An in-depth series written by Sarah Ryley (BA-journalism, 2006) for the New York Daily News in collaboration with ProPublica won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for public service, the most prestigious award in journalism. The series exposed the New York Police Department’s widespread abuse of eviction rules to force hundreds of people — many of them poor minorities — from their homes over alleged criminal activities.

The investigation, which detailed and analyzed more than 1,100 cases, led to the passage of 13 laws intended to create protections for the accused, an internal NYPD investigation, and a class-action civil rights lawsuit.

Ryley, 36, a native of Toledo, Ohio, and a graduate of Northville High School, credits Wayne State for her professional development. “Studying in Detroit helped prepare me as a reporter,” Ryley said. “I wanted to report on urban issues, urban development and social justice, and Wayne State provided a lot of opportunity to do so. I was lucky to have incredible mentors.” Those mentors included journalism instructors M.L. Elrick and Darci McConnell, journalism head Jack Lessenberry, and the late Ben Burns.

“Sarah was and is one of the best and most driven young investigative reporters I have known,” Lessenberry said. “I am delighted by her Pulitzer — but not really surprised.”

Sarah Ryley won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for public service for a series that exposed the New York Police Department’s abuse of eviction rules.

While she was a student, Ryley interned at the Detroit News, Oakland Press and Brooklyn Daily Eagle. She also served as editor-in-chief of The South End, WSU’s student newspaper. “When your instructors and mentors are great journalists themselves, you’re taught very solid news values — straight, fair and factual journalism,” Ryley said.

Ryley is now working as an investigative reporter covering gun policy for The Trace, an independent nonprofit journalism startup dedicated to shining a light on American gun violence.

As an investigative reporter covering hot-button issues, Ryley believes in the importance of research and data, and is optimistic about the future of journalism. “You have to believe that there will always be an appetite for fair and factual information,” she said. “There will always be people who want to make informed decisions. I believe we’re seeing a resurgence toward investigative efforts and an emphasis toward data-based journalism.”

In addition to her work on the Pulitzer-winning series, Ryley has reported on racial disparity in summonses, the surge in fare-evasion arrests, police misconduct, sexual abuse trials, flaws within the Department of Homeland Security’s visa process and more. Her work also has been recognized by the New York State Associated Press Association and the Newswomen’s Club of New York, among others.

Another Pulitzer finalist
Sarah Ryley is not the only Warrior with a 2017 Pulitzer presence. Terry Parris Jr. (BA-journalism, 2008) was nominated as a finalist for the explanatory reporting award. Parris, along with a team of colleagues from ProPublica, was recognized for the series “Machine Bias,” which outlined Facebook’s algorithms, its use of personal data, and the platform’s system that allows advertisers to exclude specific groups based on race, gender and other sensitive factors that are prohibited by federal law in housing and employment.
Exceptional accomplishments

One of the delights of the academy is being able to support faculty members as they move forward in their careers. Only slightly less delightful is being able to acknowledge past exceptional work. This newsletter is filled with reports of both.

I’ll begin at the top: Dean Matt Seeger, Ph.D., who at this conference will receive a career award for his research, has made remarkable contributions to the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, including raising more than $30 million to support the efforts of four departments. This acknowledgment from the National Communication Association demonstrates that although Dean Seeger takes pride in collegewide accomplishments, his heart and mind are committed to scholarship in his own academic discipline.

At the early end of the continuum, Assistant Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff, Ph.D., in just the fourth year of her academic career, produced a paper that was named the best study published by Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly in 2016. Most of us will go our entire careers without such an accolade. Stoycheff also received a collegewide teaching award and a nationally competitive externship.

Associate professorship is often — rightly — considered the doldrums of academic life. But, Associate Professors Kat Maguire, Ph.D., and Fred Vultee, Ph.D., both won campuswide awards this year: Maguire received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching; Vultee was named the campus’s outstanding graduate faculty mentor.

All of the accomplishments listed in the following pages — from numerous academic and teaching awards to multiple book projects, papers and presentations — have emerged during a time of disruption in higher education in general and at Wayne State in particular.

This year, the communication department will begin adapting to a new general education architecture. We will be given the opportunity to attract — but not require — students to enroll in communication courses, a challenge that will require new skills, like marketing, that go beyond teaching prowess. Budgetary constraints and declining enrollments also present challenges, especially in an era of dwindling federal grant dollars.

Often when confronted with uncertainty, we seek a “home base” in our academic specialties. I believe that in the face of change and risk, we should do only those things that we believe will cause the least harm to individuals, organizations and the project at large.

This approach has been borne out in a year where research productivity has meant putting books on library shelves and where teaching excellence has been widely acknowledged. As for how well it works going forward … stay tuned.

— Lee Wilkins
Award was a lifetime in the making

Jack Lessenberry, journalism area head, received a number of honors this year, including a lifetime achievement award from the Metropolitan Detroit Society of Professional Journalists.

“It is a wonderful honor, but two men I admired — George Cantor and George Puscas — got this award in recent years, and died within a few months after receiving it,” Lessenberry said.

“I have decided not to continue that tradition.”

It’s been a busy year for Lessenberry, who has been a full-time faculty member since 1994. He received a Fairness in Media award from the Michigan Muslim Community Council, and his column in the Metro Times, “Politics and Prejudices,” was named the best alternative political column in the nation for the fourth time.

Lessenberry’s book The People’s Lawyer: The Life and Times of Frank J. Kelley was chosen as a Michigan Notable Book of the Year by the State Library of Michigan.

He was also elected president of the Historical Society of Michigan, which was founded in 1828 and is one of the nation’s oldest such societies, and promoted to senior lecturer.

Lessenberry primarily teaches journalism history and law and the capstone course, Issues in News Media Management, and supervises all internships for the Department of Communication.

He also is senior news analyst for Michigan Public Radio, delivering daily essays and commentary on state issues. He is or has been a writer for many national and regional publications, including Vanity Fair, Esquire, George, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Boston Globe. Currently, he is a contributing editor and columnist for the Metro Times, the Traverse-City Record Eagle, Dome Magazine and the Toledo Blade, where he also is writing coach and ombudsman.

Kelly Jakes takes rhetoric to a higher note

Assistant Professor Kelly Jakes, Ph.D., combines her love of popular song with her scholarly research to prove a point: Music provides a way to develop and maintain cultural and political diversity. This interdisciplinary insight has found a natural home in Detroit and in the Department of Communication, where Jakes teaches public address and explores social movements while conducting archival research on the uses of popular music during World War II.

A communication studies faculty member since 2014, Jakes didn’t set out to be an academic. She first hoped to be an opera singer. But while she was taking a course on the rhetoric of the civil rights movement, Jakes decided to transition into academia. She realized that she could combine her love of music with the study of rhetoric to uncover the ways marginalized and repressed people use pop culture to resist oppression.

But she never abandoned her love of performing and now is a member of the Rackham Choir, Detroit’s oldest community choir. She was onstage at the Detroit Opera House with the nearly 80-person choir for the 15th anniversary of the group’s rendition of “Too Hot to Handel,” conducted by Suzanne Acton. This annual concert infuses Detroit-inspired styles of jazz and gospel while showcasing touches of blues, swing, classical and scat.

“It’s just a lot of fun. It feels like a rock concert sometimes,” Jakes said. “Rearranging Handel is a fun way to feature a more diverse sound and really break through the classical barrier.”

Jakes believes it is important that she continue to sing because it helps her stay connected to her writing subjects. “If I write about music and I’m not performing music, I feel like I’m a fraud, somehow,” she said. “It is important to me to have some type of interaction with the subject that I am studying. It keeps me grounded.”
2017 Arts Achievement Awards recognize dedication and advocacy

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts honored five alumni and former students with its 2017 Arts Achievement Awards for dedication to the arts and communication and for achievements in their fields.

Career Achievement Award: Communication
Don Gonyea is a political correspondent for NPR who spends much of his time traveling throughout the United States covering campaigns, elections and the political climate. He was NPR’s White House Correspondent during George W. Bush’s administration and was at the White House on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, providing live reports following the evacuation of the building.

Gonyea got his start with NPR in 1986, working from the Wayne State studio of WDET-FM. He reported on labor unions and the auto industry, the development of alternative fuel and hybrid-powered automobiles, Jack Kevorkian’s assisted-suicide crusade, and the 1999 closing of Detroit’s classic Tiger Stadium.

A native of Monroe, Gonyea is an honors graduate of Michigan State University.

Career Achievement Award: Art and Art History
Susan F. Rossen is an educator, curator and museum publisher and the first publisher at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Rossen, who earned a master’s degree in art history from Wayne State in 1971, directed the publications department at the Art Institute of Chicago for 28 years. During her tenure there, she shepherded more than 200 publications into print, a number of which garnered awards for content, design and production.

Rossen has been active in the field of museum publishing, organizing national and international conferences, teaching, writing and lecturing about the role of publishing in museums. Currently, she is a museum-publishing consultant and freelance editor.

Charlotte Merkerson was concertmaster at the Michigan Opera Theatre.

Career Achievement Award: Music
Violinist and native Detroiter Charlotte Merkerson began playing violin at age 6, and by age 8 was playing in the All City Junior Orchestra. At 15, she was awarded a scholarship to study violin with Mischa Mischakoff, concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

But she didn’t decide to play professionally until college. She began at Wayne State in 1967 and studied violin with Morris Hochberg, the former assistant concertmaster for the DSO.

Merkerson’s first professional engagement was with the Phoenix Symphony in 1978, where she was second violin principal. The following year, she returned to
Detroit and soon won a position as concertmaster at the Michigan Opera Theatre. Some of her most memorable performances there include the Three Tenors’ performance at Tiger Stadium, and five performances as concertmaster with Luciano Pavarotti, one of which was for the opening of the Detroit Opera House.

Career Achievement Award: Theatre
Phillip W. Moss, Ph.D., is the chair of the creative and performing arts department at University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods. He oversees curriculum and staff development in drama, music and visual arts for a program that spans pre-K through 12th grade. Moss has teaching responsibilities in grades 6–12 and directs extracurricular programs in drama for grades 3–12. He teaches courses in acting, directing, scenic design, film, animation and software tools. Moss, who earned his doctorate in art education at Wayne State, is a member of the Educational Theatre Association/International Thespian Society, National Arts Education Association, Americans for the Arts, Michigan Youth Arts, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

CFPCA Arts Advocacy Award
William “Bill” Prady is the four-time Emmy-nominated executive producer of The Big Bang Theory, which he co-created in 2007. Prady got his start working at Jim Henson Productions in 1983. Following that, he wrote for a number of television comedy and drama series. His first produced episode of series television was an episode of Married… With Children in 1991; his first staff writing job was on the HBO series Dream On in 1995. Prady joined the writing staff of Dharma & Greg in 1997, rising to executive producer and taking over as showrunner (industry slang for the job that combines head writer and executive producer) in 2001. He is a graduate of Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills and attended Wayne State.

Alumni notes
Christian Lumaj (BA-public relations, 2016) was named executive communications coordinator after less than a year at Ford Motor Co. She now reports to fellow WSU alumnus Raymond Day, group vice president of communications at Ford.

Lumaj began at Ford as a product launch and events coordinator in May 2016.

In her new role, she works on story-telling and stakeholder engagement. Her responsibilities include working with Day to provide direct communications support — including managing global positioning, engagements and briefings — for Ford executives.

“I was incredibly excited and humbled when the leadership team entrusted me with this great opportunity and responsibility,” Lumaj said. “I attribute this quick growth within the company to the strong CFPCA public relations program I was a part of at Wayne State University. The endless opportunities and top-notch faculty within the program truly prepared me for the real world.”

Christy Bonstell (BA-journalism, 2004), a former reporter for The Detroit News, has published her first novel, The Undertow.

2016–17 Ph.D. graduates
• Avery Henry, assistant professor, Southeast Missouri State University
• John Koch, lecturer/assistant director of debate, Vanderbilt University
• Renata Kolodziej-Smith, lecturer, University of Central Florida
• Marta Lucakovic, visiting assistant professor, Furman University
• Bethany (Weaver) Petry, assistant professor, Florida Gulf Coast University
• Debbie Sellnow-Richmond, assistant professor, Columbus State University
• Stephanie Wideman, visiting assistant professor, SUNY Oswego
WSU film nominated for Student Academy Awards

For the first time, a Wayne State film was nominated for the Student Academy Awards. *Free the Wall*, produced by Darryl Shreve (MA, 2017) as his master’s thesis, was one of seven contenders in the Documentary Category (Domestic Film Schools) for the 2017 awards. *Free the Wall* addresses three questions: Is graffiti art? Is it vandalism? What are communities doing to resolve related conflicts? The film chronicles the experiences of six street artists and delves into the history and future of graffiti, looking at its counterculture nature and how street art has evolved into forms that now attract mainstream audiences.

Shreve interviewed business owners, police officials, street artists, muralists and fine-art coordinators across several states. *Free the Wall* explores freedom of expression and how art can give a voice to the voiceless.

“As an artist at heart, I have always been drawn to visual mediums of expression,” Shreve said. “When I started in the film/video industry, I merely swapped a paintbrush and canvas for a camera and editing software. So, covering a topic like graffiti felt more like a homecoming.”

The Student Academy Awards were established in 1972 to support and encourage excellence in filmmaking at the collegiate level. Past winners have gone on to receive 46 Oscar nominations and have won or shared eight Academy Awards. They include John Lasseter, Pete Docter, Trey Parker, Robert Zemeckis, and Spike Lee.

Shreve credits Associate Professor Kelly Donnellan for providing valuable tips and said she offered great assistance in her advisory role on the project. He said he was honored when he learned that Donnellan had submitted his piece to the academy.

“When Darryl proposed his thesis project on graffiti and street art,” Donnellan said, “it was such a visual topic, I could totally ‘see’ the film that he wanted to do. Darryl was really motivated to do the best work possible on the film, and he was a joy to work with. He did a masterful job of shooting the project and crafting the story in the editing room. *Free the Wall* is a really well-executed film. He should be very proud of it. I know I am.”

The documentary was shot primarily in Detroit, Philadelphia and Toledo, Ohio. Detroit’s Murals in The Market, Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Project and Toledo’s Young Artists at Work provided a rich backdrop for the film’s content.

“It’s a huge honor to make it to the final round of the Student Academy Awards, and I feel privileged to have represented Wayne State University in that endeavor,” Shreve said. “I had a great deal of practical experience in the field of production before pursuing my master’s degree, but not much theoretical. Going back to school removed the blinders from concepts and theories that I most likely would not have discovered on my own. I believe our educational journey doesn’t end with that first piece of paper, but that we must constantly redevelop and in some cases reinvent ourselves.”

CFPCA promo video earns local Emmy

Three graduate students and two alumni were part of a team that received an Emmy from the Michigan National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in June for the promotional video “Be Inspired.” Working in collaboration with University Television, doctoral student Nick Smith, master’s student Tyler Short and Angela Watson (MA, 2017) were part of an
Freep Film Festival: Lights, camera, participation

Wayne State had a strong presence at the 2017 Freep Film Festival. The four-day festival features documentary films — particularly those with strong connections to Detroit or Michigan — along with post-film panel discussions and other events geared toward Detroit’s film community.

Department of Communication students, alumni and faculty worked on films selected for the festival and participated in panel discussions.

Ryan Clancy (MA-candidate, media studies) explored the largest collection of Mies van der Rohe-designed homes, located in Detroit’s Lafayette Park, in his film, A Poem of Glass and Steel. The project narrates the experience of living in an iconic and rapidly changing neighborhood.

Jasmine Rivera, part-time faculty member and Kresge Arts Fellow, directed American Prophet, a docudrama set in 1968 that tells the story of Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, who as a young man was appointed to a position of authority — and whose leadership was needed to guide a community in a time of great upheaval and social change. Alumni on the film’s production crew include Greg Meyering, James Wright, Hayward Crawford, Litong Zhen, Samuel Kim and Robert Monarch. Juanita Anderson, area head for media arts and studies, is credited as an executive producer.

Two current students — Samantha Mannino and Mason Holdwick — helped manage the archiving of home-movie footage included in 12th and Clairmount, a documentary about Detroit’s tumultuous summer of 1967, its causes and aftermath. They worked under a directed study led by Masters Program Director Karen McDevitt, Ph.D., who earned a screen credit for her coordinating efforts. Home-movie footage donated by metro Detroiters became the backbone of the documentary.

Rivera participated in a panel discussion, “Creativity Matters: Careers in the Film and Creative Industries,” presented by the Michigan Film and Digital Media Office.

Anderson moderated a discussion with African-American labor activists following the screening of the 1970 documentary Finally Got the News, which looked at the activities of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers inside and outside Detroit’s auto plants. She also moderated a panel discussion with 12th and Clairmount filmmakers.

The video was created to showcase CFPCA’s creative programs and the many connections throughout Detroit that the college’s students are afforded. “Be Inspired” was nominated in the category “Promotion — Program – Single Spot” and was up against Michigan State University’s entry, “Your Tomorrow.”

“The marketing team at Wayne State does a great job of telling stories about the university in an honest and compelling way — every time,” said Art Lionas, director of media content at University Television. “So, it’s very gratifying to be recognized by our peers for taking that honest approach.”
Dean Seeger wins award for applied communication scholarship
Matthew W. Seeger, Ph.D., dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and professor in the Department of Communication, received the National Communication Association’s 2017 Gerald M. Phillips Award for Distinguished Applied Communication Scholarship.

Seeger was honored for research on crisis communication, particularly health-related crisis communication, and has received more than $5 million in external funding. His work has placed him in highly visible and influential positions within a number of organizations, including the World Health Organization, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Seeger has authored or co-authored a significant number of books, book chapters and journal articles that place communication as a theoretical explanation for developing and implementing crisis applications. The NCA noted Seeger’s ability to create a direct path from research to application as a hallmark of his record.

Given annually, the Gerald M. Phillips Award is presented to scholars responsible for authoring bodies of published research and creative scholarship in applied communication.

Stoycheff racks up multiple honors
Assistant Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff, Ph.D., received two national honors within the space of a week in May. Her article “Under Surveillance: Examining Facebook’s Spiral of Silence Effects in the Wake of NSA Internet Monitoring” was named the best article published in 2016 in Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly. She also was named a Scripps-Howard Foundation visiting professor. The foundation sends faculty to newsrooms for two-week externships in digital media.

Stoycheff visited The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina.

Stoycheff, who is completing her fourth year as a Wayne State faculty member, also received the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts award for outstanding teaching. She teaches reporting and feature writing at the undergraduate level, as well as graduate classes on media and democracy, and big data.

Vultee named outstanding graduate mentor
Associate Professor Fred Vultee, Ph.D., who serves as the communication department’s graduate student director, was named outstanding graduate faculty mentor on campus for 2017.

Vultee is the first faculty member in the department to receive this award. He teaches a variety of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including news editing, introduction to doctoral studies and political communication — his research focus.

Faculty team completes WHO project
The World Health Organization project “Evidence Syntheses to Support the Guideline on Emergency Risk Communication” was successfully completed by a faculty team consisting of Pradeep Sopory, Ph.D., and (in alphabetical order) Stine Eckert, Ph.D.; Julie Novak, Ph.D.; Donyale Padgett, Ph.D.; and Lee Wilkins, Ph.D.

The team was assisted by communication graduate student Ashleigh Day as well as (in alphabetical order) Fatima Barakji, Javier Guzman-Barcenas, Juan Liu and Jacob Nickell.

The WHO project focused on communication related to public health emergency events, such as earthquakes, emerging infectious diseases, hurricanes, industrial accidents and terrorism.

Maguire receives excellence award for teaching
For the third time since 1977, a faculty member in the Department of Communication has received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Associate Professor Kat Maguire, Ph.D., who has served as communication studies area head for the past five years, accepted the award from Wayne State Provost Keith Whitfield in a May ceremony.

Maguire was nominated by the department with supporting letters from four students, including a successful doctoral graduate and two undergraduate students. Each praised Maguire’s enthusiasm for teaching, ability to connect theoretical concepts to the lives of students, and genuine care of those students both inside and outside the classroom.
Stine Eckert


By the book

Department of Communication members have been busy this year with book projects. The following titles are under contract, with anticipated publication dates through 2019.


• A Media Framing Approach to Conflict, Crisis and Threat: Security as Storytelling, F. Vultee; Routledge, 2018.


• Handbooks of Workplace Bullying, Emotional Abuse and Harassment, Volume 4, editors P. D’Cruz, E. Noronha, L. Keashly, S. Tye-Williams; Springer, 2018.

• Organizational Communication Theory and Practice: Current Trends and Future Directions, J. McDonald, R. Mitra; Routledge, 2019.

• Yankee Reporters and Southern Secrets: Journalism, Open Source Intelligence and the Coming of the Civil War, M. Fuhlthau; Peter Lang, 2019.

Newest faculty member

Anita Mixon, Ph.D., has joined the Department of Communication as assistant professor and basic course director. Mixon comes to WSU from the University of Illinois, where she earned multiple teaching honors as a graduate student. She completed her doctorate in the spring of 2017.

Brandon Hensley

• Hensley BO. “Co-creating Communities of Adjunct Faculty: Mobilizing Adjunct Voices Through Connective Storytelling,” in Adjunct Faculty Voices: Cultivating Professional Development and Community at the Front Lines of Higher Education, Stylus Publishing LLC, 2017.


M. Rosie Jahng


Rahul Mitra

Peer-reviewed publications

Invited encyclopedia entries

Tenure for two
Associate Professor Kelly Donnellan, Ph.D., says it took her only 14 years to get tenure. Associate Professor Stephanie Tong, Ph.D., notes that publishing something every three months, plus landing a three-year, $850,000 National Science Foundation grant, had the same outcome.

Together, Donnellan and Tong represent the breadth of the tenured faculty in the communication department as well as some firsts. Donnellan is the first creative artist to receive tenure; Tong’s extramural funding is the single largest grant ever received by the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. Both were formally granted tenure at the conclusion of the 2016–17 academic year.

Kat Maguire

Honors and awards
• Co-recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Article Award from the Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association for the publication “Contradictions and Praxis Contextualized by Wartime Deployment: The Wives’ Perspective Revealed Through Relational Dialectics,” co-authored with E. Sahlstein and L. Timmerman, November 2017, Dallas.
• Competitively selected to participate in the inaugural Mid-Career Scholar’s Writing Retreat, National Communication Association, June 26–30, 2017, Orange, CA.
• Recipient, Competitive Graduate Research Assistantship in the Arts and Humanities, Graduate School, Wayne State University. Funding for a 12-month GRA during the 2017–18 academic year (with Robert Matheny).
• Chair, Family Communication Division and Division Representative, Legislative Assembly of the National Communication Association, November 2017, Dallas.
• Member, National Communication Association Bernard J. Brommel Award for Outstanding Scholarship or Distinguished Service in Family Communication (nominated and selected by the NCA’s 2016 Committee on Committees and Legislative Assembly), 2017–19.

Pradeep Sopory


External grants

Elizabeth Stoycheff


Stephanie Tong

Peer-reviewed papers make the grade

Nine faculty members, one doctoral candidate, 10 doctoral students and five master’s students have authored or co-authored peer-reviewed papers accepted by the discipline’s most competitive global conference, the International Communication Association.

Individually authored papers
The ICA accepted individually authored papers from Assistant Professors Michael Fuhlhage, Ph.D., Rosie Jahng, Ph.D., and Rahul Mitra, Ph.D.; Professor and Chair Lee Wilkins, Ph.D.; and doctoral candidate Juan Liu. Paper topics included:

• Historical analysis of news coverage of secession prior to the American Civil War.
• Computer-mediated communication.
• A theoretical examination of the intersection of law and ethics on the issue of privacy.
• Content analysis of media coverage on the bombing of the offices of the French magazine that published cartoon images of Muslims.
• Examination of tweets from scientists as they were dealing with the Flint water crisis.
• Communicating about sustainable resource management.

Competitive panels
A five-member research team amassing systematic literature reviews for the World Health Organization had a competitive panel accepted by the ICA. Those faculty members are Associate Professors Pradeep Sopory, Ph.D.; Julie Novak, Ph.D.; and Donvale Padgett, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Stine Eckert, Ph.D., and Wilkins also worked on the WHO research team. Doctoral students Ashleigh Day and Fatima Barakji and doctoral candidate Liu are listed as contributors and co-authors on the WHO project.

Graduate students worked as members of various faculty-led research teams that produced peer-reviewed work accepted for ICA conference presentation. These include a research team headed by Assistant Professor Stephanie Tong, Ph.D., that investigates broadly individual responses to computer-mediated communication – specifically online dating – and included doctoral students Elena Corriero, Rob Matheny, Annisa Rochadiat, and Kunto Wibowo. Communication master’s students involved in the project include Rachelle Prince, Allison Elam and Will Cooper.

A research project led by Eckert focused on how Muslims in Detroit represent themselves in an online environment. The team included doctoral students Jade Metzger, Holly Reiss, Sean Kolhoff and Sydney O’Shea Wallace, plus master’s students Fatima Ibrahim and Savannah Lee.

FACULTY BRIEFS | CONTINUED


Kelly Young

Lee Wilkins

Fred Vultee

Peer for three
Alicia Nails, J.D.; Shelly Najor, Ph.D.; and Colleen Ezzeddine, Ph.D., each spearheaded a successful learning community proposal for the next academic year.

The communication department submitted three proposals, and all were funded. According to the award letters, there were $1 million in requests but only $500,000 in funding.
DOCTORAL STUDENTS
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- Receive teaching and research support
- Work in our dedicated qualitative and quantitative research labs

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Associate Professor
Donyale Padgett
Associate Professor
Kat Maguire
Associate Professor
Julie Novak
Associate Professor
Fred Vuitoe
Director of Graduate Studies

Assistant Professor
Kelly Jakes
Assistant Professor
Anita Mixon
Professor and Dean
Matt Seeger
Professor and chair
Lee Wilkins

Earn your graduate degree in communication at Wayne State University

The Ph.D. program at Detroit’s Wayne State University spans the field, from interpersonal to mass communication, and included rhetorical and critical approaches to communication. The program provides theoretical and applied instruction, with opportunities to teach and do research with talented faculty in a diverse, urban community. Students develop plans of work that fit their individual needs and interests. Master’s applications are accepted for winter and fall semesters. Doctoral applications are due by January 15, 2018.

After more than four decades of scholarship, feminist rhetorical studies has produced a variety of controlling narratives about the role of rhetoric in feminist movements, feminist progress and feminist activism. This seminar will focus on uncovering marginalized voices, overlooked texts and untold stories with the goal of consideration and reflection of what has been left out of this body of work—from oratory to mediated digital content.

Guest Scholar Bonnie Dow
Vanderbilt University

No registration fee. Attendees also receive: Paid travel, Paid lodging, Paid meals. Contact Kelly Jakes at kelly.jakes@wayne.edu.