

# COM Newsletter

Communication Department • University of Illinois at Springfield

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## Get to Know the New Faces in the Communication Department

Three faculty with prior teaching experience at UIS join the Communication Department full time.



Assistant Professor Ann Strahle knows more than a few things about broadcast journalism.

She was an embedded journalist following a local reserve Army unit in Bosnia in 1996, she produced a documentary about the life of a first-term congress member in Washington D.C., and she reported on the federal conviction and execution of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Additionally, she has 16 years of experience as a television reporter, producer, and main anchor at local NBC affiliates, and she spent five of those years as a news director and anchor at the PBS and NPR affiliates in Bloomington, Indiana.

Admittedly, she has a hard time getting through the day without keeping up on the news, she said. But, there must be a lighter side to a journalist/professor who would name her golden doodle puppy Lois Lane.

Professor Strahle taught as an adjunct for UIS last year before receiving the offer to teach full-time. Having this previous experience with UIS students, "I truly enjoy the diversity of students in my classes. The diversity of experience, age, race, and expectations gives the class a unique and exciting atmosphere," she said.



Visiting Instructor Nan Akins once worked as a marketing director at the White Oaks Mall in Springfield and the College Mall in Bloomington, before beginning her teaching career.

Thankfully, we have her now to teach four Oral Communication courses per semester for 2011-2012. Given all of her prior experience in public relations; purchasing for radio, newspaper and TV advertising; promotions; handling seasonal décor; publishing mall newsletters; and organizing annual meetings with store managers — she fits in well in the Communication Department!

Akins has taught COM 112 Oral Communication as an adjunct instructor for UIS and other institutions since 2004. She also taught courses in Business and Professional Communication and Interpersonal Communication at Millikin University.

"It is exciting for me to be at UIS on a full time basis this year because it is in the classroom that I find so much personal satisfaction," she said. "My commitment comes from connecting with the students and watching them grow and learn. We cover the many aspects of communication and the rewards and challenges of giving a speech."

Four oral communication courses is a lot to teach each semester. The benefits are that "I have the opportunity of getting to know our incoming freshmen and transfer students that are here from so many different places. Our students are eager to learn, creative and committed to their education. Their enthusiasm is very rewarding for me," said Akins.

Akins obtained her master's degree in Communication from UIS.

She has four children all who attended or are attending state colleges. Two are graduates from Illinois State University and one from Eastern Illinois University.

### Professor Cheney's new position



Professor Michael Cheney, a long-time member of the University of Illinois community, soon will be a full time member of the Communication Department.

For the last few years Cheney has split time being a Senior Fellow of the IGPA (Institute of Government & Public

Affairs), a Professor of Communication, an Associate Professor of Economics, as well as an associated faculty member in the LIS/LNT Department. Cheney taught two courses each semester this year, and will be full time for the Communication Department in 2012-2013.

Cheney's teaching focus for Communication is in public relations, writing for public relations, and political communication. He is scheduled to teach COM 462 Writing for Public Relations and a new experimental version of COM 112 Oral Communication in the spring of 2012.

Professor Cheney earned his Ph.D. in Communication from Ohio State University, and before coming to UIS, he taught at Rutgers College from 1977-1981 and at Drake University. In 1988, he became the Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Drake University where he facilitated a national commission on libraries and information resources. He is the recent recipient of the Sloan Consortium award for online teaching (see story on page 2).



Picture, taken by COM student Dane Vincent from the *America I Am* exhibit, see page 2 for more details

## Cheney to be honored

One of the Communication Department's own is being honored with a national award. Dr. Michael Cheney will receive the Sloan Consortium Excellence in Online Teaching Award.

This is considered one of the Sloan Consortium's most prestigious awards.

"I am very honored to receive this award. UIS is known for its excellence in online education and I am happy to contribute to that reputation through my work," Cheney said.

The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is an organization that is dedicated to improving the online education process at higher learning institutions. Sloan-C is now a non-profit member based organization. This is the fourth year that UIS has received an award from Sloan-C which is more than any other university.

Professor Cheney's online teaching methods consist of short weekly podcasts. These podcasts entail lectures that the students can download for free using Apples iTunes software.

"I use podcasts in the class as a way to complement the material students are already studying and to provide them with poignant references and information to enhance their understanding of the course," Cheney said.

Cheney will accept the award during the 17th-Annual International Conference on Online Learning: Online Teaching, Learning and Research in the New Media Ecology, in Orlando, Florida, Nov. 10, 2011.



## Faculty stays busy...

- Dr. Beth Ribarsky is the recipient of the "Rookie Advisor of the Year" award for the UIS Communication chapter of Lambda Pi Eta. The award is made through the National Communication Association. Ribarsky will be recognized for this achievement at the upcoming NCA in New Orleans in November.
- Dr. Kathy Jamison is revising a book manuscript titled, *Taming Consumer Culture: A Contractarian Ethic for Advertising*, under contract with University Press of America.
- Dr. Hazel Rozema took her COM 478 "Communicating about Race" class to the America I AM exhibit in St. Louis, MO, a traveling exhibit that displays over 400 years of African American history.
- Dr. Michael Cavanagh wrote an introduction and a chapter outline on a chapter discussing Obscenity and Indecency in a recently published textbook, *Communication Law: Practical Applications in the Digital Age*, by Dom Caristi and William Davie, published by Pierson Higher Ed.
- Dr. Amie Kincaid will present a paper at the National Communication Association, on November 17-20, in New Orleans, titled, *No Gossip Here! Examining the Dialectical Tensions Surrounding Gossip and Interpersonal Voices in the Classroom*.
- Dr. Beth Ribarsky will present five papers at the National Communication Association, on November 17-20, in New Orleans. Her papers are titled:

*Doing more with less? Voicing concerns regarding the future of budget crunches and effects on communication education.*

*Gossip..... good, bad and ugly? Examining gossip's role in establishing interpersonal relationships in the organization.*

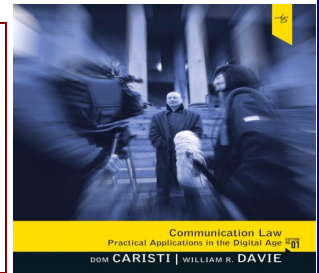
*"How can you be looking at his bellybutton?" Examining women's voices in ritualistic viewing of reality-dating television.*

*Marginalized voices in the classroom.*

*The Frankenstein project: Voicing concerns regarding media's role in constructing romantic relationship ideals.*



Left: Picture from America I AM exhibit.  
Right: Picture of *Communication Law: Practical Applications in the Digital Age* textbook.

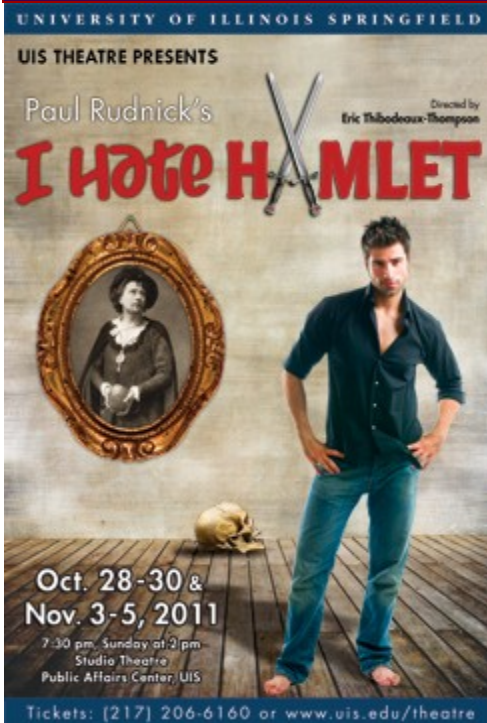


## Former students succeed ...

- Cliff White (M.A. '11), is the Lead Tutor of the Resource Center at Benedictine University in Springfield, as well as an adjunct instructor at Benedictine and for the CAP Scholar's program at UIS.
- Kristin Nisbet-White (M.A. '10), is the Assistant Director of the Career Center at Millikin University in Decatur.
- Hannah McNeff (B.A. '10), was recently offered a new position as co-anchor for a morning news show with Barrington Broadcasting Group LLC. McNeff's bachelor's degree emphasized the Interpersonal Communication track in the department. Now, she is a master's student in the UIS Public Health.
- Elizabeth "Liz" Kerns (M.A. '08) is an Assistant Professor in Public Relations at Central Washington University, as of Fall 2010.
- Shirley Oakley (M.A. '95) has taken a new position at St. Petersburg College in Florida, at the Clearwater campus. She is the Academic Chair for the Department of Communications, which includes the programs of Speech, English as Second Language, Foreign Languages, American Sign Language, Communication and English. Oakley continues to teach three speech courses, as well.

Send us *your* alumni news at [gacommunication@uis.edu](mailto:gacommunication@uis.edu)

# UIS Theatre Scene



PLEASE NOTE:

**I HATE HAMLET:**

October 28-30 & November 3-5  
Studio Theatre,  
PAC, UIS  
Campus

Always 7:30 p.m.  
except for October 30 @ 2 p.m.

# Lambda Pi Eta students make connections

Seven members of the UIS' Lambda Pi Eta chapter attended the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin last April.

The students had a chance to make connections with professors and students from other schools. They were able to listen to several paper presentations and panel discussions.

Paper presentation topics included; communication in the classroom, influence of media, and the effect of new technologies on communication. Some of the panel discussions that the students sat in on were "Balancing Work and Home Life" and "Ways of Obtaining Your Ph.D."

"Overall, I think that all of the members of Lambda Pi Eta had a very positive experience at the CSCA Conference. For me personally, it got me more excited about studying different areas in the communication field," Pi Eta President Carley Reynolds said.



Pictured from L to R (L to R) Dr. Ribarsky, Katie Camaramo, Andrew Crane, Hannah Freeman, Dr. Kincaid, Alicia Dirksen. Front Row: Aimee Burch, Vanessa Ferguson, Carley Reynolds.

# Professor Jamison begins new position



This fall, the Communication Department welcomes Dr. Kathy Jamison, Associate Professor of Communication in her new position as chair of the department. Jamison was elected by her peers during the spring semester in anticipation of previous chair Mary Bohlen's retirement.

As Jamison takes on the added responsibilities inherent in leading an academic department, she does so knowing that she is chair of a strategic department in the college.

"One of the best attributes of Communication at UIS is that we offer a broad-based curriculum that allows our students to explore a wide range of possibilities," she said. "The result is that our students have great success in getting jobs and/or going on to graduate school."

Jamison will continue to teach each semester, but fewer courses. In the spring she will teach COM 403 Feature Article and COM 516 Communication Theory. She will also teach Media and Culture in China as an online course in the summer.

In addition to her increased responsibility leading the department, Jamison is also continuing her academic scholarship. She is currently writing and revising a book under contract with University Press of America titled "Taming Consumer Culture: A Contractarian Ethic for Advertising."

Jamison is an Award-winning journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering hard news, business and agriculture. In addition to writing a popular entertainment column and occasional food column, she has several years of photojournalism and fine art digital imaging experience. She has received several awards from the Illinois Press Association, and won national awards in News/Feature Writing, from Women in Communications, International Association of Business Communicators, and Public Relations Society of America.

In spring, 2008, Jamison was a visiting lecturer at Harbin, China where she taught a class on American mass media: advertising, movies and television to students at Heilongjiang, Mudanjiang University and Harbin College.

She looks forward to continuing to bring that professional experience alive to students in the Communication Department in her new role as chair.

"We're a strong department with one of the largest majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences," she said. "My goals are to continue to strengthen recruitment and retention of students and support faculty as they conduct research and deliver strong content to the classroom."

## COM Department Contact Information

|                                |                       |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Nan Akins.....                 | nveho01s@uis.edu..... | UHB 3011 |
| Mike Cavanagh.....             | mcava2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3021 |
| Michael Cheney.....            | mchen1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 4011 |
| Mike Duvall.....               | jduva1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3023 |
| Jim Grubbs.....                | jgrub1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3020 |
| Kathy Jamison.....             | kjamison@uis.edu..... | UHB 3024 |
| Amie Kincaid.....              | akinc2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3014 |
| Beth Ribarsky.....             | eriba2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3016 |
| Hazel Rozema.....              | hroze1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3022 |
| Ann Strahle.....               | astra2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3012 |
| Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson.....  | ethib1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3018 |
| Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson..... | mthom1@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3013 |
| Com O.S.S. Dianne Morse.....   | dmors2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3010 |
| Com G.A.Sean MacWilliams.....  | smacw2@uis.edu.....   | UHB 3015 |

## Student reminders

**Communication students remember to meet with your advisors before registering for next semesters classes. Priority registration begins on November 7th with Open registration beginning November 14th. Students can check their registration times using the enterprise database.**

# SPRING 2012 COM SCHEDULE

\*\*\* Schedule is subject to change \*\*\*

| Hours       | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   |
|-------------|---|---|---|--|
| 8:00-9:40   |   | COM 112 B Oral Com – Akins (8-9:15)   |   | COM 112 B Oral Com – Akins (8-9:15)  |
| 10:00-11:40 | COM 112 A - Oral Com – Ribarsky (10-11:15)<br>COM/ECCE 425 Intercultural Com – Kincaid<br>COM 311 Audio Production – Grubbs (blended)                         | COM 112 C Oral Com – Akins (10 – 11:15)<br>COM 303 – Intro to Mass Media – Strahle<br>COM 480 Advanced Topics: Web Design for Journalism -- Cavanagh                  | COM 112 A - Oral Com – Ribarsky (10-11:15)<br>COM/ECCE 425 Intercultural Com – Kincaid  | COM 112 C Oral Com – Akins (10 – 11:15)<br>COM 303 – Intro to Mass Media – Strahle<br>COM 480 Advanced Topics: Web Design for Journalism -- Cavanagh<br>ART/COM 236 Intro Digital Media – Kube (10 -12:30) |
| Noon-1:40   | COM 112 D Oral Com -- Kincaid (noon-1:15)<br>COM 302 Intro to IP/Org – Ribarsky<br>COM/PAR 404 Media Law & Ethics – Cavanagh<br>COM 448 Advertising – Strahle | COM/ECCE 445 Children, Adolescents & Media – Bohlen (noon-3:40) (second 8 weeks)<br>COM 352/ART 372 Basic Video – Duvall (noon-3:40)<br>COM 362 Intro to PR – Strahle | COM 112 D Oral Com -- Kincaid (noon-1:15)<br>COM 302 Intro to IP/Org – Ribarsky<br>COM/PAR 404 Media Law & Ethics – Cavanagh<br>COM 448 Advertising – Strahle | COM/ECCE 445 Children, Adolescents & Media – Bohlen (noon-3:40) (second 8 weeks)<br>COM 352/ART 372 Basic Video – Duvall (noon-3:40)<br>COM 362 Intro to PR – Strahle                                      |
| 2:00-3:40   | COM 112 F Oral Com – Akins (blended) (2-3:15)<br>COM 463 Org Com – Rozema (blended)   |   | COM 112 F Oral Com – Akins (blended) (2-3:15)<br>COM 463 Org Com – Rozema (blended)   | COM/ART 337 Digital Media Print – Kube (2-5:30) (prerequisite ART 236)   |
| 6:00-8:30   |   | COM 112 E Oral Com – Akins  | COM/ART 236 Intro Digital Media - Kube  |  |
| 6:00-9:30   | COM/ECCE 478 Communicating About Race – Rozema<br>COM 545 Interactive Multimedia – Cavanagh   | COM 421 Interpersonal Com – Ribarsky<br>COM 403 Feature Writing – Jamison   | COM 424/WGS 424 Gender Com – Rozema (blended)<br>COM 506 Research Methods -- Kincaid  | COM/ART 406 Photo II – Duvall<br>COM 562 Public Relations in Organizations – Kains   |

## Special Courses/Blended/Online

COM 311 Audio Production – Grubbs – blended: 1/23, 2/20, 3/19, 4/23, 2/30

COM 112 F Oral Com – Akins – blended on campus dates: 1-18, 25; 2-1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 3-7, 21, 28; 4-4, 11, 18, 25; 5-2

COM 112 G Oral Com – Cheney – blended: meets every other Friday at Emiquon Field, leaving UIS 8:30-5 p.m.

COM 424 Gender Com – Rozema – blended: 1-18, 1-25, 2-8, 2-29, 4-4, 4-18, 5-9

COM 458 Media from a Liberal Arts Perspective – Grubbs – online (second 8 weeks)

COM 462 Writing for PR – Cheney - online

COM 463 Org Com – Rozema – blended: 1-18, 1-25, 2-15, 2-29, 3-21, 3-28, 4-11, 4-18, 5-9

COM 314 Radio Practicum – Grubbs (WPI)

## IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 7

Priority Registration for Spring 2012 Courses Begins

Nov. 14

Open Registration for Spring 2012 Courses Begins

Nov. 21-25

Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 10

Last Day of Classes

Dec. 12-17

Finals Week

Dec. 17

Last day of Semester

Dec. 21

Final Grades Deadline

Jan. 17

Full-Term and First-Half Classes Begin

## VISIT THE COM WEBSITE

For the most up-to-date information on the Communication Department

[www.uis.edu/communication](http://www.uis.edu/communication)

Please send comments and news to:

Communication Department  
University of Illinois at Springfield  
One University Plaza,

Phone: 217-206-7686  
E-mail: [uisgacommunications@uis.edu](mailto:uisgacommunications@uis.edu)