C S U L O N G B E A C H

Communication Studies

Newsletter Spring 2009

Message from the Chair
Check in with Dr. Sharon Downey to find out the latest and greatest in Communication Studies at the Beach!
Page 2

Two National Forensics Champions!
In 2009 Beach Forensics made history by having the most successful national championship season since the program's inception.
Page 3

Changes
There as been a change in Department staff. We said goodbye to Nancy Comito and hello to Ann Kinsey.
Page 4

News and Notes
Read what Department faculty have been up to lately, besides teaching classes that is!
Page 4

Alumni Update
Catch up with some alumni from the class of 1980.
Page 5

New Faculty
San Bolkan, a Davis (CA) native, will be leaving Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania to join the Department in the fall.
Page 5

Faculty Profile
The *Amazing* Dr. Fox

Dr. Fox is AMAZING AT WHAT HE DOES!! His class is super interesting, Dr Foxy is HILARIOUS, and you actually learn (even if you don't pay attention...which you will). Every professor needs to takes lessons from Dr Fox on how to properly teach and engage a classroom...he is THE BEST TEACHER I HAVE EVER HAD, HANDS DOWN. TAKE HIM!!

The above quote comes courtesy of "ratemyprofessors.com" and is fairly representative of what students have to say about Dr. Fox. Hired in 2006 fresh out of the doctoral program at Arizona State, he has impressed students and colleagues alike with his teaching, scholarship, and indefatigable charm. Here he tells his story in his own words. -the editor

In the fall of 1994, I had a clear vision of my immediate future, which included obtaining a degree in theatre from the University of Texas at Austin and teaching drama in a Texas high school. After auditioning for a few plays, I became keenly aware that I would never be cast in a main stage production. My body communicated gay sexual identity in such overt ways that I would never "pass" for a straight character in a play. Defeated, I enrolled in speech classes and joined the forensics team. At speech competitions, I performed a range of characters I would have never played in theatre. The study of communication also provided a context, in which I could use theory to explore the dynamics of my sexual identity.

While earning an MA degree at the University of Texas, I became involved in Austin's vibrant poetry slam scene. My performance poetry theatrically renders many ongoing cultural conversations about gay male identity. I have spent over a decade utilizing poetic forms to investigate "coming out" processes, gay politics, LGBTQ history, hate crimes, and gay suicide. In my last year at UT, a dialogic relationship emerged between my poetry and studies of human communication. Many of the themes explored in my poetry became central areas of focus in my scholarship. This productive, artistic, and scholarly conversation between theory and art continued to blossom at Arizona State, where I earned a Ph.D. When, for example, my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, I turned to poetry to interpret my father's illness and how my family communicated about his deteriorating health.

I joined the CSU, Long Beach faculty in the fall of 2006 and feel fortunate to work at an institution and in a department where my colleagues appreciate intersections between epistemic and aesthetic lines of scholarly production. CSU, Long Beach has proven to be fertile soil for my brand of scholarship. Lethe Press recently released my second collection of poetry, titled Exile in Gayville, which is a poetic response to Liz Phair's popular album Exile in Guyville; and several of our discipline's journals have featured my poetic and scholarly interpretations of human communication.

I look forward to my future at Long Beach, where I hope to develop new courses in qualitative research methods and continue discovering ways to include poetry and performance in our curriculum.

A Message from the Chair

Dear Communication Studies Alums. I hope you are well and surviving in these challenging times. For the first time that I can remember, our campus is not planning to grow in size for the 2009-2010 academic year. What this means for our department is less first-year students in our public speaking, small group discussion, and interpersonal communication classes and, sadly, less transfer students from local area community colleges. Hopefully, this crisis will pass quickly because we don't know what to do if we are not bursting at the seams. Come to think of it, we still are bursting at the seams, and so, necessity being the mother of invention and all that, our university and department put on their creative hats, figured out how to do more with less, and problem-solved how to meet our current majors' needs to graduate. The results are heartening.

For example, CSULB created its first ever "May Intersession" semester for students who are close to completing their degrees but who have had difficulty enrolling in high demand courses—like most of our core classes. This semester will run for three weeks, beginning the last week of May—the same week as commencement ceremonies, and end after the second week of June. This way, if our majors have but one required class left to take or, perish the thought, have to repeat a class, then they will end up graduating only three weeks later than expected. Not bad if you ask me. We are offering a lot of classes during the intersession, and a lot of students thus far are choosing this alternative. We are grateful to the university for responding so efficiently and effectively for students' benefit.

In addition, it turns out that when the going gets tough, the tough go abroad. Our university is quickly becoming a major study abroad center, and our Communication Studies faculty are at the forefront of this initiative. Last summer, Dr. Mary McPherson was the first to experiment with teaching our students in Sweden, and Dr. Marc Rich hit the surf with a Storytelling class in that international mecca, Hawaii. This year, Dr. Katie Gibson will accompany a group of our graduate and undergraduate majors to Brussels, Belgium, Dr. Ann Johnson will be at The Hague in the Netherlands, and Dr. Craig Smith and forensics director, Mr. Ryan Smith will be teaching in Rome. This study abroad program not only fulfills the mission of our

Continued on page 5...

INTERACT

Touring the Country with a New Performance

The interACT Troupe is having a very busy and exciting spring semester. In response to the recent controversy surrounding Proposition 8 in California, the troupe members decided to begin working on a new performance about homophobia. January was used to create an original script derived from CSULB responses to this issue. The next eight weeks consisted of many late-night rehearsals and lots of caffeine! The new show debuted in April, and by the end of the semester will be viewed by over 500 audience members. interACT also presented their sexual assault program to Universities throughout the U.S. Their first stop was the University of Massachusetts, where they performed once for faculty and experts on sexual violence from the East Coast. Their second performance was for UMASS students, faculty and police. In addition to the performances, the troupe enjoyed sightseeing and learning more about the historical events that unfolded in Massachusetts. The second stop was a local trip to the University of California, Riverside, where they performed for students, faculty and administrators. The troupe had a final travel date at the University of Minnesota, where they were invited to showcase their scenes for students, faculty and the players and coaches who represent the Golden Gophers. Troupe members enjoyed seeing Minehaha Falls, the Mississippi River and The Mall of America.

CENTER FOR FIRST AMENDMENT STUDIES

New White Papers Available Online

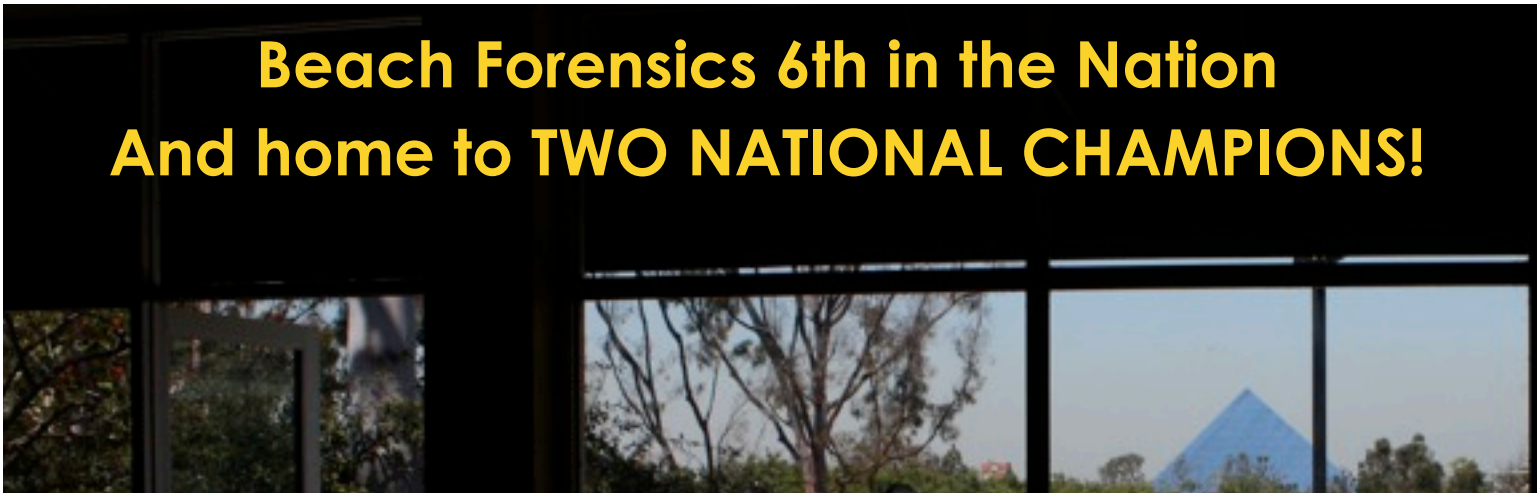
The Center for First Amendment Studies sponsored two panels at the President's Forum on Human Rights in March. The first was a lecture on the history of the First Amendment by our Director, Craig Smith. The second panel consisted of our graduate research fellows presenting papers on the First Amendment and Religion. These papers have now been published as a report of the Center entitled "The First Amendment and Religion." It is available free of charge at the Center's office in AS 304 on campus. It is also available on the Center's web site (http://www.csulb.edu/~crsmith/1amendment.html); just click on "white papers." The Center is also pleased to announce that the State University of New York is publishing a second edition of our director's study "Silencing the Opposition: Government Strategies of Suppression." The original chapters by Karen Rasmussen, Sharon Downey and Craig Smith were revised for the new edition with new chapters added by Katie Gibson, Amy Heyse, and R. Brandon Anderson. The Center has received a grant from the Norris Foundation for its next study, which will analyze the records of each Supreme Court justice on the First Amendment.

THE HAUTH CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Announcing the Audrey Nichol Hauth Endowed Scholarship

This last year has proven to be particularly important to the growth of the Hauth Center for Communication Skills. Working with Lus and Audrey Hauth, the Center Directors have spent the year assembling $50,000 to endow a scholarship to be awarded to an upper level undergraduate or graduate student with a Communication Studies major or minor. Scholarship recipients will work in the Center with Scott Allen, the Technical Director during the year of the award. This scholarship is now formalized and operational and is named after one of our benefactors: The Audrey Nichol Hauth Endowed Scholarship. This funding pattern will add greatly to services offered by the Center.

Beach Forensics 6th in the Nation
And home to TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



In 2009 Beach Forensics made history by having the most successful national championship season since the program's inception. Long Beach placed 6th in team sweepstakes at the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament and 6th at the National Forensics Association Tournament. Junior Marcus Hill won the national championship in informative speaking at AFA and senior Amanda Samoyloff won the national championship in Prose Interpretation at NFA. Prior to 2009, CSULB's best finish was 7th in 2003. In debate, CSULB broke one team at NPDA nationals and qualified two teams to NPTE in which they only accept the top 50 teams in the nation. For more results please visit www.beachforensics.com.

AFA-NIET

Informative Speaking
Marcus Hill-**1st Place**

Prose Interpretation
Jasmine McLeod- Quarter Finals
Amanda Samoyloff-3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking
Billy Turner- Quarter Finals

Persuasive Speaking
Marcus Hill- Semi Finals

Duo Interpretation
Marcus Hill/Sean Conner- Semi Finals
Roger Willis/David Hale- Semi Finals
Sophia Alberti/Kevin Goodman-Quarter Finals

Program Oral Interpretation
Kevin Goodman- 3rd

Dramatic Interpretation
Sofia Cuevas- Semi Finals
Jorge DeLeon- Quarter Finals
Mike Ledezma-Quarter Finals

After Dinner Speaking
Sean Connor- Quarter Finals
Mandy Finlay- Semi Finals

Poetry Interpretation
Amanda Samoyloff-3rd

Individual Sweepstakes
Amanda Samoyloff-11th
Marcus Hill-16th

Team Sweepstakes
CSU, Long Beach-6th

NFA

Informative Speaking
Amanda Samoyloff- Quarter Finals

Prose Interpretation
Amanda Samoyloff-**1st Place**
Roger Willis-Quarter Finals

Persuasive Speaking
Amanda Samoyloff- 6th Place
Roger Willis- Semi Finals

Duo Interpretation
Marcus Hill/Sean Connor 4th Place
Roger Willis/David Hale- Semi Finals

Dramatic Interpretation
Sofia Cuaves-5th Place

Poetry Interpretation
Amanda Samoyloff-2nd Place

Individual Sweepstakes
Amanda Samoyloff-4th

Team Sweepstakes
CSU, Long Beach-6th

NPDA

Billy Turner/Kirstin McRae Triple Octo Finalists

NPTE

Billy Turner/Kirstin McRae

Helen Do/Dan Falls

Nancy Comito (pictured above) left the Department in order to complete her teaching credential. She's been interning in the ABC Unified School district, working with both 1st and 3rd graders. She loves the assignment and is looking forward to her career as an educator. *We will miss you, Nancy!*

Ann Kinsey (pictured below) joined the Department this Spring as an Administrative Services Assistant II. This appointment is actually a *return* engagement for Ann as she is a Communication Studies graduate (class of 1986). She fondly recalls courses that she took from Drs. Fred Rogers, Bruce Loganbill, and Sharon Downey. After reminiscing a bit on her first day of work with her new boss, Dr. Downey, she was surprised to find her 23-year-old COMM 439 final on her desk the next day when she returned to work. Apparently, Dr. Downey does not throw anything away!

Ann lives in Cypress with her two daughters, Jennifer (age 12) and Catherine (age 19), and is reputed to be an excellent baker. *Welcome Ann!*

News and Notes

Conference Presentations

Briggs, N. (2008). "Indigenous People's Communication to Preserve Habitat for Orangutans and the Locals," Hawaiian International Conference on Social Sciences, Honolulu, HI.

Fox, R. (2009) TOP THREE PAPER for "Re-membering Daddy: Autoethnographic Reflections of my Father and Alzheimer's Disease." Western States Communication Association's Performance Studies Division. Mesa, AZ.

Heyse, A. & Utley, E. (2009) "Barack Obama's (Im)Perfect Union: An Analysis of the Strategic Successes and Failures in His Speech on Race." Western States Communication Association. Mesa, AZ.

Johnson, A., del Rio, E., & Kemmit, A. (2009) TOP PAPER for "Missing the Joke: A Reception Analysis of Satirical Texts". Western States Communication Association's Media Studies Interest Group. Mesa, AZ.

Awards

ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD to Ragan Fox for "Skinny Bones #126-774-835-29" by NCA's Ethnography Division. San Diego, CA, Nov. 2008.

$15,000 grant awarded from Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation to Nancy Briggs for Environmental Curriculum Development, 2008-2009.

Publications

Briggs, N. (2008). "ESRI Educational Services use of OFI – GIS Training, Games, and Data for Kids' 2006 Camp," In M. Schmidts (Ed.), Using GIS with Kids.

Cargile, A. C., Maeda, E., Rodriguez, J. I., & Rich, M. D. (in press). "Oh, you speak English so well!" U.S. American listeners' perceptions of 'foreignness' among non-native speakers. Journal of Asian American Studies.

Fox, R. (2008). "Sober Drag Queens, Digital Forests, and Bloated 'Lesbians' (Oh, My!): Performing Gay Identities Online."Qualitative Inquiry, 14, 1245-1263.

Fox, R. (2008). "Headstone." In S. McAlister, D. McIver, M. Renz, and D. Solis (Ed.s). A Bigger Boat: The Unlikely Success of the Albuquerque Poetry Slam Scene. University of New Mexico Press, 204-206.

Fox, R. (2009). Exile in Gayville. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press.

Fox, R. (in press). "Re-membering Daddy: Autoethnographic Reflections of my Father and Alzheimer's Disease." Text and Performance Quarterly.

Gibson, K. & Heyse, A. (2009). "The Suppression of the Woman Suffrage Movement." Forthcoming in Craig R. Smith, ed., Silencing the Opposition: Government Strategies of Suppression of Freedom of Expression. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Heyse, A. (2008). "The Rhetoric of Memory-Making: Lessons from the UDC's Catechisms for Children." Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 38, 408-432.

Heyse, A. (in press). "Reconstituting the Next Generation: An Analysis of the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Catechisms for Children." Southern Communication Journal.

Performances & Speaking Engagements

Briggs, N. CSULB Selected Women's Speaker for the Women's Research Colloquium Spring 2008, by The President's Commission on the Status of Women, "Communication and the Great Apes."

Manseau Sauceda, J. Delivered the opening Plenary Keynote address for the statewide CATESOL Conference (Teacher of English to Students of Other Languages) held at the Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, in the evening on April 16, 2009.

Manseau Sauceda, J. Performed his original poetry and original solo piano compositions at the "Todos Somos Califas" Poetry Slam. He also served as co-Master of Ceremonies sharing the stage with featured artist, Jesus "Tatos" Laviera (Nu Yor Rican Bilingual Poet) at the USU Southwest Terrace on April 16, 2009.

Utley, E. Presenter, "Barack Obama: A Dialogue in Black and White." Clinton House Museum, Fayetteville, AR. February 21, 2009.

Utley, E. Guest Lecturer, "Sex, Sexism, and the Search for Pleasure in Hip Hop." Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. March 4, 2009.

Class of 1980

Dawn Braithwaite, Georgie Monahan, and Steve Kahanic

Many of the faculty and graduate students in our department attended the Western States Communication Association convention in Mesa, Arizona; it happened to be the same February weekend of the NBA All-Star Game in Phoenix as well as President Obama's visit to Mesa to promote his economic stimulus plan. We didn't get to see the Shaq-Kobe reunion or the President (because we were working of course!), but we were fortunate to run into two of our all-time favorite colleagues from CSULB's past. Our former department chair and now retired emeritus professor Dr. Richard Porter, the great non-communicator, was on hand to discuss the umpteenth edition of his and Dr. Larry Samovar's leading book on Intercultural Communication. And one of his former students, Dr. Dawn Braithwaite, professor of communication at the University of Nebraska, fondly reminisced about her tenure as a master's student in our department twenty-nine years ago. She is pictured (above, right) with her M.A. cohorts Georgie Monahan and Steve Kahanic in 1980 and then again in 2008. Georgie is a speech communication professor at Orange Coast College, Steve is a senior management consultant at KPMG, and Dawn is our discipline's incoming president of the National Communication Association. We take such pride in their accomplishments. *-Sharon Downey*

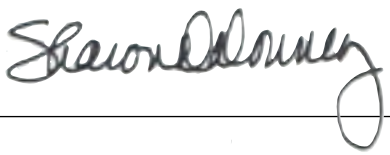
A Message from the Chair (continued)

university and College of Liberal Arts, it simultaneously provides students with desperately needed classes and both pure education and enjoyment to boot.

Our recent economic troubles no doubt also have taken their toll on our majors who worry that they might not be able to graduate in a timely manner despite their careful planning. As a consequence, this year I have witnessed a huge increase in the number of students who have come to the department for advising. Our undergraduate advisors—Ms. Dawn Kelsey, Mr. Tony Castello, and Ms. Jamie Wiles— have gone far beyond the call of duty to restore their confidence, create workable individual plans for their courses of study, and assure their academic success. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my thanks for their outstanding work in our department.

Finally, with your help, we have accomplished a big goal we set for ourselves last year. We wanted to raise funds to be able to support scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students in Communication Studies. We now have enough resources to support $1,000 scholarships for two undergraduate and two graduate students for the 2009-2010 year (that's $4,000 total for you mathaphobics). And such benevolence during an economic recession! We deeply appreciate your help in our common cause to give back so our present and future majors can fulfill their dreams.

All the best to you from all of us in Speech at the Beach.



Welcome: Our Newest Faculty

San Bolkan will arrive in the Department as a tenure-track appointment beginning Fall 2009.

San was raised in Davis, CA and earned his B.A. in Communication Studies from the University of San Diego in 2000. Following his B.A. he went to San Diego State University for his M.A. in Interpersonal Communication (2002). San earned a Ph.D. in Interpersonal Communication from the University of Texas, Austin in 2007 under the guidance of John Daly.

San has taught a variety of communication courses at various institutions including: San Diego State University,Southwestern University, the University of Texas at Austin, and he is currently an Assistant Professor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. San teaches, or has taught, a variety of courses including: Communication Training in Organizations, Public Speaking, Communication in Close Relationships, Interpersonal Communication, and Corporate Communication.

San's research generally covers topics of instructional and applied communication. Some of his recently published (or in-press) works include an investigation into best organizational communication practices following a business failure (Journal of Applied Communication Research), an investigation into the effects of teacher misbehaviors on student communication behavior (Western Journal of Communication), and the creation of a measure of student communication satisfaction (Communication Education). If you want to check out a version of his JACR paper visit communication currents at: http://www.communicationcurrents.com/index.asp?bid=15&issuepage=134&False

Outstanding Graduating Students for 2008-2009

Distinguished Undergraduate Students: Alissa Williams, Erin Swetland & Colle Carpenter

Distinguished Master Student Graduates: Kashif Powell & Ashlie Siefkes

Departmental Awards- Graduate Students: Leslie Salazar Ramos & Minodora Moldoveanu

Departmental Awards- Undergraduate Students: Ashley Dohopolski, Wendy Rosales, Lidia Gonzalez, Amanda Rosencrantz, Kevin Goodman, Rachel Trapp, Mandi Larson, Shannon Wall, Jenny Lopez, Jessica Weeks, Alyssa Reid, Melanie Whitney, Roger Willis, and Joshua Yee.

Communication Studies

Newsletter Spring 2009

Department Staff

Wendy Lucas — Administrative Coordinator
Ann Kinsey— Administrative Services Assistant II
Christine Blankenship — Administrative Support Coordinator

Newsletter Ideas?

Do you know communication studies graduates who would be good candidates for alumni profiles? Please contact the editor, Dr. Aaron Cargile, with these (and other) suggestions for the newsletter at: acargile@csulb.edu

Beach Fund

Though Cal State Long Beach is a publicly supported institution, generous contributions to the Beach Fund are critical to keeping the University thriving. More than 20,000 alumni, parents and friends of the university contribute to the Beach Fund each year. Gifts to the Beach Fund make it possible for our gifted students to earn the lifelong benefits of a quality CSULB education and protect the value of degrees already earned. When you receive a phone call from the beach fund, please consider directing your gift to the Communication Studies Department.

Communication Studies **California State University Long Beach**

1250 Bellflower Blvd.- AS 309
Long Beach, CA 90840-2007