



Message from Michael Traugott, Acting Chair



It has been an interesting and active year for the Department, and for me it has the added excitement of being a presidential election year. Because of my research interests, that brings a lot more research activity, conversations with alumni groups, and interactions with the media.

The most important event in the Department this past year was the successful promotion and tenure case of our colleague Amanda Lotz, soon to be an Associate Professor. Amanda's case was based upon a very strong publication record that included two books published in the past three years, as well as an excellent teaching record.

The communication studies concentration remains very popular, and in April we graduated a class of 187 undergraduates. We continue to hold our departmental commencement in the Michigan Theater, a wonderful venue for the festivities that can accommodate all of our students and their families and friends. This year's commencement speaker was Tony Ridder, a 1962 graduate of the University of Michigan and former President of the Newspaper Division of Knight Ridder and then CEO and Chairman of Knight Ridder from 1995 until 2006. Tony spoke to the graduating class about the changing media industry as well as conveyed important lessons for life.

President Mary Sue Coleman has inaugurated a program to match donor support for graduate students with an additional 50% funding, and the Department has been able to take advantage of this. An anonymous donor has pledged \$50,000 over the next five years to support summer stipends for

graduate students to keep them working in Ann Arbor and in contact with the faculty. The Department has further leveraged this gift by making it available to faculty on a one-to-one matching basis when they use their own research funds to provide such support. This will substantially improve support for our graduate students and help them establish working relationships with faculty.

The department also received a gift from Brooke Transue, a 1970 graduate of the Department of Speech, through a charitable remainder trust. This gift will support undergraduate student support for internships in the summer. Many students seek such internships to build their personal portfolio for the eventual job market, but potential employers frequently only offer academic credit rather than a salary. This makes taking an unpaid position in a major metropolitan area a difficult choice for many undergraduates (and their parents); so this kind of support often makes the difference between being able to take an internship or not. Any gift to the department, of any amount, will be a great help to both undergraduate and graduate students in accomplishing their goals for graduation.

Finally, let me say that I have enjoyed my administrative duties in the department, including serving as Chair or Acting Chair for seven of the last ten years, as well as Director of the Ph.D. Program. I am going to be returning to my own research and writing in the fall, and I have a fellowship to visit the Shorenstein Center for the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard in the Winter. But I look forward to staying in touch or seeing you at future departmental events.

Graduate Student Corner

- Roei Davidson ('07) has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Haifa in Israel.
- Kamille Gentile-Peart ('07) has accepted a tenure-track position at Roger Williams University.
- Amber Gray presented at the Global Studies Conference this May in Chicago.
- Debra Burns Melican has accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Yong Jin Park had the following publications: Social Implications of Mobile Telephony: The Rise of Personal Communication Society in *Sociology Compass*, The New Argonauts: Regional Advantage in a Global Economy in *The Information Society*, and Privacy Regime, Culture and User Practices in the Cyber-Marketplace in *The Journal of Policy, Regulation, and Strategy for Telecommunications*.
- Ann Williams ('08) has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Georgia State University.

If you would like to support our Graduate Students, please see the back of the newsletter for more information regarding the President's Donor Challenge for Graduate Student Aid.

Non-Traditional Internet Sources: Less Credibility?

Consumers perceive non-traditional Internet sources as less credible than other news sources, a new University of Michigan study indicates.

The implications are the Internet can be a haven for divergent, even racist, beliefs, said the study's lead author, Debra Burns Melican.

"The Internet offers an opportunity for people to reinforce existing beliefs in a way that is different from traditional media," said Melican, a doctoral candidate in the U-M Department of Communication Studies. "This reinforcement is of special worry in the area of race."

She co-wrote a study about media credibility, which appears

in the April issue of *Communication Research*, with Travis Dixon, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The most credible source was traditional media - all print and television sources - with their online counterparts, followed by print, radio, television and non-traditional Internet. "As use of Internet increases, and as use of it for news increases, the issue of credibility will become more profound," she said.

The full article appeared on the University of Michigan News Service on March 31, 2008 (<http://www.umich.edu/news>).

Faculty Promotion

The Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Amanda Lotz to associate professor, with tenure, effective September 01, 2008.



Amanda Lotz

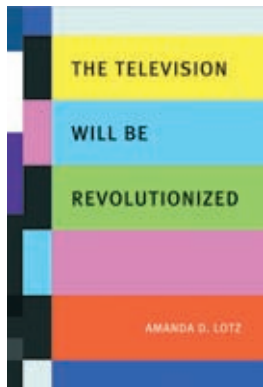
Amanda D. Lotz earned a Ph.D. in Radio-Television-Film and certificate in women's studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000, and completed a two-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Television Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Lotz's research focuses on U.S. television, specifically the industrial shifts since the end of the network era. She recently completed a book, *The Television Will Be Revolutionized*

(New York University Press, 2007), that explores the consequences of these industrial changes on television's role as a cultural institution.

Lotz's honors include the Mellon fellowship, membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and receipt of the Harold E. Fellows Scholarship from the Broadcasting Education Association in 1994 for study and work in broadcasting. She was named the Coltrin Professor of the Year by the International Radio and Television Society in 2004 for her case study exploring the redefinition of television.

Amanda is currently working on an edited collection that brings together established television scholars writing new chapters in their areas of expertise that reconsider how programming forms other than prime-time series (such as sports, news, soap operas, and made-for-television movies, among others) have been affected by the wide-ranging industrial changes instituted over the past twenty years. She also has emerging projects exploring men and masculinity in contemporary television dramas and is in the preliminary stages of developing a study of new patterns of television use.

Communication Studies News Briefs



The Television Will Be Revolutionized (New York University Press, 2007) examines television at the turn of the twenty-first century - what **Amanda D. Lotz** terms the “post-network” era. Television, as both a technology and a tool for cultural storytelling, remains as important today as ever, but it has changed in fundamental ways as the result of technological innovations, proliferating cable channels targeting ever more specific niche audiences, and

evolving forms of advertising such as product placement and branded entertainment. Many of the controversial practices and even the industry’s basic business model are proving unworkable in this new context, resulting in a crisis in norms and practices.



Passion and emotion run deep in politics, but researchers have only recently begun to study how they influence our political thinking. Contending that the long-standing neglect of such feelings has left unfortunate gaps in our understanding of political behavior, *The Affect Effect* (The University of Chicago Press, 2007) by **Russ Neuman** fills the void by providing a comprehensive overview of current research on emotion in politics and where it is likely to lead. This book was co-edited with George E. Marcus, Michael MacKuen and Ann N. Crigler.



Public opinion theory and research are becoming increasingly significant in modern societies as people’s attitudes and behaviours become ever more volatile and opinion poll data becomes ever more readily available. *The SAGE Handbook of Public Opinion Research* (Sage Publications Ltd., 2007) by **Michael Traugott** and Wolfgang Donsbach, a major new Handbook, is the first to bring together into one volume the whole field of public opinion

theory, research methodology, and the political and social embeddedness of polls in modern societies. It comprehensively maps out the state-of-the-art in contemporary scholar-

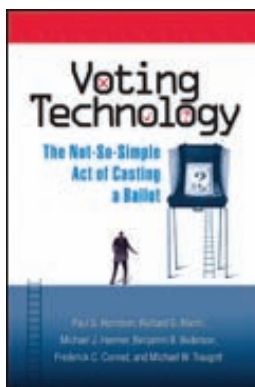
ship on these topics.



In *New Tech, New Ties* (The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2008), **Rich Ling** examines how the mobile telephone affects both kinds of interactions - those mediated by mobile communication and those that are face to face. Ling finds that through the use of various social rituals the mobile telephone strengthens social ties within the circle of friends and family - sometimes at the expense of interaction with those who are physically present - and creates what he calls “bounded solidarity.”



Right up to election day many polls showed Kerry leading Bush by a significant margin, and early exit polling confirmed this misapprehension. Why were the polls so wrong and what does it mean to be ahead in the polls? How ephemeral are these leads at different stages of the campaign? Who sponsors them? How are they conducted? What do they mean? For the third presidential election running, **Michael Traugott** and Paul J. Lavrakas give voters everything they need to know about election polls and why it matters that we understand them in their book, *The Voter’s Guide to Election Polls* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008).



Voting difficulties hung over America’s presidential election in 2000 like a dark cloud. Passage of the Help America Vote Act in 2002 sparked further interest in the physical act of casting a vote, leading to a number of technological innovations. *Voting Technology* (The Brookings Institution, 2008) by **Michael Traugott** is the first book to investigate in a scientific and authoritative manner how voters respond to the new equipment.

This book was co-edited with Paul S. Herrnson, Richard G. Niemi, Michael J. Hanmer, Benjamin B. Bederson and Frederick C. Conrad.



Russ Neuman was co-recipient of The 2007 Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award for lifetime contribution to the study of political communication. He shares this honor with Marion Just of Wellesley College.

Russ Neuman

Portable Devices, More Distribution Routes for Shows Revolutionizing TV

Digital video recorders and portable viewing devices are changing people's viewing behaviors, but these innovations will not lead to the demise of television, according to a University of Michigan researcher.

These gadgets, as well as better ways for viewers to see TV shows after their original airing, are revolutionizing the television industry, said Amanda Lotz, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies.

"The changes in television during the last two decades are extraordinary and on the scale of transition from one medium to another, as in the case of the shift from radio to television," Lotz said. In her latest research, she describes this period as the post-network era, which finds television viewers having more control over when and where to view shows instead of limiting them to watching at certain times or channels.

"The post-network distinction is not meant to suggest the end or irrelevance of networks - just the erosion of their control of how and when viewers watch particular programs," Lotz said.

For decades, watching television involved walking into a room, turning on the set, and either selecting specific content or channel surfing. But the integration of new technologies is changing people's viewing behaviors, Lotz says. Viewers now have greater mobility - reception of breaking news or a live sporting event on devices such as cell phones - and convenience.

The full article appeared on the University of Michigan News Service on December 20, 2007 (<http://www.umich.edu/news>).



Aswin Punathambekar

Aswin Punathambekar was selected for a Rackham Research Award for his proposal titled, "Global Bollywood: Media Convergence and Transnationalism in Contemporary India."



Rowell Huesmann

Violent Media's Effects Seen

Exposure to violent movies, television shows and video games significantly increases the risk that the viewer or player will behave aggressively in both the long and short term, according to a new University of Michigan study published Tuesday in the Journal of Adolescent Health.

It's a topic that has been debated extensively, but this is one of the first studies that shows the relation between viewing media violence and real criminal behavior, according to the study's author, L. Rowell Huesmann, a senior research scientist at the U-M Institute for Social Research.

"This is the first study that shows a relation between childhood exposure to violent TV, playing violent video games, seeing violent movies, and behaving violently enough to be incarcerated as a delinquent," said Huesmann, a professor of communication studies and psychology.

Huesmann and his team followed a group of children for three years as they moved through middle childhood. They found increasing rates of aggression for both boys and girls who watched more television violence, even when taking into account initial aggressive tendencies and other background factors. A 15-year follow-up of those children showed that those who habitually watched violent media grew up to be more aggressive young adults.

The full article appeared on the University of Michigan News Service on November 28, 2007 (<http://www.umich.edu/news>).

Voter's Respond Favorably to Touch Screen Voting Equipment

Voters have more confidence in paperless, touch screen systems to record their votes accurately than they do any other systems, including ones that use paper ballots, a new study says.

Voters tend to focus more on what affects their voting experience than the potential for fraud, which is the opposite of what is valued by many computer scientists and voting activists and a growing number of election administration officials, according to new research by the University of Michigan, University of Maryland and University of Rochester.

The research is the first known study to examine how voters respond to the new voting equipment since the 2000 presidential election that incorporates the principles of usability from studies of human-computer interaction research.

“Casting a ballot may seem simple, but the interactions between voters and voting system interfaces are complex,” said Michael Traugott, a professor of communication studies and senior research scientist at U-M’s Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research (ISR). “The more effort involved in voting, the less satisfied voters are with the experience.”

Ideally, voting systems should provide feedback so that voters are aware of where they are in the voting process. Voting systems with automatic advance navigation are problematic in this respect, as they do not allow voters to see what they have done with each touch of the screen until they reach the final stage.

The full article appeared on the University of Michigan News Service on January 14, 2008 (<http://www.umich.edu/news>).



Brad Bushman

Brad Bushman was selected as one of five outstanding professors of the year by the Greek Community, and he was part of the annual Greek Awards Ceremony occurring Thursday, April 10, 2008.

Peeking Behind the Curtain

Could 2008 begin any better for a guy whose life’s work focuses on voting?

The first weeks of the new year have brought: cliff-hanging primaries in an historic battle for president; publication of not one but two of his new books on voting behavior; fresh controversy jumping off the pages of *The New York Times* over the reliability of new voting technologies; and, for good measure, award of a major grant leading to a thorough checkup of Michigan’s voting system.

Welcome to the world of Michael Traugott, University of Michigan professor of political science and communication studies. Although his is hardly a household name among the candidates, office holders, journalists and voters who parade across his vast electoral Petri dish, Prof. Traugott is among a couple dozen academics recognized nationally and around the world as experts on voting behavior - especially as it is influenced by the constantly changing world of technology.

On the surface, the act of voting seems so simple. You make up your mind then pull a lever, punch a hole, make a mark or touch a screen for the candidate of your choice. Your vote is tallied along with the votes of hundreds or thousands or millions of your fellow citizens, and the candidate who receives the most votes wins. But Traugott sees below the surface, and he knows just how deep and increasingly murky the voting waters have become.

For three weeks in the summer of 2005, Traugott and a small crew of graduate assistants set up shop in Ann Arbor’s Briarwood Mall to learn how new voting technologies can affect election outcomes. They recruited some 500 mall shoppers, paying each of them \$10 to participate. They brought in five of the most widely used new voting systems (plus a prototype of another being developed), most of them put in place to remedy the hanging-chad fiasco of Florida’s 2000 presidential count - the one that began to draw public attention to some of the dirty little secrets about the fallibility of ballot technology.

Traugott, along with colleagues at the University of Maryland and University of Rochester who were doing the same experiment in Baltimore and Rochester, New York, constructed a simulated election in which they knew how the “voters” intended (and were instructed) to vote. The participants voted the same way on each machine, even making and correcting deliberate mistakes, enabling the political scientists to measure how far each system strayed from voters’ intent. Other findings included ease and speed of use, as well as voter satisfaction with each device.

The full article appeared in the January 16, 2008 issue of *Dome*.

Marsh Endowment Supports Lectures

The Howard R. Marsh Center for the Study of Journalistic Performance was established in 1974 through an endowment from LSA alumnus Howard R. Marsh (AB'15) to study long-range factors affecting the ability of news media to function in a democratic society.

2006-2007 Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism, Mark McDonald, delivered his lecture, "Embedded: The Media at War - Covering Iraq and Afghanistan" on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

McDonald is currently an Editor with the International Herald Tribune in Hong Kong. He was Knight Ridder's Moscow bureau chief until May 2005. In addition to covering Russia, the former Soviet republics and Central Asia, he has reported extensively from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan on such issues as politics, terrorism and human rights.

McDonald is a four-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, and he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 as part of a team reporting for the series, "Violence Against Women." He is a member of both the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Sans Frontieres.



Mark McDonald

Previously, McDonald served as the Southeast Asia bureau chief for the *San Jose Mercury News*. He has also worked for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Boston Globe*. He received the Knight Fellowship in International Business as a Michigan journalism Fellow and is

the co-author of *Pain and Grace: A Journey Through Vietnam*.

2007-2008 Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism, Fara Warner, delivered her lecture, "For Better or Worse: The Perils and Promises for Global Press Freedom in the 21st Century" on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Warner has been a staff writer for the *Wall St. Journal* with bureau assignments in Detroit, Singapore and New York. She has also been a writer for the *Associated Press* and was a senior writer for *Fast Company*, a national business publication. She is currently a freelance journalist specializing in China and its rapid globalization, the marketing and advertising industries, the automotive industry and in-depth corporate profiles. From September 2005 to April 2006 she was a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan. In 2006 she received the Women in Communications' Diamond Award for illuminating women's issues through the media. Warner is the author of *The Power of the Purse: How Smart Companies are Adapting to the World's Most Important Consumers - Women* (2005, Pearson/Prentice Hall), now in its third printing.



Fara Warner

Warner has been appointed as the Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism for the 2008-2009 academic year.

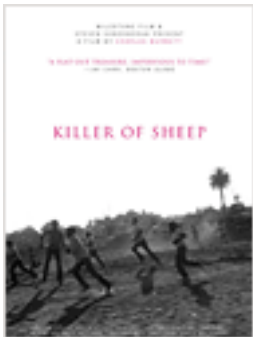
Howard R. Marsh Funds Co-Sponsored Nina Totenberg Lecture

As one of America's foremost reporters on the Supreme Court, Nina Totenberg breaks down the latest Court developments into manageable pieces in order to discuss their impact on women and woman's issues. With an insider's knowledge, she leads audiences through an animated discussion of the current issues affecting our nation today, answers questions concerning the most pressing issues in Washington and offers predictions for what's to come.

Nina Totenberg delivered her lecture, "The Supreme Court and Its Impact on You" on Thursday, February 21, 2008.

This event was co-sponsored by the Center for the Education of Women Frances and the Sydney Lewis Visiting Leaders Fund, Ford School of Public Policy, the Law School, the Provost's Office, and Rackham Graduate School, with support from AAUW Ann Arbor, Michigan Branch, Inc.; Departments of American Culture, Communication Studies, Psychology; Center for Law, Ethics, and Health; Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies; Michigan Radio; and the Schools of Public Health and Social Work.

The Department of Communication Studies Sponsored Events: Film Screening of “Killer of Sheep” by Charles Burnett



As part of the Martin Luther King Symposium, Black Humanities Collective presented a screening of Charles Burnett's newly-restored classic “Killer of Sheep” at the Michigan Theater on Monday, January 28, 2008. The Department of Communication Studies was proud to co-sponsor this event.

Writer/Director Charles Burnett submitted “Killer of Sheep” as his

thesis for his MFA in film at UCLA. It was his first feature debut in 1977. Shot on location near his family's home in Watts, over a series of weekends and on a shoestring budget of less than \$10,000, the film has now been included in the Historic Film Registry at the Library of Congress. Despite winning honors at the Berlin International Film Festival and what later became the Sundance Film Festival, “Killer of Sheep” has had limited distribution due to copyright restrictions on some of the music used in the film. The film never fully received the attention it deserved in its first release but three decades later it has now been restored and is newly available to audiences. Burnett has since won a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur Foundation “Genius Award.” Film critics have lauded Burnett as “the most gifted and important black filmmaker this country has ever had.”

International Communication Association, May 22-26, 2008

The 58th Annual International Communication Association Conference was held from May 22-26, 2008 at the Le Centre Sheraton Hotel in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Global and Globalizing Dimensions of Mobile Communication: Developing or Developed?

This preconference has the intention of examining the global dimensions of mobile communication. Mobile communication (both via traditional mobile telephony and via other wireless systems) is being felt on a global basis. There are, for example, currently more mobile telephones in the developing world than in the traditional industrialized countries. Thus while mobile communication has become a relatively normal part of daily life in industrialized countries, it is also becoming increasingly common in the developing world.

This means that mobile communication is truly a global phenomenon. The use of mobile communication in both developing and industrialized countries has had dramatic impact on how we communicate and how we access basic

Film Screening of “Affirmative Action: Separate But Equal?”

The Department of Communication Studies was delighted to co-sponsor the rough-cut screening of “Affirmative Action: Separate But Equal?” by Third Reel Pictures and Director Russell Ezekiel Stewart on Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

The documentary concerns the passing of Proposal 2, Affirmative Action and, most importantly, the young people affected by the legislation and their lives, hopes and futures.

A long preview of the trailer can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/3rdreelfilms>.

Separate But Equal seeks to educate communities on current social justice issues through an artistic platform by way of filmmaking. It is their hope that through the developmental efforts of the student organization remediating the issues relating to social justice, through unbiased sophisticated analysis they will be able to promote and encourage productive dialogue. Members of the student organization will work together in order to create, produce and promote the showing of the films at entered film festivals, academic institutions, and independent screenings nationwide in hopes that it will function as a tool for social and political betterment.

The Department of Communication Studies was pleased to co-sponsor a preconference as well as our annual departmental reception held Friday, May 23, 2008.

information. Through use of mobile communication we coordinate our everyday affairs, we use the technology to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities, and we have gained a way to organize assistance when it is needed. In the industrialized world, many countries have more subscriptions than they have population and in the developing world, mobile communication is morphing into an efficient way to organize remittances between guest workers and their families back home. The “first wave” of mobile communication research has included case studies from dozens of countries around the world. However, there has been a relative paucity of studies that use comparative methods, or try to assess and describe local/regional phenomena in light of broader international/universal themes.

Undergraduate Awards

2007 Kara Sundlan House Scholarship

Matthew Doyle
Iris Perez

Ann Arbor News Scholarship

Layla Aslani
Lauren Slete

John L. and Clara M. Brumm Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Brennan
Kaitlin Urka

Mary Lou Butcher Equality in Journalism Award

Bridget O'Donnell

J. Evens Campbell Scholarship in Journalism

Molly Storey

Chapman Scholarship

Stephanie Luski

Mark Foote Distinguished Thesis Award

Preeti Samudra

Saks Family Scholarship

Brittany Hapner
Ruofei Xiang

Claude Sifritt Undergraduate Award

Colleen McClain

Carole Simpson Minority Aid Scholarship

Ji Won Lee

Leland Stowe Award

Jessica Asbill
Erin Mulligan

Honors Graduates

David Daniel Coba

Social Interaction Through Internet Use? How College Students' Use of Social Websites Influence their Real World Interactions"

Erin Marie Czerney

Distorted Reality: The Effect of America's Next Top Model on Thin Ideals Among College Women

Lauren Kathleen Deaton

Progressing Past the Pop-Up: Online Advertising and its Effects on Viewers' Recall, Recognition, and Attitudes

Brittany Rae Hapner

From Walter Cronkite to Jon Stewart: The Influence of Nontraditional News on College-age Viewers

Malika Emily Middlebrooks

Ebonics as a Bridge to Hip Hop Consumers

Amanda Juliet Moss

Music as a Peripheral Cue: A Study on the Effects of Musical Enjoyment and Familiarity on Television Commercial Success

Preeti Ganesh Samudra

The Effects of Violent Text and Comic Books on Affect, Cognition and Perceived Realism: A Media Comparison

Michael Traugott congratulates Preeti Samudra for receiving the Mark Foote Distinguished Thesis Award



Commencement



*Tony Ridder ('62)
Keynote Speaker*

The keynote speaker for Commencement was **Tony Ridder**, a '62 graduate of the University of Michigan. After graduation, he worked for various newspapers. He was the general manager of the San Jose Mercury News when named Publisher in 1977. In 1986, he became the President of the Newspaper Division of Knight Ridder. He served as company President beginning in 1989. He was CEO and Chairman of Knight Ridder from 1995 until 2006. He was past Chairman of the Newspaper Association of America and a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Associated Press. He has received a couple honorary degrees and currently serves on the Board of Directors of The McClatchy Company and Sun Microsystems. Tony has been married to his wife, Connie, a former Michigan student and a lawyer for 47 years, and they have four children.

Graduate Degree Recipients

Kamille Gentile-Peart, Ph.D., Mass Communication
Ann Williams, Ph.D., Mass Communication
Emily Chivers Yochim, Ph.D., Mass Communication

*MACS Co-Presidents,
Allison Aronne (left)
and Brittany Hapner
(right) were our Student
Speakers*

Graduate Student Fellowships and Awards

Marko Skoric, *2007 Foote Distinguished Dissertation Award*

Megan Biddinger, *Helen Weber Fellowship*
Katie Brown, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Andre Cavalcante, *Rackham Merit Fellowship*
Sarah Crymble, *Chesser Campbell Fellowship*
Hope Cummings, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Jimmy Draper, *Community of Scholars Fellowship*
Jennifer Fogel, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Helen Ho, *Rackham Merit Fellowship*
Rossie Hutchinson, *Howard R. Marsh Fellowship*
Bradley Jones, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Debra Melican, *Chesser Campbell Fellowship*
Elliot Panek, *COMPASS Award and LSA Regent's Fellowship*
Yong Jin Park, *Howard R. Marsh Fellowship*
Ann Williams, *Howard R. Marsh Fellowship*
Erica Williams, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Grace Yang, *Payne Collaborative Research Award*
Emily Chivers Yochim, *Foote Distinguished Dissertation Award*
Will Youmans, *COMPASS Award and Rackham Merit Fellowship*



Alumni Events

Each year the department hosts events with the goal of introducing students to a range of careers available to them in the fields of communications and the mass media. If you are a graduate and are interested in being part of one of these events in the future, please contact us at lsa-comm-events@umich.edu.

Entertainment Media Career Forum 2007

The Department of Communication Studies, with alumni guests from the University of Michigan Entertainment Coalition, hosted the annual forum on October 05, 2007 for undergraduate students interested in breaking into the entertainment industry.

This one-day event is structured to introduce students to potential careers in the entertainment media field, including television or film production, development, screenwriting, entertainment marketing or advertising and agency work.



Panelists this year were:

- Val Boreland ('92) is the Vice President of Comedy Central's program, promotion and digital scheduling.
- Dominic Cianciolo ('94) is a director of live-action and 3D narrative entertainment and recently joined Midway Games as Cinematic Director.
- Katie Cwayna ('07) is a Production Coordinator/Assistant to the Vice President of Good Morning America.
- Rebecca Ewing ('00) currently works for the United Talent Agency's Feature Literary Department.
- Karl Grischke ('93) is the head of the Story Department at the United Talent Agency.
- Mara Sternthal ('84) currently consults with major media and technology companies on content strategy; originating and negotiating, comprehensive distribution and equity agreements for traditional and new media platforms.
- Jeffrey Wank ('01) is an Agent and Head of Development at Rebel Entertainment Partners, a talent and literary agency.

Alumni Connection 2008

On January 25, 2008, undergraduate students enjoyed presentations by University of Michigan alumni who shared the path to their current careers, job search strategies, interview tips and sage advice on using their degree to find the communication career of their dreams.

This year's panelists were:

- William Couch ('07) is a Multimedia Artist for Orlando Sentinel Communications.
- Tian Lee ('06) is an Assistant Account Executive supporting the Corporate/Media practice at Hill and Knowlton's Los Angeles office.
- Stephanie Mansour ('07) currently works as a Production Assistant/Researcher at the Dr. Phil Show in Los Angeles.
- Colleen Newvine ('05) is Deputy Director of U.S. Newspaper Markets at the Associated Press, a not-for-profit news cooperative that is the world's oldest and largest news organization.
- Greg Scheinman ('95) is the Founder and CEO of Team Baby Entertainment, the premier producer of award winning sports DVD's for infants and toddlers licensed

by MLB, NBA, NCAA and NASCAR.

- Tracy Wolfson ('97) serves as lead Broadcast Sports Reporter for CBS Network's coverage for SEC College Football.



Tracy Wolfson

Alumni Notes

Marjorie Goldowitz Roberts (A.B. '59 in Journalism) recently retired as director of public relations at New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York, but remains a consultant for the university magazine and website, working from home. She said, "I certainly owe it all to the then Department of Journalism, in particular the late Dean Baker, professor of journalism and no relation to the university trustee."

Richard N. Ostling (A.B. '62 with high honors in Journalism) received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Religion Newswriters Association, the organization for specialists in the general or "secular" media, upon his retirement as a religion writer with The Associated Press. Previously he was the longtime religion writer with "Time" magazine and had also covered the beat part-time for CBS Radio and the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS-TV. Thanks to the Mitt Romney campaign, HarperOne commissioned Dick and wife Joan to write a 2007 revised edition of their 1999 book "Mormon America: The Power and the Promise."

Greg Scheinman's (A.B. '95 in Communications) company, Team Baby Entertainment, which makes sports-themed DVD's for infants and toddlers is now owed by Michael D. Eisner, previously with the Walt Disney Company.

David D. Sayfie (A.B. '80 in Communications) has been admitted to the Paramount Planning Group division of AXA Advisors. This appointment is the sum total of Mr. Sayfie's distinguished career in marketing and business strategy for major corporations, qualifying for the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT) in each of his first four years as a financial profession with AXA Advisors, and personal and professional qualities. Of the more than 6,000 financial professionals with AXA Advisors in North America, less than 250 are members of the Paramount Planning Group (PPG). With an average of 20 years of professional financial experience, PPG members understand the complex financial issues

facing affluent individuals and offer sophisticated strategies to help clients work toward their financial goals. Mr. Sayfie, based in Grand Rapids, MI, specializes in retirement and managing retirement assets and income for corporate employees and other professionals at and during their retirement.

Robert Yoon (A.B. '95 in Communications/Political Science) won an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his role in CNN's 2006 Election Night coverage. Yoon is the Director of Political Research at CNN, where he has worked since 1999. He is based in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Bracht (A.B. '04 in Communications) was promoted twice in the last eight months and is now an Account Manager at MARS Advertising in Southfield, MI working on the Glaxo Smith Kline account. He said, "my new role requires travel to SEC football games throughout the Fall and NASCAR races in the Spring and Summer."

Erin Cosens (A.B. '07 in Communications/Women's Studies) currently works as a Production Assistant for Metrocom International in downtown Ann Arbor where she had a role in the development of their newest feature-length documentary, *Where Do the Children Play?* If you would like more information regarding this film, please visit the official website at www.wfum.org/childrenplay/index.html. Erin also works for a company called Lone Buffalo, where she gathers international news stories for the clients Pfizer and Morgan Stanley.

William Couch (A.B. '07 in Communications/Film and Video Studies) received a promotion to the nation's newspaper, where he will create online graphics, data-driven Flash applications and other new technologies exclusively for USAToday.com.

Speech, Journalism and Communication Studies Alumni!

If you would like to share news of your personal and professional accomplishments in future newsletters, please email us at comm.studies.dept@umich.edu or write us:

Department of Communication Studies
University of Michigan
1225 S. University Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2523

The Communicator

University of Michigan
Department of Communication Studies
1225 S. University Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2523
(734) 764-0420, fax (734) 764-3288
email comm.studies.dept@umich.edu

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit #144

Thank you, alumni and friends, for your very generous donations.

Your support enables the department to conduct cutting edge research, provide workshops and internships for our undergraduates, and recruit the very best faculty and graduate students to our program.

Mrs. Carol Austin	Mr. Raymond L. Gover	Ms. Hannah M. Roberts
Milton M. Berger, M.D.	Ms. Charlotte Hanson	Joanne and Jerry Robertson Fund
Philip S. Bloch	Ms. Chelsea M. Havekost	Ruth Hillary Rosenfeld
Carol Otto Buatti	Ms. Mary Ellen Heilbrun	Ms. Amanda L. Seltzer
Rev. and Mrs. William R. Cuthbert	Mrs. Kara S. House	Mr. Irwin P. Starr
Mark F. Dalton	Jack W. Huizenga	Dr. Brooke and Frank Transue
Tom and Jean Dickinson	Mrs. Jeanne T. Larson	Mr. Ralph D. Vartabedian
Marvin and Lois Epstein	Michael Luckoff	Mr. Daniel L. Voegtly
Dow Corning Corporation	Meredith Corporation Foundation	Edward and Leigh Washabaugh
Ms. Sharon A. Gongwer	Dr. Joseph P. Misiewicz	

The President's Donor Challenge for Graduate Student Aid

President Coleman has created a matching gift program to help with Graduate Student Aid. Every two dollars given to graduate student support before December 31, 2008, will be matched with one dollar from the President's Challenge Fund. All gifts from a \$1 to \$1,000,000 will be matched. Details on the program can be found online at www.giving.umich.edu/where/presidents_challenge.htm.

The Regents of the University of Michigan:

Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor; Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms; Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich; Rebecca McGowan, Ann Arbor; Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor; Andrew C. Richner, Detroit; S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms; Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor; Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)

Yes! I want to invest in the future of communication education, research and scholarship.

We are dedicated to understanding the structure, function and regulation of media systems, their relationships with wider political and cultural contexts, how mediated mass communication works, and what effects it has on values, knowledge and behavior. Your investment ensures the future of quality education and leadership of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan.

Department of Communication Studies

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 _____ Other

Please designate my gift to:

Communication Studies, President's Challenge for Grad Support Fund (312389)*

Communication Studies Strategic Fund (308207)

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

E-Mail

You may also make your gift online at www.giving.umich.edu

EID#

999999

AGA BEA08 LS07

My check is made payable to the University of Michigan.

I have enclosed a Matching Gift Form.

Charge my gift to MasterCard VISA AMEX Discover

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

(Required)

I/We pledge \$ _____ and will make gift payments:

Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually

Annually over a period of _____ years beginning _____
Month/Day/Year

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Required)

(Required)

(*All gifts to Graduate Student Support will be matched 1:2 by the President's Donor Challenge Fund)