



Alum News

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California State University Northridge

Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication

California State University, Northridge

Celebrating Professor Jim Hasenauer

By Kathryn Sorrells

In May 2011, the Department of Communication Studies celebrated Professor **Jim Hasenauer's** thirty-two years of service, teaching, scholarship and advocacy at CSUN with a retirement party, Tour de Manzanita: Jim's Championship Ride!



Colleagues from across the university joined former and current students to recognize Jim's contributions to CSUN, the Communication Studies discipline and the broader LA community. Jim's accomplishments as a professor, scholar and advocate have had impact locally, nationally and internationally. He is known as an engaged, animated and concerned teacher whose thorough knowledge of the subject brings the material alive. Jim is also regarded as an incredible colleague—an excellent leader who values all perspectives and can guide a disparate group to consensus. He's a team player who always does his part—fairly, respectfully and genuinely. Professor Hasenauer's capacity to use his knowledge and skill as a communicator to facilitate deliberation, to wrestle with difficult social issues, and to create democratic environments in classrooms, department meetings, on campus and in the community is remarkable.

Alumni and friends of the Communication Studies Department, welcome to the 2012 edition of Alum News. Another year has passed and we've seen a number of remarkable changes in the Department, the College, and the University. As I write this I have begun a long-awaited sabbatical, and Professor **Don Brownlee** has assumed the position of Interim Department Chair. This issue of Alum News was edited by one of our Teaching Associates, **Julianna Kirschner**. Thanks Julianna!

The University continues to get hit with significant budget cuts, but our Administration has done an admirable job of making things work under the circumstances. Course enrollments have been cut significantly in Spring 2012, but the University has managed to pull through the crisis so far with most of its programs intact. We also said goodbye to University President **Jolene Koester**, a scholar in our field, who retired at the end of 2011.

The University took what many thought to be a gamble in the current economic crisis, pursuing an aggressive hiring policy that brought nearly 100 new tenure-track faculty to the CSUN campus. Among these were three new colleagues in the Department. Assistant Professor **Gina Giotta** comes to us from a Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa with expertise in communication technology and media studies. Associate Professor **Aimee Carrillo Rowe** also comes to us from Iowa where she held a tenured position; she brings her expertise in rhetorical studies, cultural studies, and feminist theory to our faculty. And Associate Professor **Stacy Holman Jones** came here from a tenured position at the University of South Florida; she specializes in performance studies and cultural studies. We are very fortunate to have three exciting new faculty members in the Department; please join us in welcoming them to CSUN!

We've continued to see growth and strength in our Performance Ensemble and Forensics programs. These programs have thrived in our Department thanks to the strength of the student body as well as the enthusiastic leadership of faculty directors **Jeanine Mingé** and **John Kephart**. This year Jeanine was joined by **Stacy Holman Jones**, who will co-direct the Ensemble with Jeanine. Members of the Ensemble have been invited to perform at the Patti Pace Performance Festival in the Spring.

Our Forensics program also had a successful year, taking numerous awards at intercollegiate competitions. In November, we brought together alumni of the CSUN Forensics Program for a very special reunion, which was attended by former faculty and students of the program going back to the early 1960s including former coaches **Don Cameron** and **Rebecca Opsata** and alums **Christine Cruz-Boone** (M.A., 2009) and **the Honorable Alan Haber** (B.A., 1964).

In 2011 our wonderful colleague, **Dr. Jim Hasenauer**, moved on to enjoy the fruits of a well-earned retirement. We celebrated his accomplishments at his retirement party in May, where many of his friends, colleagues, and students took the time to share touching stories, photos, and more than a few laughs. Jim contributed much to the University in his 32 years here; among his many achievements, he will continue to influence every freshman class through the University 100 Seminar experience that he helped bring to the University curriculum. Jim was a role model for me as well as for others on the faculty; his gentle demeanor and quick wit will be greatly missed.

-- Bernardo Attias, Department Chair



Teaching Associates 2011-2012

Department Chair: Bernardo Alexander Attias

Administrative Support Coordinator: Yolanda Avila

Administrative Support Assistant: Tom Rankin

Graduate Coordinator: Rebecca Litke

Basic Course Coordinator: Sakilé K. Camara

Assessment Coordinator: Aimee Carrillo Rowe

Director of Forensics: John M. Kephart III

Directors of Performance Ensemble: Jeanine Mingé and Stacy Holman Jones

FACULTY:

Bernardo A. Attias (Ph.D. 1997, University of Iowa)

Cultural Studies, Rhetorical Studies, Communication and Technology, Performance Studies, Freedom of Speech, Peace and Conflict

Don Brownlee (Ph.D. 1982, University of Texas)

Argumentation, Persuasion, Legal and Political Communication

Sakilé K. Camara (Ph.D. 2001, Ohio State University)

Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication

Jim Hasenauer (Ph.D., 1976, University of Southern California)

Interpersonal Communication, Communication Theory, Gender and Communication, Environmental Communication, Public Policy Advocacy

Gina Giotta (Ph.D., 2011, University of Iowa)

Communication and Technology, Cultural Studies, New Media Studies

Stacy Holman Jones (Ph.D., 2001, University of Texas)

Performance Studies, Feminist and Queer Studies, Cultural Studies, and Qualitative Methods

John M. Kephart III (Ph.D., 2008, University of Southern California)

Rhetorical Studies, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Forensics

Daisy Lemus (Ph.D. 2006, University of California, Santa Barbara)

Organizational Communication, Communication Research Methodology, Group Communication, Communication and Technology

Rebecca A. Litke (Ph.D. 1990, University of Southern California)

Language Behavior, Gender, Organizational Communication, Instructional Communication, Ethnography

Peter Marston (Ph.D. 1987, University of Southern California)

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Argumentation, Communication of Romantic Love

Jeanine Marie Mingé (Ph.D., 2008, University of South Florida)

Performance Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Performance Ensemble

Aimee Carrillo Rowe (Ph.D. 2000, University of Washington)

Rhetoric, Feminist Theory, and Cultural Studies

Kathryn Sorrells (Ph.D. 1999, University of New Mexico)

Intercultural Communication, Performance, Language and Cultural Studies, Communication Education, Feminist Theory, Gender Studies, Global Peace and Justice

Faculty Notes

Communication Studies Department Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the department will welcome new full-time faculty members:



Gina Giotta's research is focused on the social, cultural and technological life of media artifacts, particularly those that have been used to erase or inhibit knowledge and information. She also does work in popular American television, war and militarization, and new media.



Stacy Holman Jones' research focuses broadly on how performance constitutes socially, culturally, and politically resistive and transformative activity; how gender and desirous identities are created, made known, and negotiated; and how the work of feminism gets done in and through interpretive methods, especially cultural critique, critical auto/ethnography, and performative writing.



Aimee Carrillo Rowe's research is focused on the areas of Rhetoric, Feminist Theory, and Cultural Studies. Carrillo Rowe is interested in human processes of meaning making, which are inseparable from power relations—from the formation of feminist alliances to academic disciplines to geopolitics, from the clothes we wear to the movies we watch and what we do to heal ourselves.

Faculty Notes

Kathryn Sorrells Releases New Intercultural Communication book in January 2012

Dr. Kathryn Sorrells' book entitled *Intercultural Communication: Globalization and Social Justice*, and it is published by Sage. The text "introduces students to the complex relationships, structures, and contexts that shape intercultural communication today. The book examines communication among cultures within the broader geopolitical, economic and cultural context of globalization, highlighting the significance of history, power, and global institutions—political, economic, and media institutions—for the study of communication and culture" (Sorrells).

Jeanine Minge to Release New Book based on Los Angeles in July 2012

Dr. Minge's contracted book, co-authored with **Amber Lynn Zimmerman**, will be published by Routledge Publishing Company in the series Innovative Ethnographies is entitled *Concrete, Exile and Dust: A Los Angeles Collage* is set to be printed July 2012. This book is based on the geography, space and place, of Los Angeles as the hub of glamour, and sexual objectification of both men and women. Michael Deragon, an experimental sound artist who has explored the nature of Los Angeles using his expertise in mediated and experimental sound design has collaborated with Dr. Minge in a brilliant collage of text, image, and sound. This innovative ethnography, grounded within performance theory, critically examines the vulture-like or carnivorous nature of Hollywood in various spaces and places around this vast and vacant city. Examining Los Angeles, from a performance lens, as a liminal space, a space of transition, exile, a multifaceted stage for performed identity, the hub of consumer culture, and the mass mediated image of celebrity, grounds this critical discussion of sexual agency and power.

Their research has garnered national attention. In April of 2011, **Dr. Minge** was invited to give the Keynote Address about her forthcoming book at James Madison University for their 33rd Annual Communication Studies Conference. The theme of the conference was 'How Communication Research and Criticism can Impact our Communities.'

Stacy Holman Jones' Current Research

The *Handbook for Autoethnography* co-edited by **Stacy Holman Jones, Tony Adams and Carolyn Ellis** is currently in the editing process. **Jeanine Minge** contributed a chapter to the collection. The Handbook is set for publication in late 2012.

Dr. Holman Jones also published a new article in the October 2011 edition of *Text and Performance Quarterly*. Her performative writing piece entitled, "Lost and Found," revisits stories Dr. Holman Jones had written before, and the discoveries that come from revisiting her own work. Dr. Holman Jones writes in the abstract: "I write in and through a series of changes, losses, and discoveries: the death of my grandmother, the disintegration of my marriage, the decision not to adopt another child, the forging of a new queer identity, and the gifts that a return to writing these stories provides."

Gina Giotta's Current Research

While her dissertation focused on erasure vis-a-vis visual and acoustic technologies of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, **Gina Giotta's** research is more broadly concerned with American television and popular culture, war and militarization, and the theory and cultural history of communication technology. She will present her paper "Death Becomes Her: Hillary Clinton, the War Room, and the Evidentiary Feminine Gaze" as part of the panel "Rethinking Embodiment: Object, Medium, Affect" at the Society For Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Annual Conference in 2012. Prior to joining the Department, **Gina** taught courses in rhetorical discourse, the history of communication technology, and television criticism at the University of Iowa and Saint Mary's College of California. She also worked for a number of years as a programmer at community and college radio stations KALX Berkeley and KRUI Iowa City.

Bernardo Attias Begins Sabbatical Spring 2012

Dr. Attias published an essay and a dialogue in the current issue of the *Journal of Electronic Dance Music*; the volume was a special issue of the journal guest-edited by **Dr. Attias and Dr. Anna Gavanoas**. He also coauthored the textbook *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking* with **Jason Wrench, Anne Goding, and Danette Ifert Johnson**. At the National Communication Association Convention in November, he presented a short course along with the coauthors of the textbook focused on the open source model in education and publishing. He was also a featured speaker at the Degrees of Communication seminar at the College of Southern Nevada in October. He also presented research at the Western States Communication Association Conference, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies convention, and the Current Issues in European Cultural Studies conference in Norrköping, Sweden. He was awarded a sabbatical for Spring 2012 to pursue research into music technology and DJ culture.

Performance Ensemble Notes

by Dr. Jeanine Mingé, Director

As performance studies scholars, artists and performers, housed in the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, Northridge our energies and passions keep on thriving. Performance Ensemble continues to create experiential, experimental, intelligent, and innovative performance work. And we have had a busy academic year—chock full of festival travel, staging original performances, and workshops with the performance leaders in our field and larger community.

In February of 2011, we were invited to participate in the **Patti Pace Performance Festival** in Baton Rouge, LA. Six graduate students, **Tamar Artin, Emelie Castillo, Nicole Embree, Julianna Kirschner, Alison Brown, and Asya Mazurova** attended the festival and represented CSUN spectacularly. They workshoped solo performances with other faculty members and students from across the nation. The workshops honored each person's voice and strengthened our connections between universities and working professionals, students and faculty. This type of performance practice strengthens and transforms us all. It was certainly a success.

In April of 2011, we performed **The Towne of Bathe** in the Experimental Theatre in the new Valley Performing Arts Center. With an array of original soundscape, multi-mediated imagery, critical text, and movement, *The Towne of Bathe* addressed the struggle over our world's most precious resource—water and examines what happens to a California community when greed, privatization, and the corporation control the source. Co-directed by **Amanda McRaven** and **Jeanine Minge**. Sound Composition by **Michael Deragon**. Performers: **Tamar Artin, Phillip Nakashian, Brittany Townson, Nicole Embree, Paige Martell, Elizabeth Pineda, Michelle Veloz, Asya Mazurova, Emelie Castillo, Heather Boyd, Neda Gheybi, Gina Apruzzese, Danyial Motiwala, Julianna Kirschner**. Projection Design: **M.J. Silva**. Costume Crafts: **Paula Fleischer**

In October of 2011, we were honored to workshop for a week-long residency with performer, activist, and legend **Tim Miller**. The workshop culminated with a showing of the original performance, **Gut Feeling**. He writes of his experience with CSUN students and the Performance Ensemble, "This week-long performance workshop I have led here at CSUN has been an exciting and charged exploration into creating original performance work from our lives, dreams, obsessions, peeves, memories and desires. It has been a great pleasure and inspiration to create our tribe for a short time and jump into this original ensemble work **GUT FEELING**. The search for the narratives of the body is a crucial beginning to knowing ourselves and can be a juicy motor for creating original performance material. I want to thank the artists for diving in so bravely and being ready to dig that extra foot (or mile!) into these gnarly, moist and tricky terrains!"

A big Bravo! to the students, faculty and staff involved in creating **Gut Feeling** in collaboration with **Tim Miller**. Written and performed by **Michael Acosta, Ashley Beard, Nicole Embree, Christian Burleson, Emelie Castillo, Jennifer Marshall, Selin Minassian, Armen Tahanian, Chikako Kato, Adrian Reynoso, Jenny Sterling, Meena Ansari, Tamar Artin, Cooper Chavez, Nicolette Simanovich, and Sharon Gitman Kohn**.



The Towne of Bathe: Photo courtesy of Nabil Suleiman

Performance Ensemble Notes

by Dr. Jeanine Mingé, Director

In December of 2011, Performance Ensemble celebrated its scholarship at **The Dinner Party**. It was a fantastic showcase cooked up by Performance Ensemble members **Tamar Artin, Emelie Castillo, Nicole Embree, Sharon Gitman Kohn, Seline Minassian, Adrian Reynoso, and Armen Tahanian**. **The Dinner Party** featured a feast of performances by **Brenda Rangel, Jasmine Cervantes, Sabrina Sandifer, Micah Shafton, Negar Riazi, LaTara Mirabal, Taylor Cote, May Patel, Taheli Kohlmann, Cooper Chavez, Ashley Porterfield, David Jackson, Krysta Agoncillo, Lindsay Silverman, Kelli Michael, Armen Tahanian, Adrian Reynoso, Julianna Kirschner, Ashley Beard, Omar Romero, Erin Colloway and Lisa Ghazi**.

We are THRILLED that in Fall of 2011 **Stacy Holman Jones**, PhD joined our faculty. She is a stellar and internationally acclaimed scholar, an avid performance leader and a fantastic mentor. **Dr. Holman Jones** is now co-directing the Performance Ensemble and because of her talent, energy, know-how, and fortitude, we will expand the program, create a performance season and broaden and deepen performance opportunities for students across this campus.

The truly amazing component of Performance Ensemble is that each member gets to explore their otherwise undiscovered creative talents, or cultivate already cherished talents. Performance Ensemble is a unique collaborative effort dedicated to cultivating social justice, tapping into issues that matter to the Ensemble, the University, and to community.

Come join us.

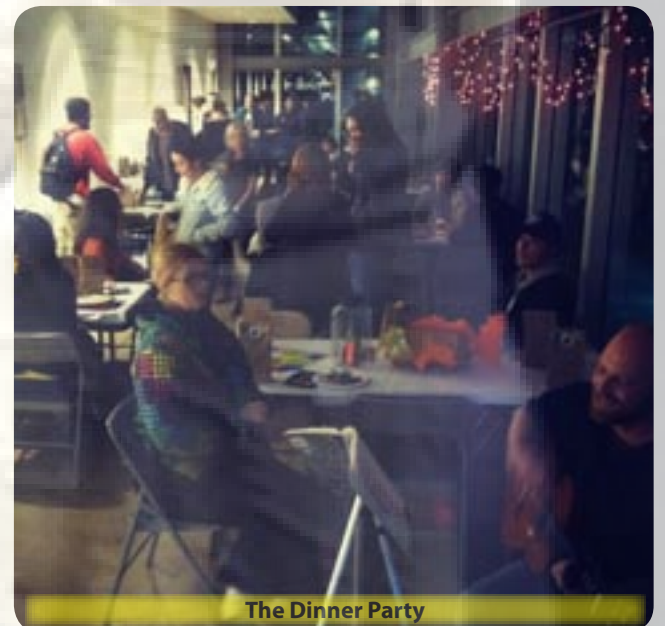
Think. Create. Perform.

Light and Laughter,
Dr. Jeanine Mingé



If you are interested in joining Performance Ensemble please contact:

Dr. Jeanine Mingé—jeanine.minge@csun.edu
Dr. Stacy Holman Jones—sholmanjo@csun.edu



Forensics Update

by Dr. John Kephart III, Director

Matador Forensics had another exciting year, achieving recognition either by participation in elimination rounds, or recognition of speaking excellence, at **16 of the 18** tournaments we attended in 2011. In intercollegiate competition the speech and debate team achieved recognition at tournaments featuring universities from across the country. This included winning **two 3rd place** sweepstakes finishes, an award recognizing the success of an entire squad at a tournament, and **one 2nd place** individual sweepstakes, an award for exemplary individual performance. We qualified three students to the prestigious and highly competitive American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET), the equivalent of NCAA March Madness for competitive public speaking. That is the third consecutive time we have qualified multiple students, and the second time in three years we have qualified three, **the most the university has qualified in 20 years**. This success was recognized as our squad won **5th place** in the yearlong sweepstakes award for **all** California colleges, both two and four year.

The squad also continued its tradition of public debate by hosting the Japanese National Debate Team on their US tour. Debating on topics of contemporary concern, the international debates not only provide a unique cross-cultural experience for our debaters, but also a fantastic opportunity for our faculty and students who attend the event to gain global perspectives on issues of common concern.

In individual events competition, which features **11** competitive public speaking events, the Matadors had a participant in the finals of at least one event at every tournament we attended. The squad has had participants in the final rounds of persuasive, informative, impromptu, extemporaneous and after-dinner speaking as well as poetry, prose, duo and programmatic

oral interpretation, representing 9 of the 11 events in which we compete. We have had competitors take first, second, or third place in their events a total of **thirty-nine times** in 2011, a dramatic improvement from last year. This includes taking **1st place** in competitive public speaking events **14 times** at ten different tournaments.

Among our many successful students, standouts included senior **Brianna Broady**, who not only attended the AFA-NIET last year, but also has already qualified for the tournament this year, making her the first CSUN competitor ever to qualify for the tournament all four years of her collegiate career. **Brianna** picked up this year right where she left off, appearing in the finals of 3 different events so far this year, and taking home one **1st place** and **2nd** and two finishes in Poetry interpretation, and **3rd** place in Informative speaking twice. Junior **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, a new member to the squad, has started the 2011-2012 season off with a flourish, already qualifying for the AFA-NIET in Informative speaking with two **1st place** finishes and one **2nd place** finish to go along with a **2nd** and **3rd place** finish in Impromptu speaking, and a **3rd place** award in After-Dinner speaking. Senior **William Hatton** has already taken home **1st place** in persuasive speaking twice, and is well on his way to qualifying for the AFA-NIET a second year in a row. Other standouts include sophomore **Chelsea Morgan**, and juniors **Aleksey Reshetnikov** and **Samantha Whittington**, who have taken multiple **2nd** and **3rd place** finishes in Duo Interpretation, and senior **Danyial Motiwala**, who has taken **1st place** in Poetry Interpretation and has multiple finals appearances. Listing all of our students and their awards would take quite a bit of space; suffice it to say, we have an outstanding mix of new and returning students in individual events competition.

Forensics Update

by Dr. John Kephart III, Director

Not to be outdone, the debaters were also frequently participants in elimination rounds; Matador debaters advanced to at least the quarterfinals (the equivalent of the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament) at 3 of the 6 competitions they attended in 2011. An impressive group of novice debaters have had success in tournaments in and outside of California in the young 2011-2012 season. Freshman **Joe Belzberg** has reached the semi-finals (Final Four) at two of his first three tournaments, taking **7th place** speaking honors at the Robert Barbera Invitational here at CSUN. **Joe** and his partner, junior **Jocelyn Pena**, had a **third place** finish here at CSUN. Not to be outdone, freshman **Destinae Emery** and sophomore **Wynter Eddins** have reached the quarterfinals twice, and taken home **9th place** speaking awards at the UNLV Las Vegas Invitational and **6th place** at the Barbera Invitational respectively. Sophomore **Kayla Martz** (9th speaker) and Freshman **Byron Lindo** (8th speaker) have also taken home speaker awards. Consistently recognized for their speaking acumen, our debaters had a combined **5 top-ten** speaker awards between them at three tournaments in the fall semester. Our beginning debaters are consistently recognized for their ability, a testament to how our program helps them grow and learn, and pointing the way toward a bright future.



Forensics Reunion 2011

On November 5, 2011, the Forensics reunion was held. Current and past debaters were brought together at the Valley Performing Arts Center to discuss the achievements of the team as a whole. "The experience was a great one," said one of the participants, "There was never a loss for words. All of us truly love forensics."



What's Buzzing? Alums in Action

Stephen Fantl (M.A., 1992) is currently the Executive Director of the Peace Portal Media Network, a non-governmental organization providing technology assistance to humanitarian, charitable, and educational organizations. He is the host of a weekly radio program, and an online TV channel. His main focus is on leveraging sustainable solutions and new technologies in order to meet the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Stephen's online TV station is located at www.peaceday.tv.

Jennifer Marshall (M.A., 2010) In addition to teaching at CSUN, Jennifer teaches at California Lutheran University, where she focuses on Mass Communication and was selected as a "Whose Who in Teaching in North America. She is our current Mrs. Ventura County International and is in the process of starting up her own non-profit organization called "Fore the Cure: Fighting Childhood Cancer." All proceeds go to the National Children's Cancer Society, and she is currently doing College Kids Go Pink. Basically, any class day a student wears pink or cancer related item during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, they sign a board and a dollar per signature is donated to NCCS by Jennifer and her husband. She recently competed in the Mrs. California pageant in August 2011, and helped raise awareness for the need to support children with cancer through education. In October 2011, Jennifer presented her paper, "Revealing the Identity of Contestant #4" at the Organization for the Study of Language, Performance and Gender Conference in Easton, IL. This was a performative piece that explored conception of femininity and gender through her participation in the adult pageant world. Her primary focus in research is communication and cancer. She participated in the Tim Miller workshop, where she helped create the original Performance Ensemble piece called "Gut Feeling." Her solo piece utilized an interesting arrangement of space, sound, lighting and performance to explain the pain of learning a loved one is diagnosed with cancer. It performed the internal struggle she encountered when she discovered her father had less than a one percent chance to live due to stage four cancer. In November 2011, she presented her research, "Creating a Voice Through Cancer" at the National

Communication Association Conference in New Orleans, La. This piece is a three year long ethnography that examines the cancer community living at The Wellness Community, and how non-traditional forms of communication can promote healing in cancer patients.

Marc Rich (M.A., 1993) Since graduating from CSUN, Marc gained his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He is now a faculty member at California State University, Long Beach, with a focus on Performance Studies and Social Change. His article, "Sacked for the Sabbath: Narrative, Trauma, and the (Jewish) Body," was just published in the October 2011 edition of *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Katie Roberts (M.A., 2005; Peace Corps) "Someone once told me to jump off a bridge. During my December holidays, I did just that. My vacation was jam-packed full of bungy jumping, zip lining, ostrich riding, and elephant snot; but more on that later.

The school year has come to a close now and we will be starting a brand new term in January (the school year goes from January to December.) The end of the term is filled with tests for all the learners and very little teaching. The teaching that is done is catch up teaching after the teachers have seen the government test and realize the kids won't pass. They then devise a lesson around what information wasn't covered. The tests are horrible. From grade four on, they are all in English. The English is hard for even a native speaker to understand and almost illegible for a nonnative speaker. The foundation phase have their test in their native language since they haven't changed over to all English instruction. The grade to pass is 30 percent, and many kids don't even reach that high.

My time at the schools was filled with administrative work for the primary school and a whole lot of sitting for the secondary school. One of the people in charge from the Department of Education came to the primary school and saw me, so she gave me all this work to do when she realized they had a computer literate person at school. (Our administrative assistant is on leave.) I

was then effectively turned into the school secretary doing all kinds of paperwork and typing of documents. I gave the teachers deadlines warning them that I was leaving just so I would get the work before I left, and I had to do much of it at home. It all worked out, however, and it gave me something to do.

I left on December 5 for training in Pretoria. I stayed in a hotel there until the 15th. My counterpart joined me a few days in. A counterpart is the person I will be working with closely for the next two years of my service. They help me with projects I have and help to sustain them after I leave. My counterpart is an 18-year-old member of the youth. She recently graduated and is interested in helping to improve her village. The counterparts all showed up on the same day. I think it was a lot of their first time to be in a hotel, or even in Pretoria. One asked their volunteer what kind of bedding they needed to bring. The Peace Corps paid for all travel cost, food, hotel, and basic toiletries for both the volunteers and the counterparts. We all felt spoiled.

Our training was on life skills and HIV/AIDS awareness. The Peace Corps wants all volunteers to spread awareness about HIV, so this education is not only for the health volunteers. We had two speakers come and present about the disease, one of whom is HIV positive. They presented two days that we were there with the counterparts, and the other two days were life skills.

Before and after the counterparts arrived and departed, the volunteers had our own training. We repeated some of the basics we had during our first two months here about safety and security, and we had more language lessons. We all left the hotel the 15th, which is when my vacation began.

I traveled with three other volunteers all living in the northern part of the North-West Province. We rented a manual car which the three of them took turns driving. I took my designated seat in the back making sure not to give any directions that could get us lost. The car was a bit of a struggle with a few scattered screams of terror and yelling,

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"you're on the wrong side of the road!" The windshield wipers were also used much too often being confused for the turning signal. That being opposite really confused everyone. The first day we drove about 6 hours to Bloemfontein, our halfwaypoint to sleep.

The next few days we bounced around from Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, Wilderness, Plettenburg Bay, and Tsitsikamma, staying for either one or two nights. We did a few things in each place before continuing on. During our first full day, we went to an ostrich farm where I was able to ride on the back of an ostrich. They put a blindfold on it while I got on, and then it ran like crazy to get me off when the blindfold was removed. We also got to feed the ostriches, hold the babies, and stand on their eggs. When we left the ostrich farm, we went straight on to the Cango Caves. There were two tours available, standard or adventure. I took the adventure tour with one other girl. The standard tour was walking through the caves and stopping for history or pictures. During the adventure tour, we climbed rocks, crawled on our stomachs, and went through places sideways because our shoulders were too wide to fit walking straight. We even had to walk hunched over for about five minutes through a part where the top of the cave was super low, and try not to scrape our backs on the jagged rocks sticking out. We finished the day by swimming in the Indian Ocean.

In Plettenburg Bay, we went to an elephant sanctuary and Monkey Land. At the elephant sanctuary, we were able to pet the elephants, feed them out of our hands, and even walk hand in trunk through the forest. I have never been able to complain about the ostrich bruise on my left arm and the elephant snot on my right. We went to Monkey Land after and walked through this reserve area where we saw eight different species of monkeys. We ate lunch there, as well, and a monkey came over and took ice cream right out of one of the girl's hand. Just when all the elephant remnants were gone, now we have monkey!

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Support the Department

Unfortunately, the economic crisis facing California continues to deepen. We have seen another year of extremely deep cuts to CSU funding totaling \$750 million across the state. Tuition fees have continued to increase but they do not even come close to closing the gap created by these budget cuts. And while the U.S. President urged states to reinvest in education in his 2012 State of the Union Address, it seems unlikely that we will see a reversal of the trend away from state support for the costs of University education. It is important that we do what we can to supplement the dwindling funds available for education.

Support from our alumni, friends, corporations and others provide the margin of excellence that allows us to provide unique, challenging programs and opportunities. We have been fortunate enough to have received generous endowments in support of specific programs, such as the **Richard B. Aronstam Library Fund and the Robert Barbera Forensics Invitational Fund**. We also have specific scholarship funds generously provided to reward exceptional students, such as our scholarships in the names of **Richard Aronstam, Elizabeth Berry, Don Cameron, Kent Joel Snyder, Mary McEdwards, Fred McMahon, Amy Rebman, and Len Wurthman**.

You can be a part of our pursuit of excellence by becoming or continuing as a Donor to the Department of Communication Studies. Please note that all gifts, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated. Even the smallest gifts make a difference in the lives of those in the Department, most importantly our students. If every one of our alumni made a gift, the Department would have increased flexibility to fund numerous projects including student financial support, student travel and co-curricular programs, technology and facility improvement, and faculty research. Outside sources of support for such activities will become more and more vital in this era of budget cuts.

One way you can help us fulfill our mission is by contributing to the **Communication Studies Department Fund**. The Fund is an account of unrestricted funds that support many day-to-day, ongoing activities of the Department. Such funds allow the Department to support areas that are most in need of funding, but may not receive specific funding from donors. Planned gifts or endowments, on the other hand, are restricted funds that must be used for donor-established purposes.

The Department Fund is a way for anyone who wishes to support the mission, vision, and goals of the Department. Gifts are also eligible for corporate matching programs -- please ask your employer what gift matching policies and procedures they have for any of your charitable donations. All gifts to the Department Fund go into the Department's operating budget, which supports student scholarship, student travel, curriculum development, program development, technology and facility improvements, professional development, and faculty research. Your support can make a profound difference in the lives of students, faculty, and the community. Charitable giving today helps ensure future benefits for CSUN students. By supporting our Department, you are helping us offer a truly unique educational experience to all our students.

Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated and may be made by cash, checks, money orders, or credit cards. Your tax-deductible contributions, made payable to **CSUN Foundation**, may be mailed to:

Department of Communication Studies California State University, Northridge
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Alums in Action

(continued from page 9)

Tsitsikamma was our adventure site. This is where we bungy jumped off the highest bungy jump in the world. The jump is off the 216 meter high Bloukrans Bridge. We got there early, so I was the very first jump of the day. They put us all in harnesses and then we walked across a wire/mesh like bridge over to the spot we would jump. A guy explains more directions and then we are set up to go. I had my feet tied together while music was blaring in the background and the guy explained the cord to me. They then picked me up by the arms and carried me to the edge of the bridge where my toes hung over. 5..4..3..2..1..BUNGY! They nudged me off the edge of the bridge on "bungy" after counting so fast, and I was falling! It was beautiful. From one side I could see the ocean, and the other I could see tons of trees. I was hanging by my feet for a while until a guy came down and took me up with him. We got a certificate saying we jumped the highest place, bought pictures, and went on to our next adventure spot. It was time for zip lining. The rush felt like nothing compared to the rush of the bungy jump, but it was beautiful. We flew right over waterfalls, and moved downstream with a river. We leaned back to try and go as fast as possible. People there knew we had bungy jumped when we arrived because our jump number and weight were on our hands, so our guide kept telling us to go faster and faster since we can bungy jump.

Our other days of the trip were filled with the beach, shopping, and food. We left to go back to Bloemfontein on the 23rd. I arrived back in my village Christmas Eve. I spent Christmas with my new, African family. The holiday is celebrated different here. It is just a holiday to go to church and spend time with family. We went to church Christmas morning. It was a three-hour service that made me question my sanity for always choosing to go to the long services. The rest of the day we went over to my host mom's sister's house in Makapanstad and were with the family. There was lots of food, singing, and dancing, but people did not exchange gifts. It was also hot, so it was a very different Christmas season in general.



Lisa Thranow and students

That is all that is happening right now. I am preparing for what I will do in the New Year. I plan to, hopefully, start a library and ascout troop. We will see what my principals say when school starts back up."

Bridget Sampson (M.A., 1993) Bridget Sampson is president of Sampson Communication Consulting (SCC), a firm that offers a variety of communication training and development programs. This year SCC grew significantly with the addition of Google and WellPoint to their client list. Bridget enjoys working with professionals to identify their communication improvement needs and creating customized programs to meet those needs. You can check out the SCC website at www.SampsonCommunicationConsulting.com. Bridget also teaches part time in the Communication Studies Department at CSUN, which she loves just as much as she did when she started as a Teaching Associate 20 years ago. Bridget recently celebrated 18 years of marriage to Neal Thornhill, who also graduated with his B.A. in Communication Studies from CSUN. Neal runs a thriving claims and private investigation business and credits his success in part to his education in communication at CSUN. Neal and Bridget have two very active sons who they have a lot of fun with. Jake is now 14 and Joey is 10.

Lisa Thranow (M.A.) Hello, or to be more exact, are you at peace? This is the traditional Korean greeting. Since August of 2010, Lisa has been lucky to come to Busan and teach English Conversation at a low level, low income girls middle school in the Buk-gu district of Busan. Growing, would be a great word to express the stretching she has felt



Lisa Thranow and students

coming from teaching at a university in the U.S. to a middle school in Korea, a country which is steeped in rich tradition. While experiencing and enacting the traditions and practices which are wrapped up in every aspect of teaching here in Busan, she has lived in a house of cognitive dissonance as she has continually needed to negotiate her values, beliefs and customs with theirs. It has definitely been a journey, finding the peaceful balance between respecting their values, beliefs, and customs; and not losing herself, who she is and what she believes, in the process.

Lisa has always loved the pragmatic aspect of communication theory. While in Busan, she has seen more facets of pragmatic communication than ever before. It is one thing to read about Stella Ting-Toomey's face Negotiation Theory, but it is another all together to watch the theory unfold before your very eyes. Although she has experienced "culture shock" and all the resulting stages of assimilation; had to traverse multiple uncomfortable conversations; and feel the isolation associated with being "the other;" this has been one of the best experiences of her life. Lisa says, "The students are a pure joy! Their sweet spirits and thirst for knowledge are encouraging. As much I have have taught them, they have in turn, taught me. I look forward to many more lessons from my pint sized instructors." Lisa wants to take a moment and thank the CSUN Communication Studies Dept, Professors, and our Chair Ben Attias for equipping her and allowing her to step out into an area which allows her operate at the rhythm of her heartbeat. Thank you, or go in peace, the Korean greeting for goodbye.

Civil Rights Leader to Teach Spring 2012

Reverend **James Lawson Jr.**, a prominent leader of the civil rights movement and recognized by **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** as the "greatest teacher of nonviolence in America," joins Cal State Northridge as a visiting scholar and professor for the 2011-2012 academic year. Rev. Lawson's appointment in the Department of Communication Studies is in conjunction with a campus-wide initiative on "**Civil Discourse and Social Change**," organized by faculty and students at California State University, Northridge. The course is entitled "Nonviolent Struggles, Civil Rights and Social Change," and students will be exposed to his ideas first-hand.

In light of national and state-wide debates on controversial topics such as the budget cuts to education and other public institutions, immigrant rights, U.S. involvement in two major wars and gay marriage, faculty and students at CSUN are taking a proactive stance to educate and equip our community with valuable skills for civil discourse and effective strategies for social change.

Lawson was, and still is, an advocate for nonviolent social change. In 1951, Lawson refused to report for the draft. He served 14 months in prison after declining to take either a student or ministerial deferment. After his incarceration he lived for three years in India where he studied satyagraha, the principles of nonviolence resistance that Mohandas Gandhi and his followers had developed.

Upon his return to the U.S. in 1957, Lawson was recruited by Martin Luther King Jr. to assist with the civil rights movement. He began holding seminars to train student volunteers in Gandhian tactics of nonviolent direct action in Nashville, Tenn., emerging as a central architect of the movement. On the eve of his assassination, King called Lawson "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world."

In 1974, Lawson moved to Los Angeles to be the pastor of **Holman United Methodist Church**. During the decades since, he has relentlessly spoken out against racism, unfair labor practices and U.S. military involvement throughout the world. In retirement, Lawson continues to speak out against injustice protesting with the Janitors for Justice in Los Angeles, with gay and lesbian Methodists in Cleveland and with Immigrant Rights groups around the country. Lawson has taught at various universities and in the last three years was a member of the faculty at Vanderbilt University.



For more information on Reverend Lawson, and other projects supported by the Civil Discourse and Social Change initiative (such as the **Soulcial Justice Poetry Lounge**), visit <http://www.csun.edu/cdsc>.



EOP Free Speech Event at CSUN

by Bridget Sampson

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at CSUN held its annual Free Speech Event on October 18. Every time slot from 11:00 to 1:00 was filled with students delivering speeches on current issues, performing poetry, and free-style rapping. **Bridget Sampson**, Communication Studies Lecturer, and **Maria Turnmeyer**, Asian American Studies Lecturer, co-moderated the event.

This EOP Free Speech Event was open to the entire CSUN community. It provided students, faculty and staff with an opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives. EOP staff members did an outstanding job of organizing this celebration of free speech. Special recognition should be given to **Yurica Yamaguchi** and **Neddie Garcia**, Co-Chairs of EOP Events Committee.

A diverse group of students came out to express their views on a variety of subjects including occupy wall street, the dream act, discrimination, political corruption, and many other social issues. They voiced their ideas and concerns before a large and captivated audience in Matador Square.

The Free Speech Event was part of EOP's 42nd anniversary celebration of serving California's first generation, historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students. EOP reaches out to underserved



students in our local communities to encourage those with high potential to attend CSUN.

Transitional programs such as Bridge and Fresh Start then prepare EOP students for success. Innovative approaches to mentoring and pedagogy allow EOP faculty and advisors to engage and support this highly motivated student population in ways that allow them to excel at CSUN.

A big thank you to the Educational Opportunity Program, especially Director **Jose' Luis Vargas**, for sponsoring this empowering and enlightening event for our campus community.



Community Service Learning Benefits All Involved

by Bridget Sampson

Students from **Bridget Sampson's** public speaking course have been making visits to Highland Elementary School in Inglewood to speak to the kids about planning to go to college every fall for four years now. This optional assignment allows students to practice their speaking skills outside the classroom and provide a valuable service in their community.

The public speaking class engaged in this community service effort is a special section of COMS 151 for students in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). EOP provides access to higher education and support services for historically low income, first generation college bound students. Each fall, **Bridget** schedules 3 visits, bringing a different group of students with her each time to speak to 3 classes.

This allows the class to reach approximately 300 children from grades 1-6 every year. The children are ecstatic about meeting college students and learning how to prepare for, apply to, and be successful in college. Topics include majors to choose from, application requirements, good study habits, and financial aid. The children also love receiving their CSUN pencils and brochures.

The Highland Elementary School principal and teachers have expressed much gratitude to our CSUN students for exposing the children to the idea of going to college. They've noted that this is especially impactful because the school is located in a low income area and many of the children do not have family members who are able to teach them about college.

The CSUN students who speak to the children are often just as excited about the experience. They're treated like celebrities when they enter the classrooms. During the most recent visit, our students were shocked when 3rd graders chose to be late to recess so that they could have more time to ask questions about college.

Here are a couple of the comments our CSUN students shared when they reported back to their class about the experience: "I felt great all day. I felt like I did such a good deed and made a real difference." and "I was so much less nervous than I am for my speeches in class. All I cared about was getting those kids excited about going to college."



Honoring Professor Hasenauer

by Dr. Kathryn Sorrells

(continued from page 1)

Throughout his 30 plus years at CSUN, Jim worked tirelessly as an ambassador for the department and discipline of Communication Studies. A proponent of the scholarship of engagement, **Professor Hasenauer** fostered intentional, collaborative scholarly work that brought the university and community together to address relevant, challenging issues. A short list of his contributions include developing University 100: Freshman Seminar along with others, facilitating a class on Essentials of Persuasion for peer educators on campus, developing a series of events for the International Year of the Family, organizing the Peace Expo on campus, working on Preparing Teachers for a Multicultural California and on the Aids Education Task Force. Ever vigilant and gracious, Jim continuously offers his knowledge and skills to affect positive change in the world.

Professor Hasenauer's advocacy on behalf of environmental issues deserves particular attention. He has been an active supporter and participant in the Environmental Communication Division of the National Communication Association and has served in the public arena as an environmental advocate. He was appointed by Governor Davis to serve on the California Recreational Trails Committee and by the former director of California State Parks to the California Roundtable on Recreation Parks and Tourism. One of the founders and former President of IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) and CORBA (Concerned Off-road Bicycling Association), Jim is recognized around the world as mountain biking's leading advocate. He was induction into the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame in 1998.

Perhaps, most importantly, Jim is an extraordinary human being. As the comments from colleagues highlight below, he is an exemplar of what it means to be kind, generous, thoughtful and helpful:

Don Brownlee: Jim and Christie were there to help me transition to CSUN even before my first semester began. On a rather warm July day thirty years ago they volunteered to unload a truck full of furniture we had moved from North Carolina into our first home in Southern California. Jim also showed me that I could make an office into something of a home away from home. A cutting from his hanging cactus in his Darby Avenue office continues to grow in my home and his miniature orange grove outside the Sierra Tower office inspired my initial efforts at office decoration.

Bridget Sampson: As an undergrad, I was captivated by Jim's engaging teaching style. Later, when I was a graduate student and TA, Jim became one of my greatest mentors. He helped me build confidence as an instructor and encouraged me to take risks and have fun in the classroom. Jim also introduced me to a friend of his who had a thriving consulting business and who hired me to work for him, which was an incredible experience. I am so grateful to Jim for all his support over the years and I wish him all the best.

Peter Marston: One thing that always impressed me about Dr. Hasenauer's teaching was his commitment to remaining current in his areas of expertise and from this commitment, I learned an important lesson: the goal is not just to become a scholar, but to remain a student. I have certainly sought to follow his example.



Denise Kaye: Dr. Hasenauer began talking about Barnlund's Transactional Model of Communication. I remember thinking, yep, I know this model. But, I had no idea what this model really was about until Dr. Hasenauer drew it on the board. This model is also known as the "Spaghetti Model." Imagine if you will, a whiteboard with many, many, many arrows and circles (small, medium, large, and sizes in between). intersecting and overlapping creating rings, loops, spheres, oblongs, parallel lines ... a spider web of many spun transactions ... and basically, a huge plate of spaghetti. The board was a mess! I remember sitting back and thinking, wow, how is it that we can even communicate or make sense of communication? In that moment, the scholar in me came alive. I have recently asked Dr. Hasenauer if he will allow me to video record him presenting (performing!?) this model so that I can show students at the beginning of communication courses I teach. I even offered him compensation. His response "I'll be happy to do it, but I don't want compensation." Thank you Dr. Hasenauer for your interest in teaching and inspiring even after retiring!

Yoly Avila: The 1st memory I have of Jim is at my first Communication Studies welcome back party. I had just started in the department and we went over to their house. I remember walking in and Jim (and Christie) warmly welcoming myself and my family. Jim went out of his way to make us (specifically my husband) feel part of the COMS family. Over the years, I appreciate Jim always taking the time to come by and chat. The most memorable thing of course was him betting on May 26th for the birth of my son, and yep, he won... they share a birthday. I love his passion for teaching, life and building lasting friendships. I will miss that big smile and all our conversations.

Daisy Lemus: Jim is Jim. There is no one like him. When I interviewed at CSUN seven years ago, I was uncertain and anxious. As soon as I met Jim, I felt welcomed and valued. He emitted warmth in his



demeanor and excitement for my scholarly interests. Jim is very consistent in his positive outlook. Over time, I have been amazed at how well he handles all sorts of situations with tact and a bright smile. He advocates for fairness, compassion, and rigor---a combination that only Jim can manage. I appreciate my friend Jim for being more than just a colleague. I find him to be a great listener, amazing storyteller, and exemplary human being.

Bernardo Attias: Ever since my first day on campus for the interview, I felt a strong connection to Jim Hasenauer. Jim has a way of making those around him feel at ease. Incredibly intelligent, fiercely committed to his students and to our Department, and profoundly gentle, I've always appreciated Jim's approach to conflict in particular -- he really modeled what it meant to be able to disagree passionately without being disagreeable. I wish him all the best in retirement!

Thank you, Jim!