

WORD ON THE STREET

The Department of Communication's Monthly Newsletter



Welcome Back, Warriors!

The annual Welcome Back Lunch was held on Tuesday, August 27th, 2019. During the event, the Department of Communication gives awards to our wonderful graduate students and faculty.

This year's winners are as follows:

Graduate Student Research Award: Sydney Wallace

Graduate Student Service Award: Sarah Walker

Graduate Student Teaching Award: Scott Burgess

Inspire Award Teaching and Mentoring Excellence: Denise Vultee

Bernard Brock Award: Stine Eckert

Word from the Chair

Faculty & Staff Updates

Alumni & Student Updates

Program Updates

A Word From the Chair



Welcome back to a new year! I'm excited to have everyone back! As I reflect over my first year as chair, and ALL that is happening in the world, I am continually convinced that we have an important role as active participants in these larger conversations. We live in a world of messages. And all of you—our wonderful students, faculty, and staff—thrive in this world, as you guide students (and each other), through their academic journey, create films and documentaries screened at festivals around the country, win national competitions in speech and debate, land high profile internships and jobs at prestigious public relations firms and journalistic organizations, and conduct award-winning research on important communication topics. I am proud to be chair in this dynamic and diverse department where what we do helps to shape the future of Detroit, our profession, and our community.

Q & A

Inquiring minds want to know...why it is difficult to see student information on Canvas courses from previous semesters?

Thus, I emailed Nathan Chavez, Associate Director, Academic Applications, with C&IT, Here is what he said: "at the end of the term a course will "conclude" which will put the course in a "read-only" status. This will allow both the instructor and student to access the course but it will be "locked" and cannot be edited.

To see concluded courses, you will need to login to Canvas and then click Courses > All Courses. Scroll down and you will see an area for concluded courses. If you do run into a situation where you need to keep the course open for longer (such as an incomplete), we can extend the course length at any time, just contact lmsadmin@wayne.edu and they can make the change for you. As it is configured now, the courses do not go into "concluded" status until about 45 days after the end of the semester."

Our Dean, **Matt Seeger** has had a busy summer with collaboration, with a few publications that feature our own students and alums!

- Communication in Times of Trouble by Matthew W. Seeger (Author), Timothy L. Sellnow (Author) Wiley Blackwell"
- Social Media Use, Information, and the Flint, Michigan Water Crisis" with **Dr. Ashleigh Day, Sydney Wallace** and Dr. Shawn McElmurry was accepted for publication in Communication Studies.
- "Mortality Reporting and Rumor Generation: An Assessment of Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication following Hurricane María in Puerto Rico" was accepted by the Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research. The research team included several faculty from Department of Prevention and Community HealthMilken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

Faculty Updates

Kelly Young was busy during the Democratic Debates at the Fox Theater on July 30th. He was on WWJ radio for 3 hours doing comments at the top, middle, and bottom of each hour about the first night of the debates. Dr. Young also provided commentary for the Free Press on both the first and second night of the debates. He was also recently featured on a YouTube video about assessment—he's everywhere!



Hayg Oshagan was approached by the Michigan Non-Profit Association (MNA) to partner with them on their statewide work on the Census. The MNA is leading the effort in fundraising and planning for the Census for MI. The \$5 million that the Governor raised for the Census was mostly handed to the MNA to use. Dr. Oshagan is helping the City of Detroit, Detroit City Council, Wayne County, and the MNA on the Census as a member of their Complete Count Committees. Indeed, the Governor recently appointed him to the Statewide Complete Count Committee!



For the MNA, he is in charge of the entire media strategy for reaching the hard to count minority population, which includes understanding where low response rates are, understanding minority communities and their particular issues with the Census, crafting the appropriate appeal, then delivering it through the appropriate sources and channels. As part of this effort, he organized three minority media summits to enable a conversation on these issues: one in Detroit at WSU (photo attached), one in Grand Rapids at GVSU, and one in Gaylord where he met with representatives from Native tribes.

Faculty/Staff Updates



Rahul Mitra continues to make his mark as an engaged scholar. He recently represented his #DetroitWaterStories at the Global Health, Justice and the Environment conference held at Wayne State University on September 10 and 11, 2019, presenting a talk entitled, Naturalizing Environmental Injustice: How Privileged Residents Make Sense of Detroit's Water Shutoffs.



Shelly Najor was promoted to Senior Lecturer! Once again, Shelly Najor is the recipient of a Ford Motor Company Fund award, which will help support students in her COM 5160 class at Macomb as they engage in service learning.



In August, **Brandon Hensley's** newest book, *Critical Storytelling in Urban Education* (Brill/Sense Publishers) was published, the fourth volume in Brandon Hensley's and Dr. Nicholas Hartlep's *Critical Storytelling* book series with Brill. The volume features work from undergraduate students at Wayne and graduate students: **Zalika Aniapam**, **DeJanay Booth**, and **Allyson Webb** in the M.A. program in Communication. More information can be found at <https://brill.com/view/title/56214>)

Rosie Jahng will be a featured panelist at the upcoming "Fighting Fake News" event, presented by PRSA Detroit.

HOSTED AND SPONSORED BY BEAUMONT HEALTH

Fighting Fake News: The New Norm of PR Practitioners as Ethics Counselors

Beaumont

Wednesday, September 18
6:00-8:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Beaumont Health
2900 Beaumont Blvd
Southfield, MI 48033

\$20 for members
\$30 for nonmembers

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Nancy Skidmore
(248) 545-6499
nscidmore@earthlink.net

REGISTER TODAY!
www.prsadetroit.org

Detroit Chapter
PRSA
Public Relations Society of America

"Explore the wranglings and worries of PR ethics counselors."
Fake news is a crisis to the entire profession. Findings from a study of public relations practitioners by Dr. Rosie Jahng suggest that an online survey of public relations practitioners suggests that those who strongly identify as ethics counselors for their organizations are more likely to address and respond to fake news. While it used to be a matter of individual or organizational ethical orientation, ethics counsel is now a necessary public relations strategy.

The study was funded by the Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication as one of the 2019 Page Scholar grant and was co-authored with Dr. Stephanie Lee, Cleveland University.

PANELISTS:

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| Karal Dawesert Vice President Steelecomm | Mary T. Henke, APR, Fellow PRSA Fellow PRSA, Founder & Chief Consultant, Magisela Communications, LLC |
| R. Andrew Heist, APR Vice President Corporate Communications Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan | Rosie Jahng, PhD Assistant Professor Department of Communication Wayne State University |

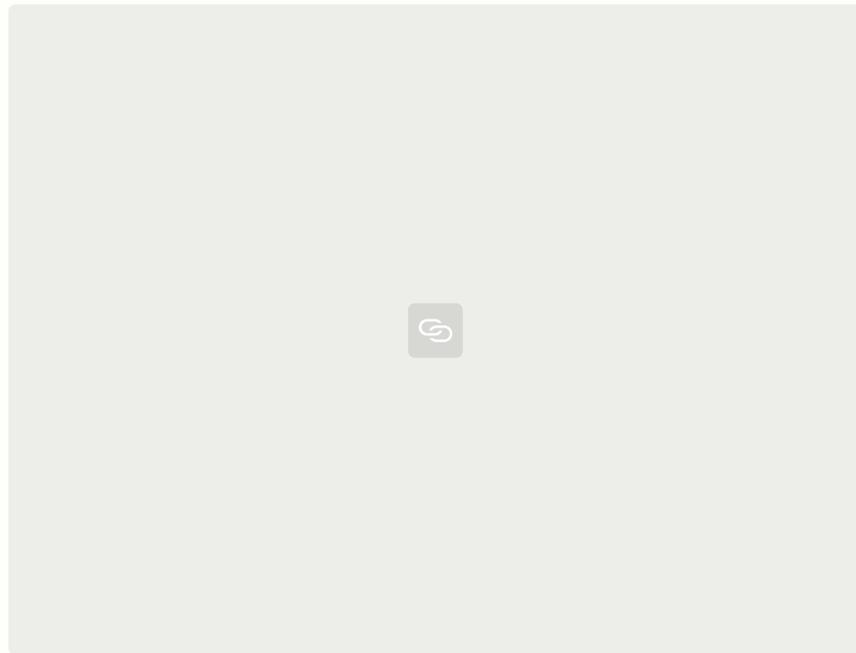


Faculty/Staff Updates

Over the summer, 21 Iraqi college students came to Wayne State for the Iraq Young Leaders Exchange Program, co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and the U.S. Department of State. During the three week program, the students work with experts in the field on leadership and communication skills. Long time PTF

Colleen Ezzeddine worked with the students on a storytelling project where they created a podcast that told a personal story from their own life.

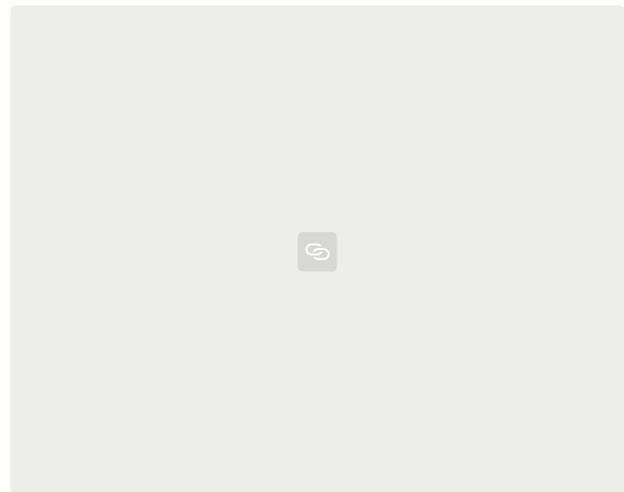
WSU student **Bailee Soper**, President of WAYN radio, helped with the course as well, sharing delivery tips for podcasting.



Juanita Anderson was promoted Senior Lecturer and credited as Field Producer of episode two of the three-part television series Family Pictures USA, which premiered nationally Aug. 12-13 on PBS. Anderson managed production logistics and conducted interviews with more than 30 participants for the broadcast and trans media content of the project. She also garnered work for a number of former and current MAS students on the project which conducted principal photography in Detroit during June-July of 2017 and returned for pickups in April 2019.

Alum and current students who received their first national broadcast credits on Family Pictures U.S.A include: D.I.T. Christopher Jakab, Photographer and Production Assistant- **Ryan Clancy**; Additional Photography **Chelsea Washington**; Production Assistants **Shariay Gant, Gus Navarro, Reilly Weed, and Milsa Wheeler**; and interns **Esther Diaz, Samantha Menino and Kyle O'Neil**.

Juanita also co-authored a chapter in COLLECTIVE WISDOM: Co-Creating Media within Communities, across Disciplines and with Algorithms, published online by M.I.T. Press June,11, 2019



Faculty/Staff Updates

Congratulations to Stine Eckert and the whole WHO research team, whose publication, "Health-Related Disaster Communication and Social Media: Mixed-Method Systematic Review", was selected by The Global Emergency Medicine Literature Review (GEMLR) as one of the top global emergency medicine articles of 2018. Stine was also awarded the 2019 Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship and the 2019 Top Paper Award by the Commission on the Status of Women of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Media, as well as the Department of Communication's 2019 Bernard Brock Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Communication.



AND...for the coming academic year, she is a Resident Scholar in the Humanities Center where she will work on her project, Resident Scholar for the Humanities Center for project, entitled "#MeToo as news framing? Academic sexual misconduct in US media coverage"

Following up on an evidence synthesis project with the World Health Organization, **Pradeep Sopory (PI) and Julie Novak (CoPI)** will conduct a similar project for the National Academies of Sciences. The project is titled Qualitative Evidence Synthesis for the Committee on Evidence-Based Practices for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) and will be done 2019-2020.

We are so pleased to announce that Rahul Mitra and Elizabeth Stoycheff were promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure in May 2019!

And in June 2019, four of our wonderful faculty were promoted to Senior Lecturer: Juanita Anderson, Jane Fitzgibbon, Karen McDevitt, and Shelly Najor.

Faculty/Staff Updates



Michael Fuhlhage had an amazing summer, as his book, *Yankee Reporters and Southern Secrets: Journalism, Open Source Intelligence, and the Coming of the Civil War* was published by Peter Lang. He has been invited to speak about the book at the Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in November, and a guest spot promoting the book on the Journalism History podcast is in the works. Dr. Fuhlhage will also be a Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center this year, working on his project, entitled “Gazing across the border: ‘Othering’ of Latina/os in the nineteenth century Anglo American press”.

The Fuhlhage Research Gang has also had a busy summer. Doctoral student Keena Neal presented a Research Gang collaboration between her, Fuhlhage, and M.A. student Jalisa Patrick on a 1949 Wayne University journalism alumnus who desegregated the St. Petersburg Times and was the first African American reporter on a mainstream metro newspaper in the South. The paper’s title is “Highways to Hope: Samuel L. Adams’ Investigation into Public Accommodations Compliance Under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.” Fuhlhage and graduate students Keena Neal, Darryl Frazier, and Carmen Nesbitt also learned that their paper “The Cruel Pangs of Slavery: Fugitives in the North Star and Michigan Anti-Slavery Society” work has been accepted for presentation at the American Journalism Historians Association in October in Dallas. Fuhlhage will also present research in progress on “George N. Sanders: Confederate Propagandist and Undercover Operative” at AJHA.

REMINDER:

**Early Academic Assessment
(EAA) Grading:**

September 11, 2019 through
October 15, 2019

<http://reg.wayne.edu/faculty/eaap>
hp

Program Updates

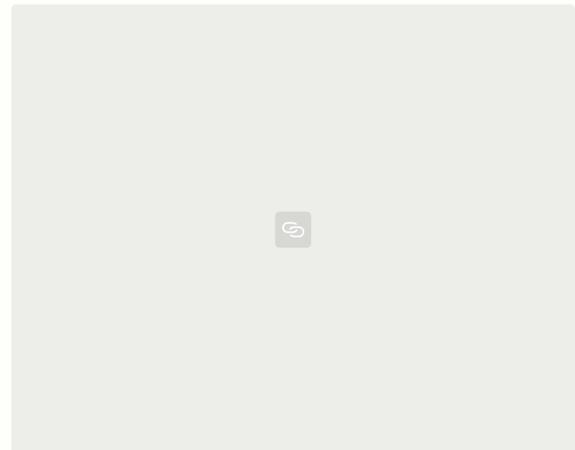
The WSU Film & Media Group have been hard at work this past year, creating a network for individuals interested in pursuing a career in Filmmaking. With the steady growth over the past several years of the Film and Media Arts programs at Wayne State, the Film & Media Group offers extracurricular options and additional experience in various aspects of filmmaking for these students. Meeting on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 at the Media Arts Equipment Room in Old Main (Room 4130), the group offers a community of like-minded students who work together on a variety of projects. Collaboration is key in the field of film and media, and the group offers a chance to connect the future filmmaking teams of tomorrow!

Besides creating a network for filmmakers to discuss ideas and brainstorm ideas and explore plans for projects, the group also collaborates to produce short films. Their film “Blood Makes the Grass Grow” is in Post-Production with plans for a fall release. They are currently looking to members for ideas for their next project.

The Journalism program is preparing for several notable events this semester. The Society for Features Journalism’s national conference is coming up Thursday, 9/19 – Friday, 9/20 on campus. Kelley Carter from ESPN’s The Undeclared will give the keynote address. A Statewide forum on FOIA (the Freedom of Information Act) is coming up Saturday, Oct. 12th. It’s sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, in conjunction with our department and college and the law school. Attorney General Dana Nessel is one of the speakers. This event is FREE to college students and SPJ members—all others it is \$15.

To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spj-detroit-foia-festival-tickets-70157945303>

And we’re gearing up for our annual Journalism and Communication Internship Fair and provider luncheon on Thursday, October 17th. Stay tuned...



Program assessment is critical to the success of our graduate and undergraduate programs. A big shout out goes to the teams of Jessica Greenwald, Kim Piper-Aiken, Elizabeth Stoycheff, and Sheila Tomkowiak (Journalism) and Jessica Greenwald, Rosie Jahng, and Shelly Najor (Public Relations) who were chosen by Cathy Barrette as “inspirational examples that model how to improve students’ learning and programs through data-informed decisions.”

Thank you all for your hard work!

Student Updates



We send warm wishes to **Laura Bruns** and her partner, Nick, who married in August! Laura also went to Alaska and won the GEOC's Teaching Award!



Our best wishes go out to **Ariel Seay** and her partner, Kirk, who will be getting married on September 14th, 2019.



Congratulations go out to **Clara Martucci** whose paper, "From Representation to Networking: Enhancing Federal Agencies' Administrative Power and Public Support through Social Media Practices", was chosen as the Top Graduate Student Paper at the 83rd Ohio Communication Association Conference, which will be held in Cincinnati on October 4th and 5th.

Alumni Updates

Recent MA graduate, **Iman Saleh**, premiered a trailer for their project, "Not For Profit" a dark comedy about Arab women being bosses at a nonprofit, at the Arab American National Museum on Sept 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Josh Guitar's paper submission to the upcoming annual meeting of the National Communication Association will be featured on the Top Paper panel of the Political Communication division. Congratulations!

In Memorium

We are saddened by the sudden passing of **Erin Perry's father**, Eric Lydell Hill. The memorial service was held on August 17, 2019. Erin crafted a moving tribute to her dad on her Facebook page, expressing the difficulty of losing her father. It is, indeed, a terrible club to join.



We are also saddened that **Lara Hrycaj's brother**, Nick, passed away after a long battle with cancer. The celebration of this life was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness in Florida Wednesday September 11, 2019 at 11am. Nick is preceded in death by his mother, Judith. Cards of condolences can be sent to Lara at: 2800 Hubbard St. Dearborn, MI 48124. Anyone that wants to make a donation in his honor can do so to the American Cancer Society.

