii and 36 years at the State University of New York in upstate New York. While teaching at SUNY, he was selected as a Fulbright scholar to the former Yugoslavia and became a series editor for SUNY Press. He has published several scholarly books for university and academic presses along with a textbook on conflict management, which is now in its fifth edition. For a few years, he mediated disputes for the Ulster County Family Court and worked with violent offenders in New York prisons. In retirement, he continues to teach online courses in conflict management.

**TOBE BERKOWITZ, Ph.D. 1985**

Dr. Berkovitz has been an advertising professor at the Boston University College of Communication for 25 years. During that time he has served as associate dean and interim dean. He teaches a variety of advertising courses at the Charles River campus and directs the college’s London Graduate Mass Communication Program. In addition, he teaches a global marketing communication course at BUS London facility and supervises the students’ capstone professional projects.

While at WSU, he became involved in several political campaigns, wrote his dissertation on political TV advertising objectives and worked for 30 years as a political media consultant. Notably, he began consulting while he was earning his Ph.D. by working on Carl Levin’s first Senate race.

**NANCY PIETRA, Ph.D. 1985**

Dr. Pietra left WSU before completing her dissertation to teach as temporary full-time faculty at
Central Michigan University, where she directed the student teaching program in the Metro Detroit area. She completed her dissertation during that temporary stint and continued to teach conflict resolution through communication at CMU, eventually retiring as a full professor at the rank of professor emeritus. Dr. Pietra was Dean Matt Seeger’s first doctoral advisee.

TONY PALMERI, Ph.D. 1987
Dr. Palmeri is a full professor of communication studies at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, where he also serves as a coordinator of the communication studies program. In addition, he writes a monthly column “Media Rants” for SCENE, an independent newspaper, and regularly appears on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Week in Review.”


TIMOTHY SELLNOW, Ph.D. 1987
Dr. Sellnow is associate dean of the graduate program in communications and professor of communication and information science at the University of Kentucky. He teaches courses in risk and crisis communication, leadership and communication theory. His research focuses on message design for risk and crisis situations. Dr. Sellnow has published articles in a variety of journals and has co-authored five books. His most recent book, “Theorizing Crisis Communication,” was co-authored with Dean Matt Seeger and published in 2013. He is a past editor of the Journal of Applied Communication Research. Dr. Sellnow has completed funded research for U.S. government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture and the Geological Survey. He has also served as a consultant for the National Academy of Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

LYNN DISBROW, Ph.D. 1989
After graduating from WSU, Dr. Disbrow became interested in pedagogy and technology, eventually writing numerous articles and presentations on the integration of technology with teaching communication courses.

She served on the faculties of Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, Indiana University-South Bend and the University of Dayton. She is now professor and department chair of communication studies at Huntington College in Montgomery, Ala.

Dr. Disbrow’s publication work focuses on practical consulting and training manuals. She is working on the National Communication Association’s Lumina grant team, which works to bring academic objectives and employer expectations closer together.

1990s
PAMELA SCHULTZ, Ph.D. 1994
Dr. Schultz is a professor of communication studies at Alfred University in Alfred, New York. In addition, she maintains status as a faculty member in the university’s women’s studies program. She has taught a variety of courses including public speaking, introduction to communication studies, communication theory, interpersonal communication and public relations principles. Her most recent book, “Monstrous Crimes and the Failure of Forensic Psychiatry,” written with J. Douard was published in 2013. Dr. Schultz has also published several book chapters and articles based on her research.

MICHAEL A. TEW, Ph.D. 1996
Dr. Tew is a professor of communication and basic course director at Eastern Michigan University. His teaching and research interests lie in the areas of queer studies, political communication and public address. Dr. Tew teaches on subjects ranging from basic speech to communication ethics, public advocacy and LGBT community. He also teaches graduate courses in community communication and post-modern theory and method.

His recent research presentations include work on best practices in teaching speech foundations and LGBT equality issues. Dr. Tew is actively involved in the formal assessment of student learning in communication studies and has given numerous presentations and tutorials on communication program assessment at national and regional conferences. As director of
DOCTORAL ALUMNI BRIEFS | CONTINUED

the Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights, Dr. Tew is actively involved in conducting, promoting and reviewing academic research, curricular innovation and community action projects focused on LGBT equality.

JOSEPH P. ZOMPETTI, Ph.D. 1998
Dr. Zompetti is a professor at Illinois State University’s School of Communication, teaching courses in civic engagement, rhetoric and argumentation. His courses cover rhetorical theory, rhetorical criticism, critical theory, cultural studies, civic engagement and social movement theories, and magic.

DAVID BODARY, Ph.D. 1999
Before completing his dissertation, Dr. Bodary left WSU to teach full time at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. He has taught a variety of classes including public speaking, communication theory and interpersonal communication. He is a member of the Central State Communication Association and the National Communication Association, where he is involved with the National Communication Association’s Lumina project, which works to match learning outcomes with employer expectations.

BRENDA RICE, Ph.D. 1999
Dr. Rice began post-doctoral work for Chrysler Financial in the internal audit department as part of process-management system focused on continuous improvement of corporate training. She has continued to work in the corporate sector, most recently as director of marketing and government relations for a large Midwestern railroad company.

Kelly Young is working on articles that examine the controversy surrounding the use of Native American images as sports mascots and President Obama’s recent war rhetoric.

2000s
TRESSA KELLY, Ph.D. 2001
Dr. Kelly is a professor and basic course director at the University of West Florida. In 2010, Dr. Kelly was awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award by WUF students. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses including speech writing analysis and delivery, rhetorical criticism, communication research methods, intercultural communication, and strategic presentation speaking.

RICHARD D. PINEDA JR., Ph.D. 2003
Dr. Pineda just finished his 10th year at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is an associate professor and director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies. His research focuses on the intersection of political rhetoric, media, Latinidad and immigration. Dr. Pineda is on the editorial board for the journal Contemporary Argumentation and Debate and has served on the board for the American Forensic Association’s journal Argumentation and Advocacy.

He oversees a graduate cohort of environmental conservation managers through a partnership with Rare Conservation in Micronesia. In September, he made his third visit to Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

BRENDAN KELLY, Ph.D. 2005
Dr. Kelly is interim vice president for university advancement at the University of West Florida. A faculty member in communication arts since 2004, Kelly is director of the School of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and chair of the communication arts department. He has taught courses in political communication, speech communication, communication ethics and strategic communication.

Kelly has received UWF Distinguished Teaching Award, the Eastern Michigan University Outstanding Young Alumnus Award and the UWF Faculty Excellence award in student affairs. He has been inducted into the Eastern Michigan University Forensics Hall of Fame and the National Forensic Association Hall of Fame.

KELLY M. YOUNG, Ph.D. 2005
Dr. Young is an associate professor of communication and the director of forensics at WSU. In April 2013, a week after he celebrated the birth of his first child, he received tenure and promotion to the associate professor rank. Dr. Young is working on articles that examine the controversy surrounding the use of Native American images as sports mascots and President Obama’s recent war rhetoric.

MELISSA BISSON, Ph.D. 2009
Dr. Bisson is a data privacy and governance specialist for the State of Michigan’s Center for Educational Performance and Information. She oversees the development of privacy policies, protocols and procedures for researchers, state employees and contractors who seek to obtain educational record data. She also co-chairs Michigan’s Institutional Review Board, serves as a project manager on statewide research projects and is the primary contact for the center’s research initiatives.
**2010s**

**DEBORAH JAMES-SMITH, Ph.D. 2011**

Dr. James-Smith recently finished her third year on the tenure-track at Governors State University in Chicago. She keeps busy conducting field research in the former Yugoslavia. Her most recent publication is in the Journal of Communication.

**NICK ROMERHAUSEN, Ph.D. 2011**

Dr. Romerhausen is assistant professor of communication and director of individual events for Eastern Michigan University’s forensic team. He recently wrote a book chapter with Sandra Pennone-Conway, “The Communication Center: A Critical Site for Student Empowerment,” for the book “Communication Centers and Oral Communication Programs in Higher Education: Advantages, Challenges, and New Directions.” Dr. Romerhausen also presented work on the pedagogical function of memory at the 2011 National Communication Association convention.

His research interests include critical communication pedagogy practices, international student experiences, forensics pedagogy, Latino/a studies, automethodologies, citizenship studies and visual rhetoric.

**ERIKA THOMAS, Ph.D. 2011**

Dr. Thomas is an assistant professor and the director of forensics in the Department of Human Communication Studies at California State University, Fullerton. She is also an affiliated queer studies faculty member at CSUF. She teaches courses in rhetoric and argumentation and coaches and directs the university’s nationally competitive speech and debate team and is the recording secretary of the American Forensic Association.

Dr. Thomas’ areas of study include rhetorical criticism and theory, specializing in critical theory and cultural studies. Her research interests include feminist rhetorical criticism, queer studies and the rhetoric of gender, sex, sexuality and the body.

Her work has appeared in the journal Contemporary Argumentation and Debate, and in the book “Media Depictions of Brides, Wives, and Mothers,” edited by Alena Amato Ruggerio. Forthcoming publications include an essay with Marylou Naumoff in the book “Disturbing Argument: Selected Works From The 18th NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation,” and a chapter in A. Madlick-Gatson’s “Communicating Women’s Health: Voicing the Voiceless.”

**DEREK BOLEN, Ph.D. 2012**

Dr. Bolen is the graduate director and assistant professor in communication and mass media at Angelo State University. He teaches courses on relational communication, qualitative research, gender and sexuality, communication theory, communication pedagogy, and ethics in communication. His research has been published in journals including Cultural Studies — Critical Methodologies, Communication Education, Communication Studies and the Western Journal of Communication. He edited a special issue of the Texas Speech Communication Journal focused on pedagogy and autoethnography. He is founder and director of the international Doing Autoethnography conference.

**Deborah James-Smith, who recently finished her third year on the tenure-track at Governors State University in Chicago, is conducting field research in the former Yugoslavia.**

**LARA HRYCAJ, Ph.D. 2013**

Dr. Hyrcaj completed her Ph.D. with a concentration in the media arts and studies program. Her essay “Life on Mars or Life on the Sea: Seu Jorge, David Bowie, and the Musical World in Wes Anderson’s The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou” was published in the book “Films of Wes Anderson: Critical Essays on an Indiewood Icon.”

Dr. Hyrcaj teaches at WSU as an adjunct in film history and at Hillsdale College as a lecturer in mass communication. She is also a part-time operations manager at Henry Ford College’s radio station WHFR.

**ROBERT KYLE KELLAM, Ph.D. 2013**

Since August 2012, Dr. Kellam has been an assistant professor of English and communication, and assistant director of forensics at Marian University. He recently published an article in the National Forensics Journal and a book review in the journal Rhetoric & Public Affairs. In addition to classroom responsibilities, Dr. Kellam works on curriculum development. He also provides negotiation seminars for the firefighting union in Indianapolis.

**VANESSA MARR, Ph.D. 2014**

Dr. Marr, who has begun working in the Center for Engaged Learning at the University of Michigan, helps provide faculty support for existing projects, develops community-campus curriculum initiatives, creates training modules for undergraduate and graduate students, organizes intercampus programs and promotes center activities and events through various media.
Wayne State's annual Summer Doctoral Seminar, June 2-5, 2015, focuses on a rigorous explication of core theories of CMC and their empirical investigations. The seminar explores extensions of the theories through application to contemporary social media, how research can or cannot extend the theories or identify their boundaries, and how to explain social interaction in these most modern applications. The seminar culminates in participants' presentation of tentative research proposals, and feedback from attendees, suggesting the application or modification of one or two theories to a form of social media interaction, in such a way that could lead to a dissertation or early career study.

Attendees receive:
- Paid travel
- Paid lodging
- Paid meals

Application materials include curriculum vitae, letter of support from academic advisor, and 500-word statement about how the seminar fits with the student's long term research and teaching goals.

Applications are due March 1, 2015, to Lee Wilkins, Ph.D.; Professor and Chair; Department of Communication; 591 Manoogian Hall - WSU; Detroit, MI 48201. With questions, contact Dr. Wilkins at Lee.Wilkins@wayne.edu or (313) 577-2959.