The pinnacle of scholarship is not just having someone read your work, but knowing that your work is having an impact. For the ambitious, it’s attaining international impact. And, for the truly megalomaniac, it’s work that has a global policy impact.

For those who reach these levels of accomplishment, it’s rare to know that scholarly efforts will have this kind of potential before a project begins.

But knowing that you are going to reach a global audience has, for the past year, been the motivation behind work on what the Department of Communication has come to recognize as the WHO project. A five-faculty team — led by Associate Professor Pradeep Sopory and including Associate Professors Julie Novak and Donyale Padgett, Assistant Professor Stine Eckert, and Professor Lee Wilkins — has been working to catalog, categorize and evaluate the last 12 years of global research on risk communication.

The goal: On a planet racked by emergent infectious diseases such as SARS, Zika, Ebola, and H1N1, the World Health Organization needs to know when, how and what to communicate to at-risk populations. Because the WHO functions on evidence-based policy analysis, learning what the literature says is a crucial first step to sound policy development.

And that’s where the WHOers come in.

“This experience has stretched me in so many ways — as a scholar and a practitioner,” says Padgett. “Everyone on the team represents different traditions and ways of knowing that inform our work. Each of us contributed perspectives that made the overall project more meaningful. I feel proud to be part of a project that will ultimately result in change that translates across the globe.”

The project boils down to finding literature that answers six questions posed by the WHO. All center on how individuals and/or communities can best prepare to communicate about emergent infectious diseases in a way that will promote desired behavior changes. The questions involve multiple levels of analysis, from individuals, to organizations, to communities, and require that social, cultural and political factors that can influence message development and understanding be taken into account.

Because research on communication about emergent infectious diseases is a relatively new endeavor, the team examined literature related to the questions. In many cases “related” is as close to an answer as current scholarship can provide. That “related” literature has focused on disasters, hazards, and risk and crisis communication; is both quantitative and qualitative in methodological approach; considers all forms of communication — from interpersonal, to mass, to social media; and is found in one of five United Nations languages.

That was the easy part.

The tougher element was working in a way that is unlike what most communication scholars practice:

• Fitting the answers into a stringently organized, iterative and hierarchical set of templates that govern the way to locate appropriate literature.

• Evaluating the findings first by research method and then across both quantitative and qualitative efforts.

• Taking into account the kind of risk or disaster being examined, along with the vulnerable populations to which the findings apply and the social and political context.

• Emerging with a set of findings that became the basis of policy development.

As the team leader and WHO contact person, Sopory not only had to respond to one of the questions, he also had to take all of the team efforts and craft...
The academic juggling act

It’s all about the juggle.

When I first became a college professor (dinosaurs had only recently left the earth), I knew I was going to have to learn to juggle — work, marriage and about midway through my probationary period, a child. That effort was hard, but ultimately synergistic. Being a mom made me a better teacher. Students were inspiring and they taught me a lot. And universities became real and complex: a community worth participating in.

But, those decades now seem much less rushed and much more focused than my current life in the academy. I know I’m not alone. Being a professor is now both complicated and complex — and learning new and seemingly nonacademic skills is an important part of the survival package.

So, when doctoral students ask me what’s the most important thing they need to learn as they enter the world of the professoriate, I tell them it’s something we don’t teach in “Ph.D. School”: how to juggle multiple, important responsibilities that don’t neatly fit into our traditional categories of teaching, research and service.

Consider the following:

• I’d been teaching for a couple of decades before it became clear to me that higher education’s voracious appetite for funding was influencing more than just my research productivity. The university counted on indirect cost recovery money to pay the bills. New budgetary models put disciplines that did not traditionally seek extramural funding into what was already a hypercompetitive allocation fray with real consequences for those who succeeded and those who did not. One of the requests I get most often from doctoral students is, Can you teach me how to write grants? Hard to answer that one when you are just learning yourself.

• The time and effort required for recruiting and retention are now part of every faculty member’s life. I’m a boomer — and all universities had to do for my generation was hire, build and make room. Not easy, but I think somewhat less tricky than the processes of “right-sizing” or “down-sizing,” niching curricula, and inspiring faculty to think about what the curriculum should look like in 10 years because that’s what we’ve got to learn to teach right now.

• Getting rid of the “sage on the stage” model of education. This generation of students — particularly Wayne State students — needs to be met where they are and taken to the next step almost individually. That means being more aware of the juggle that students are themselves attempting. It’s changing our pedagogy and forcing us to think about things such as a community of learners. Oh, and did I mention, establishing and nurturing learning communities takes money.

• Accepting the consequences of the politics of higher education. I’m all in favor of President Obama’s sustained effort to crack down on some of what I view as the rampant abuses of for-profit colleges. But that effort has brought issues such as program assessment, time to degree and average student debt load to the top of my awareness in bureaucratic ways. Ph.D. School did not prepare me to be an accountant.

• Realizing that students (and their parents) want a job as part of the literal payoff for a college degree. As a journalist, this is not a hard one for me to understand, but I never considered a job the real payoff for a college education. I remain committed to teaching better citizens, better parents and better friends. That’s what my undergraduate degree did for me in addition to providing gainful employment. Talking only (or at least first) about “the job” sometimes feels as if I am shortchanging students about the world of books and ideas that I have found so compelling.

• The drumbeat of technology. If I had my way, PowerPoint and its offspring would be outlawed. Eye candy does not feed your brain. And, I’m beginning to feel the same way about Blackboard because too many students are now so reliant on it that when you give them an oral instruction in class, they can’t follow it because they are so used to going to Blackboard for every question. New software doesn’t solve problems — and too many universities think it does.

All of these issues are literally on my desk every day of the week. But, in the process of juggling through, I’ve also discovered some “innovations” that are changing my life and the lives of our students very much for the better. Among them is a cadre of professional academic advisers who become student advocates and help with everything from course scheduling to insights about the curriculum. And my colleagues who willingly and joyfully leap into recruiting, retention and simply making it work one student at a time. And the fact that my students think that transparency is cool and that their campus should reflect the city and the world around them. And that the department, too, is a learning community.

It’s not the academic model that I “grew up” with, but in some important ways, it gets us to the same place along a different route.

Along the way, I have also learned an important juggling lesson. Everybody drops the balls. Everyone juggles differently. It’s how you pick them up and how you define successful juggling that matters as much as keeping them all in the air.

And, laughing really helps.

— Lee Wilkins
Eckert receives WSU’s first USAID grant

How do you increase women’s civic and political participation?

That’s the question Assistant Professor Stine Eckert, Ph.D., and her seven-person interdisciplinary team will answer this fall after receiving Wayne State’s first research grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

“It’s been established that in order to have a stable democracy, you need to bring women and minorities into governance, into decision making and into leadership positions. And we also know worldwide women are not on parity in government representation. Women always have to over-qualify to be on par with men,” Eckert says.

“Our project focuses on providing practical knowledge to USAID so they can supply new data to people on the ground, like NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], to really change the world so that women can participate more.”

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, USAID operates in more than 100 countries worldwide, implementing humanitarian projects to promote democracy, freedom and human rights. Past projects have included initiatives in governance strategy, agriculture and food security, and ending extreme poverty.

To obtain data the agency needs to carry out many of its programs, USAID often enlists universities for assistance through research grants.

The question Eckert and her team were selected to explore was one of six posted online by USAID earlier this summer. After spending the better part of two months coordinating with Wayne State’s internal grant office to complete the application, Eckert and her team won the grant and officially began work June 15.

Eckert’s research team includes Associate Professors of Political Science Sharon Lean and Kyun-Nahm Jun; Ph.D. candidates Juan Liu (political science) and Amanda Walker (history); and Ph.D. students Nicole Gerring and Matthew Latoure (both political science).

To supply USAID with useful, robust data, Eckert and her team will spend four months analyzing existing research in various databases on women’s civic and political participation in USAID-related countries. The team has compiled an extensive list of studies and has already evaluated 20 of them.

Eckert says she and her team are zeroing in on what governance methods have already been used in these countries and what the results of those methods were.

Gender quotas in political parties and in parliamentary bodies have emerged as one of the more common tools used in USAID countries such as Ghana India, South Africa and Mexico, Eckert says.

But, she says, other studies are more descriptive and measure not only how many women are in a governmental body but also how people perceive women in government.

From there, Eckert says her team will vet the findings to see if they apply to the right countries for a specific project and to ensure the studies were rigorous enough in terms of method.

“Our job is to find out, Does that work in every country? Does it work in more authoritarian regimes or developing democracies? Things like that,” Eckert says. “The idea is to translate research that is often very academic in language into a synthesized summary so that people on the ground can use it in various countries.”

USAID will conduct more research based on Eckert’s findings, but she says her team’s work is vital to the project because it can tell USAID which governance strategy tools are worth pursuing.

Eckert says she is excited to contribute to this project since it overlaps with much of her previous research on how women are represented in formal media structures and how women and minorities use social media. One of her recent projects — the Wikid GRLS Project — focuses on teaching middle-school girls a variety of online skills, including how to write and edit articles on Wikipedia.

“All of this is an outlet for minorities and minority women to be part of a conversation, if they aren’t otherwise part of a formal media structure. It’s about finding out how we can make a fairer playing field to have every voice taken into account,” Eckert says. “It makes democracy better if you have these different voices, and women are such an obvious choice because we’re half of the population. And then even in women there’s a lot of different perspectives. It helps us find richer and better solutions to problems.”

The team will present a report to USAID representatives in Washington in December.
Government surveillance chills social media interaction

Howard perceived government monitoring affects political discourse on social media was the basis for study by Assistant Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff, Ph.D.

Published in Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, “Under Surveillance: Examining Facebook’s Spiral of Silence Effects in the Wake of NSA Internet Monitoring” explored how the spiral of silence theory intermingles with government surveillance of online media and how that affects civil and political discourse.

The spiral of silence theory holds that when people believe their political views differ from the majority, they are less likely to state those beliefs publicly. In her article, Stoycheff examines how that relationship changes in the digital realm. If people know they are being monitored online by the government, will they speak out on important political issues?

By administering an online survey in which participants were exposed to a Facebook post about U.S. airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria and asked about their willingness to post a comment, Stoycheff found that perceptions of online government surveillance significantly chilled, or suppressed, individuals’ likelihood to express sensitive political opinions on social media. Stoycheff says she hopes she has helped shed light on the negative effects of government surveillance.

Stoycheff’s research focuses on the role of new media in shaping international public opinion about democracy, media censorship and press freedom. Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly is the peer-reviewed journal of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. It publishes content on developments in journalism and mass communication, including media technology, media law, media economics, advertising, public relations and journalism history.

The music of French resistance

By Ruby Duffield

Assistant Professor Kelly Jakes, Ph.D., has found a unique way to combine her loves of rhetoric, music and French culture: her book project, “Strains of Dissent: Popular Music and Everyday Resistance in World War II France, 1940-1945.”

“A lot has been written about popular song culture in France during the Revolution and the First World War,” Jakes says, “but I found a hole in the literature about French popular music during the Second World War.”

Throughout World War II, occupying authorities tried to redefine what it meant to be a French citizen, Jakes says. Her book will be a series of case studies about how different segments of the French population, who were primed to be dissidents at the time, used popular music as a rhetorical resource to see themselves in ways that were different from the redefinition of “Frenchness” imposed by the Nazis and the Vichy regime.

“The argument of the book is that popular music held unique and well-suited resources out of which people could reshape what being French meant to them, and resist those radical re-articulations of ‘Frenchness,’” Jakes says.

Earlier this year Jakes traveled to France to the port cities of Le Havre in the north and Marseille in the south to research one of the book’s last chapters. The two ports were busy centers where American GIs traveled through, so they had a large GI presence at the end of the war.

“The French were huge jazz fans in the 1940s, but … American jazz was censored by the Germans,” Jakes says. “When the GIs came over, the French couldn’t wait to hear all the American jazz from the previous five years.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Many American GIs happened to be musicians in their civilian lives, so they would get together with French musicians and “jam out,” Jakes says. Her interest lies in how these jazz jam sessions were actually sites of political struggle between the French and Americans. “It was a time of America’s rise as a global superpower, while France was very concerned with recovering its international standing after having been defeated and occupied,” Jakes says. “For a time, some French people were worried that the Americans would be another occupying force instead of a liberating force.”

More than 70 years have passed since World War II ended in Europe, but Jakes says she found a 96-year-old man in Marseille who was a young jazz musician during the liberation of France, and played with American musicians at the time. “There are so few people alive to talk about it,” Jakes says. “I’m very grateful that I located him.”


The WHO project also spawned other successes. Eckert used the project as the basis for an extramural funding proposal from USAID to better understand democratization and the role of women around the world. The proposal, which involves Eckert and a team of political scientists, was funded — the first USAID grant in the history of Wayne State. (See story on Page 3.)

“The experience has been like an intense short course on how to do a systematic literature review.”

— Pradeep Sopory

“Findings across those boundaries.”

The WHO project also spawned other successes. Eckert used the project as the basis for an extramural funding proposal from USAID to better understand democratization and the role of women around the world. The proposal, which involves Eckert and a team of political scientists, was funded — the first USAID grant in the history of Wayne State. (See story on Page 3.)

“I learned about the process of systematic literature reviews as an interesting and useful tool to collect findings and gaps in existing scholarship in a field of study,” Eckert says. “I also learned that collaboration with colleagues within our department is a lot of fun and a very worthy exercise.”

Novak notes that because of the way the WHO guides the project, what the team has contributed is an effort to analyze without privileging one methodological approach over another and that all the team members have been forced to read a great deal of literature they otherwise would never have explored. “Now, I know why I know what I know,” she explains.

But there is still more to do. The team needs to present the results of its work to various levels of the WHO organization. The literature reviews, because they also are meant to help spot gaps in the literature, may also form the basis for forthcoming research projects. The executive summaries for each of the questions will, ultimately, find their way onto the WHO website — a permanent and globally accessible result of the effort.

And from somewhere other than this mountain top, there is a much more prosaic goal: find a way to present and publish the results.

Wayne State and the WHO: coming soon to a journal near you. •
How did news about the secession crisis and the Civil War affect decision making for the U.S. government? And how did news of the secession crisis spread throughout the country? How did it affect the people who consumed this news?

Michael Fuhlhage, Ph.D., and a three-person research team have spent nearly 18 months searching for answers to these questions, digging through the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Harvard special manuscripts library.

Fuhlhage and three doctoral students — Sarah Walker, Jade Metzger and Nicholas Prephan — analyzed 1860s newspaper clippings to get a clearer picture of what concerned citizens as the United States faced secession.

Fuhlhage refers to this kind of research as the historical equivalent of an air-sea rescue. “You start with your search plane, pick out an area where you’re likely to find debris and you start working a grid, square by square,” he says. “You look for evidence of something abnormal. Most of the sea is blue, but a speck of orange might be a survivor. That’s how you have to approach it.”

The team also analyzed archived manuscripts and memoirs of journalists to characterize the 19th century’s media ecology and to identify what types of information the government used when making policy decisions.

“We wanted to answer the ‘so what’ question,” Fuhlhage says. “Does the message in these documents mean anything if there’s no action taken by the government or the people? How were people influenced by the news? It’s a tricky thing to measure.”

Fuhlhage says the clues don’t always come in the form of newspaper articles.

Sifting through the Civil War-era scrapbook of a Massachusetts man, Fuhlhage discovered pieces of Confederate currency, fabric from a Confederate spy balloon, and a piece of rope allegedly used in the hanging of John Brown.

“Are all of these artifacts completely authentic? Probably not, but that’s not the point,” Fuhlhage says. “What matters is that this person is connecting enough with the maelstrom of events going on that he thought it was important to hold onto these things.”

Though these types of oddities are not exactly what Fuhlhage set out to find, he says they do play a role in answering questions. He says the man’s commentary gives clues to how news of secession and the war affected civilians.

“This young man was looking at news in terms of ‘how does it affect me and my hometown?’” Fuhlhage says. “He was a Quaker so he was torn between his belief in nonviolence and the call of duty to aid the country. Reading his notes was a little bit like watching the transcripts of an NPR commentary show unfolding in front of you.”

Fuhlhage also found letters and reports of former Secretary of War John Floyd showing the extreme measures he took to undermine the federal government’s ability to sustain itself. Fuhlhage found reports in the National Archives of Floyd scattering ships from the U.S. Navy and either putting the ships into a dry dock or disassembling them.

He also uncovered letters from concerned citizens and official memos indicating there were disloyal people at the Brooklyn Navy Yard working with Confederate agents to effect the purchase of 100,000 to 200,000 Springfield rifles to be sold to Virginia leading up to the state’s secession.

Where does news intersect with these kind of investigations? Fuhlhage says the news was essentially being used as open-source intelligence for the government.

“Not all of the newspaper accounts were completely factual, but by tracking down whether any laws or reports were drawn up as a result of these articles and stories, we start to see how the government’s actions had an effect on what type of communication mediums were deemed more credible,” he says.

In addition to writing a book on the project, the team hopes to use Google Fusion Tables to create maps as a visual aid to the research. “Geographers use these to map flows of populations. I’m taking this logic and applying it to communication,” Fuhlhage says. “For example, where’s the highest intensity of news about South Carolina’s secession? Places with the most news would have the deepest color, like a weather map.”

Fuhlhage plans to continue to work with his doctoral students to look at how Georgia’s secession was reflected in the press. He says he wants to see how loud the proverbial screaming from the South had to get before the federal government took notice.
Does traditional media still influence politics?

By Ruby Duffield

When it comes to politics, for most of the last four decades it has been generally accepted that the media “tell us what to think about, but not what to think.”

But now, social media is influencing that process, according to Donald Shaw, Ph.D., whose research has explored the relationship between news and voter opinion for more than 40 years.

A pioneer in agenda-setting theory and a Kenan professor emeritus at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill’s School of Media and Journalism, Shaw discussed the topic from his unique perspective at the 2016 Department of Communication Summer Doctoral Seminar.

About 40 people, including doctoral students, attended “Audience Agendamelding: A Twitter Study of Political Preferences, Campaign Issues, and Agenda Setting in the 2012 Presidential Election.”

“Agendamelding is how the audience chooses agendas from various sources, including oneself,” Shaw says.

Shaw and his research team examined Twitter data consisting of 13 million tweets from Aug. 1, 2012, through Nov. 13, 2012, after the presidential election.

Shaw drew a comparison between his recent study’s results and those of his first, illustrating how the influence of mass media has declined. Shaw’s first study on agenda setting took place in Chapel Hill in 1968. A sample of 100 people was questioned about what issues were important to them.

“Independently, [we] analyzed newspapers, television, magazines and everything else [in terms of media] that they had access to,” Shaw says. “A study was then done of what the people said are the important issues, along with a content analysis of what the media had been relaying.”

Shaw says when the two sets of responses were matched up, researchers found they agreed “a remarkable percentage of the time. In fact, the correlation was 0.97 with 1.00 being perfect.”

For the 2012 study, Shaw says the team collected tweets containing the keywords “Obama” and/or “Romney” along with other keywords that would help determine political leaning.

“We also gathered tweets from traditional vertical media outlets such as The New York Times, CBS News and CNN, and Democratic- or Republican-leaning horizontal media — for example, Stephen Colbert and Rush Limbaugh,” Shaw says. “We were able to compare them in terms of specific issues and how often those issues were tweeted during the course of the study.”

When the results from 2012 were analyzed, the correlation was 0.87, significantly less than in the 1968 study. This suggests, according to Shaw, that mass media outlets are no longer as powerful as they used to be, partly because of the public’s use of social media.

“We are in a period of such rapidly expanding social media, and we’re spending less time with newspapers and television, that we’re really in a period of significant paradigm shift, in terms of media use.”

— Donald Shaw
RYAN BURKLOW, B.A. journalism May 2016, has accepted a position doing social media and video for Gov. Rick Snyder.

ERIKA ERICKSON, B.A. broadcast journalism 2009, was named the 2016 Wayne State Journalism Alum of the Year. Erickson is a reporter and anchor at Fox 2 in Detroit. Previously she was an anchor/reporter at WPBN TV 7&4, WGTU ABC 29 and 8 in Traverse City.

LINDSEY JARA, B.A. communications December 2014, is working at General Motors, handling programmatic media buying for Chevrolet. She is responsible for planning, strategy, execution and campaign management of digital and broadcast media and advertisement spots.

BRITTANY JEFFERSON, M.A. communications 2016, is a doctoral student at the University of Georgia.

DARIA S. LAFAVE, Ph.D. philosophy 2016, is a lead instructor and online speech department head at Keiser University eCampus and serves as a team lead for online communication faculty at Southern New Hampshire University. In that capacity she mentors, coaches and supervises a team of online communication instructors and serves as a subject-matter expert and instructional designer for new or redesigned online courses. She also provides occasional faculty training to help improve teaching quality in online education at both institutions. In the professional sector, she continues online education research on instructor-student relationships in online classrooms. LaFave also guest-lectures at Wayne on online education, mediated communication, communication pedagogy and instructional communication.

CALVIN LEWIS, B.A. broadcast journalism December 2015, is working as a multimedia journalist/reporter for Local 3 News – WJMN-TV, the CBS affiliate in Marquette, Michigan. His stories air on “UP Matters,” where his most recent piece was on a day with Upper Peninsula veterans in Washington, D.C.

MARTA LUKACOVIC, Ph.D. communications 2016, is a visiting assistant professor at Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina.

D’ASTANZA MURPHY, M.A. public relations and organizational communication 2013 and B.A. broadcast journalism 2010, is now an information specialist for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts at Wayne State. Her job is to get the college noticed in both traditional and online media.

KATIE PUSZ, who graduates with a B.A. in public relations in December, is now the full-time marketing and social media coordinator for Probate Pro, a law firm in Royal Oak.

ASHIK SHAHI, Ph.D. candidate philosophy, is a visiting assistant professor at Bethany College, Lindborg, Kansas.

HEATHER SHURYAN, B.A. journalism 2009, is a creative strategist for Yahoo in Portland, Oregon, managing digital sales and marketing.

CRYSTAL STAFFNEY, B.A. media arts and studies 2010 and M.A. public relations and organizational communications 2013, is operations officer for ARISE Detroit! Staffney has held several positions in the broadcasting and nonprofit sectors, including promotions director, development director and director of community affairs.

MIKE SUGGS, B.A. journalism 2016, was named 2016 Wayne State Outstanding Journalism Graduate of the Year in October. Suggs currently supervises the department’s website. You can see his reporting and writing in this newsletter.

MELISSA THRASHER, M.A. communications 2007, is communications manager for Beaumont Health, where she supports the presidents and chief medical staff at both the Trenton and Grosse Pointe hospitals. Previously, Thrasher was communications director for the southeast Michigan American Heart Association. In that role she was responsible for all aspects of communication, including media relations and social media. Thrasher has also implemented national campaigns on a local level with healthcare systems, nonprofits and corporate entities across Michigan.

NICOLE VOWELL, B.A. broadcast journalism 2009, is a reporter and anchor for KSL 5 TV in Salt Lake City. She recently won two regional Emmy awards for continuing news coverage and for education reporting. Her first reporting and weekend evening anchoring position was at KETK-NBC in Tyler, Texas.

COLEEN WHATLEY, M.A. public relations and organizational communication 2016, is now managing web content for the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan.
Be as involved as you can

By Ruby Duffield


These are just some of the hats recent master’s graduate Matt Morley has worn at Wayne State. Perhaps most impressive is that Morley has had two research papers accepted at academic organization conferences. Morley, 27, graduated in August with a master’s in communication with a journalism concentration.

“I’ve always been super-into video games, so much of my research was based on different aspects of gaming,” Morley says. “The very first paper I wrote in grad school was about product placement and advertising within video games and how it affects the integrity of game design.”

Morley presented that paper, “The Effects of In-Game Advertising on Gamers and the Video Game Industry,” at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2015 national conference in San Francisco.

More recently, Morley has researched agenda setting and propaganda by the U.S. military.

“Central Command is the branch of the U.S. military that conducts operations in the Middle East,” Morley says. “I wrote a paper on Central Command’s YouTube account and how the content they post to that account shifted since we started unmanned drone strikes on Islamic State targets.”

Morley says raw, black-and-white footage shot from the drone cameras started to appear on the site soon after President Obama announced that the military would conduct unmanned air strikes against the Islamic State, and the number of views for each new video increased dramatically.

“Because YouTube videos can be embedded, these videos began to be incorporated by outlets such as CNN, which would pick up the stories from White House press releases,” Morley says. “I was very interested in this from the perspective of agenda setting and propaganda.”

“Death From Above: An Analysis of the Central Command YouTube Page” was accepted by the International Communication Association for its 2016 conference. Morley traveled to Japan to present his research.

However, Morley completed his master’s with a creative as opposed to scholarly project. “It’s a documentary on the long and interesting history of the Detroit and Grosse Pointe border,” he says.

Morley is also teaching a section of News Writing and Digital Editing (COM 2230) this semester.

“Any student with an interest in working on audio, writing broadcast news, putting together interviews and news packages should check out 2230,” he says.

Morley has advice for students interested in the Communications programs at Wayne State: Be as involved as you can.

“I can’t recommend Metro Arts Detroit (COM 5610 Advanced Television Production) enough for any student with an interest in any aspect of TV production,” Morley says. In that class, students produce a program that features area artists and airs on Detroit Public Television. “Metro Arts” just finished its fifth season; Morley was involved since season two, first as an editor, then producer. For the last two years, he served as graduate student assistant and studio supervisor.

“It’s a really great opportunity for students from a number of backgrounds because it’s a group project that provides a lot of technical experience,” Morley says. “It’s something worthwhile to put on a resume.”
FACULTY BRIEFS

Stine Eckert

PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE PAPERS
- 2016 AEJMC, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Aug. 5-9; top faculty paper award:
  - First-authored paper, “Teaching girls online skills to tackle STEM gender gaps: Results of the Wikid GRRLS intervention,” with Jade Metzger.
  - Co-authored paper, “LinkedIn is my office; Facebook my living room, Twitter the neighborhood bar: Media scholars’ liminal use of social media for peer and public communication,” with Candi Carter Olson and Victoria LaPoe.
  - Panel paper, “Not just mothers, women bloggers with children.”
- 2016 ICA Annual Conference, Fukuoka, Japan, June 8-13:
  - First-authored paper, “Feminist uses of social media,” with Linda Steiner.
  - Panelist, Inclusion/Exclusion: “Feminist Organizations and Web 2.0 Tools.”
  - Panel Organizer: Feminisms in/ from Asia.
- 2016 FemTechNet Conference, Ann Arbor, Apr. 8-10:
  - Teaching Wikid GRRLS Workshop, with Jade Metzger.
  - “Feminist advocacy and privacy management online,” with Jade Metzger.

Lessenberry scores another first place for Metro Times column

Jack Lessenberry, area head for journalism, won first place in the political column category at the 2016 Association of Alternative Newsmedia Awards. This year marks the third time Lessenberry has won the award for his column “Politics & Prejudices,” a Detroit Metro Times feature since 1993.

AAN Award finalists were selected from a pool of 821 entries from 70 alternative publications based in the U.S. and Canada.

Lessenberry says he feels humbled by his most recent win.

“Well, it is an extremely nice honor, to be recognized by your peers in this way,” he says. “This is the third time my column has been recognized as the best in the nation by the AAN, and that is sort of amazing, considering all the great publications and journalists out there.”

In addition to writing his weekly column at Metro Times and heading up the journalism department at Wayne State, Lessenberry contributes a weekly column to the Toledo Blade, Traverse City Record-Eagle, Windsor Star and the online publication Dome Magazine. He is also the senior political analyst for Michigan Public Radio.

Lessenberry has written for several nationally renowned publications throughout his career, including The New York Times, Vanity Fair and The Washington Post, but he says writing for an alternative publication affords him editorial freedom not necessarily found in more mainstream news outlets.

“The genre offers me tremendous freedom, both in the language I use and what I choose to write about,” Lessenberry says. “Some formerly mainstream newspapers turn their nose up at papers like the Metro Times, but there’s a lot less of that these days. The Metro Times has been ahead of the dailies on a number of big stories, and in many cases, alternative papers are doing better both editorially and financially than their more old-fashioned competition.

“I am very proud of the Metro Times and the work I do for them,” he says. “I have written a weekly column for them since April 1993 and have never missed a week.”

Lessenberry previously won AAN first-place honors for his Metro Times work in 2012 and 2015.
• 2016 Conference on Citizenship Studies, Detroit, Mar. 1-Apr. 2:
  • “Women online in Western democracies: Which citizens can realize the democratic potential in public spaces, and under which conditions?”
• 2015 AoIR Annual Conference of Internet Researchers, Phoenix, Oct. 21-25:
  • “The haphazard democratic potential of social media.”

GRANTS
• 2016 USAID IIE Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Grant. Team member, Synthesizing evidence on increasing the civic and political participation of women.
• Michael Fuhlilage, “Hell Before Breakfast: America’s First War Correspondents Making History and Headlines, from the Battlefields of the Civil War to the Far Reaches of the Ottoman Empire [Review],” Journalism History 42, no. 1 (April 2016).

AWARDS AND GRANTS
• University Research Grant, Wayne State.

PRESENTATIONS
• “Southern Intrigues and Northern Suspicions: Newspapers as Open-Source Intelligence in the Secession Crisis,” submitted to the 19th Century Press, Civil War and Free Expression, Chattanooga, Tenn. Funded by Research Enhancement Program in Arts and Humanities, Office of the Vice President for Research, Wayne State.

High marks
The Department of Communication’s assessment efforts have been recognized campus-wide. They include:
• The development of an evaluation rubric for doctoral dissertation prospectuses.
• Using professionals to evaluate public relations portfolios.
• Tracking the progress of students enrolled in journalistic grammar and style — hint, the course works, and we’ve got the numbers to prove it.

Kelly Jakes
AWARDS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Loraleigh Keashly


NATIONAL OFFICE
• Member, Anti-Bullying Taskforce, National Communication Association.

Katheryn Maguire
• Following her election as vice chair elect of the Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association in 2014, Maguire has since chaired the Sandra Petronio Dissertation Award Committee (2015) and is the program planner for the division for 2016.
• Elected as an at-large representative to the Academic Senate (2016-2019) at Wayne State.
• Was a guest expert on family conflict for the “Ask Dr. Nandi” television show, which aired in May 2016.
• Was a guest expert on long-distance relationships on the NPR radio, airing Dec. 30, 2015.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH


CO-AUTHORED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Rahul Mitra
JOURNAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS

BOOK CHAPTERS
“Passing in corporate India: Problematizing disclosure of sexual orientation at the workplace.” In T. Kollen (Ed.), “Sexual orientation and transgender issues in organizations: Global perspectives on LGBT workforce diversity” (pp. 307-320). Springer.


ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES


COMPEITIVELY SELECTED PRESENTATIONS


MISCELLANEOUS SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES


Julie Novak
• 2015-2016, World Health Organization Grant (RFP 2015-DGO/DCO/CCB/0003); team member, “Evidence Syntheses to Support the Guideline on Emergency Risk Communication,” with Pradeep Sopory, Lee Wilkins, Stine Eckert and Donyale Padgett

Donyale Padgett

Elizabeth Stoycheff
SCHOLARLY PAPERS

Notes: The surveillance publication (listed above) ranked in the top 5 percent of downloaded articles across all fields this past year, and is the No. 1 published piece in the field’s flagship journal, JMCAQ, this year. In addition, two of those pieces have been extensively reported on by The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The Independent, Slate, and more.

Ready for our close-up
A new video promoting the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts is on YouTube: https://youtu.be/nL5SUXTrxFI. Featuring our students, campus spaces and Detroit locations, the video contains student voiceovers recorded by Michael Shellabarger. The piece was produced by University Television, overseen by Art Lionas, director of University Television.


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Stephanie Tong
PRESENTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES
• National office in scholarly organizations: Research chair, Communication Theory and Methodology Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.
• National scholarly awards: Named Kopenhaver Fellow, Commission on the Statue of Women, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.
• External funding: Villanova University Waterhouse Family Institute, to support research on the U.S. government’s mass online surveillance systems and work to promote democracy and social justice.

Elizabeth Stoycheff
SCHOLARLY PAPERS

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dating system design and relational decision-making: Choice, algorithms, and control.” *Personal Relationships.*


Fred Vultee


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


Lee Wilkins


**Gonyea to receive Arts Achievement Award**

Don Gonyea, a former Detroiter and a national political correspondent for NPR, will be presented with the college’s Arts Achievement Award in March. Longtime WDET listeners’ will remember Gonyea’s days covering the auto industry, labor unions and politics. The department will be working with him to set up either a master class or public talk on a topic of his choice.


**Kelly Young**


About us
The Department of Communication is part of Wayne State’s College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. With approximately 625 undergraduate majors and 175 graduate students, the department is diverse and dynamic, featuring programs in communication studies, media arts and studies, film, journalism, public relations, and dispute resolution.

Our students experience the benefit of a world-class education in a real-world context. The department comprises 30 tenure and tenure-track faculty and 35 part-time faculty with strong backgrounds in both scholarly and professional approaches to communication.

Communication News
Produced by the Department of Communication
Department Chair: Lee Wilkins
Designer: Sheila Young Tomkowiak
Writers: Ruby Duffield, Mike Suggs

THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY 2017 SUMMER DOCTORAL SEMINAR

Examining the intersections of gender, race and sexuality in shaping career experiences through everyday communicative practices
with Patrice M. Buzzanell, PhD

Dr. Buzzanell (PhD, Purdue Univ.) is a distinguished professor in Purdue University’s Brian Lamb School of Communication and holds a courtesy appointment in the School of Engineering Education at Purdue. She is the Susan Bulkeley Butler Chair for Leadership Excellence and is director of the Butler Center. Buzzanell’s research focuses on the intersections of career, leadership, gender and resilience. Specifically, she investigates the everyday negotiations, policies and structures that produce - and are produced by - the intersections. She is the editor of three books, *Distinctive Qualities in Communication Research* (2010 with Donal Carbaugh), *Gender in Applied Communication Contexts* (2004 with Helen Sterk and Lynn Turner) and *Rethinking Organizational and Managerial Communication from Feminist Perspectives* (2000). She is author of more than 160 articles and chapters in communication and interdisciplinary outlets. Her published work is in journals such as *Human Relations, Communication Monographs* and *Human Communication Research*, as well as in handbooks on organizational, professional, family, conflict, ethics and gender communication.

Wayne State’s annual Summer Doctoral Seminar will take place in June 2017. No registration fee. Attendees also 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, 2017, to Dr. Rahul Mitra; Dept. of Communication; 585 Manoogian Hall - WSU; Detroit, MI 48201. With questions, contact Dr. Mitra at Rahul.Mitra@wayne.edu. http://comm.wayne.edu/summer-seminar/index.php