

The Roar

Communication Studies at TCNJ: A National Leader in Student-Faculty Engagement

FALL 2011

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WINNERS!

COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENTS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS BEST IN THE NATION



Lambda Pi Eta's executive board is proud to contribute to the College's national standards. Photo courtesy of Katie Ward.

By Laura Herzog of *The Signal*

While Facebook buzzed with student posts about the College's recent No. 1 U.S. News and World Report ranking, the College's communication studies department has been buzzing with its own "No. 1" achievement.

On Oct. 31, the department was told by The National Communication Association — the largest organization of communication scholars in the U.S. — that it had fostered more presidents and vice presidents of the national communications honor society than any other College chapter.

The NCA also confirmed that the chapter's students had received more Stephen A. Smith "best individual and group paper in the nation honors" than students at any other college in the nation.

"To me, this letter represents an external affirmation of what I have known for many years. Our students are the best of the best among all undergraduate institutions in communication studies," said professor and honor society advisor John Pollock.

In order to confirm the College chapter's record, Pollock said he helped the NCA staff reconstruct many of the NCA's records that had been destroyed in a 2008 fire, which they then confirmed with others who have long participated in NCA activities.

"The College of New Jersey's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the communication discipline, is the most highly represented and awarded chapter on the national level since NCA took over management of the honor society in 1995," said Brad Mello, associate director for educational initiatives at NCA, in a letter issued on Oct. 31.

According to Pollock, students from the College have won the national presidency of the honor society nine times and the national vice presidency six times.

Kathleen Ward, senior communications studies and public health major and president of the communications studies honor society, was elected national co-president at the NCA Annual Convention in New Orleans, La., which took place Nov. 17-19.

College students in the chapter have also earned five Stephen A. Smith annual awards for best paper in the nation, Pollock said.

"Leading graduate institutions agree with that affirmation of our students' leadership. Our students have been accepted into the leading graduate and professional programs at the nation's leading graduate/professional institutions," Pollock said.

These institutions include Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Maryland, Penn State University, Columbia University and New York University. Alumni winners of the Stephen A. Smith award have gone on to Ph.D. programs and internships in the National Cancer Institute and other organizations, said Pollock. Sean O'Grady '04 produced his own national TV program on Saturdays on MSG-TV.

Pollock and Ward said they believe the many awards are due to the faculty-student relationship in the department, as well as a faculty emphasis on editing student drafts.

"The professors are very supportive of students. (Pollock) really encourages students to submit their papers, sends us emails telling us about the conferences and telling us to submit our papers. All the professors edit, and throughout the semester (Pollock) is a main editor of papers," Ward said.

"I routinely ask that students in my classes put their papers through three drafts," Pollock said. "One of the reasons our students compete so well with students at other institutions is that our third drafts are competing with student first drafts from other schools." Pollock noted that students are not just research assistants, but "junior colleagues" ... complete authors and co-authors, deeply engaged in every phase of research."

"I hope that this recognition from NCA will help our students realize that they can indeed reach for the stars because they are clearly capable of doing the best

(Please turn to page 6 for the continued story and a complete list of national presidents, vice presidents, and Stephen A. Smith award winners.)

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STUDENTS GET A SNEAK PEEK AT SAFE SEX VIDEO GAMES

By Carly Koziol

Students and professors poured into Mayo Concert Hall on Oct. 7 awaiting Dr. Leslie Snyder's highly anticipated presentation, "Sex and Videogames: Promoting Health in a Fun Way."

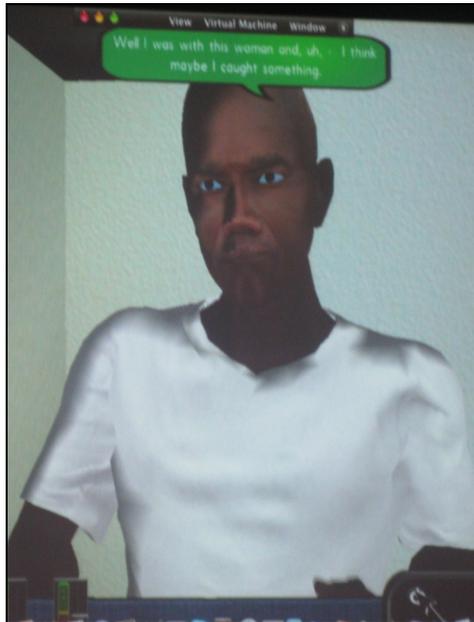
Leslie Snyder, Ph.D., a Communication Studies professor at the University of Connecticut and director of a health institute there, is in the process of developing a video game under the Centers for Disease Control Center of Excellence Grant. Her video game is a unique attempt to promote safe sex among poor, urban African-American males between the ages of 18 and 26.

Although this targeted segment is at the highest risk of both contracting and spreading HIV, it is rarely a target of health campaigns. "Nobody is trying to do things for these men because they are difficult to communicate with," said Dr. Snyder.

"You could have the strongest message in the world, but if you cannot properly disseminate it to your target audience, it does no good," said Domenick Wissel, Vice President of the Public Health Communication Club.

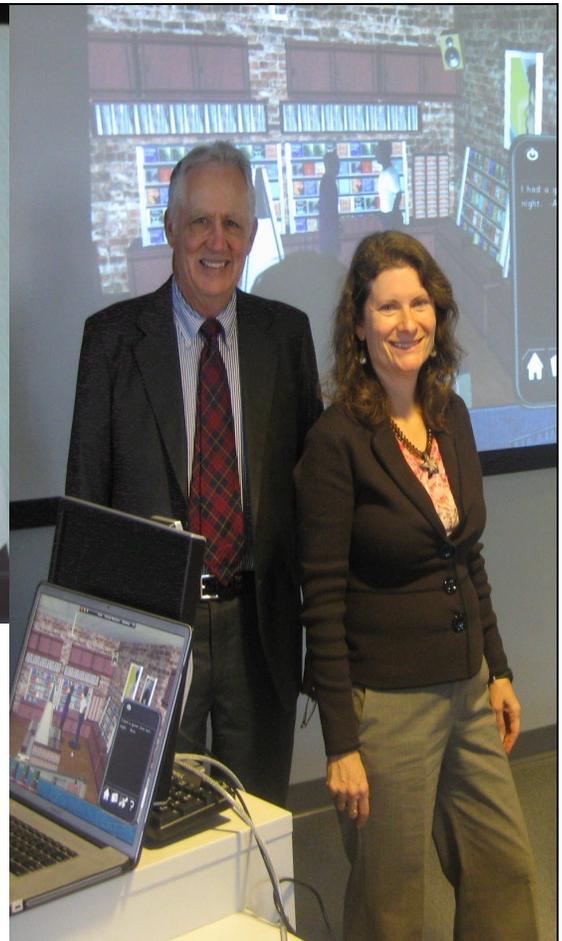
Because three-fourths of African American and Hispanic males aged 15 to 18 play video games daily, Dr. Snyder saw this as an optimal channel to communicate the message of safe sex. Video games provide long message exposure while being fun and engaging, and the audience can learn by viewing the consequences of positive and negative behavior.

The video game has three specific goals. They include the promotion of condom usage, the encouragement of HIV/STI testing, and risk reduction through oral sex and mutual masturbation by



Above: Dr. Snyder selected this avatar in the demonstration of her video game designed to promote safe sex among urban males.

Right: Dr. Pollock stands with Dr. Snyder as she gives a private showing of her video game to IMM students after speaking during the Brown Bag series. Photos courtesy of Domenick Wissel.



eliminating the passage of fluids. Dr. Snyder spent three years undergoing formative research by conducting focus groups and intercept studies to better understand her audience's needs. One study was performed in a shopping mall to find out what kind of sexual positions her target audience liked. There were several positions they would not try themselves, but would enjoy seeing in a video game. In pre-tests, Dr. Snyder said she was also looking for "phrases that rang realistic and true to them," like using the expression "using hands" instead of "mutual masturbation"

The audience had the opportunity to preview "Night Life," the formal name of the video game.

After choosing and customizing a male avatar, the character is an aspiring DJ looking for his big break at a club. If things go as planned at the club, the character gets to have sex with a stranger. A pre-programmed sequence always precedes the sexual encounter. This includes dialogue, clothed foreplay, and a negotiation scene where the player can decide to use a condom. If a condom is selected, the player can choose from a range of brands and types, even an option called "her pleasure."

At any point in the game the character has the option to get tested at the clinic. The safer the player is with his sexual health (condom usage and HIV/STI testing), the more

sexual partners he will experience throughout the game.

Although still in the process of testing and development, Dr. Snyder's pre-test trials revealed promising results for behavior change. Those who played the game had a greater intention to get tested and there was a decrease in the number of those who intended not to use condoms.

Dr. Snyder mentioned that a future sequel of the game may be released as an edition geared towards women.

FACULTY PROFILE: Dr. Susan Ryan's Involvement with MUSE

By Victoria Branca

While students spent their summer interning, working part-time jobs, or hanging out at the beach, a small, but dedicated group of documentary filmmakers spent their days spotlighting life at Emily Fisher Charter School in Trenton.

The project, part of the MUSE (Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience) program sponsored each year by The College of New Jersey, began when Michelle Miller, a teacher at Emily Fisher, contacted Dr. Susan Ryan to film her performing arts students at the Passages Theater in Trenton. Dr. Ryan discovered that these high school students had great stories to tell.

"I saw the bigger potential that I could produce a short documentary about the arts program," said Dr. Ryan.

Although the MUSE program only requires a commitment through the months of June and July, Dr. Ryan and her students began filming in May.

Dr. Ryan chose sophomore Nicole Thompson from her documentary filmmaking class because she had personally benefited from art education. Thompson is a Communication Studies major in the Radio/TV/Film track, a Bonner Scholar, and very interested in filmmaking. Thompson hopes to attend NYU for graduate school and dreams of one day running her own production company.

"Dr. Ryan is an amazing professor and I feel blessed to have worked with her over the summer through the MUSE project. She has taught me so much about filmmaking and the ins and outs of documentary film

production," said Thompson. Mike Roberts, class of 2011, also contributed to the making of the documentary as part of an independent study.

As a third-time participant, Dr. Ryan spoke highly of the MUSE program and credits its funding with allowing her to pursue such a challenging endeavor. "It's a really good program for both faculty and students. It represents a lot of what the College is about: giving undergraduates a chance to work at high levels of



Dr. Susan Ryan spent the summer creating a documentary while working closely with two of her students. Photo courtesy of the College's Communication Studies website.

research and production."

Dr. Ryan has taught at the College for 13 years, serving as chair of the Communications Studies Department from 2005 to 2008. She holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from NYU. While in graduate school, she pursued her interest in documentary production. She started out as an archival researcher looking for footage to use in historical documentaries. Since that time, Dr. Ryan has produced programs that aired on PBS, NBC, Turner Classic Movies, Disney Channel, Lifetime, and HBO, according to her faculty profile on the College's website.

Dr. Ryan lists her documentary filmmaking class as one of her favorites to teach. She appreciates the enthusiasm her students share for the subject. Dr. Ryan notes, however, that documentary production is not easy. "It is a very labor intensive practice. It requires a lot of time and a lot of things are beyond your control," she noted.

Despite the difficulties, Dr. Ryan is dedicated to her work. Besides the continuous duties associated with her current MUSE project, she is also dedicated to another, much larger project she started several years ago. The project, *From the 'Burg to the Borio*, documents the Chambersburg section of Trenton and its changing immigrant population.

Dr. Ryan is also interested in the labor conditions of reality TV production. She has presented a number of papers on this subject at national conferences. With its seven-day work weeks and exploitative conditions, Dr. Ryan is concerned that reality TV is changing the conditions of television production.

"I'm very concerned about the job world that many of our students go out into. Many jobs these days are in reality television. It's really shocking the conditions that students find," said Dr. Ryan.

At the time this article was written, Dr. Ryan worked closely with Thompson to take the 10 minute piece they screened and turn it into a 20-25 minute documentary about the arts program and the students it inspired. The tentative title of the film is *Living My Dream*, but that, along with the film itself, is still a work in progress.

MORE MUSE MATTERS

By Katie Ward

Health Communication is a dynamic interdisciplinary field that has been increasingly moving toward the examination of information technology issues as they relate to health and health care delivery. For example, patients can now utilize Google to learn more about particular symptoms and diseases, emails to ask doctors quick questions, and even cell phones to set reminders for medications.

A thematic meta-analysis conducted by Dr. Hu and students Katie Ward and Phoebe Ling (summer, 2011) is in progress to determine the status of research in New Media and Health Communication during the past five years (2006-2010). Specifically, this study aims to reveal topical, theoretical and methodological trends of research in this area, as well as provide new insight for future research directions.

By Domenick Wissel

During the summers of 2008 and 2009, Dr. Pollock, Dr. D'Angelo, Professor Donna Shaw, and several top students conducted research on coverage of AIDS in Anglophone, sub-Saharan Africa. These community structure and framing projects were inspired by two previous students' papers that had each won the Stephen A. Smith award at NCA Conventions. The papers, which analyzed coverage of UN and NGO efforts to combat AIDS, acted as the foundation for the MUSE project.

The resulting papers involved samples from six countries in sub-Saharan Africa, each with different levels of AIDS prevalence and press freedom. The papers tested whether structural components related to AIDS prevalence or levels of press freedom were the most powerful drivers of AIDS coverage. Finding mixed but significant results, the papers were accepted into leading international conferences, including the International Communication Association conferences in Montreal, Chicago, and Singapore, and the International Association for Media and Communication Research 2009 conference in Mexico City.

Currently, Dr. D'Angelo is creating a final version of the paper that he will submit for publication in the *Journal of Health Communication*.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT DEAN



The new Assistant Dean, Dr. Day, also teaches guitar lessons. Photo courtesy of the College's website.

By Victoria Scarfone

A Florida native, Dr. James M. Day, the new Assistant Dean to the Arts and Communication Studies Department, can easily be described in one word: passionate.

Dr. Day grew up in North Carolina where he attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for his undergraduate degree, an institution that focused on all disciplines of learning, and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, for his graduate degree. His unique educational experience at UNCSA formed his values of appreciating all disciplines of the liberal arts.

After attaining his graduate degree, Dr. Day moved to New York City, where he practiced a career in the performing arts. In 1997, just after just one year of living in the Big Apple, Dr. Day began teaching guitar lessons at The College of New Jersey. His career quickly flourished at the College after he formulated the courses necessary for students to not only practice guitar, but major in the instrument as well.

Dr. Day jumped at the opportunity to become Assistant Dean so that he could see a “new perspective” on the Arts and Communication Studies Department that few are able to witness. If Dr. Day could have one wish come true within a year, it would be to see the students within

these departments formulate a “shared identity,” where they all have a voice and are heard. Dr. Day is a firm believer in the notion that at such a selective school, our students should make an effort to support each others’ passions and deepen student engagement within our respective departments, while also attending each others’ events.

This summer, Dr. Day is leading a faculty-led trip abroad to Australia where he will be teaching a course on community and cultural development. This course will involve “digital story-telling” and will be connected to providing flood relief in Brisbane, Australia.

PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS JOIN IN SPEED MEETING



Dr. Woodward engages with several students during a “speed dating” event. Photo courtesy of Victoria Vales.

By Carly Koziol

In order to break the ice between Communication Studies students and professors with the start of the new 2011 school year, Lambda Pi Eta hosted a “speed dating” event.

Students were clustered in tables throughout a room in Kendall Hall and one professor joined each group to chat about themselves and the classes they taught.

The professors chatted with the students for 7 minute sessions until the flashing of room lights indicated the mini date was over. Professors would then move onto the next group of students.

The intimacy of the small groups allowed new students to ask questions, learn about different class options, and become better acquainted with their professors and fellow Communication Studies majors.

CREATING MEMORIES AT THE FIRST ANNUAL SENIOR LUNCHEON



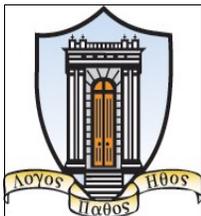
In order to honor the exiting 2011 seniors in the Communication Studies department, the First Annual Senior Luncheon was assembled by LPH and the seniors themselves, held May 4.

“Hopefully we can continue this event every year. It was really nice,” said Dr. Sims.

Clockwise starting at the top, graduating seniors gather for one of the last opportunities to all be together. The dean, Dr. Laughton, and Dr. Hu play a musical number. The faculty of the Communications Department line up before saying their goodbyes to the seniors.



NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO LAMBDA PI ETA



By Carly Koziol

On Sunday, Nov. 20, Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) welcomed 15 new members into the National Communication Association's official honor society.

The ceremony was held in the Brower Student Center where President Katie Ward praised the new inductees for their academic accomplishments and dedication to the department.

Both Dr. Ryan and Dr. Pollock offered words of wisdom, motivating students and thanking parents for encouraging their children to develop into the fine young men and women that they are today.

The new members took the Lambda Pi Eta oath, and family and friends watched proudly as they received their certificates and padfolios.

“I’m so honored to be a part of a wonderful academic association on campus. Although I’m a senior, I’m looking forward to working closely with LPH for the duration of my last semester at the College,” said Alison Sotolongo.

The new members are as follows:

Paige Aiello, Robert Catona, Grace Flynn, Michelle Futerfas, Allura Hipper, Jane Howell, U-Jin Lee, Kelly Lytle, Matt Maerten, Brianna O’Connor, Tyler Olsson, Stephanie Petit, Alec Plasker, Thomas James Riley, and Alison Sotolongo.

NATIONAL RECORDS SET

Continued from page 1.

research and writing the best undergraduate papers in the nation. I also hope that this recognition will help remind our faculty about the extraordinary potential our students have for reaching the highest levels of professional creativity,” Pollock said.

Senior communication studies major and honor society member Domenick Wissel agreed.

“The communication studies department has garnered so much positive attention recently, and it is very well deserved. The faculty is incredibly passionate about the field, and I have had

many courses in which the assigned readings came from books written by the professors. The students are extremely hard-working, so it is great to see the department recognized as a substantial contributor to the College’s excellent reputation,” he said.

Lambda Pi Eta, the official national student honor society of NCA, has nearly 8000 members and 500 chapters in as many colleges and universities nationwide.

Elected National Officers from Alpha Xi:

National Presidents:
2011-2012: Katie Ward (co-pres.)
2006-2007: Tom Hipper
2005-2006: Kendall Anderson
2004-2005: Jeanne Lutkenhouse

2002-2003: Yvonne Lachmann
2000-2001: Adrian Castillo
1998-1999: Spiro Yulis
1997-1998: Gustavo Dantas
1996-1997: Elvin Montero

National Vice Presidents:
2010-2011: Emily O’Gorman
2009-2010: Kristen Kiernicki
2008-2009: Janna Raudenbush
2007-2008: Joshua Wright
2006-2007: Brittany Hammer
2005-2006: Pam Braddock

Stephen A. Smith Awards for National Best Co-Authored Papers:

2009: Janna Raudenbush, Kristen Kiernicki, & Mercedes McCurdy.
Nationwide newspaper coverage of accelerated adolescence: A community structure approach.

2007: Rowena Briones, Danielle Catona, Brian Keefe, & Chris Zimbaldi. *Nationwide newspaper coverage of global warming: A community structure approach.*

2006: Dana Eisenberg, Amy Kester, Lisa Caputo, & Jocelyn Sierra. *Cross-national coverage of NGO’s efforts to fight AIDS: A community structure approach.*

2005: Stefanie Gratale, Jennifer Hagert, Laura Dey, Pam Braddock, Alissa D’Amelio, Jaclyn Kupcha, & Allison Montgomery. *International coverage of United Nations’ efforts to combat AIDS: A structural approach.*

2000: Adrian Castillo, A. Solomon, & K. Griffiths. *Nationwide newspaper coverage of a Patients’ Bill of Rights.*

**PROFESSOR WRAPS UP FIRST FEATURE FILM:
TWO PINTS LIGHTER
TO PREMIERE IN 2012**



A still from Two Pints Lighter features Ryan Conrath and Hannah Telle. Photo courtesy of Melissa Virzi.

By Melissa Virzi

Two Pints Lighter isn’t your typical vampire flick.

Written and directed by Communication Studies professor Matt Lawrence (TCNJ ’05), the film follows the story of Wade, a loner bound by a successful routine that has kept his alcoholic, woman-biting tendencies thriving. After running into trouble with the locals he flees to a coastal town, vowing to change his ways.

“The idea started with Addie Stuber, a former student of mine. She had a short screenplay that I really enjoyed so we began developing it into a full length. The story ended up turning into something completely different but, without her initial inspiration, the movie would not have been made,” Lawrence says. He then took the script to his writing partner, Ryan Conrath, and soon they had a final draft.

Despite the film’s protagonist’s taste for blood, “The final draft and film itself tend to favor a little more ambiguity in terms of vampirism. True, the protagonist likes to bite people, but the V-word is never mentioned and all the lore is nonexistent. We tend to stay away from the genre, for the most part.”

Lawrence, whose previous films include the award-winning documentary *Enter the Beard* and narrative *Shoeblox Redhead*, comments that this project was “the most difficult thing I have ever done in my life...long hours, little sleep, different personalities and eccentricities - you begin to get the picture.”

Michelle Yzaguirre, class of 2011, had the opportunity to work as a Production Assistant on the film along with other Communication Studies students Justin Smith, Jenna Bush, Dan Quinn, and Nathan Fuller. Yzaguirre says her experience on *Two Pints Lighter* was “eye-opening.” “From driving to pick up actors to picking up an emergency package of undershirts putting together and then clean-

ing up meals, you never knew what would get thrown your way.” Yzaguirre, currently working at Spike TV, commented on how prepared she was to tackle any project from her experience on the film set. She advises to “grin and bear the lower end jobs and show you’re willing to do anything and see the positive side of every job you get - that’s what I got out of it, and it’s definitely helped me for the better.”

Lawrence says his advice for current students would be “to work as hard as you can and always be the first one to show up and the last one to leave. In terms of becoming an independent artist, try to find creative people you like to work with. You’re never going to make a great film all by yourself. You need to surround yourself with talented people who share your passion.”

Two Pints Lighter is currently in post-production and scheduled to premiere in early 2012.

ALUMNUS SHOWCASES TALENT IN FILM ABOUT PRINCETON FOOTBALL STAR



Drew Pearson speaks about filmmaking at a Brown Bag series lecture. Photo courtesy of Matthew Mance.

By Amy Reynolds of *The Signal*

If anything's true about independent filmmaking, it's that it is no easy task and is extremely time-consuming.

Alumnus Andrew "Drew" Pearson '08 came back to the College on Friday, Nov. 4 to show and discuss his most recent documentary about a Princeton football player who has had many serious medical setbacks.

The film began with a background

of Jordan Culbreath's life as both a hard-working student and a determined athlete. However, a couple of years into his football career at Princeton University, he was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a condition in which his bone marrow does not replenish his blood cells.

"It was really hard to find out that I wouldn't be playing (football) anymore, and my career was over," Culbreath said in the film.

After more than six months of therapy, Culbreath, as well as his family and teammates, were thrilled to discover that he would once again take the field, despite all previous doubts. In fact, the athlete even scored a winning touchdown for Princeton in overtime.

Pearson spoke about the difficult work and time involved in making the documentary.

"The most challenging part is doing it yourself, basically ... you have to formulate it your-

self," he told the audience.

In two years, Pearson made approximately 10 trips to the outskirts of Washington D.C. to meet with the Culbreath family. In addition, nearly 100 hours of film had to be cut down to just a 40-minute documentary.

"It was a bigger project than I anticipated, but like I said, you gotta just go with it," Pearson said at a documentary film workshop later in the day.

Pearson was filming Princeton football highlights when Culbreath was diagnosed, and it was the story of the season.

"It was pretty extraordinary," Pearson said about how the story kept getting more and more in-depth. "Everything from there just kind of snowballed."

As for funding — well, there was none.

"It came out of my own pocket, my own bank account," Pearson said. "You just have to be really driven ... If you're going to do something of this caliber, you

have to accept that."

At the workshop, Pearson gave advice to film students. He encouraged them to create close relationships with those who are being filmed and always to shoot more rather than less.

"If you have to ask yourself, 'Should I shoot this?' you probably should," he said.

Pearson also stated that criticism should always be appreciated.

"Don't put too much pressure on yourself to make something groundbreaking. The story makes itself," he said.

Despite all the challenges of independent filmmaking, for Pearson, it's a passion.

"With me it wasn't really an artistic vision at all ... but then as things go on, you just have to recognize what caliber story you're working on," he said. "There has to be a conflict ... that's where your artistic vision comes in."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH COMMUNICATION: YVONNE (LACHMANN) SPROW, '03



By Victoria Vales

Yvonne (Lachmann) Sprow is a well-known figure in the Communications Studies Department, not only because she is one of nine TCNJ students who have been elected national President of Lambda Pi Eta, but also because she helped TCNJ's Alpha Xi

chapter win chapter of the year in 2003, drafting our chapter's application.

While at TCNJ, Yvonne enjoyed the opportunities offered by the communication studies program. The smaller class sizes allowed Yvonne and fellow students the opportunity to work with professors to determine where they best fit in. After taking several classes that focused on health communication, she knew her interest was in that field. With the help of the department, Yvonne was able to find internships and jobs that would prepare her for her next endeavor, graduate school at Johns Hopkins University.

Yvonne enrolled in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins. Yvonne credits TCNJ with helping her develop a strong foundation in communication studies, while Johns Hopkins provided her the public health information she needed.

After receiving her masters from Johns Hopkins, Yvonne was hired in the Healthcare unit at Burson-Marsteller, the worldwide public relations and marketing firm. Her job position consists of two components. First, she helps pharmaceutical companies promote their new products. Yvonne helps companies that could benefit the most from new medicine or help raise

awareness for a specific disease. The second component of her job involves a focus on public health campaigns. Most recently, Yvonne worked with Colgate and its Alliance for a Cavity Free Future, in which she aided in the execution of the company's new campaign.

While Yvonne thoroughly enjoyed her time at TCNJ, she did offer current students some advice should they wish to pursue a career in the public health field. "It is important for students to go out and get experience in the field," she said. "Also, TCNJ offers such a broad network of alumni, students should seek out professors or past students and try to connect with them."

STUDENT PROFILE: Katie Ward Elected National Co-President of LPH

By Carly Koziol

Katie Ward’s career at The College of New Jersey has been more than stellar. She is a Senior Communication Studies major with an interdisciplinary concentration in Health Communication along with a minor in Public Health. Her dedication towards her major shows within the extracurricular activities she takes on.

After being elected President of the College’s LPH chapter, Katie went on to win national Co-President at the National Communications Association in November.

“I was able to sit in on the LPH business meeting and award ceremony. It gave me a chance to learn more about the organization and its goals,” said Katie.

After learning more about other chapters around the nation at the NCA conference, Katie is eager to apply what she learned to her College chapter in order to make improvements.

“I’m really excited about my new position and can’t wait to get more involved,” she said.



As national Co-President, she hopes to implement a day of service for all chapters to participate in and also encourage more students to submit their papers to conferences.

When Katie isn’t working on group projects or hosting LPH events, she enjoys volunteering. She is committed to achieving her sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma’s, community service and philanthropic goals.

In addition, she worked as a camp counselor for children with Muscular Dystrophy over the summer.

“Working with kids with disabilities was such a rewarding experience,” she said.

Katie plans to work with children as a public health educator in the future after she attends graduate school for Public Health.

Left, new national co-president Katie Ward stands by the Vatican. Image courtesy of Katie Ward.

STUDENT PROFILE: Kirsten Anderson Thrives within TV Production

By Natalie Steele

Kirsten Anderson of Bridgewater, NJ is a Communication Studies major with a concentration in Radio-TV-Film. As an active leader in the Communication Studies department, Kirsten serves as the President of Lions Television and a student-DJ for WTSR.

In her free time, Kirsten is a member of Treble Makers, the College’s all-girls acapella group.

This past semester Kirsten interned at Stage 3 Productions and worked on various shows

that air on A&E. She particularly enjoyed her work with the show “Solutions with Suzanne.”

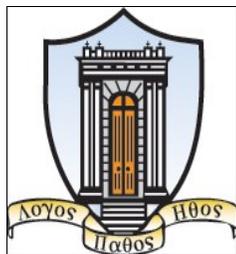
As the true go-getter that she is, Kirsten is intending to intern again next semester with Center City Film and Video. Kirsten is excited for this opportunity because she will be working on programming for PBS Kids and Sprout, and her career goal is to one day work in the children’s television production industry.

Kirsten’s work ethic and positive personality will help her succeed not only in that field, but in anything she puts her mind to.



Kirsten Anderson hopes to one day work in Children’s TV production. Image courtesy of Natalie Steele.

FALL 2011 CLUB UPDATES



Lambda Pi Eta

This semester, Lambda Pi Eta continued to grow as an organization that prides itself on student-faculty engagement.

They began the year with a successful meet and greet for all communication studies students and professors. The society hosted a graduate school workshop sponsored by Kaplan in order to learn more about the GRE and graduate school applications. In addition, it participated in Operation Christmas Child, organizing a toy drive among the LPH members. Most importantly, LPH welcomed 15 new inductees to Lambda Pi Eta this semester.

This semester also marks the first time Lambda Pi Eta will be sponsoring a new member by covering its membership dues. This scholarship will be awarded to a new member who shows the most promise and dedication to LPH. Next semester, LPH is looking forward to a successful alumni day and continued involvement on campus.



Public Health Communication Club

The Public Health Communication Club invited internationally

renowned health communication scholar Dr. Leslie Snyder of the University of Connecticut to give a presentation as part of the Brown Bag series. Dr. Snyder's lecture, "Sex and Video Games: Promoting Health in a Fun Way," boasted a large attendance and rousing reception.

Next semester, the club is looking to expand in membership and plan a campus-wide health campaign as it has done in previous years.



WTSR

This summer WTSR became the flagship station for the Yankees AA affiliate the Trenton Thunder, broadcasting all of their games in the 2011 season. This past semester WTSR has continued to host on-campus events such as Decaf, its once a month acoustic coffeehouse, as well as providing music and entertainment to events sponsored by other clubs.

WTSR also hosted its second annual Pledge Drive in October, which featured numerous specialty programming from Alumni DJing Day with Greg Caiola (class of 1979) and Gregg Bernicker (class of 1981), to "Kyle Smith & the 24 Hours of...," a 24-hour DJ-a-thon hosted entirely by junior Kyle Smith. The pledge drive also featured interviews and in-studios with local bands and artists. For more information and updates about WTSR, visit our website at www.wtsr.org.



Lions Television

Lions Television has had an exciting first semester. Along with the addition of some great new members came the addition of new programming.

Now the club produces two shows, the *Lions Now News Blast*, featuring TCNJ news, and *Lions Lineup*, a talk show about national sports.

Lions Television is preparing for an even bigger spring semester with the addition of a third show and plans to return to its original home, Channel 17. If you would like to join LTV, email ltv@tcnj.edu.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Communication Studies students were asked about their favorite aspect of the department. The responses are as follows.

“I love the extracurricular activities and organizations associated with the department.”



–Caitlyn Preciado, Senior, Radio/TV/Film track

“I like the professors. They are always there to answer any question I may have and are always willing to give advice.”

–Kirsten Anderson, Senior, Radio/TV/Film track



“I love the connections I make through classes and extracurricular activities.”

–Matt Maerten, Junior, Radio/TV/Film track

“I love that when I send out an email to my class, I’m guaranteed to get at least five responses! That doesn’t happen in any other class.”



–Audrey Hix, Senior, Public/Mass track

“I like the broad range of different communication experiences built into the curriculum.”

–Alec Plasker, Junior, Radio/TV/Film



“The lifelong connections and friends made through classes are invaluable. I know who to call on for future projects!”



–Melissa Virzi, Senior, Radio/TV/Film track

“We are constantly encouraged by our professors to have to establish our own research goals and truly delve into topics we are passionate about, all while applying the skills we are introduced to everyday in the classroom.”

–Victoria Scarfone, Senior, Interpersonal track with a Health Communication concentration



The College of New Jersey



Communication Studies

“A National Leader in Student-Faculty Engagement”

If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter or have any suggestions, please contact the Editor, Carly Koziol, at Koziol5@tcnj.edu.

