Welcome Colaner and Warner

By Melody Galen

This fall, with the building renovation, there are many new things to get used to for nearly everyone in the communication department, but for assistant professors Colleen Colaner and Ben Warner, everything about the department is new. Colaner arrived in Columbia in time to teach a class over the summer, but for Warner, he didn’t get here until the beginning of August.

Family Communication

Colaner hails from Ohio originally, and she did her master’s in communication at Wake Forest University and her doctorate in communication at University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Her research specialty is how parents and children communicate in ways that help them understand their personal, social, and family identities. She is especially interested in adoptive families, looking at how parents talk to their children about their adoption in ways that help them understand what it means to be an adopted child.

“You’re a family member here, but you have genetic relations there,” and I look at how parents help construct that for a child, Colaner says. “In the future, I want to take that into the adoption triad, including adopted parent, adopted child, and birth parents.”

She explains that open adoptions are the norm now, as opposed to the days when a birth parent’s name was sealed by the court as a matter of course. Even so, there is still not a lot of guidance on how adoptive parents should communicate with the birth family. An e-mail and photos sent a couple times a year might suffice for some families, but the spectrum also includes those who have regular visits and interactions between birth and adoptive family members.

In the seminar she teaches on understudied and discourse-dependent families, Colaner has spent a couple weeks with her students just coming up with a working definition of family, because, she says, “traditional” families hardly exist anymore. Over the next several weeks, the class will discuss same-sex families, the adoption triad, foster care, and voluntary families — think of the last time you heard someone say, “Oh, he’s like a father to me,” or “They’re just like family.” That is an example of a voluntary family. And all those discourse-dependent families use communication to understand how they’re related to one another.

A Tree Grows in Columbia

It could go without saying that MU is a beautiful campus, and Colaner certainly appreciates the gorgeous building she’s landed in, but one of the things she appreciates most about Columbia is the trees. “It’s nice to see trees again!” she says. “In Nebraska — it’s a prairie state — there are no indigenous trees, they’re all planted.” She should really enjoy the ice sparkling in all the trees when Columbia gets its first ice storm this winter.

Colaner and her husband have a daughter who is almost two, who keeps her mom and dad in a state of awe as they watch her running (literally) and growing in leaps and bounds. She has recently discovered coloring, which will be helpful, because Mom needs a few more decorations for her new office.

Continues on Page 3
Dear alums, friends, and colleagues,

I can’t begin to tell you how wonderful it is to be back in Switzler — the newly renovated, oldest continuously used university classroom building west of the Mississippi. I have given many private tours these past few weeks, but the one that was most fun was watching former office staffers Mo Kramer and Michelle Towns, and former faculty member Joe Wolfe, as they turned each corner and saw something new and shiny. They were flabbergasted and very pleased for us; but there was also a hint of forlorn nostalgia that the old Switzler is gone forever. There is no resemblance to the old left inside the building. The building is beautiful, clean, and energy efficient. And the folks still here are loving it!

As I was reviewing the names of those who would receive this mailing, I had many flashbacks to former students. Names came back to me that I hadn’t thought of for years. And I began to realize that I have had the honor and privilege of teaching thousands of students during that time, and I’m pleased to be reconnecting with all of you. We want to know where you are and what you have done with your life and your education. So please take some time to reconnect.

We are thrilled to welcome two new faculty members to the department this year: Ben Warner and Colleen Colaner. They are already pitching in and proving to be vital members of the faculty. They join nine remaining tenure-track faculty, including our new hire from 2010, Brian Houston. We are growing — but two steps forward, one step back. While we’ve gained at least one new faculty member in the past three years, we have also lost one per year for the past four years. In 2008, Mary-Jeanette Smythe decided it was time to retire; in 2009, Bill Benoit joined his wife, Pam, at Ohio State University; in 2010 Michael Kramer took the chair’s position at the University of Oklahoma; and this past summer, Loreen Olson moved to University of North Carolina at Greensboro. But this year with two new hires, we have a grand total of 11 tenured/tenure-track faculty.

Our program is thriving. We have great students at both the undergraduate and graduate level. We have 30 active graduate students who teach various courses for us. As our students pass their comprehensive exams, they are given the opportunity to teach an advanced course for undergrads, so they leave here with significant teaching experience. Many of our graduate students are also members of different research teams, led by one or more of the faculty. These teams produce interesting publications and presentations at national and regional conventions. We have a truly collaborative graduate program.

At the undergraduate level, we continue to restrict admission to the program, accepting students twice a year. We have two active undergraduate organizations that have become the focal point for our students — i-comm, a group for communication majors interested in learning more about their possible career options; and Lambda Pi Eta.

We couldn’t handle the demands of these groups were it not for our dedicated graduate students who supervise both of these groups.

We have so many goals that we would like to reach. We want to increase the use of our internship program among our undergrads, and we want to refine and update the undergraduate curriculum. For our graduate students, we hope to increase our funding for travel opportunities and help them with their research expenses. We need to update our computers in the research lab. I’d like to provide research assistance for faculty and help them with their research and travel expenses.

This is where you can help. Any contribution you can make to any of our funds would be of great help. We’ve included an envelope so you can let us know where you are and what you’re doing, and, if you can, send a contribution to a fund: Opportunities for Excellence for Undergraduate Education, The Rebecca Verser Faculty and Alumni Graduate Student Support Fund (travel, research assistance), the Loren Reid Opportunities for Excellence Endowment, and the Chair’s Fund.

I hope you enjoy reading about what’s going on here in Switzler Hall. Please drop us a line to portermj@missouri.edu or visit our Web site at communication.missouri.edu to learn more about the department. By all means, drop in to see us when you’re in town. If you plan ahead, come speak to our students about your experiences and career path, but most of all — stay in touch! We want to hear from you! You are an important part of our communication department family!

Best wishes,
Michaeł J. Porter

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**Blog-edy, Blog, Blog**

Department of Communication alumni might like to check out The Mizzou Comm Grad Scholar at mucomgrads.wordpress.com/, a source of information for grad students in the Dept of Communication. Weekly posts provide Mizzou communication graduate students with information addressing professional and career development, research, and grad student life.
Who Are Our Seniors?
The department shares some results of a survey of 2011 seniors

By Michael Porter

This past year, we sent our graduating seniors a survey to help us understand their perceptions of their experiences as communication majors. Here are some of the more interesting and relevant facts from that survey.

Nearly half of our students had an internship experience. One-third plan to attend graduate or law school.

Sixty percent also have a minor (most popular were business, psychology, sociology, Spanish, political science, and history).

Ninety percent of our majors are glad they selected communication as their major.

They sing high praise for the quality of teaching in the department — 92 percent rate it as excellent or very good.

When asked to list three of their favorite courses, 24 different courses were included. That is virtually every course we teach. Amazing. Just to name a few: the five most popular courses were TV Criticism, Senior Capstone, Media in Society, Relational Communication, and Family Communication.

We also asked them to list a theory or concept they learned that excited them. Thirty different theories were listed, including third-person effect, accommodation theory, agenda setting, diffusion of innovation, framing, cultivation, social learning, media theory, relational dialectics, social cognitive theories, and transactional theories.

We asked them to list their favorite instructors and every faculty member and teaching adjunct was listed, along with some of our senior-level graduate students.

Our students have a diverse set of career interests ranging from pharmaceutical sales to event planning. A large portion seek positions in media production, public relations, marketing, or sports management.

Welcome to Colaner & Warner

Continued from Page 1

Jayhawks in a Blur

Brace yourselves for it: Warner and his wife, Astrid Villamil, are both Jayhawks. Villamil also teaches in the communication department, and the couple met at that other school during their doctoral work. Change has been a constant for them lately. They are newlyweds, they completed their doctoral programs in May, they took new jobs and moved east down I-70, and they bought their first house.

“A lot of our free time is spent getting settled in. We just got married in May, so it’s been quite a blur,” he says.

When he began his job hunt, Warner had no idea where he would end up, but he did not look forward to leaving Lawrence, Kans. He enjoyed the excitement of living in a college town.

“It’s great to be in a college town, at a university where everybody wants to be there — it’s nobody’s back-up or plan B,” he says. “They came because they loved KU, and it’s really exciting to go somewhere that has that same culture and excitement.”

Jayhawk jokes aside, he says, “It’s sort of ironic that it’s the rival, but I think I’m really lucky because most people don’t get to go somewhere that has the same excitement as their PhD program.”

Measuring Extremism

Warner is from Utah, but he came to the Midwest to earn his master’s degree in communication from Missouri State University and his doctorate, also in communication, from the University of Kansas. His research in political communication concentrates on incivility in politics and political extremism. He studies what communication phenomena might generate more political attitude extremism: things like new technology, ideological blogs, cable TV, ideologically similar social groups, and interpersonal networks.

In addition to teaching two classes this semester, he’s putting the finishing touches on the first article he wants to send out from his dissertation, which is largely about measurement development. “I wanted to build a tool to measure political attitude extremism in people. There are a lot of ad hoc measurements that people use, but there’s no tested, unified measure to assess whether an individual has rather polarized, extremist political perspectives or fairly moderate perspectives,” Warner explains.

The survey he devised has 15 questions about various issues of controversy that perform well in identifying where people fit on the strength of ideology.

With graduating, weddings, moving, and teaching, Warner says that he and Villamil are looking forward to some of those free-time activities they’ve heard so much about. They love to travel, especially to big cities, and they have their sights set on a trip to Buenos Aires. But in the meantime, he’s happy to occasionally collapse on the couch in front of the TV.
Back Where We Belong
Communication makes a longed-for homecoming to fresh quarters

By Laura Lindsey
The Department of Communication’s home, Switzer Hall received a $7-million facelift and debuted its new look when classes started this fall. The oldest academic building on campus was gutted and outfitted with new mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems, along with new fire and security systems. The end result, however, is not a flashy building that would be featured in Architectural Digest, but rather one that is more functional, bigger, and more efficient than the previous structure.

“We love the new building,” says Michael Porter, chair of the department. “When we look at pictures taken before we left the ‘old’ Switzer we can’t believe how this building used to look.”

Improving upon the Past

Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor for facilities at the university, said that in most circumstances, the best approach would have been to tear down the building, but he claimed that was never an option.

“This is Mizzou,” he says. “We have to preserve the iconic structures we have.”

The university takes pride in preserving its history, but there are buildings in dire need of renovation. To address these needs, Ward saw an opportunity to establish a new model based on sustainability and financial stewardship that will guide future renovations.

“We’re fortunate to be able to make outdated buildings new again by addressing critical repairs while renovating spaces for today’s technologies and educational needs,” says Ward.

From the beginning of the planning process to the end of the project, cost effectiveness was the main focus. Architects’ qualifications were submitted electronically, which resulted in lower costs of preparing the proposals and shortened to two weeks a selection process that typically takes nine months.

When deciding how to put the finishing touches on the building, Ward thought like a taxpayer, so he chose the same color and design scheme for both Switzer and Tate Hall, the home of the Department of English, which was also being renovated at the same time. Simple building materials that could be purchased locally were used, and light fixtures, columns, emergency exit signs, and other items in good condition were re-used. The same windows were re-installed because they were just replaced in 2000. All of this resulted in significant cost savings.

Construction manager Robert Young says that the renovation of Switzer Hall involved, “building a building inside of a building.” The project required tearing out every wood floor, joist, beam, and interior wall. Once the building was gutted, a system had to be put into place to preserve the exterior walls. Until the concrete floors and supporting columns could be installed, the building was held together by a complex system of cables, braces, and struts that created a balance system so the walls would not fall outward. The planning for the system — how strong, how many braces, and where they would be placed — happened before the demolition even began. By the time they were ready to install them, it didn’t take long because of the advance preparation.

Cast-iron columns from the original construction were found buried within the walls and, because of their great condition, are now on display in the new foyer. This time, however, they aren’t being used as a support system, but as decoration only.

“It was a way for us to tie the old in with the new,” says Young.

Continues on Page 7
Autumn 2011

Undergraduate Program

By Elaine L. Davies
We have had a very active chapter of Lambda Pi Eta this past year, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead. MU became the Chi Beta chapter in 2007, and over the years has graduated over 175 alumni who were Lambda Pi Eta members. This is the highest honor awarded to the top undergraduate students in the communication department by the National Communication Association.

This year’s officers are: Kamaria Morris, president; Melanie Barnes, vice president; Rick Hemme, treasurer; Alison Jones, membership chair; Morgan McCleery, public relationship chair; Alyssa Calhoun, secretary; Elaine L. Davies, senior adviser; and Angela Gist, adviser intern.

Undergraduate Awards
The department honors its outstanding graduating seniors with five distinguished awards. Four of the awards are named after beloved professors who taught for the department for many years and reflects the professional focus of their careers. This is one way to keep their names alive among our students.

Barton Griffith Award
Awarded to an outstanding senior with strong leadership skills and creative use of new technologies for educational purposes. Griffith was a member of the faculty from 1957 to 1991.
   2009 - Aubrie Beyselance
   2010 - Dominick Lee
   2011 - Dana Baniak

G. Joseph Wolfe Award
Awarded to an outstanding senior seeking a career in television production. Wolfe was a member of the faculty from 1967 to 1997.
   2009 - Megan Kuryla
   2010 - Kelly Smith
   2011 - Randy Prywitch

Outstanding Senior Award
Awarded to one or two seniors who are recognized as stellar students.
   2009 - Peter Malnati
   2010 - Andrew Stewart
   2010 - Holly Ecko
   2011 - Vincent Manning

Mary-Jeanette Smythe Award
Awarded to an outstanding senior in the field of interpersonal communication with a focus on gender and communication, this award was initiated in spring 2011. Smythe was a member of the faculty from 1973 to 2008.
   2011 - Natalie Plassmeyer

Loren Reid Award
This award is presented to the team of students who produces the most professional final presentation for the senior capstone course. Reid was a faculty member from 1935 to 1975.
   2009 - SHAG
     (instructor: Rebecca Meisenbach)
   2010 - Team Link
     (instructor: Rebecca Meisenbach)
   2011 - Tiger Team Consulting
     (instructor: Liz Baiocchi-Wagner)

A Gift of Art
By Michael Porter
The department recently received a most generous gift from local artist Kate Gray. She donated her painting of the original spiral stairs from the west end of the building.

The stairs were probably the most beloved part of the entire original building, and we all took much delight in climbing or coming down using the “back” steps. With the renovation of Switzler Hall, the most unique and graceful stairs on campus were destroyed, although the theater department was able to salvage the spindles and some of the banister to be used in future productions.

Gray had read that the building was re-opened and wondered if we would like to have her painting of the stairs. “Blue Stair2” is 32 x 46 inches, and we have hung it in a prominent spot in the main office for all to appreciate. She teaches art at Stephens College and is a member of the Columbia Art League and a past winner of the Missouri Watercolor Society Members Invitational Show.

The following was written by Lynn Israel about Gray’s work and appeared in an article in the Columbia Daily Tribune: “Most artists learn to use light — even love light — but watercolorist Kate Gray seems to have peeled back some of light’s mysteries by enveloping it and embracing it with nuances of color form, and even words bringing to her work an appreciation of the magic of time, place and circumstance.”
Read the feature story on Colleen Colamer and Ben Warner, the two newest faculty members of the department, on Page 1.

Jennifer Stevens Aubrey was just promoted to associate professor with tenure and is very relieved to have reached that career milestone. She continues developing her research program on media effects on young peoples’ body images and sexual socialization. Her recent projects include an examination of the role of popular media in creating and reinforcing scripts about “hooking up,” the appeal of Twilight (yes, those sparkly vampires) to both teenaged and adult female fans, and the impact of MTV’s *16 and Pregnant* on adolescents’ attitudes about teen pregnancy.

**Assistant Professor Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz** is focusing her research on media communication in relation to gender, race, and sexuality. Her current work examines the effects of gender and racial/ethnic representations in video games, avatar identity, and communication in virtual worlds. She is also interested in the potential for virtual communities to produce prosocial outcomes. Behm-Morawitz was recently recognized by the university for her excellence in teaching with technologies.

Melissa Click, assistant professor, has had an exciting few years: Her book on *Twilight*, co-edited with Behm-Morawitz and Aubrey, was published in May 2010, and she gave birth to twin daughters the following month. She has also published articles on food politics, Martha Stewart, and reality TV, and has been blogging on collaborative media blogs begun at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Texas. She is working on projects about HBO’s *Entourage*, TLC’s *Extreme Couponing*, and online fans. Click won the Provost’s Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award in May 2010. She loves her new office in Switzler — come visit!

**Associate Professor Debbie Dougherty** has had a busy year. She completed her book, *The Reluctant Farmer: An Exploration of Work, Social Class, and the Production of Food*. Shortly after its publication, her third child, Freya Dougherty Clark was born. Big sister Fionna, 13, adores her little sister, although big brother Finnian, 9, thinks Freya is kind of annoying. This year Dougherty is on research leave during which she will be reading interdisciplinary works on social class.

**Colin Hesse**, assistant professor, is excited to enter his third year at Mizzou with a research program focusing on emotions, affection, and the links between communication and physiological health. He teaches courses in family communication and research methods. His current projects include looking at brain images of individuals viewing affection, researching how emotional competence relates to both relationship maintenance and privacy management, and seeing whether affectionate communication can potentially help pain tolerance for individuals diagnosed with fibromyalgia. He is also in love with the new Switzler building.

**Associate Professor Mitchell S. McKinney** has many highlights to report, with perhaps his proudest achievement being the installation of a 42-inch HD TV in his beautiful new office overlooking the historic Columns and Francis Quadrangle. Of course, as he points out, this addition to his office is for research purposes only! McKinney serves as the department’s director of graduate studies, and he is also first vice president of the Central States Communication Association and is busy planning the association’s 2012 conference to be held in Cleveland, March 28–31 (y’all come, now!). During the past year, his research on the 2008 presidential campaign appeared in *Communication Studies and American Behavioral Scientist*; and his fifth book analyzing campaign communication was published: *Communication in the 2008 U.S. Election: Digital Natives Elect a President*, co-edited with Mary C. Banwart of the University of Kansas. In May, McKinney received the university’s Graduate Faculty Men-
Associate Professor Rebecca Meisenbach

When not trying to learn some new skill (cheesemaking, yoga, pottery), she has stayed busy in the field. In the past few years, three of her students' senior capstone projects have won awards, including one group (Hi, S.H.A.G.) that won a national communication campaign contest run by the Centers for Disease Control. In her own research she continues to examine intersections of identity, ethics, and gender. Recent work has focused on developing a stigma management communication model, understanding the gendered identity negotiations of female breadwinners and investigating working mothers' experiences managing maternity leaves and the return to paid work. She also has been working with the student health center to develop an interactive Web site focusing on issues of sexual health and stigma communication (shealth.missouri.edu). Two of her recent articles won article-of-the-year distinctions, and she has been appointed as the managing director of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. To celebrate her fifth wedding anniversary, she and her husband, Pete, traveled to Alaska this past summer. While buying smoked salmon in Ketchikan, Meisenbach was happy to find that she had been promoted and tenured.

Leah A. Rosenberg, visiting assistant professor, holds a joint teaching position with the communication and the sociology departments. Her research interests are on audience interpretation and meaning-making strategies in connection to television viewing with an emphasis on the formation of collective and individual memory. Her focus is on how audiences make sense of fictional and non-fictional representations of American tragedies such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Columbine shootings, and the September 11 attack, to name but a few.

Visiting assistant professor Astrid Villamil's research lies at the intersection of intercultural and organizational communication. She studies diversity initiatives, policy development, and other strategies that involve non-dominant groups in different applied contexts. She also works with a grant team that brings college women from countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia to the Midwest every summer as an initiative to promote goodwill between these countries and the U.S.

Back Where We Belong

Continued from Page 4

An 8,000-square-foot addition was added to the building, which helped to create an additional four classrooms, 220 classroom seats, and 11 offices. Some of the extra classrooms include the original exterior brick walls, leaving an aesthetically pleasing, historical feel to the rooms. The building will also include an accessible grade-level entry, an elevator, a staircase enclosure, and it meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The new building allows us to focus on what's important without the distractions of a building that was falling apart before our very eyes," says Porter. "It's the basics — central air conditioning that works, hot water in the bathrooms, classrooms with state-of-the-art technology installed, and office space for faculty and graduate students — that allow us to do our work in comfort and quiet."

Low-interest bonds funded the renovations, and these will be paid with money that was originally intended for the building's maintenance and repair.

"The building will be a major plus when we're recruiting prospective graduate students, undergrads, and faculty," says Porter. "Who wouldn't want to work in such a beautiful setting, with great research space, classrooms, seminar rooms, and offices?"

The recovered columns as they appear in the entryway today, and, left, after being uncovered during construction.
Tiffany Anderson, BA ’01, is the assistant director of Central Buying Division at the University of Missouri.

Greg Armfield, PhD ’04, on faculty at New Mexico State University, has co-written a book chapter called “Show Me the Numbers: Fantasy Sports and Media Dependency” for the upcoming book *Fandomonium: Explorations of Fan Power, Identity, and Socialization*.

Scott Bridgewater, BA ’83, is an engineering architect at National Public Radio and lives in Washington, D.C.

Susan Burchfield, BA ’81, MA ’82, is the research director at KDNL, ABC 30 in St. Louis.

Margaret Butcher, PhD ’02, is on the faculty at Keiser University in Wichita, Kans. She teaches online courses in conflict management, organizational communication, and intercultural communication. She also speaks to groups on empowerment through communication and the importance of cultural diversity.

Jackie Carter, BA ’09, is a publicist at OPIVU Cosmetics in San Francisco.

Roger Eschbacher, BA ’95, is a TV animation and live-action writer, author, and actor in Los Angeles. He wrote episodes for the new *Scooby Doo, Mystery Incorporated* series for Warner Brothers Animation, which airs on Cartoon Network.

Nicole Greenwood, MA ’97, became the chief of employee communication for Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs and then worked in media relations for a few years until she left active duty in 2000. She has had a very full career in public affairs and public relations in the Reserves. She is now the proud mother of two, and she lives with her family near Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Paul Gullifor, PhD ’88, is in his sixth year as chair of the Department of Communication at Bradley University. Last year he was named the Henry Means Pindell Endowed Chair in Communication.

Robert Hanczor, PhD ’95, is vice president at PayPlanner, Inc., an internet industry in San Diego.

Anna Hargis, MA ’95, won the Best of Show award for the audio/visual communication category at the annual Insurance Marketing and Communication Association Showcase awards in Toronto. Her winning entry, “Shelter’s Fun Stuff Boat Videos,” featured two videos that focused on educating consumers about the importance of boat insurance.

Tim Hulen, BA ’86, is a regional sales director at inTouch Technologies. He lives in Columbia, Mo.

Duane Lammers, BA ’83, is a consultant at Silver Point Capital in St. Louis. He has worked in sales, sales management, and station management for several broadcast properties; he worked for over 10 years for Nexstar Broadcasting Group as the chief operating officer. Today he is assisting several TV companies with their re-transmission consent contracts.

Amanda Marino, BA ’11, is a community relations manager for the Minor League Baseball Casper Ghosts.

John McGuire, PhD ’04, is the graduate coordinator for the School of Media and Strategic Communications at Oklahoma State University.

John McHale, PhD ’02, is on the faculty at Illinois State University and has had his textbook, *Mass Media Writing: Telling a Good Story Well*, published by Kendall Hunt publishers.

Jasna Meyer, PhD ’95, and her husband, Patrick, had their second child, Mia Zdenka McCarthy, on June 21. Her older daughter, Nasja, is overjoyed to finally have a sibling. Meyer is director of the communication program at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

Eric Morrison, BA ’98, is vice president for business development at Providence Bank in Columbia, Mo.

Mattie Neff, BA ’10, is a special events team representative at Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis.

Alexis Neuroth, BA ’08, is a promotions director at Media Professionals, Inc., in Springfield, Mo.

Owen Pillion, PhD ’07, teaches at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas and loves his interesting students, his colleagues, and the city.

Damon Romine, BA ’88, is the director of communications for the Screen Actors Guild Los Angeles. His team recently won four awards of excellence from the International Labor Communication Association.

Julie Scroggs, BA ’11, is a college adviser at Missouri College Advising Corps and is located in North Kansas City.

David Silverman, PhD ’04, is an assistant professor of communication arts and theater studies at Kansas Wesleyan University. He is the chair for the animation division of the national Popular Culture Association.

Andrea Smith, BA ’10, is a communication specialist at BJC HealthCare in St. Louis.

Rick Sparks, PhD ’01, is starting his 25th year of college teaching this fall as a professor of mass communication at North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C. He and Sandie, his wife, just celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

Kevin Stein, PhD ’05, was honored to present the Grace A. Tanner Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Sept. 13 at Southern Utah University. His lecture focused on analyzing apologetic situations over the past century.

Chris Stevens, BA ’91, is vice president of connectivity at Pure, a marketing and ad firm in Columbia, Mo. He continues on Page 11.
Graduate Achievement Award
This award is presented to the outstanding graduate student who demonstrates excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service.
  2009 - Katherine Denker
  2010 - Liz Baiocchi-Wagner
  2011 - Jenny Dixon

Graduate Research Award
This award is presented to a graduate student in recognition of superior research achievement.
  2009 - Liz Baiocchi Wagner
  2010 - Mark Glantz
  2011 - Jeffrey Delbert

Frank and Lila Gilman Memorial Fellowship
Presented to an outstanding graduate student in rhetoric and public address, this award was established by Wilbur Gilman in memory of his parents — Gilman was the first chair when the department was established in 1940.
  2009 - Scott Walus
  2010 - Jeffrey Delbert
  2011 - Lars Kristiansen

Loren Reid Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
The faculty selects two graduate teaching assistants who demonstrate excellence in teaching, inspire learning, practice creative thinking, and exhibit a generous spirit toward their students. Reid taught at the university from 1935 to 1975.
  2009 - Megan Hopper, Jeffrey Delbert
  2010 - Scott Smith, Jessica Kratzer
  2011 - Angela Gist, Ryan Montague

Outstanding Graduate Service
An outstanding graduate student who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide service to the department is selected by the faculty. This award was initiated in 2011.
  2011 - Rebekah Watson
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Dissertation Title &amp; Adviser</th>
<th>Placement/State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Baiocchi-Wagner</td>
<td>The Role of Family Communication in Individual Attitudes and Behaviors Concerning Nutrition and Physical Activity—Olson</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
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<td>Mark Glantz</td>
<td>Negative Political Advertising and the Charge of Inconsistency: The Rhetoric of “Flip-flop” Arguments—McKinney</td>
<td>Coker College/SC</td>
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<td>Jayne Henson</td>
<td>Assessing the Predictability of Election Victory from a Functional-theory Perspective—W. Benoit</td>
<td>University of Dayton/OH</td>
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<td>Megan Hopper</td>
<td>Bumping up the Body: Examining the Impact of Celebrity Gossip Magazines on Body Image During Pregnancy—Aubrey</td>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
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<td>Sacheen Mobley</td>
<td>Fragmented Whole: A Theory of Narrative and Identity—Olson</td>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
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<td>Joy Piazza</td>
<td>A Neo-Gramscian Communication Analysis of Structure and Agency in the Hegemonic Struggle for Meaning: Organic Retailer and Organic Activist Group—Dougherty</td>
<td>Missouri University of Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Siobhan Smith</td>
<td>“It’s Gonna Be some Drama!”: A Content-analytical Study of the Portrayals of African Americans and Historically Black Colleges and Universities on BET’s College Hill—Aubrey</td>
<td>University of Louisville/KY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Yang</td>
<td>An Expedition into the Unchartered Territory of Modern Chinese Men and Masculinities—Kramer</td>
<td>Valdosta State University/GA</td>
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<td>Lauren Brengarth</td>
<td>Nonprofits and New Media: How Do NPOs and their Employees Adopt and Use New Media to Communicate with and Influence their Community?—Behm-Morawitz</td>
<td>Colorado State University, Pueblo</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Delbert</td>
<td>Throw the Burns out: Anti-government Rhetoric in the 2010 Congressional Elections—McKinney</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Dixon</td>
<td>Ambiguity, Uncertainty, and Othering: A Queer Phenomenology of the Organizational Socialization of Sexuality—Dougherty</td>
<td>Marymount Manhattan College/NY</td>
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<td>Jessica Kratzer</td>
<td>“Behind Closed Doors”: A Feminist Analysis of Senior Citizen Sexual Communication—Olson</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<td>Steve Price</td>
<td>Exploring Audience Responses to Self-reflexivity in Television Narratives—Porter</td>
<td>Georgia College</td>
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<td>Rebekah Watson</td>
<td>Go USA . . . Go World: Nationalist and Internationalist Priming Effects Through Olympic Telecasts—McKinney/Aubrey</td>
<td>Grace College/IN</td>
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Greetings from the Advising Office!

My name is Alex Anderson, and I took over the department’s advising duties after Helen Atkinson retired in May 2010. Before that I earned my master’s degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from MU. I also received my bachelor’s in communication from Mizzou in 2008 and am thrilled to give back to the department and University by advising current undergraduate students.

We have a talented, diverse student population that is actively involved in all aspects of student life, so they certainly make my job easier. Our recent May graduates have gone on to work for public relations firms, Teach for America, TV and radio networks, non-profit organizations, graduate schools, and several other positions all over the world.

Current students interned this summer in public relations, sports management/marketing, studio production, Teach for America, and sales. As the MU student population continues to increase, we will continue to seek the best and brightest and to give them the knowledge they need to succeed.

LPE Helps Out

In October 2010, Lambda Pi Eta, Chi Beta Chapter (LPE), the communication undergraduate honors society at MU, raised over $2,000 in supplies for the Columbia Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri. Each year, LPE aids a worthy local organization by holding a supply drive to provide needed items. This year, it will be working for the Rainbow House on Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Walmart on Broadway (near Fairview) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rick Hemme, Elaine Davies, Rebecca Krase, Christopher Castro, Shannon Giles, and Angela Myers with supplies collected in last year’s drive.

Alumni News

Continued from Page 8

and his wife also own PS: Gallery, a fine art gallery in Columbia that showcases local, regional, and national artists.

Andrew Tucker, BA ’11, has started his own freelance production company called Tucker32 Productions in Saginaw, Mich.

Alex Vaenberg, BA ’11, is a creative team associate at Abstrakt Marketing Group in St. Louis.

Ken White, PhD ’01, is the executive director of marketing communications for the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. He is the acting assistant dean of development and alumni relations.

Annie Yang, PhD ’10, is a lecturer at Valdosta State University in Georgia, teaching courses in media ethics, media law, and public speaking.
Welcome 2011 Graduate Students!

In August, the department welcomed seven new graduate students.

**Amanda Edgar** — MA, University of Arkansas, area: mass media

**Ashton Gerding** — MA, University of Delaware, area: mass media

**Michael Halliwell** — MA, University of Cincinnati, area: organizational communication

**Joshua Hawthorne** — BA, University of Illinois, area: political communication

**Danielle Poynter** — MA, University of Cincinnati, area: interpersonal communication

**Sara Trask** — MA, University of Missouri–St. Louis, area: interpersonal communication

**Sarah Turner McGowen** — MA, Northeastern State University, area: mass media/political communication

Attending this year’s NCA convention or live in New Orleans?

Then come on down!

Please join the faculty and graduate students of the department for the annual reception at the NCA Convention

Friday, November 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Preservation Hall Studio 3
New Orleans Marriott

Hire One of Us!

Check out the outstanding MU communication PhDs and doctoral students who are on the job market this year at communication.missouri.edu/graduate/JobMarket.htm.

Alums, if your department is hiring, be sure to contact our grad students who might be a good fit for your available position.