Communication Department
becomes radio-active

On Valentine’s Day, a new star rose in the heavens over the University of Illinois at Springfield campus. Shining brightly, like a supernova, The Prairie Star is radio-active.

With support from the UIS Communication Department, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Division of Student Affairs, a new Internet radio station is now broadcasting 24 hours a day from the UIS campus.

Jim Grubbs, associate professor of Communication, is directing the new station. Grubbs says the idea of a student station is one “that’s been kicking around for years.” In 2006, Grubbs put together a formal proposal for the station and began the initial stages of the project later that year. “Building a station from the ground up is a monumental task,” he said. “I’ve really had to sharpen my project management skills in order to get us ‘on the air.’ For example, I had to learn about copyright law and secure all of the necessary agreements so that we could use licensed music. And then I had to figure out where to find the money to purchase a music library. Now it’s a matter of converting our music library into digital form for the automation system.”

Grubbs brings his experience from commercial broadcasting to the task. “After beginning my radio career at Armed Forces Radio in Tokyo, I worked at several St. Louis market radio stations before coming to Springfield in the 1970s. A decade later, I was one of the investors who put WNNS on the air.” He joined the Communication Department full-time in 2002 teaching broadcast-related courses, new communication technologies and the role of communication technologies in our society.

The Prairie Star was created specifically to provide a learning venue and creative outlet for Communication Department majors and other interested UIS students.

To listen to the station, point your web browser to http://www.uis.edu/campusradio. Click on the image of Radio Star – the station’s mascot – and then choose either the MP3 or Windows Media Internet stream. No special software is required – just an Internet connection and your favorite media player.

Why is the station only available on the Internet? Grubbs explains that over-the-air frequency assignments are governed by the Federal Communications Commission and that under current rules, no frequencies are available in the Springfield area.

When asked about plans for the station, Grubbs said: “This is phase one. We wanted to make the station available while still working on other aspects of the project.” Right now, the station runs 24 hours a day using an automation system. “All our programming is stored on hard-disk,” he said. “In the next year, our plan is to begin limited live broadcasts featuring UIS students. Right now, we still have a number of issues to address before we can do that.”

During business hours, listeners will hear a mix of favorites from the Sangamon State days (1970s) through today’s hits along with full-length news and information features in the 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. hours along with mini-features every hour on the half hour.

Late afternoon and throughout the night, The Prairie Star morphs into a mix of the best alternative rock of the new millennium.

Weekends add a mix of specialty programs including root, folk and traditional music, classic and modern jazz and classical music “oldies but goodies.” International programming partners include Radio Netherlands Worldwide, Deutsche Welle, Minnesota State University Moorhead, WDUQ, WFIU, WLIU, WMNF, WMKY and WFMT.

For further information, visit http://www.uis.edu/campusradio or e-mail: campusradio@uis.edu
Retiring COM professor named grand marshal of 2008 commencement ceremony

Associate Professor Henry Nicholson has announced his retirement, which will become effective August 2008. Hank has taught in the Communication Department at SSU/UIS since 1975, during which time he has developed and offered 21 different courses and taught more than 5,000 students. He currently is the senior faculty member on campus and has been heavily involved in the Capital Scholars Honors Program since its inception. In 2003 he received that program’s Outstanding Faculty Member Award, for which he was nominated by his Capital Scholar students.

Nicholson has been named Grand Marshal for the 2008 UIS Commencement Ceremony. Grand Marshal is an honorary title conferred each year on a professor by vote of the University's faculty. The role of the Grand Marshal is to lead the commencement procession, which starts the ceremony.

COM professor to visit China

Kathy Jamison, assistant professor of Communication, will be the 2008 UIS Visiting Scholar to China, lecturing at Heilongjiang University for six weeks from May to June. That will be followed by one week of travel to Beijing and Xian.

Each year UIS and Heilongjiang University exchange one faculty member who works as a visiting scholar at the other university. UIS faculty are selected through an application process. The exchange between these two universities goes back to the summer of 1997.

Jamison’s plans while in China are to explore Chinese newspapers and advertising as well as learn as much as she can about Chinese media and culture. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Margot Duley has asked Jamison to make contacts with professors at Heilongjiang University in hopes of creating a cross-cultural online course in journalism or media studies.

Because China is a communist country, Jamison is interested to see what she can learn about people’s use of, or access to, the media in terms of restrictions (such as certain searches on Google.com).

UIS student is finalist in photography contest

UIS photography student Sue Huskins placed as a finalist in the 28th Annual Student Photography Contest sponsored by Nikon, USA. Her photo will be published in Best of College Photography Annual 2008. More than 4,000 students entered this year’s contest. The judges, all college level instructors and professional photographers, were Christopher Broughton (Brooks Institute of Photography) Mark Takeuchi (Art Center College of Design) and Joe Ippolito (PH.D, Florida A&M University). The contest was open to photography students worldwide.

Huskins’ photos are also on display on the UIS campus. Her Chicago photo series is in the lobby of the first floor PAC near the bursar’s office. On display in the Communication hallway of UHB is Huskins’ final class project in documentary production, a documentary series called “Forgotten.”
For the upcoming Fall 2008 semester, UIS Theatre will be offering a new course, THE/COM 322 Playing Shakespeare, which will meet T,R: 2pm – 3:40. This course does have a prerequisite of THE/COM 273, although permission of instructor is also possible, especially in the course’s first offering.

Beginning with the Fall 2008 semester, all UIS Theatre courses will have the “THE” prefix and will be cross-listed with “COM,” which should make the theatre courses easier to find for registration.

The fifth annual University of Illinois Communication Collaboration Conference (UICC) will be held on April 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The UICC brings together student researchers in an academic forum to showcase their planned, in-progress and completed projects and to interact with colleagues and faculty from the three campuses of the University of Illinois. If you are interested in attending this event with other UIS students, please contact Kathy Jamison. UIS Communication graduate students Wesley Wasmundt and Liam Rinehart will be attending UICC. Wasmundt also will be presenting a paper, “A Study of Student Satisfaction and Comprehension in Monomodal and Multimodal Discourse” at the conference.

Give yourself a break from all the work you’re doing and join us in the theatre. UIS Theatre finishes this season with Tennessee Williams’ play, Period of Adjustment.

**Showtimes:** April 4 & 5 at 8pm; April 6 at 2pm; and April 10, 11, & 12 at 8pm

**For Ticket Information:** 206-6160 or www.uis.edu/theatre

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**Faculty News**

- Assistant Professor Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson presented a paper “Pushing the Envelope for Ourselves and Our Audiences,” at the Mid-America Theatre Conference’s annual conference in Kansas City, as part of the Directing Symposium: Extreme Choices. Thibodeaux-Thompson also is chairing a panel for the Directing Symposium entitled “Ultra-Extreme Shakespeare: Shax to the Max.”

  Thibodeaux-Thompson also has been hired as an actor for the McLeod Summer Playhouse at SIU-Carbondale for the production of Almost, Maine (by John Cariani), which will take place in late June.

- Assistant Professor Beth Ribarsky will be on two panels for the Central States Communication Conference in April in Madison, WI: Managing Self-Disclosure in the Classroom, and Learning to Do It All: Exploring the Lessons of First Year Women Faculty. Ribarsky also is presenting two papers: Dinner and a Strip Tease? Exploring and Explaining Dating Script Adherence and the Believability of Reality Dating Television, and Choose Your Own Adventure: Creating Interpersonal Application and Reflection.

- Associate Professor Jim Grubbs will be on sabbatical during the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. Grubbs will not be available to advisees at all during the sabbatical. For minor questions or needs, his current advisees may contact another Communication Department faculty member. However, those who anticipate needing significant advising need to file a request to change advisors. For example, a graduate student anticipating completion of closure during my sabbatical will have to find someone else to chair/participate in that closure experience. Undergraduate students needing someone to supervise an AST placement are similarly advised to file a request to change advisors. During his sabbatical, Grubbs will be immersing himself in the culture of “public radio” and “community radio” to further prepare himself for the role of director of campus radio for the new campus radio station.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **April 7**
  - Priority Registration
- **April 14**
  - Open Registration
- **May 3**
  - Last Day of Classes
- **May 5 - 10**
  - Finals Week
- **May 10**
  - Spring Term Ends
- **June 2**
  - Summer Term Begins

**VISIT THE COM WEBSITE**

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

www.uis.edu/communication
# Spring 2009 COM Schedule

**Schedule is tentative (subject to funding and approval)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:15</td>
<td>COM 112 Oral Com - Bartl</td>
<td>COM 112 Oral Com - TBA</td>
<td>COM 112 Oral Com - Bartl</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:40</td>
<td>COM 421 Interpersonal Com - Ribarsky</td>
<td>COM 448 Advertising - Jamison</td>
<td>COM 421 Interpersonal Com - Ribarsky</td>
<td>COM 448 Advertising - Jamison</td>
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<td>COM 555 Women and Media - Bohlen</td>
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<td>COM 442 Electronic Media Programming - Peter Stott</td>
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<td>COM 424 Gender Com - Rozema (blended)</td>
<td>COM 424 Gender Com - Rozema (blended)</td>
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**Special Courses:** COM 205 - Forensics Participation I - Bartl
COM 305 - Forensics Participation II - Bartl
COM/THE 475-Theatre Practicum (hours per rehearsal schedule) - E. Thibodeaux-Thompson

**Blended Classes:**
COM 424 - Gender Communication. Blended - Online & Classroom - Rozema
COM 463 - Organizational Communication. Blended - Online & Classroom—Rozema

**Online Classes:**
COM 462 Writing for Public Relations - Cheney

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**Contact Information for COM Faculty**

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Please send comments and news to:

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