

Kent State Communication Faculty Ranked 2nd in Nation

by **Daniel M. Duffy**

As identified in the June 1999 issue of *Communication Monographs*, the faculty in Kent State's School of Communication Studies were ranked second in the nation for their productivity. The article, entitled "The Status of Research Productivity in Communication: 1915-1995," also ranked four Kent State professors in the top 100 of active research professors in the country: Dr. Rebecca Rubin, Dr. Alan Rubin, Dr. Dominic Infante, and Dr. William Gorden.

The rankings were determined by compiling a total count of each author's research articles, as determined by those listed in the *Index to Journals in Communication Studies*. Then, a list of all the universities with at least two faculty members on the top 100 list was compiled.

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From the Director

Dr. Alan Rubin



This has been a very good year for the School of Communication Studies. Our enrollments are up and, judging from the very few complaints I have heard this year, student satisfaction seems to be high on many fronts. Our new curriculum—which is now in its second year—and student advising have been very effectively taught and delivered for another academic year.

The new curriculum provides three tracks in the undergraduate major—interpersonal, organizational and public communication. It has cornerstone and capstone experiences, which include web-based information and senior portfolios. We have bolstered the computer and digital resources of the Communication Instructional Resource Lab, an enterprise to further undergraduate student success.

Many of our faculty and graduate students have published and presented their work, and have actively participated in our communication societies. The faculty continues to be highly productive, as we build on the number two ranking in faculty productivity. Rebecca Rubin was recognized with the Distinguished Teacher Award from the Speech Communication Association of Ohio. She also was one of the first three recipients of the Graduate Student Association Mentorship Award. Janet Meyer also was selected for that award this year. Our two new faculty members—Nichole Egbert and Paul Haridakis—had their dissertations recognized by our professional organizations. Nichole's award was from the Health Communication Divisions of the International and National Communication Associations. Paul's award was from the Broadcast Education Association. Several faculty and graduate students also have received top-paper awards from various communication associations. We also have begun to build a direction in research grants and funding, securing a collaborative Research Challenge Grant from the Ohio Board of Regents

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Who's New

Dr. Janet Meyer

by Amy Cunningham

Dr. Janet Meyer, Ph.D., joined Kent State's staff in 1998. She was raised in Topeka, Kansas and is currently living in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Dr. Meyer's primary focus at Kent State University is interpersonal communication. She is currently teaching Advanced Interpersonal Communication and Communication Inquiry, as well as graduate courses in Non-verbal Communication, Persuasion, and Communication Theory. Dr. Meyer holds two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and a Ph.D. She earned her first bachelor's degree at

the University of Kansas and her second bachelor's degree at the University of Maine. She acquired her master's degree at Boston University in 1981. In 1989, Dr. Meyer earned her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Meyer has been educating students for nineteen years at various colleges. From 1981 through 1987 Dr. Meyer was a teaching assistant the University of Michigan. From there, she went to Kansas State University in Manhattan, where she had a one year appointment. During the next

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Dr. Paul Haridakis

by Nakia Smith

Dr. Paul Haridakis, who hails from Akron, Ohio, is a new assistant professor this year. Dr. Haridakis started his academic career at the University of Akron (we'll overlook that minor detail!), receiving a bachelor's degree in Communication and Rhetoric, and then a J.D., also from the University of Akron. After working for a while, he entered Kent State's graduate program and received his Ph.D. from Kent State University in Communication Studies in August 2000. Before becoming a professor at Kent State, Paul practiced law, representing companies in labor and employment

discrimination cases. He represented companies before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, National Labor Relations Board, and the Department of Labor.

So what attracted him to Kent State you ask? Dr. Haridakis said, "Kent is a tremendous place to work as a faculty member. The university emphasizes teaching and research—two activities I enjoy very much. I was drawn to the School of Communication Studies at Kent State, in particular, because of the faculty. There is a collaborative atmosphere among the faculty here. It makes

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Dr. Nichole Egbert

by Mike Lowe

Another new addition to the Communication Studies program is Dr. Nichole Egbert, who accepted the position of assistant professor last fall.

Nichole is an Ohio native, but her family moved around the Midwest a lot, eventually settling down near Chicago. When asked, Nichole stated that she is still a diehard Chicago Bulls fan. Just stop by her office and you will see the large cardboard cutout of Michael Jordan on the wall. She now lives in Cuyahoga Falls and enjoys watching basketball.

Nichole comes to Kent State bringing some very strong credentials. She received her

bachelor's degree in biology from Augustana College. From there, Nichole traveled to the University of Northern Iowa where she received her master's degree in Communication Studies.

With these two very different degrees under her belt, Nichole proceeded to the University of Georgia where she became a teaching assistant and began studies for her doctorate degree in Speech Communication, which she received in 2000. After hearing her describe her collegiate career, an obvious question arose: Why Communication Studies after receiving a degree in biology? She said that when she was a

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New Communication Undergraduate Major

by Jennifer Pfrogner

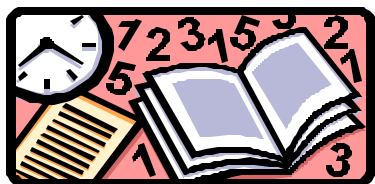
There's a new major at Kent State University. The School of Communication Studies has redesigned its undergraduate major. As of Fall 1999, students now are able to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies instead of Rhetoric and Communication. The coursework in the two programs is similar, but the new degree in Communication Studies is only 121 credit hours, whereas the former degree was 129.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies is designed to enable students to communicate on all levels of communication but also be prepared for a career in everything from the ministry to public relations. It is also a great starting point for students who hope to continue their education in graduate school. Graduate students obtain a Master of Arts or Doctor of Philosophy degrees and enter careers such as university teaching or organizational consulting.

Kent State's new program is divided into three tracks, which allow students to focus on a specific area in communication. Students can choose interpersonal, organizational or public communication. All three offer unique perspectives but still provide coverage of important theories and skills.

The three tracks are brought together by two new required courses: Foundations in Communication and Senior Seminar. Although the majority of the program is fairly flexible and left up to the students' choice, these two classes pull the entire program together. The foundations course acts as a starting point for the program, teaching writing, speaking, database searching, and Internet skills. The senior seminar then tops off the major by helping students summarize all major coursework by completing a senior thesis and putting together a portfolio of their work.

Overall, the degree in Communication Studies has been developed to help students gain an insightful perspective on the various areas of communication and incorporate those skills into useful strengths in the workplace. The new program offers many options and can be molded to the students' interests. They can find their strengths within the major and make it work for them in everyday life. ❖



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two years, she held one-year appointments at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, and at the University of Memphis. Before coming to Kent State University, she taught at the University of Miami in Florida.

Dr. Meyer says that she is adapting to Kent State well, but she would like to be spending more time on research. She enjoys the Ohio atmosphere and says, "I like Ohio a lot. I think the hills and valleys are beautiful."

Dr. Meyer stated that her teaching style has not changed since she has arrived at Kent State, but she did modify her technique at the University of Miami. Dr. Meyer transformed her teaching style to a more informal approach and has continued to use this method at Kent State. She summarized some aspects on her teaching philosophy: "I believe the students should understand what they are expected to know, so I provide a lot of guidance. I like to interact with the class, not just do straight lectures."

When asked what she has to offer Kent State University, Dr. Meyer replied, "The area that I am trying to research is relatively new in this department. I do research on the cognitive processes underlying message production. A cognitive process refers to the mental structures and processes in our heads. I am interested in how people formulate messages. I have been studying cognitive editing, which is how we decide that we shouldn't say something before we say it." Dr. Meyer has presented several top papers on the cognitive processes underlying message production at conventions and has published a number of articles on the same topic.

Dr. Janet Meyer appears to be enjoying Kent State University. She compares the students here to the students at the University of Miami and says, "I like the students here. They are very pleasant. The graduate students are very pleasant as well. Everyone is friendly." ❖

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to develop and evaluate measures of Internet use and a retention grant for undergraduate peer tutoring.

In addition, we have established an outstanding Advisory Council to support the school in outreach and engagement, professional networking, development, and fundraising. Just recently, we had a highly successful Communication Career Day. This will be a recurring activity. We also intend to plan an event for homecoming on October 20th. Remember, we can always use your help and input in the School of Communication Studies. Contact me at arubin@kent.edu and visit our homepage at <http://www.kent.edu/comm>.

We have sought to establish effective internal partnerships, and succeeded with a forward-looking proposal to establish a new College of Communication and Information at Kent State University. We are on solid footing as we begin the 21st century, an era that will highlight our skills and unique contributions to understanding and shaping our rapidly evolving communication and information environment. ❖

Who's New

SUMMER VISITING SCHOLARS

Dr. David Seibold (2000)

by Pauline Moleski

Dr. David R. Seibold, Ph.D., visited Kent State University's School of Communication Studies last summer to teach a small group and organizational communication seminar. The seminar was a one-week, graduate-level course that began August 13, 2000. Graduate students discussed Dr. Seibold's research and wrote original papers based on the seminar topics. Dr. Seibold said he "looked at the interface of the group communication and organization communication literature with a special focus on dynamics we might expect in work groups, committees, task forces, teams, etc."

Dr. Seibold earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State and is currently the chair of the Communication Department at the



University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). He is also the Chair of the Organizational Communication Division for the International Communication Association.

For the 20 years before joining the USCBA faculty, he taught at the University

of Illinois and Purdue University. His areas of interest include organizational communication, small group decision-making, change interventions, evaluation research, and interpersonal influence.

Dr. Seibold has published many articles and books on small-group and organizational communication. His latest work is a chapter on participation and decision-making in Jablin and Putnam's *The New Handbook of Organizational Communication*, published by Sage Publications. He also serves as a communication consultant to major corporations in the United States as well as abroad. Dr. Seibold's insight into this field was a great value to our School of Communication Studies curriculum. ❖

Dr. Sandra Petronio (1999)

by Kathleen Naish

In the summer of 1999, Dr. Sandra Petronio, Ph.D., traveled from Arizona to Kent State University to teach a seminar entitled "Communication and Privacy." This graduate class of 10 students had the opportunity to work with an extraordinary woman who is recognized by communication scholars all over the world.

Dr. Petronio, now at Wayne State University, was then professor of communication and director of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in communication at Arizona State University until the fall of 2000. Dr. Petronio earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1979.

Dr. Petronio has written three books and more than two-dozen journal articles and has presented over 60 papers at conferences. She has also been a guest lecturer at The American University in Paris and Queen Margaret University in Scotland, among others. Kent State University was also honored to have Dr. Petronio as a guest lecturer. ❖



Dr. Petronio (front & center) and her graduate class.

Who's New

Spotlight



Clara Popa

by Lee Ann Stover

One of Kent State University's new additions to the graduate program in the field of Communication is Clara Popa, who is from Turnu Magurele, Romania. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Bucharest, and later decided to come to the United States to get her master's degree and eventually a Ph.D. Popa hopes that her education at Kent State will allow her to reach her goal of becoming a researcher and teacher in communication.

Clara's coursework has led to a concentration in interpersonal competence and conflict resolution. "I am interested in how people communicate; how to improve communication skills," Popa explained. She worked as a sociologist for three years in Romania, but the questions of why communication seems to be a cause of many problems between people and what can be done to overcome it drove her desire to study communication instead.



Popa hasn't always wanted to study in the U.S. In fact, prior to the suggestion of her boyfriend, who is currently studying at the University of California at Berkeley, she planned to continue her education in her homeland. A lack of the right professors and the kind of program she wanted led her to investigate programs here. She was interested in other universities, but when she found that professors at Kent had interests similar to her own and were able to communicate well with her through e-mail, Popa decided on Kent.

Preparing for her move here wasn't easy. She had several obstacles to overcome such as finances, taking exams, and a language barrier. In order to take the required exams

she needed for graduate school in the U.S. she had to borrow money. The exams themselves were a challenge; she had to take an English test required for all international students (the TOEFL) along with the GRE. Because it is a requirement for many good jobs in Romania, she did have some experience with speaking English. In preparation for her move she would push herself to study the language every day, along with getting a job as a kindergarten English teacher.

Popa says that she had a hard time believing that she could study here, and that she didn't know what to expect because all she knew of the American culture was through television and movies. A visit from her boyfriend's friend who was studying Eastern European countries eased her fears a little before she left Romania. Now that she is here, Popa seems to be satisfied with her decision to study at Kent State. After asking her if she enjoyed being here she stated, "I am pretty happy by now. I like the people and I have a lot to learn from them."

Clara currently is writing her thesis on conflict resolution and communication competence. She will begin the KSU Ph.D. program this summer. ❖

Graduate Assistants in 2000-2001

Maria Alfano, Organizational and Mediated
James Belcher, Interpersonal
Emil Coman, Media and Cognition
Mandi Chikombero, Organizational and Media
J. Susan Christopher, Interpersonal and Intercultural
Jaqueline Fisher, Interpersonal, Instructional and Family
Melinda Hayman, Interpersonal and Organizational
Gwen Hullman, Interpersonal and Health
Kumi Ishii, Organizational and Intercultural
Joni Johnson-Jones, Interpersonal Communication
Peter Miraldi, Personal/Computer Mediated

Michele Norman, Persuasion and Nonverbal
Angela Planisek, Instructional and Interpersonal
Denise Polk, Gender, Marital and Health
Clara Popa, Interpersonal Communication
Narissra Punyanunt, Interpersonal and Mediated
Nina Reiling, Mass Communication
Kyra Rothenberg, Interpersonal and Mediated Communication
Shaojing Sun, Interpersonal and Mass Communication
Ning Zhang, Intercultural Communication
Shuangyue Zhang, Interpersonal and Intercultural
❖

What's New

Lambda Pi Eta

by Tara Peters

Many alumni may not be aware that Kent State University has a chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Studies honorary. Lambda Pi Eta was founded in 1985 by Stephen A. Smith after communication students at the University of Arkansas organized. In 1994, Lambda Pi Eta became the official student communication honorary of the National Communication Association.

If you don't know the Greek alphabet, here is what Lambda Pi Eta stands for: Logos, or logic; Pathos, or emotion; and Ethos, or ethics. If this sounds familiar, maybe you have seen these persuasion proofs in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*. This organiza-

tion rewards those who have excelled in communication courses and is not limited to those in the major; at least 12 semester hours in communication courses with a 3.25 grade point average is required. Overall, a student must have a junior standing, a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and be in the top 35 percent of the academic class. Kent State does not have a ranking system, however, so students here have one less qualification to meet.

Dr. Jerry Feezel has been the Kent chapter advisor since the first class of 13 members was initiated in spring of 1991. Although anyone is eligible for Lambda Pi Eta, one must be approved and show interest to actually be accepted. Students must pay \$20 upon initiation, a one-time fee for a lifetime membership. New members receive a personalized member certificate, a

lapel pin, *Simply Speaking*, the national newsletter, as well as a chance for other awards and Lambda Pi Eta merchandise. Members at KSU also receive a ribbon upon graduation to commend their honors.

There are 240 active chapters of Lambda Pi Eta nationwide, and Kent's Upsilon chapter was number 18, one of the charter chapters. In past years, the chapter had guest speakers, representatives from Career Services, and visits from alumni, in addition to fundraisers to help with costs. The chapter has been represented yearly at the NCA meetings. The Lambda Pi Eta chapter was recently reactivated with a large, incoming class. This is primarily an academic recognition organization. ❖

New Interim Director-- Dr. Alan Rubin

by Bobby Hasinski

The School of Communication Studies has a new Interim Director, Dr. Alan Rubin. The dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts appointed Dr. Rubin, who has been at Kent State for 19 years. This is a position that he never intended on pursuing, but decided to take for the short term.

Dr. Rubin began his life on the east coast in New York. He attended Queens College in New York for his B.A. and M.A. in Communication Theory and Media. His Ph.D. is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Rubin has many new duties and responsibilities as Interim Director. One of his main priorities is the faculty. He is responsible for assigning classes for the faculty to teach. He has to decide which classes will be offered, and evaluate the performance of faculty members. His duties don't start and

end with the undergraduate program; he is also in charge of the master's and doctoral programs. One of Dr. Rubin's added duties, which he does not seem to enjoy, is dealing with the budget. He is in charge of how much the school spends and he has to make sure that they never go over budget.

Since Dr. Rubin assumed this role in July 2000, he is already proud of some of the accomplishments he has made. He said he is proud of the fact that he got his office and the department more organized and coordinated. He is also proud of getting the School of Communication Studies recognized for some of the accomplishments it has made over the years.

The school has had several Interim Directors since Dr. Ray Heisey retired a few years ago. Dr. Rubin might seem very modest when talking about his new position, but you can see that he is enjoying it. ❖

This May be the Last Newsletter: Send us your e-mail address!

Newsletters are becoming very expensive to print and mail, so we're thinking of going online with the news. If you've been to the School's homepage <http://www.kent.edu/comm/> you've seen the alumni news section at <http://dept.kent.edu/comm/HTML/news.htm> and we hope in the future to keep our news and your news updated at that location. Then, when a new issue of the newsletter comes out, we can e-mail you with the hot-linked address and you can check out the news at your leisure. This will also allow you to submit items for the news, along with photos, if you like, for the world to see. But we need your cooperation.

Send your e-mail address to comm@kent.edu and we'll add you to the list. If you prefer to receive a printed version of the news on an annual basis, just indicate this on the following page. It won't be the fancy newsletter you're used to, but we'll be able to stay in touch with you this way.

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Alumni Survey

Every three years we send a survey to our alumni asking for your opinions about your degree program at Kent State University. We use these survey results to improve our programs and course offerings. Your past suggestions have helped structure the new undergraduate program. But we still want to hear from you about your KSU experiences. Please tear off this page of the newsletter, complete it, and return it to the address at the end. Your envelope and stamp will help the School in an additional way!

1. Which communication degree(s) did you receive from Kent State? (Please provide the year you received your degree or degrees)

B.A. _____ M.A. _____ Ph.D. _____

2. What is your current job title and place of employment? _____

3. Given your current employment or principal activities, how would you evaluate your KSU communication degree? (For each line below, please check the space that best describes your feelings)

Applicable _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ Not Applicable

Valuable _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ Not Valuable

Useful _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ : _____ Not Useful

4. What experiences in the KSU communication program were the most significant for you?

5. For each of the following items, please **circle** the number that best represents your feelings about your communication program at Kent State University.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Facilities (e.g., classrooms, A-V equipment)	5	4	3	2	1
Co-Curricular Activities (e.g., forensics, Lambda Pi Eta, Kent Communication Society)	5	4	3	2	1
Career Advising (guidance and assistance towards your career choice)	5	4	3	2	1
Academic Advising (guidance in choosing course and major requirements)	5	4	3	2	1
Faculty (full-time, part-time, graduate assistants)	5	4	3	2	1
Course offerings (availability, scheduling)	5	4	3	2	1
Course quality (breadth, depth, information)	5	4	3	2	1

6. Please check each of the following skills that you acquired at KSU that was valuable to you in your chosen career. For each item checked, please rate how well your degree prepared you.

	Very Well	Well	Some	Not Well
_____ Oral Presentation.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Interpersonal Communication.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Listening.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Writing.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Group Communication.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Leadership.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Organizational Communication.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Asking/Answering Questions.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Nonverbal Communication.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Research.....	4	3	2	1
_____ Computer Skills.....	4	3	2	1

7. How could your education in communication at KSU have prepared you any better for any of the communication skills in your chosen field?

8. If you could change anything about your academic experience in communication at KSU, what would that be?

9. How long after graduation did you find your first full-time job in your career field?

10. What was the title and place of that first position?

11. Please feel free to add any additional comments you feel would be of interest or value to the communication program or faculty.

12. If you want paper issues of the newsletter sent to you, place your name and address on a separate card/sheet and include in the envelope.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

**ALUMNI SURVEY
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. BOX 5190
KENT, OHIO 44242-0001**

Thanks!

Alumni News

Recent Ph.D. Alumni

by Chante Murphy

Theodore A. Avtgis (1999) is an assistant professor in the field of interpersonal and organizational communication at St. John's University in New York. He has published 16 articles and has presented more than 30 convention papers at national and international conventions. His research lies in communication predispositions, family relationships, and communication in the workplace. His dissertation assessed communicator control at work and in the family.

Margaret O. Finucane (1999) is currently an assistant professor at John Carroll University, teaching courses about media people who made an impact on the field. When asked how she compared the two schools, she replied "it is hard because Kent is so large and John Carroll has less than 4,000 students; the students at each institution have strong points." She misses the variety of ideas and the willingness of students to share the ideas she found in the public speaking classes at Kent State. This past summer, Peggy attended an Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon, which greatly enriched her teaching. She sends her best to everyone at Kent State. Her dissertation examined reasons why families watch television together.

Kevin J. Pearce (1999) is an assistant professor in the department of English and Humanities at Bryant College. Kevin teaches Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Communication Theory, Argumentation and Persuasion, Written Communication, Media Effects, Broadcast Media, and Film. Recently he received Bryant College's Outstanding Service award. He also received a teaching award from the International Communication Association. Kevin was a University Fellow at Kent and received an Excellence in Teaching award as well. His dissertation focused on the effects of disinhibition and group viewing of sports programs on aggressive behavior.

Lance R. Angell (1999) is currently at Lexington Community College where he is a research analyst in Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Program. So far Lance has investigated whether there is enough justification for building, based on off-campus enrollment trends. He described Lexington as very laid back. "Kent State has a little faster atmosphere." His dissertation was a meta-analysis of cognitive complexity research in the field of communication.

Cary L. Horvath (1999) is an assistant professor of communication at Westminster College, teaching courses in interpersonal communication, small group processes, organizational communication, public speaking, and mass media theory. Her background is in interpersonal and mass media and she is especially interested in the complex relationship between both areas. She is active in research, attending conventions and publishing articles. "In fact, I'm working on the notion of television 'addicts' right now." In her dissertation, she developed a scale to measure television addiction.

Paul M. Haridakis (2000) recently joined the Kent State Faculty (see page 2). His emphasis is on communication policy, doing research that helps policy-makers make better decisions. Paul is currently working on a First Amendment issue: sexual and violent content on TV and effects on audience members. He just published (with Alan Rubin) a state-of-the-art piece dealing with mass communication research and knowledge at the beginning of the 21st century. His dissertation focused on how knowledge of communication motives might help researchers and policy makers understand the links between TV viewing and aggressive outcomes.

Rebecca S. Merkin (2000) completed her Ph.D. in December. Her dissertation focused on elements of face and face-saving strategies people use around the world. She collected data from college students in Chile, Hong Kong, Israel, Sweden, the United States, and Japan and tested a model predicting which strategies would be used based on the culture of the country. She has just moved with her family to Passaic, New Jersey. ❖

2000 B.A. Alumni in Communication Studies

Dorothy M. Aaron
Jacqueline A Haberstich
Joy M. Kieffer
Melissa D. Malich

Richard A. Daugherty
Sara B. Dean
Christy L. Eazor
Harry K. Evans
Erin E. Fallon
Nicole L. Gettman
Jennifer Glover-Brazzon

Kelly A. Haney
Renee M. Kintz
Jill L. Love
Peter W. Malcomson
Kevin D. O'Brien
Lisa M. Pacanovsky
Jenna L. Perline

Brian J. Smith

Michael Speer
Stacy T. Stewart
Lisa E. Stoler
Brian T. Tomazic
Gregory P. Walker
George E. Wood

Emeriti Faculty



Dr. Dominic Infante

by Sara Roubenes

Dr. Dominic Infante, who graduated with his Ph.D. from Kent State University in 1971, has contributed greatly to the study of communication. His research focused on personality and communication, interpersonal communication, nonverbal communication, verbal aggression, and aggressive communication. Also, he is the author of *Building Communication Theory* and author of numerous articles regarding the various ways in which we communicate. Dr. Infante is now Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies. He received the Kent State Presidential Medal in 1996.

Dr. Infante has been spending much of his retirement pursuing new avenues of learning. Recently he published several communication articles and a third edition of *Building Communication Theory*. This is the textbook that communication students have been using at Kent State University and throughout the United States. And he continues to do research on argumentativeness and verbal aggression, and has just published several articles on the subject.

Dr. Infante has always had a passion for history. He now spends a majority of his time studying the American Civil War and has even participated in living history events revolving around the Civil War.

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Dr. Johnny Miller

by Patricia Stephens

Dr. John “Johnny” Miller, Emeritus professor of Communication Studies, taught at Kent State for more than 27 years and is a well-known national motivational speaker. He has conducted seminars in all 50 states and in many major countries around the world.

His diverse background has helped him make a successful transition from professor to full time motivational speaker. Dr. Miller’s background includes receiving a B. A. from Western Kentucky University, and then obtaining his M.A. and Doctorate of Education in Organizational Communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is the co-author of three popular books: *Speak Up for Business*, *Managing your Communication: In and For the Organization*, and his latest, *Working for the Best Can Jump Start America*, just came out a couple of years ago.

Dr. Miller has become one of only 175 speakers worldwide to receive the “Certified Speaking Professional” designation from the National Speakers Association (NSA). The NSA, located in Tempe, AZ, says that it now has a membership of over 4,000. As stated in its website, it is the top organization for speaking professionals who are experts in their field. Established in 1973, NSA members include specialists in a variety

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Dr. Ray Heisey

by Leah Grode

Dr. D. Ray Heisey, Ph.D., is Emeritus Professor and Director of the School of Communication Studies at Kent State University. He is still very active in international communication, especially the area of Chinese communication.

Working with Wexiang Gong, who was chair of the Department of Intercultural and International Communication in China, the pair published, *Communication and Culture: China and the World Entering the 21st Century*. This publication offered views on communication and culture from the perspective of the Chinese. It was divided into three parts: cultural perspectives, international and intercultural communication, and mediated communication issues.

In 1996, Dr. Heisey was awarded the President’s Medal. This recognizes faculty and administrative staff who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of Kent State University through extraordinary and unique service. When Dr. Heisey received the President’s Medal, there were only seven other recipients of that award. Later that same year, Dr. Heisey also received a prestigious award for publication of an international communication article. They gave him the award at the Human Rights and Responsibilities Conference.

Among some of his most noteworthy

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Faculty

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it enjoyable to come to work every day." Dr. Haridakis teaches Speech in a Free Society, Communication Process, and Senior Seminar. He also conducts research in media policy and law, media uses and effects, new information technologies, and freedom of expression.

Dr. Haridakis provided advice to incoming freshmen or undecided students about choosing Communication Studies as a major: "It is a great choice. Your opportunities are almost limitless. When CEOs of companies are polled, they almost always rank communication skills among the most important they are looking for in employees. New jobs for those who can speak and write well are growing all the time. On a broader scale, it could be argued, quite persuasively, that communication issues are driving our society. Political and other societal institutions are in a constant state of trying to come to grips with changes in communication and new communication technologies. The whole world is waiting for you to help it in that quest." ❖

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freshman, she took an interpersonal communication course and loved it. Then she met a colleague who introduced her to the field of health communication. With a biology degree already in hand, going for a communication degree seemed the next logical step. And she kept on stepping all the way to her Ph.D. in communication.

At Kent State she will also have the opportunity to add her Health Communication expertise to the Communication Studies program. This spring she taught a Special Topics class in Health Communication. New courses will be added to the catalog in the near future. This will be an advantage to some of the Communication majors hoping to enter this area after graduation.

Her fun and positive attitude will be a welcome addition and her sense of humor should prove to be influential. This sense of humor was evident when I asked Nichole "What is your favorite movie?" and her reply was "The Jerk." I decided to take this one step further, so I asked her "If Hollywood made a movie of your life, who would play the starring role?" After some thought she decided it would have to be "somebody neurotic and out of her mind, someone like Bette Midler!" ❖

INFANTE, from page 10

Though he considers himself completely retired, he plans to continue researching and writing about the world of communication. He now considers it a hobby! He said: "Research is not 'work' to me." In addition to all of these activities, he enjoys fishing and boating, both of which are easily accessible (practically in his back yard!) from his home on Berlin Lake in Deerfield, Ohio, which is about 22 miles from the Kent State campus. Thus, not being too far from Kent, Dr. Infante still takes the trip about once a week to visit the campus and welcomes the chance to talk with students. ❖

HEISEY, from page 10

recent articles is "Reflections on Religious Speech Communication," which The Religious Communication Association published in the September 1998 *Journal of Communication and Religion*. This was a personal account on the evolution of communication and religion.

Even though retired, Dr. Heisey is still very active in civic and educational endeavors. In 1999, he spoke at the Convention for Peace and Conflict Communication held at Defiance College. His speech was entitled "The Dialogue on Freedom and Responsibility in the Process of Globalization."

Throughout his career, Dr. Heisey has intertwined the significance of communication and religion, and continues to do so beyond his days here at Kent State University.

He just returned from teaching at Peking University in China during the Fall 2000 semester, and is currently serving as vice-chair of the National Communication Association's Intercultural Communication Division. ❖

Contact KSU Faculty:

Carole Barbato	cbarbato@kent.edu
Rozell Duncan	rduncan@kent.edu
Nichole Egbert	negbert@kent.edu
Jerry Feezel	jfeeze@kent.edu
Paul Haridakis	pharidak@kent.edu
Janet Meyer	jmeyer@kent.edu
Jeffrey Nelson	janelson@kent.edu
Wilbur Osborne	wosborne@kent.edu
David Powers	dpowers@kent.edu
Bruce Riddle	briddle@kent.edu
Alan Rubin	arubin@kent.edu
Rebecca Rubin	rrubin@kent.edu
Lisa Schroeder	lmschroe@kent.edu

FACULTY, from page 1

Kent State ranked second on the list. The top four faculty members in the School of Communication Studies at Kent State published 145 articles during that time period.

Among the four professors at KSU, three of them were in the top 20 in the nation. Dr. Dominic Infante ranked fourth with 55 articles published; Drs. Alan and Rebecca Rubin tied for 16th with 33 articles each. The fourth professor who made the top 100 list was Dr William Gorden; he ranked 43rd with 24 articles published. Dr. Dominic Infante received his Ph.D. from KSU in 1971 and is now an emeritus professor at KSU. Dr. Alan Rubin received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1976 and is a professor at KSU. Dr. Rebecca Rubin received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1975 and is also a professor. Dr. William Gorden received his Ph.D. from Purdue University and is an emeritus professor at KSU.

Because of the faculty's hard work and dedication to communication research, they have placed Kent State University in the national spotlight of excellence, and they should be commended for a job well done. ❖

MILLER, from page 10

of industries and disciplines, which reach audiences as trainers, educators, humorists, motivators, consultants and authors. Having a Certified Speaking Professional designation signifies achievement through a proven record of speaking experience. It is the speaking profession's international measure of professional platform skill. The letters "CSP" following a speaker's name indicate a speaking professional with proven experience who understands what is required and knows how to deliver client satisfaction.

Dr. Miller began his career as a speaker in the 1970s while working at Kent State. He has given his dynamic presentations to many Fortune 500 companies including Exxon, Ameritech, Ohio Bell, Pontiac, General Electric and Buick. In addition to being in great demand by these companies, he is asked to speak at many professional organizations also. Among many of his interesting topics of discussion are: focus on leadership, motivation, productivity, commitment to teamwork, and how to adapt to change. His diverse seminars are presented with humor and distinction, encompassing many different areas including organizational motivation, Japanese management of time, productivity of time management, handling stress of management roles, and the development of free enterprise in what was formerly known as the U.S.S.R. Currently, his favorite speech topic is "Why Not Our Best." He also is known for the motto: "the only limitation you have is the limitation you place on yourself."

Dr. Miller is director for the Institution for Motivation. He is also chair of the Miller Group. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 84, Kent, OH 44240. ❖


KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
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