

Women at Cal State Northridge: A Tradition of Strength

Welcome to the January 2008 issue of the official newsletter of the CSUN Department of Communication Studies, *AlumNews*. As the new Chair of the Department, the task of editing the newsletter has fallen to me. Like everything else associated with this new position, editing this newsletter has been an adventure.

While putting together this issue, I was struck by the overwhelming number of current and past achievements of women who have been associated with our Department. The sad passing of Emerita Professor **Mary McEdwards**, a founder of this Department (and the original creator of this newsletter) and the well-earned retirement of **Elizabeth Berry**, who taught in this Department for 34 years and was a founder of the Women's Studies Department, may mark the end of two great eras of women leaders at CSUN, but it is clear from the long list of achievements of women associated with the Department that many women have followed in their bold footsteps. This past year we saw significant representation from members of our community at two major gender conferences, the National Women's Studies Association and the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. We saw several women alums -- **Judy Battaglia** (M.A., 2007), **Antonia Garcia-Orozco** (M.A., 1993; B.A., 1989), **Jodie Mandel** (M.A., 2004; B.A., 2001) -- accept full-time teaching jobs at Universities and Colleges. Still others, such as **Linda Haddad** (M.A., 2005; B.A., 2003) and **Karyl Kicenski** (M.A., 1994; B.A., 1992) are traveling for exciting career opportunities. Trial lawyer **Amy Fisch Solomon** (B.A., 1984) was honored this year with a nomination for "Top Woman Litigator." **Katie Gibson** (M.A., 2000), **Noemi Marin** (M.A., 1994), Professor **Daisy Lenus**, and Lecturer **Jeanine Mingé** each successfully published scholarly works.

Of course, the men in the Department have been no slouches either (see, for example, instructor **Paul Fotsch's** outstanding research commendation, or lawyer **Steve Mehta's** (B.A., 1989) achievements in this issue). Nevertheless, we are seeing more and more fantastic accomplishments by the women of the Department. What's more, we've seen more and more scholarship by both men and women that is influenced by Women's Studies (and, more generally, by an activist commitment to changing the world for the better) as well as Communication Studies. And is it any wonder why? This Department has grown and thrived in part due to the strong leadership of women such as **Mary McEdwards, Elizabeth Berry, Christie Logan, Rebecca Litke, Kathryn Sorrells**, and so many students and teachers who have looked up to them. Berry also helped found the Women's Studies Department, which today boasts two communication studies scholars as full-time faculty members. And let's not forget that our University President, **Dr. Jolene Koester**, is both a strong woman leader and a scholar in our field.

I'm proud to be a part of the Cal State Northridge Communication Studies family, and proud of the tradition of strong leadership among the women associated with this Department. I'm dedicating this issue of the newsletter to Mary McEdwards, its original editor, as a way of giving back to a woman who gave so much to this Department.

--Bernardo Attias, Department Chair

PHENOMENAL WOMAN BIDS ADIEU

EMERITA PROFESSOR ELIZABETH BERRY, who served the Department and the University faithfully for thirty-four years, retired in Spring 2007. The Department hosted a farewell reception in her honor in the Richard Aronstam Library. The room was packed and the air thick with emotion as we recounted fond memories of Elizabeth's work around the University. Joining the Department in congratulating her were members of the **California Faculty Association (CFA)** and the **CSUN Women's Studies Department**. Besides serving as Chair of our Department, Dr. Berry served as the Faculty Rights Chair for the CFA for twelve years, where she worked tirelessly as an advocate for academic freedom and due process. In addition, she was one of the original founders of the Women's Studies Department, and has been an active proponent of women's rights for as long as any of us can remember. She received a **Phenomenal Woman** award from the Women's Studies Department, which recognized and commended her leadership in all of these areas.



Elizabeth will be missed dearly in the Department as an important leader, mentor, teacher, administrator, and activist as well as a colleague with a keen sense of humor and an impeccable sense of style. She has continued to be active even in retirement. She is currently facilitating a study through the Provost's Office of the learning habits of successful freshmen. She has been traveling recently as well. In South Africa she went on a safari after presenting her paper, *Recognizing Conative Talents to Enhance Learning*, to the Fourteenth International Conference on Learning at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. And she will be at the 2008 Western States Communication Association Convention (WSCA) in Denver as a discussant on the panel *The Wise Ones Council/Counsel*, a special forum featuring instructors who have been in the field for 25 or more years. She has also recently been to Cincinnati to see grandchildren ("why else would one go to Cincinnati?" she asks) and is planning to go to China and Vietnam this Spring. Her daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to twins in October.



DEPARTMENT NOTES

The Communication Studies Department is proud to welcome two new interim full-time faculty members to direct our co-curricular programs, Jeanine Marie Mingé and John M. Kephart III, and is pleased to announce the appointment of Bernardo Alexander Attias to the position of Department Chair.

JOHN M. KEPHART III, our new Interim Director of **Forensics**, received his B.A. and his M.A. from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. at USC with an emphasis on Rhetorical Theory and Criticism and Gender Studies. His dissertation engages cultural responses to narratives of “masculinity crisis” within the United States in the late 20th century, examining rhetorical strategy and cultural politics within popular culture and social movements.



Professor Kephart has taught a wide range of courses, including Argumentation, Gender and Media, Rhetorical Theory, and Small Group and Team Communication. As likely to quote *The Big Lebowski* in class as he is Aristotle, John believes that critical engagement is just as valuable in our everyday lives and mundane experiences as it is when examining issues of global significance. His research interests also include public deliberation, presidential and other political debate, rhetorical criticism of popular culture, and political activism.

The Department’s **Performance Ensemble** was also blessed with new leadership for 2007/08.

JEANINE MARIE MINGÉ comes to us from the University of South Florida where she is completing her Ph.D. Professor Mingé also holds an M.A. from San Diego State University and a B.A. from James Madison University.



Jeanine’s dissertation focuses on cob building, a natural building process, to create sacred and aesthetic spaces with the community. Cob building expands and complicates our understanding of arts-based and performance methods in communication, the categorization of community art, feminist poststructural pedagogies, and community methods. Her areas of interest include performance studies, feminist theory, queer theory, and arts-based inquiry. All of her work is dedicated to cultivating social justice. She

is equally enthralled by and creates the communicative presence of visual imagery, poetry, installation art, narrative, and performance.

BERNARDO ALEXANDER ATTIAS (Ben) has taught in the Department since 1994. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and holds a B.S. from Northwestern University’s School of Speech. His research focus emphasizes cultural approaches to communication studies as well as communication-centered approaches to cultural studies. The emphasis of much of his work is on the political economy of mass mediated events. He has written on media coverage of the war on terrorism, on the politics of psychoanalysis, on the rhetoric and politics of hip-hop culture, and on the drug war. Ben’s teaching experience is vast. At CSUN he has taught 23 different courses including Rhetoric of Peace and Conflict, Freedom of Speech, Postmodern Rhetoric, Performance, Language, and Cultural Studies, Communication and Technology, Rhetoric of Crime and Punishment, Intercultural Communication, and more. Ben sees education as an ongoing process of intellectual development, and the teacher as a guide to that process. His teaching philosophy stresses interactivity and critical thinking skills. He develops unique and challenging course materials, and has been at the forefront of the move to integrate new technological resources into the educational process. Ben is also an accomplished DJ, poet, and artist, and he brings his creative energy and interests into his scholarship and pedagogy. In addition to Chairing the Department, he is participating this academic year on the Provost’s Leadership Development Series.



Department Chair: Bernardo Alexander Attias

Administrative Support Coordinator: Yolanda Avila
Administrative Support Assistant: Tom Rankin

Graduate Coordinator: Peter Marston
Undergraduate Coordinator: Kathryn Sorrells
Basic Course Coordinator: Rebecca Litke
Assessment Liaison: Sakilé K. Camara
Director of Forensics: John M. Kephart III
Director of Performance Ensemble: Jeanine Mingé

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

John M. Kephart III (M.A. 2005, 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

Christie Logan (Ph.D. 1977, University of Southern California)
 Performance Studies, Cultural Studies, Narrative, Performance Practice

Peter Marston (Ph.D. 1987, University of Southern California)
 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Argumentation,
 Communication of Romantic Love

Jeanine Marie Mingé (M.A., 2004, San Diego State University)
 Performance Studies, Cultural Studies,
 Gender Studies, Performance Ensemble

Peter Ogom Nwosu (Ph.D. 1990, Howard University)
 Intercultural and International Communication, Communication Training
 and Development, Communication and National Development

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

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE TAKES OFF

Interim Performance Studies Lecturer **Jeanine Mingé** is off to an excellent start with her strong leadership of the CSUN Performance Ensemble. She worked patiently throughout the Fall semester with the group of students who put together *Assimiland*, which culminated in an installation and interactive performance on November 27th. The performance and installation piece satirically and seriously complicated negotiations of border crossings and assimilation processes as they materialize in identity negotiations, institutional boundaries, rules and regulations. The piece combined an interactive multimedia installation with live performance and audience participation.

Each level of the performance spoke to these complex negotiations. The bureaucratic shoving around of papers and people attempting to immigrate (enter) played out in the processing center in front of Manzanita Hall with a looped video welcome. The process of assimilation, with its attempts to erase differences between people, occurred in the performance rehearsal space, our new home, inside the building. Each of the audience members became “Jenny.” If you followed the rules, you could enjoy the feast while listening to a final welcoming by your new leader.



Michele Clevering plays “Our Leader”

Jeanine commented on the success of the performance, “We wanted the audience to not only question the immigration and institutional systems that guide and govern nations but to also embody and experience them on a visceral level. This form of installation and performance art relies upon audience participation and the turnout for the show was amazing.

“I would like to highlight the work of each member of the ensemble; **Liliana Luviano, Bernice Le, Paula Fleischer, Michele Clevering** and **Frances Zapanta**. Not only are they dedicated performers, they are wonderful installation artists as well. Their work transformed the performance ensemble room into a completely new type of home. Each of their performances was profound. Brava!

“The ensemble would also like to thank **Stephanie Fugleberg, Bruce Walker, Steve Jambor, Kara Smith, Lisa Bower, Elizabeth Currin,** and **Alexa Lopez**. They stepped into character quickly as the police officers and assimilation processors. I think they may have performed their roles so well that people kept “in line.” We would also like to acknowledge the work of Teaching Associates, **Sally Kassamanian (B.A., 2004)** and **Marisa Garcia-Rodriguez**. Undoubtedly, their efforts created the ‘media buzz’ for the show.”

For Spring 2008, the Performance Ensemble is already hard at work preparing a literary adaptation of *The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty* for the stage. Teaching Associate **Courtney Gruttemeyer (B.A., 2006)** will be directing the performance.



Courtney Gruttemeyer performs *Writing my Body Thin*

FORENSICS SQUAD ACHIEVES RECOGNITION

The CSUN Forensics Squad closed out 2007 in fine fashion under the capable leadership of our Interim Director of Forensics **John Kephart**. Our policy debaters began the Fall semester at a tournament at Pepperdine University, competing against over 20 schools in Novice and Junior Varsity debate. Debaters **Laura Wolke** and **Laura Prieto** narrowly missed the elimination rounds in Junior Varsity with a 3-3 record in this highly competitive division. Novice debaters **Calvin Abassi** and **David Cacanindin** also narrowly missed the elimination rounds at their very first tournament as the sixth place team and took home speaking honors -- Calvin was the fifth speaker overall and David achieved third speaker.

At the Robert Barbera Invitational tournament hosted here at CSUN, David and Calvin took the second and fourth speaker awards respectively and the team came in second place overall. They also made it to the final round of the University of Pacific tournament, beating out 18 other schools and finishing second place. Both debaters also took speaking honors at that tournament. And at the California State University, Fullerton tournament in December they competed in Junior Varsity for the first time and reached the quarterfinal round, with a final finish of 6th place. Both debaters again took speaking honors.



In addition to policy debate, CSUN was extremely successful in the Individual Events. At the Azusa Pacific tournament early in the Fall semester, Varsity Impromptu competitor **Andrew Corral** was a finalist. At the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Associations Fall Championships at Cal State Los Angeles, a tournament with over 1,000 competitors, all of our Individual Events squad speakers made it to the final rounds of their divisions. **Sarah Chua** was a finalist in Novice Persuasive speaking, receiving near perfect marks in the preliminary rounds. **Laura Prieto** reached finals in Novice Informative speaking, narrowly missing third place with a close fourth place finish – and it was her first time competing in this event! **Jennifer Friedman**, also competing for the first time, reached the finals in Novice Impromptu speaking.

This year’s coaching staff includes graduate Teaching Associates **Rachel Levitt, Allison Brownlow, Nicole Ann Kaspar,** and **Christina Sloan**.

MARY McEDWARDS MOURNED

It is with sadness and immense gratitude that we report the passing of **Mary G. McEdwards** in August of 2007.

Mary was a founding member of the department of Speech at San Fernando Valley State College, later CSU Northridge. She started her undergraduate education in Michigan, where she met and married Jim McEdwards. In 1956 they moved to Southern California and when her youngest child entered first grade, she returned to school. She completed her B.A. degree in 1959 and her M.A. in 1960. She taught part time until she was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech in 1963. She was a full professor at her retirement in 1988.

Mary was a committed mentor and advocate for women, especially for returning students. In the 1970s she and colleague **Elizabeth Berry** developed and team-taught a course titled *The Rhetoric of Women's Liberation*, the first of two courses on women in the university. Elizabeth recalls that there were no books for the course, so they put together a reader using a set of articles from academic and popular media sources. Thus began Mary's long career as a one-woman clippings service. Department faculty would regularly find photocopies of articles on feminism and women's rights, with a note from Mary highlighting what we could learn from these. The *Rhetoric of Women's Liberation* course later became *Woman as a*

Rhetorical Force, and still exists today as Communication Studies 435, *Rhetoric of Women*. Mary was a passionate, compelling teacher. In her courses, students learned to write well and argue with precision and eloquence. She modeled these skills in her own teaching and in her campus leadership.

She was the first woman to be elected President of the campus Faculty Senate in 1972, leading the institution during its transition from San Fernando Valley State College to California State University, Northridge. She was an elected representative to the Academic Senate of the California State University and Colleges. Mary was an organizer and the first President of the California Speech Association from 1969-72.

Mary was a pioneer in scholarship as well as teaching. She was interested in history and loved research. She wrote on the political and legal roots of the feminist movement and did extensive research on radical suffragist Alice Paul, founder of the National Women's Party in 1916 and original author of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Her work on "**agitative rhetoric**" in the late 1960s was instrumental to the field's rethinking of public discourse in a time of political upheaval; she found the "jolting, combative, and passionate" rhetoric of social activists to be "a necessary drivewheel of a dynamic democracy." Her essay about Upton Sinclair was published in *Landmarks in Western Oratory*.

When she retired, she took on the role of Alumni Liaison for the department and was the creator of *AlumNews*, the department newsletter that you now hold in your hand. Mary edited *AlumNews* until the turn of the millennium.

This issue of *AlumNews* is dedicated to Mary in honor of the work that she did for the students and faculty of this Department since its inception.



Emerita Professor Mary G. McEdwards
(1923-2007)



AMERICAN VALUES: CIRCA 1920-1970

Mary G. McEdwards

Myself when young did eagerly frequent
Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument
About it and about; but evermore
Came out by the same door where I went.

ALTHOUGH Omar, tentmaker and amateur philosophe, was commenting on his experiences with philosophical concepts as discussed in the twelfth century, his comment here neatly

three major values held not only in the early 1900s, but apparently strongly believed in today by the large majority of Americans—by that "silent majority" for whom President Nixon and (especially) Vice-President Agnew speak. Madison Avenue and its local imitators use and reinforce these beliefs.

The language in which the values are

The family requests that memorial donations be sent to the Mary McEdwards Fund of the Department of Communication Studies. The McEdwards Award is given each year to an outstanding returning student.

McEdwards Award Fund
Department of Communication Studies
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St. Northridge, CA
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GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE AND DISSEMINATE RESEARCH

Allison Brownlow, who is a Teaching Associate working with our Forensics program, will be presenting two papers at WSCA this year -- *Negotiating Age and Identity in the Classroom as a Teaching Associate*, and *Denial and Dissent: The Armenian Genocide*, co-authored with fellow graduate student and Performance Studies Teaching Associate **Sally Kassamanian (B.A., 2004)**.

Marisa Garcia-Rodriguez, one of our Teaching Associates, will be presenting at the 2008 WSCA. Her paper *How Do I Cover It All in 50 Minutes?! Time Management in the Classroom* will be presented on the panel *Fostering the Flames of Excellence: Passing the Torch to the Next Generation*, sponsored by the Community College Interest Group.

Courtney Gruttemeyer (B.A., 2006), one of our Teaching Associates, will be directing the *Barbie Chronicles* for the Performance Ensemble in 2008. Courtney received the International Communication Association Teaching Associate of the Year award for 2007 for the Department. She will be presenting her paper, *Where to Draw the Line: How to Help Students Deal with Personal Issues from a Professional Perspective*, on the panel *Fostering the Flames of Excellence* at the 2008 meeting of WSCA.

Adam Kaminsky, another of our TA's, will also be presenting on the *Fostering the Flames of Excellence* panel at the 2008 WSCA. His paper is titled *You Have a Life?!: New Teachers Negotiating the Terrain Outside of the Classroom*.

Rachel Elizabeth Levitt (B.A., 2006) won the First Place award for scholarship at the 12th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium for her paper titled *Neoliberal Negotiations: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Violence Against Women Act*. The award included a cash prize. Rachel also won the 2007 James Russell Simpson Graduate Student Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Dedication to Education. Rachel has presented her work at several conferences in 2007. At the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Illinois she presented two papers, *Body Image in the Public Speaking Classroom* and *Cyborg Selves: Performing Gender Identity in Virtual Social Spaces*. At the NCA she participated on the panel *Emerging Feminisms in the Public Speaking Classroom: T.A. Perspectives: A Roundtable Discussion*, sponsored by the Women's Caucus. At the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG) in Omaha, Nebraska she presented her paper *Neo-Liberalism in the Violence Against Women Act*. And Rachel had three presentations accepted for the upcoming 2008 WSCA: *A Philosophy of Adaptation; Countering Hegemony in the Classroom or Extending It*

to Cyberspace; and *Standing in Alliance: Embracing Diversity through Interrogating White Entitlement and Celebrating Non-normative Bodies*. Rachel is one of our Teaching Associates working with the Forensics program.

Scott McAfee (B.A., 2004) has been doing extensive research into educational techniques and distance learning, with an emphasis on people with disabilities. He has posted the results of his most recent research to the High Tech Center Training Unit message boards. The HTCTU is the governing body for all California Community Colleges in terms of training, policy, and legal compliance in all disability issues. Scott conducted a survey of every community college within California regarding their captioning methodology, preparedness, and organizational structure, specifically in regards to distance education and digital media. He says his survey revealed a shocking amount of college districts that are neither prepared nor involved in complying with state and federal guidelines on accessibility for digital media. He has previously published an analysis of a methodology used in creating accessible PowerPoint presentations in the 2006 issue of *AHEAD*, the largest online publication covering disability issues in higher education. His methodology has been used at various college campuses in the U.S. and abroad. He is also working on a piece that examines communication strategies and outcomes between two groups -- returning combat veterans seeking state benefits and the state employees who interact with them. In addition to working on his Master's Degree at CSUN, Scott is the Access Coordinator for the Disabled Students Programs & Services High Tech Center at the College of the Canyons.

Ryan Montague received funding from the CSUN Thesis Support Committee to help support his thesis research. Ryan will be presenting his work at the upcoming WSCA conference; his paper is entitled *You Hate Me, Don't You: Handing Back Grades as a First Time Instructor*. Ryan is one of our Teaching Associates and works with the Richard Aronstam Library.



Ryan Montague with Mia Briceño at NCA

WHAT'S BUZZING? ALUMS IN ACTION

Peter Ackerman (B.A., 2004) was ordained on May 19, 2007 to the Transitional Diaconate in the Episcopal Church, with his wife and children looking on. In December he was fully ordained to the priesthood. Upon his graduation with an M.Div. degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary, Peter landed a job as the assistant clergy in a church in Alexandria, Virginia. As part of his compensation package, the Ackerman family has moved into the Rectory, which is a dream home. Rev. Ackerman's favorite part of his new job is preaching the Sunday sermon, and by doing that he exercises many of the skills he learned at CSUN as a Communication Studies major.

Judy E. Battaglia (M.A., 2007) accepted a full-time teaching position at Loyola Marymount University as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. She begins teaching such classes as Intercultural Communication and Critical Thinking in Spring 2008.



Judy Battaglia

In addition to her teaching accomplishments, Judy has been very active in research over the past year. At WSCA she participated on a panel entitled "Our Mothers, Ourselves: A Panel Presentation on the Voices of Women Project." She also co-presented several papers with fellow M.A. student **Roxanne Bañuelos** -- one at the OSCLG, one at NWSA (see "CSUN Work Featured at Gender Conferences"), one at WSCA and one at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference in San Francisco. Their paper at WSCA was titled "The L

Word" as *Counter-Hegemonic Text: Challenging Heteronormativity and Fighting Image with Image*, and at ICA they co-presented the paper *Demystifying the Weigh-In: Body Politics and Identity Formation of Pro-Ana and Pro-Mia Girls*. At WSCA in 2008 Judy will be presenting her paper *Negotiating Whiteness in a Sea of White Faces* on the panel *Speaking from Diverse Places*, sponsored by the Communication and Instruction Interest Group.

Judy completed her thesis, *Fighting Image with Image: The (Im)possibility of Challenging Heteronormativity on "The L Word"* in the Summer of 2007. Her thesis studied the television show "The L Word" from the perspective of poststructural theories of communication and mass media.

Mia Briceño (M.A., 2007) is currently working on her Ph.D. in the Department of Communication Studies at Pennsylvania State University; she is also pursuing a Minor in Women's Studies. She will be presenting her paper *Identity and Pedagogy in the Basic Course* at the 2008 WSCA. At the 2007 NCA she presented her work on the panel *Emerging Feminisms in the Public Speaking Classroom*, sponsored by the Women's Caucus. And at the 2007 WSCA, Mia participated on the panel *Our Mothers, Ourselves: A Panel Presentation on the Voices of Women Project*. Mia also attended the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference, where she presented her study of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*, titled *You Mean the News Isn't Funny? A Rhetorical Analysis of Radical Parody*.

Jennifer "Jenna" Campos-Hernandez (B.A., 2003) received her M.A. degree in Social Work at the University of Southern California in 2005. She is currently a Psychiatric Clinician for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Antonia Garcia-Orozco (M.A., 1993; B.A., 1989) accepted a full-time tenure track position in Performance Studies in the Chicano Studies Department at California State University, Long Beach. Antonia received her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from Claremont Graduate University in 2005; her dissertation explored the impact of Mexican women singers in the tradition of *cancion ranchera*. She was featured in the November 2007 issue of *Inside CSULB*, in which she describes the archival nature of her research: "I first became interested in the work

of Lola Beltran, who was the queen of *cancion ranchera*. But I found there was little written in English about her career or her music. And as I kept looking, everything kept going back to a prior queen. I felt I was writing about Billie Holiday, only to discover Bessie Smith and then I was writing about Bessie Smith only to discover Ma Rainey.... The real thrill for me is discovering first-hand materials no one ever saw before. Personal archives are priceless. That's what you live for." Before accepting the Long Beach position, Antonia taught at CSUN in the Chicano Studies department. During that time she also wrote and recorded the music for a CSUN student documentary, "UNREST: Founding of the California State University, Northridge Chicana/Chicano Studies Department," which premiered in 2006. The premier featured performances by Conjunto Hueyapan and cliChé, a group that Antonia formed.

Katie L. Gibson (M.A., 2000) published her article "Judicial Rhetoric and Women's 'Place': The United States Supreme Court's Darwinian Defense of Separate Spheres" in the April 2007 issue of the *Western Journal of Communication*. After finishing her M.A. at CSUN, Katie went on to finish her Ph.D. at Penn State University, and then returned to southern California to accept a tenure-track position at California State University Long Beach. Katie has previously published in *Controversia: An International Journal of Debate and Democratic Renewal*, and she is the Secretary for the Rhetoric and Public Address interest group for the Western States Communication Association.

Kelley Lee Gin (B.A., 2002) is the Event Coordinator and Designer for her company Picture Perfect Events, a boutique Wedding Planning and Special Events company based in Los Angeles. Kelley is also a member of the Association of Bridal Consultants. Her company is now celebrating its fourth anniversary of business.



Linda Haddad (M.A., 2005; B.A., 2003) left for Doha, Qatar on January 8th to take advantage of a terrific full-time career opportunity as a journalist for *Al-Jazeera*. She is

working in the Website and New Media Department of the English language channel. She writes that she will be doing her dream job: "Of course, this new chapter in my life is probably the most exciting one, filled with so many emotions. I am excited, scared, nervous, worried, and looking forward all at the same time! It is hard to fully describe the feelings I am currently dealing with. But there is one thing I am very sure of... I am looking forward to this adventure!" After receiving her Master's Degree in our program, Linda did freelance work as a journalist, publishing numerous articles in the online edition of *Al-Jazeera*. She also taught part time in our Department in 2005 and 2006. Linda maintains a weblog called "Discovering Life One Step at a Time" at <http://discoveringlifefile.blogspot.com>.

"This is the first time I have ever traveled outside of the US and it is an experience I will never forget! My educational career at CSUN has really prepared me for this opportunity."

--Linda Haddad

Frank Harris, III (M.A., 1999) accepted a tenure-track position in Postsecondary Educational Leadership at San Diego State University and teaches primarily in the Master of Arts with a specialization in Student Affairs. He previously served as Associate Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education. Since receiving his M.A., Frank went on to earn an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern California. In 2007 he earned the National Dissertation of the Year award from the American Educational Research Association (Division J - Postsecondary Education) and the Association of Student Judicial Affairs. His research focuses on college men and masculinities, gendered trends in postsecondary learning environments, and equity in outcomes for historically underrepresented and underserved students. His scholarship has been published in the *National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Journal*, *New Directions for Student Services*, the *Journal of Men's Studies*, and the *Journal of College Student Development*. His chapter, "The impact of fraternity membership on African American college men," (co-authored with Dr. Shaun R. Harper), appeared in Michael Cuyjet's edited book, *African American Men in College* (Jossey-Bass, 2006), the most comprehensive volume on African American male collegians to date.

Dale Anthony Hill (B.A., 2001) is "having a ball working in real estate and looking forward to helping many more families with their real estate needs." Dale works with Century 21 All Moves in Granada Hills, California.

WHAT'S BUZZING? ALUMS IN ACTION

Ruth Kalin (M.A., 2002; B.A., 2000) has continued her excellent leadership of the Department's **Communication for Youth Institute**, founded by Professor **Rebecca Litke**. Ruth is well known on campus for her excellent teaching; the University's "Featured GE Honors Student" column reported that the student, Visha Vakshori, "praised his COMS 151 Professor Ruth Kalin for creating a supportive and even familial atmosphere in the classroom. 'Kalin was an awesome, awesome teacher,' Vakshori explained." In addition to teaching courses part-time both in our Department and in the Women's Studies Department at CSUN, Ruth has kept up with her research, presenting a paper at the NCA entitled *Speed Dating for Knowledge Gaps: Introducing Current Events in the Basic Course*. At the 2008 WSCA she will be presenting her paper *Battle of the Sexes: Gender Communication*.

Lesa Lockford (M.A., 1993) published her essay, "Investing in the Political Beyond," in the January 2008 issue of *Qualitative Inquiry*. The essay utilizes performative writing to explore the complications and contradictions of U.S. involvement in the Middle East. At NCA, Lesa organized a session on *Performance and Allegiance*, and presented her essay *Allegiance as Disruption*. She Chaired a performance session on *The Academy*, which utilized performance to investigate the inner workings of academic life. Lesa also participated in a panel at the 3rd International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry entitled *Second-Generation Autoethnographers Reflect on Writing Personal Narrative*. And at the 28th Annual Mid-America Theatre Conference in Minneapolis, Lesa Chaired a panel about pirates and presented her paper, *'Tickler of the Risabilities': The Short Life of Naro Lockford*. She currently serves on the editorial boards of both *Text and Performance Quarterly* and *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*. Dr. Lockford is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Film at Bowling Green State University.



Lesa Lockford

Amy F. London (M.A., 2001; B.A., 1998) now teaches Communication full time at Oxnard College. At the 2007 WSCA convention, Amy Chaired the panel *Great Ideas for Teaching Speech*, and she was the 2007 Program Planner for the Community College Interest Group. She also coordinated the Basic Course Conference. At the 2008 WSCA, she will be presenting two papers: *One Hit Wonders: One Minute Icebreakers for Interpersonal Communication* and *The Public Speaking Challenge: When 50/50 is a Win*.

Jodie Mandel (M.A., 2004; B.A., 2001) accepted a tenure-track position in the Communication Department at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas; she is beginning her second semester there this Spring. In addition to teaching Public Speaking courses, Jodie is in charge of developing the hybrid Public Speaking course, which combines both online and face-to-face course delivery techniques. She also serves on the faculty senate, and is the faculty advisor to the largest student-run organization on campus, the Association of Students in Communication. Jodie also presented her paper at NCA, "Addressing Plagiarism in the Basic Course."

Noemi Marin (M.A., 1994) has earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University. She has also published her book *After the Fall: Rhetoric in the Aftermath of Dissent in Post-Communist Times* with Peter Lang Publishers. In this work, Dr. Marin examines the role of rhetoric and identity among Eastern and Central European public intellectuals during the collapse of the Soviet empire. She argues that post-1989 public discourse in the former Soviet bloc countries continues to face problems of rhetorical legitimacy and civil society and proposes specific dimensions for a rhetoric of exile pertinent to the fall of the Iron Curtain, and analyzes how public intellectuals reconstituted a rhetoric of dissidence, identity, and legitimation in the context of a changing Europe.



Anndi McAfee

Anndi McAfee (M.A., 2004; B.A., 2002) has continued to enjoy great success in her career as an actor and voice-over artist. She played the part of Anastasia in a recent episode of "What About Brian?" on ABC, and she has had many recent voice credits including 15 episodes of "The Land Before Time" (TOON), an episode of "The Little Mermaid" (DISN) and even one of the last episodes of "The Sopranos" (HBO). In addition to television, she has lent her voice to several recent videogames including "Mass Effect" and "Tony Hawk's Project 8." In addition

to her work in the entertainment industry, Anndi has been preparing to return to the classroom; she is currently developing a course in Voice-Over Performance to be taught at the university level.

Steven G. Mehta (B.A., 1989) was featured on the cover of the September 2007 issue of *Los Angeles Lawyer* for his lead article "Lasting Agreement," which is about ensuring longevity in mediation agreements. He was also selected as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" in 2007 by the *San Fernando Business Journal*. Steve is a full time mediator in Valencia, California, specializing in Alternative Dispute Resolution. He was selected as a Southern California Super Lawyer in both 2005 and 2006, and he is a member of the International Academy of Mediators. He also serves as an advisor to the Executive Committee of the Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar of California. He has been publishing in the area of mediation law for over a decade now. As a Major in our Department, Steve was selected as a finalist as the Wolfson Scholar, and he graduated magna cum laude.



Steven Mehta

Randi Rulayne Picarelli (M.A., 2002; B.A., 1999) continues her teaching in our Department as well as at several colleges in the area. Rulayne has also continued her adventurous travels around the world, most recently with extended visits to Panama, Argentina, and Antarctica. Even with her busy teaching and travel schedule, she has found time to continue her commitment to scholarship in critical pedagogy; at the WSCA in Seattle she presented two papers: *It's in the Bag: Saving Time and Improving Skills when Scheduling Speeches*, and *Using Blackboard Discussion Groups to Supplement On-Site Meetings in Group Communication Classes*. She also Chaired two panels on the topic *Great Ideas for Teaching Speech*. She also plays a leadership role in the Western States Communication Association, serving as the Program Planner for the Community College Interest Group and serving on the Model Teaching Program Award Committee. At the 2008 WSCA convention, Rulayne will be Chairing a panel about professor rating systems called *Comment, Commodify, and Rate: Negotiating Professor Rating Sites and the Challenges and Triumphs They Represent*.

Sachi Sekimoto (M.A., 2005) is finishing her Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico. At NCA she presented her paper *Performing Gender through Delinquency: A Critical Analysis of Female Juvenile Delinquency in 'On the Outs'* to the panel *Women's Worldviews, Ethics & Intellects* sponsored by the Women's Caucus. Sachi will also be presenting work at the 2008 WSCA; her paper is titled *Can You Speak White? Negotiating Whiteness in the Public Speaking Class*.

Rika Hirai Thorne (M.A., 2005) was hired by the Japanese American National Museum as a Visitor Service Associate in 2007; she leads tours of the ongoing Japanese-American history exhibit, "Common Ground: The Heart of Community," for students, and teaches origami. She writes that she is really enjoying the job and that she misses her communication classes.

Monique Renee Villegas (B.A., 2007) has taken a position as the Employee Relations Assistant in the Human Resources Department at CSUN. She writes that she is "thrilled to work in an organization that gave me so much as a student. I look forward to working with CSUN employees and helping them in any way that I can. CSUN really enlightened me as a student and now as an employee I plan on continuing with that path."



ALUMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AMY FISCH SOLOMON (B.A., 1984) is the 2008 President of the Consumer Attorney Association of Los Angeles (the largest plaintiff lawyers' association in the country). She fondly remembers her experience at CSUN as being largely responsible for the opportunity she had to go to Loyola Law School, where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1987 and eventually became a top-level trial lawyer. She is the first female lawyer hired by the law firm Girardi & Keese, and the first woman to become partner at the firm. California Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez noted that Amy "has opened the 'trial lawyer' door for many women in the legal profession." Because of her leadership and the example she sets, she has been nominated for the 2008 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. In 2007 she was featured by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal's* "Top Women Litigators" and was named a "Super Lawyer" by *Los Angeles Magazine* every year since its inception in 2004.



Her experience and reputation in the legal community has placed her among the elite group of lawyers in the nation who have earned an "AV-Rated" status, which is the highest rating available to a lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, a rating publication based on confidential peer review of members of the Bar and the Judiciary. She is the President-Elect for the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, which is one of the largest plaintiff lawyers' organizations in the nation. Additionally, she has actively served on the organization's Board of Governors since 1998. She also serves on the boards and committees of numerous other legal organizations, including the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) and the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Bench/Bar Committee, Executive Committee of the Litigation Section and the Panel for the Complex Courts Committee.



KARYL KRISTINE KICENSKI (M.A., 1994; B.A., 1992) has accepted an incredible opportunity to teach two courses in Washington, D.C. as part of the Politics and Rhetoric program at the University of California, Los Angeles. This provocative program, created by UCLA's Department of Communication Studies, whisks students to Washington D.C. to explore the contours of American politics, political propaganda, and the essence of national political rhetoric in mass-mediated representations of the 2008 elections and the ways that political and economic institutions exercise power and influence public opinion. Students will embark on organized site visitations of particular memorials and museums that enable them to experience their power and symbolism first-hand. The two courses Karyl will be teaching in Washington are "Public Images and National Identity" and "Power, Persuasion and the Mass Media: the 2008 Elections."

Karyl earned a Ph.D. in 2006 in Cultural Studies at George Mason University. Her dissertation project examined the privatization of the California prison system in the 1980s and 1990s. She is currently a tenured faculty member at College of the Canyons in the Santa Clarita Valley. She is also an Assistant Lecturer in Communication Studies at UCLA. She teaches rhetoric courses that deal with popular culture, public memory, and national identity. At the 2008 WSCA in Denver, she has organized a special panel that she will Chair, *The Wise Ones Council/Counsel*. Karyl writes that her education in the Department prepared her for her career in three ways: "First, it taught me to think about the interconnectedness of academic work. I was given the chance to understand how the history of thought—specifically in the social sciences—constituted a particular historical conversation about human communication and the process of persuasion. Second, it enabled me to develop skills in writing and critical reading that helped me to construct my own thinking and analysis. Finally, it inspired my curiosity. I became interested in asking and attempting to answer questions about why we do certain things, why the world works in certain ways, and how I might be able to step in and make significant changes to make a difference for people who live here long after me." She adds that she misses the intellectual and social environment in the Department: "all the faculty in the Communication Studies Department really touched my heart. I felt like I had a home there. I miss the intellectual stimulation of the campus generally: speakers, lecture series, round-table discussions, etc. I miss the culture of learning and inquiry that was present at CSUN. And, I miss the cafeteria donuts and pizza!"

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY

Fotsch Lands Major Research Award

PAUL MASON FOTSCH, who has been teaching in our Department both full- and part-time since 2004, was honored at NCA in Chicago as a 2007 winner of the **Jane Jacobs Urban Communication Award**. Paul earned this prestigious award, which is accompanied by a \$1,500 cash prize as well as a beautiful plaque, for his book *Watching the Traffic Go By: Transportation and Isolation in Urban America* (The University of Texas Press, 2007). The book has received critical acclaim for its innovative interdisciplinary approach. Combining an exploration of planning documents, sociological studies, and popular culture, Paul Fotsch analyzes how our urban infrastructure developed and how it has shaped American culture. *Watching the Traffic Go By* looks at the narratives we have built around innovations in transportation. Fotsch finds such stories in the General Motors “**Futurama**” exhibit at the 1939 World’s Fair, in films such as *Crash* and *Double Indemnity*, and in footage of the **O. J. Simpson** chase along Los Angeles freeways. The book is already being used by faculty at other universities for courses in urban studies.

The award was presented by the **Urban Communication Foundation** (UCF), in memory of **Jane Jacobs**, an urban theorist and writer whose book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* critiqued modern ideas of urban development. “I am especially pleased to be given an award named after Jane Jacobs, whose passion for the value of urban life and its diversity was a powerful inspiration to me,” said Fotsch. “In the context of greater awareness about climate change, it must also be emphasized that Jacobs’ support for urban density is one of the strongest ecological positions one can take.”

Dr. Fotsch is also a member of the **Los Angeles Bus Rider’s Union**, an activist organization focused on L.A.’s public transportation needs. “Everyone recognizes there’s something deeply wrong with our transportation system, but it’s difficult to get people to change,” he says. “I practice what I preach. I’ve lived without a car for 13 years.” He also maintains a weblog about the politics of public transportation; his weblog can be found at <http://labusrider.blogspot.com>.

Interested folks on campus can take a look at Paul’s book and award in our display case on the second floor of Manzanita Hall. We also have a copy of the book in the Aronstam Library.

At the 2008 WSCA Convention, Paul will also be honored for his research as he presents one of the *Top Four Papers in Communication Theory*. His paper is titled *Growing Heterogeneity in Urban Space: The Case of Panorama City*.

“In this innovative interdisciplinary study, Paul Fotsch delineates the enormous influence that transportation systems have upon our lives. The train, the trolley, the bus, and the car do more than take us from place to place; they are cultural systems that help shape our understandings of danger and refuge, freedom and constraint, individualism and community. *Watching the Traffic Go By* compels us to consider the hidden costs of living in automobile-centered cities—how they impede rather than enable the realization of our democratic ideals.”

— **George Lipsitz**, Professor of Sociology and Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, author of *American Studies in a Moment of Danger* and *Time Passages*, among other works.

CSUN Work Featured at Gender Conferences

THE DEPARTMENT was well-represented this year at the annual conference of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG) in Omaha, Nebraska. The Conference theme was “Dialogue: Collaboratively Constructing Community,” and it was held in October.

Three of our own were honored at the conference as part of a competitively selected Vice President’s Panel entitled *Collaboratively Constructing Community through Art*. Performance Studies Lecturer **Jeanine Mingé** presented *Cobbing as a Kinesthetic, Artistic, and Communicative Practice*, coauthored with her colleague **Stacy Holman Jones** of the University of South Florida and Los Angeles documentary filmmaker **Stephanie Fugleberg**. And two recent M.A. students from our Department, **Roxanne A. Bañuelos** and **Judy Battaglia** (M.A., 2007), presented their coauthored work, *Using Feminist Art to Channel Voice*.

Professor Mingé also presented a provocative work entitled *Power, Pleasure, and Play: Screwing the Dildo and Rescripting Sexual Violence*, coauthored with **Amber Lynn Zimmerman** of Southern Illinois University, on the panel *Public Dialogues about Private Experiences*.

Also attending OSCLG were current M.A. students **Rachel Levitt** and **Allison Brownlow**. Rachel presented her paper *Neo-Liberalism in the Violence Against Women Act*, and Allison presented her piece entitled *The Violence Against Women Act and its Racialized Constructions*, both on the panel *Legal Frontiers of Struggle: The Rhetorical Constructions Within the Violence Against Women Act*.

Meanwhile, CSUN had several presentations at the Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association last summer. **Judy Battaglia** presented her ethnographic analysis *Performing Feminisms in, on, and Around the L Word* to the panel *Neo-Burlesque, Subversion in Public Culture, Virtual Classrooms and Female Leadership*. She also presented a study coauthored with **Roxanne Bañuelos** titled *Promoting an Agenda of Legalization or Simply Showing an Alternative Side of Suburbia? Performing Feminism(s) and Motherhood/Mothering on “Weeds.”* And current M.A. **Rachel Levitt** teamed up with **Chris Cruz-Boone** for the panel *Cyborg Selves: Performing Gender Identity in Virtual Social Spaces*. Rachel’s paper was titled *Mortality Rate: A Cultural Critique of the Commodification of Education* and Chris’s was *A Virtually Real War: Gender Production in Contemporary Platform Games*. Rachel also teamed up with fellow Teaching Assistant **Allison Brownlow** for the panel *Body Image in the Public Speaking Classroom*. Alumna **Julia Johnson**, now at Southwestern University, presented her paper *Trans/Gender Education: Reconfigurations of Gender Pedagogy*. Also presenting at the conference from CSUN was filmmaker and Cinema and Television Arts Professor **Alexis Krasilovsky** as well as Women’s Studies Professors **Dianne Bartlow** and **Sheena Malhotra**.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

At the 2007 National Communication Association conference, Department Chair **Bernardo Attias** delivered a multimedia performance, *The Work of Art in the Age of Turntable Manipulation* for the session *Worldviews and Soundscapes: Critical Practices and New Technologies*, sponsored by the Critical and Cultural Studies Division. Also presenting on the panel was former Department faculty member **Tony Perucci**, now at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The Chair and Respondent for the panel was our own **Christie Logan**. Attias also responded to the panel *Extreme Ethics, Extreme Measures: Debates On Torture in the "War On Terror."* That panel, sponsored by the Communication Ethics Division, featured presentations from CSUN alumni **John Leon Torn (M.A., 1997)** (now at the University of South Florida) and **Christopher Skiles (M.A., 1996)**. Ben also moderated a panel on campus titled *Religion and the Election of American Presidents* that was sponsored by the Global Village Forum in the College of Humanities. At the 2008 WSCA, he will present a paper on a panel sponsored by the Freedom of Expression and Legal Communication Interest Group; the paper is titled *What Would Jesus Smoke? Free Expression for Students after Morse v. Frederick*. At the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference he will present the paper *Conspiracies and Networks: An Argumentative Analysis of Reports of Ties between Saddam Hussein and Al-Qaeda*. In May he will be attending the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association in New York to present his essay *Noise, Technology, and the Work of Art: Reconceptualizing the Turntable*. He will also be performing at the Association for Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica; his performance for that conference is titled *From Wax Cylinders to Vinyl Symphonies: Historicizing DJ Culture*.

Sakilé K. Camara presented her study *Do Forms of Oppression Influence Uncertainty Selection Choices? A Socio-Cultural Approach* in the session *Rejecting the Worldviews of Others: The Communication of (In)Tolerance*, sponsored by the International and Intercultural Communication Division of NCA. The paper was coauthored with her colleague Sonja Givens of the University of Alabama. She also responded to the panel *Constructing our Health: Implications for Culture Specific Campaigns*, sponsored by the African American Communication and Culture Division. She also has an administrative role at the NCA as the Nominating Chair for the African American Communication and Culture Division. Dr. Camara received a faculty development grant from the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication for research she will be doing this Spring.

The Oviatt Library's Communication and Journalism Librarian **Katherine S. Dabbour** participated at the 2007 NCA as a respondent to the panel *Making the Leap of Faith that Your Students are Information Literate: Information Literacy Standards for Communication Studies*, sponsored by the Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide.

Our Interim Director of Forensics **John Kephart III** presented his paper *MySpace as a Tool for Identity Management* at the NCA session *(Re)Presenting Identities: Faith, Intellect, and Ethics in Online Communities*, sponsored by the Communication and the Future Division. John also served as the Southern California Regional Representative for the Executive Council of the Cross Examination Debate Association.

Daisy Lemus has two publications in press. The anthology *Considering Argument*, to be published by NCA, will include her coauthored work "Testing the Predictive Potential of Argument Structures in Computer-mediated Groups." She also presented this work at the 2007 NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation in Alta, Utah. And Lawrence Erlbaum Associates' forthcoming *Handbook of Applied Communication* will publish the coauthored piece "Organizational Communication and Applied Communication Research: Intersections and Integration." Dr. Lemus was an active participant at the

International Communication Association (ICA) Convention in San Francisco in 2007. She Chaired a panel for the Organizational Communication division titled *Teams: Virtual and Otherwise*, and she presented her paper *Retirement Communication: Exploring Uncertainty and Information Seeking*. She will be responding to two panels, *Meta-Communication Components in Organizations and Communication Processes and Effects*, at the 2008 WSCA. In Spring 2007, Daisy won the CSUN Polished Apple Teaching Award for her contributions to our students.

Christie A. Logan performed "In Just-Spring" and two other poems by e. e. cummings on the panel *Spotlight on Linda Park-Fuller*, sponsored by the Performance Studies Division of NCA. (Some will recall that Linda Park-Fuller performed at CSUN back in February 1997). The panel also included a presentation from CSUN Alum **Marc Rich**. In addition to presenting her own work, Dr. Logan chaired three NCA sessions and responded on two, including "Closing the Circle: Considering the Intersections of Performance, Ethnography, and Living/Dying with Cancer," sponsored by the End of Life Series. At the 2008 WSCA in Denver, she will be a participant alongside **Elizabeth Berry** and our adjunct instructor **Pat Oliver** on the panel *The Wise Ones Council/Counsel*, which features voices from faculty who have been teaching in the field for more than a quarter-century.

Jeanine Marie Mingé had an essay accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Qualitative Inquiry*. The essay, coauthored with Amber Lynn Zimmerman, is titled *Power, Pleasure, and Play: Screwing the Dildo and Rescripting Sexual Violence*. In January she went to Tampa to perform her piece *Blueprints, Text and Movement: An Act of Disappearance (Kid City)*. Jeanine also presented two papers at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (see "Department Recognized at Gender Conference" in this issue). Jeanine will be participating in the 2008 WSCA Convention, Chairing and Responding to the panel *Home: Hospitality, Belonging, and the Nation*.

Kathryn Sorrells presented her study *(Dis)placing Culture and Cultural Space in the Global Context* to the NCA session *Expanding Directions in Intercultural Theory and Research: Critical, Postcolonial, & Whiteness*, sponsored by the International and Intercultural Communication Division. She also served as Chair and Respondent on the panel *Emerging Feminisms in the Public Speaking Classroom: T.A. Perspectives*, sponsored by the Women's Caucus. Also participating on that panel were current and recently graduated CSUN M.A. students **Judy E. Battaglia**, **Roxanne A. Bañuelos**, **Mia Briceño**, and **Rachel Levitt**. At the 2008 WSCA, Kathryn will be Responding to the *Top Four Papers in Intercultural Communication* panel as well as both Chairing and Responding to the panel *Speaking From Diverse Places*, which is about negotiating intercultural communication in public speaking courses.

CSUN Alumna and former full-time Lecturer **Julia R. Johnson**, now at Southwestern University, co-chaired the NCA session *Women's Worldviews, Ethics & Intellects: Ideological Struggles in Sororities, in 'On the Outs' and in Academe*, sponsored by the Women's Caucus; presenters on that panel included our own alumna **Sachi Sekimoto**. She also organized, Chaired, and responded to the panel *Finding, Keeping And Losing Faith In Feminist Alliances*, sponsored by the Feminist and Women's Studies Division. Also on that panel was Women's Studies faculty member **Sheena Malhotra**, who has taught for the Department as well.

Former faculty member **Gordon Nakagawa**, now the Director for Diversity Integration at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, presented his paper *Public Space, Public Sphere, Public Voice: The Southside Family Charter School as Critical Pedagogical Intervention* to the session *Peace and Conflict in the Public Domain*, sponsored by the Peace and Conflict Communication Division of NCA.

SEE FACULTY
continued next page

CCA TAKES OFF

The fall semester was another exciting semester for CSUN's Communication Association (CCA)! Membership increased by 25 new members and the meetings became a place to develop a sense of community for Communication Studies majors. Events like the faculty/student meet and greet allowed students to connect with faculty while engaging in a fun game of Communication Studies Bingo. Additionally, students and faculty celebrated Halloween with a night at the local bowling alley, Thanksgiving with a month-long food drive, and the end of the semester with a bash at a hip Hollywood lounge. Furthermore, on a mission to engage in more community service, CCA students sold 250 breast cancer awareness



bracelets and donated the profit to a breast cancer research organization. Congratulations CCA students for another successful semester!

ALUMS IN CHICAGO

Impressively, at least eighteen former students from the Department presented research at the 92nd annual National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, which took place in Chicago. These alumni and their current affiliations are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Judy Battaglia | Loyola Marymount University |
| Mia Briceño | Penn State University |
| Nathan Carter | California State University, San Bernardino |
| Marcy Rose Chvasta | University of South Florida |
| Katie L. Gibson | California State University, Long Beach |
| Julia R. Johnson | Southwestern University |
| Michael LeVan | University of South Florida |
| Lesa Lockford | Bowling Green State University |
| Daniel Makagon | DePaul University |
| Jodie Mandel | College of Southern Nevada |
| Noemi Marin | Florida Atlantic University |
| Jacqueline Martínez | Arizona State University |
| Marc Rich | California State University, Long Beach |
| Sachi Sekimoto | University of New Mexico |
| Stephen Schroeder | College of DuPage |
| Christopher Skiles | California Polytechnic State University |
| R. Anthony Slagle | University of Puerto Rico |
| Jon Leon Torn | University of South Florida |



Ben Attias and Mia Briceño

The Department also hosted a party in the Essex Suites next door to the conference hotel. Students, alumni, and faculty current and prior stopped in to socialize with colleagues; despite the cramped quarters and lack of "official" conference amenities, several attendees remarked that it was the best time they had at the conference. In addition to those presenting at NCA, several other alums and former faculty who stopped by including former Director of Forensics **Bill Sheffield**, now at Caspar College in Wyoming; former Professor **Gordon Nakagawa**, now at Hamline University in Minnesota; **Jessica Brow** (M.A., 1997), now with the Junior Statesman Foundation of America; **Darrin Murray** (M.A., 1992), now at Loyola Marymount University; and **B. Hannah Rockwell** (M.A., 1988).



John Torn and Gordon Nakagawa

Communication Association

Officers



FACULTY

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Former Department Chair **Bill Eadie** was honored by NCA with the *Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award* for 2007. He was described as a "consummate leader in the discipline" for his long-standing contributions to NCA and WSCA, including his role as NCA's Associate Director and his leadership of CRTNET. Dr. Eadie was the first editor of the *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and in his participation in departmental reviews he established a reputation for being a "fair, thoughtful, and knowledgeable evaluator." In addition to this distinction, Professor Eadie presented his paper, *Persevering and Disappearing: The Paradox of Distinction and Assimilation*, to the panel *Beyond Transformation: The State of Queer Identity*, sponsored by the Caucus on Gay and Lesbian Concerns. Dr. Eadie was a member of the Department faculty from 1979 until 1996. He Chaired the Department from 1983 through 1991.

Contest Announcement:

Name this Newsletter!

Help us come up with the perfect name for our Department Newsletter! While the newsletter is still very committed to informing Alumni of developments in the Department, it has become clear that this information reaches a wider audience and serves a broader purpose. You can do your part by sending your suggestions. The winner will receive the satisfaction of being recognized in the next issue of the newsletter (not to mention the satisfaction of seeing your chosen title on the front page).

Contest Rules

You may enter as many times as you like. Send each suggestion in a separate email to the Department Chair (bernardo.attias@csun.edu) Be sure to enter in the Subject line "Alum News Naming Contest." If you prefer to send your suggestions by snailmail, simply mail your entry to the Department Chair.

visit our website! <http://www.csun.edu/coms>

And More!

Be sure to check the Department website to stay updated on the latest happenings!

Fill Us In!

What do **you** do with your Communication Studies Degree? If you are an alum from our Department, we would love to hear from you! Download the form from our website and mail it in, or send an email to the Department Chair. Be sure to include the year you graduated and the degree you earned along with an update about what's been happening lately in your professional and personal life.

Upcoming Events

Japan's National Debate Team will be visiting the Northridge campus for a demonstration debate. They will showcase Japanese debating styles at the Armer Theatre in Manzanita Hall on February 29th at 3:00 PM.

Dr. **Mark Orbe**, author of *Interracial Communication: Theory Into Practice* (SAGE, 2007), will conduct a workshop and research presentation on intercultural communication in our Department. The workshop will take place March 12th at 11 AM, and the presentation will take place March 13th at 5:30 PM, both in the Richard Aronstam Library.

The Performance Ensemble is bringing **Elizabeth Whitney** and **Lea Robinson** to campus for a workshop and performance of their multimedia work *Miscegenations* in April. The workshop will take place April 17-20 and the performance will take place April 21st in the Armer Theatre. *Miscegenations* is a two part investigation of relationships

that cross boundaries of race, sexuality, and gender identity. Using historic accounts as well as personal experiences, the performers narrate cultural transgressions and critically examine the questionable foundations of "American Family Values."

Write us!

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