



CSUN: Fifty and Fabulous!

Fifty years ago, our campus separated from Los Angeles State College, and the newly independent San Fernando Valley State College issued its first catalog for the 1958/59 Academic Year. What was then the Speech Department was already a center of excellence; we were one of only three programs that offered a Master's degree, and in December 1959, our Forensics squad won the university's first trophy for an intercollegiate competition.

The early days of the Department actually began two years earlier, with the establishment of the campus as a "branch" of the Los Angeles State College. Alumna **Mary Miller Moore** (M.A., 1991), who wrote her thesis on the history of the Department, noted that "In 1956 it was 'out in the boonocks' and thought to be quite uncivilized. . . . Some employees considered themselves banished if they were transferred to the new campus." Former faculty member **Mary G. McEdwards** commented that "They took all the troublemakers from Cal State L.A., including **Mal Sillars**." Emeritus Faculty member **Charles Mudd** recalled the transfer as a "marvelous" opportunity for a fresh start; "It was a crusade, and people were out to do great things for education. And that was generally the climate - an enormous amount of camaraderie, collegiality, and cooperativeness." Moore describes a "pioneering spirit" in the early days of the Department as well as a firm commitment to the students and a strong sense of community. I was fortunate enough to spend some time at WSCA this year with the Department's first Chair, Mal Sillars, and hear stories about the early days of the Department. Both he and former Chair **Don Cameron** contributed special comments on the Department's history for this issue.

Much has changed in 50 years, but the University's commitment to contributing to the intellectual life of its students has not. Our campus reflects on this commitment as we celebrate fifty years of life-changing opportunities here. The Department is also celebrating its contributions to this history. We kicked off those celebrations with a reception at the annual National Communication Association (NCA) convention - CSUN alumni joined faculty and students in San Diego for an evening of snacks and conversation as well as cocktails and dancing. On May 2nd, Department alumni and former faculty will join current faculty, staff, and students on campus for a reception honoring the history of the Department. And if you are in the area, be sure to visit the Oviatt Library's exhibition of the University's history entitled "Fifty and Fabulous."

We celebrate this landmark at a critical point in the University's history. The University faces a grave financial crisis. Budget cuts have led to class cancellations that threaten to disrupt the University's mission of providing educational access to all those who are prepared for it. In the current economic climate we can expect fewer and fewer of the costs of educating our students to be covered by student fees and state funding. It is vital that we raise additional funds to help supplement these resources. (See p. 10 for a description of how you can help by contributing to the Department Fund).

While these are difficult times financially, we are fully committed to maintaining this Department as a center of excellence at the University and in the field. Integral to that commitment is the experience of community that many have commented on as the lifeblood of the Department. Former faculty member **Susan Komsky** once noted of the Department, "We are a very cohesive unit. We have often used the metaphor of the family. We tend to take the attitude that **we're all in this together**."

--Bernardo Attias, Department Chair

Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication

California State University, Northridge

THE EARLY DAYS (AS I REMEMBER THEM)

by Malcolm Sillars

Malcolm O. Sillars was the first Chair of what was then the Speech Department of the San Fernando Valley State College. Sillars chaired the Department from 1958-63 and 1966-68; he was also the Associate Dean School of Letters and Science in 1963-66, Acting President of the University from February - June 1969, and Dean School of Letters and Science 1969-70. He is now retired from the University of Utah.



In the fall of 1956 five of us came to Northridge to form the Division of Language Arts at the San Fernando Valley Campus of the Los Angeles State College (**Charles Kaplan**, **Mitch Marcus**, and **Jim Smith** - in English, **Bill Schlosser** - in Theater, and me - in Speech). In those early years we were housed in a temporary building where the union is now and we taught courses in nearby temporary buildings. We and other members of the original thirty-five faculty of the school took pride in the fact that we were built in the "Age of Sputnik" and the emphasis would be on academic excellence. The first permanent building on campus was the Library and that was also a matter of pride. Our students were mostly married women who had interrupted their schooling during and after World War II to get married and raise their families up to school age before they could come back to school. We mostly taught upper division classes. A few years later we became a separate State College and added lower division students. But even then, I recall that the honor society of the college had 25 or 30 members, all married women and one 19-year-old male, who they mothered.

Those women, by the way, were wonderful students. They seemed to be frightened that they couldn't keep up. Ironically the younger students felt the same way. **Mary McEdwards** was one of those outstanding students. She took a BA in English and an MA in Speech and we hired her to join the faculty and, as you know, she had an outstanding career. As a student she wrote criticism papers in free verse and I recall a paper in an American Public Address class reflecting her own experiences, "Thoughts on J. C. [Calhoun] while cleaning the W. C."

The second year of the college **Charles Mudd** joined our faculty from Los Angeles State. Soon **Fred McMahon**, **Don Cameron**, **Don Salper**, **Len Wurthman**, and several others joined us. San Fernando Valley State College established departments in 1958 and I was the first department chair. That first department included Speech, Theater, Communication Disorders, and Mass Communication. **Jim Egbert** was our first member in communication disorders and **Bert Barer** was our first in Mass Communications. These two areas later separated into separate departments. We had no theater in the earliest years so Bill Schlosser started the Teen Age Drama Workshop in the summer, in a tent on an asphalt parking lot. My wife, **Charlane**, made costumes and just about everyone pitched in. That workshop is still going strong, a tribute to Bill Schlosser and a host of others since that time. When the Theater building was built the department was

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Department Chair: Bernardo Alexander Attias

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

Graduate Coordinator: Peter Marston
Undergraduate Coordinator: Don Brownlee
Basic Course Coordinator: Kathryn Sorrells
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 Com-
 munication, Environmental Communication, Public Policy Advocacy

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

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 (Ph.D., 2008, University of South Florida)
 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

DEPARTMENT NOTES

New Faculty Update



The Communication Studies Department is proud to welcome our two newest full-time tenure track faculty members as Directors of our co-curricular programs. **John M. Kephart III** and **Jeanine Marie Mingé**, who served the Department in 2007/08 as interim program directors. In addition to joining us as full-time tenure-track members of our faculty, both John and Jeanine successfully completed and defended their Doctorates in 2008. Congratulations John and Jeanine!

Aronstam Library Makeover

The **Richard B. Aronstam** Memorial Library, established by a generous endowment from **Elsie Aronstam** in the 1970s, moved with the Department to its current home in Manzanita Hall in 2000. Its collection has grown thanks not only to this endowment but also to the generosity of various faculty members and alumni over the years who have contributed resources. The Library has over the years become much more than just a collection of books and resources – it has become the social center of the Department, a place for students to gather and study, as well as a place for performance workshops, guest lectures, and other presentations.



The space received a much-needed renovation this semester which included a new paint job, new carpeting, and the installation of audio-visual capabilities similar to those in our "smart" classrooms – a video projector, speakers, and upgraded computer facilities. Library Coordinator **Daisy Lemus** has also overseen the upgrading of the computerized catalog (a big change for those of us who remember the books being "organized" with round colored stickers on the spine) and the digitizing of our audiovisual collection. We are grateful to Daisy for all her hard work on the Library as well as to Dean **Robert Buckner** of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication for support for these upgrades.

Confronting Cancer

The **CSUN Communication Association (CCA)** organized a Breast Cancer Awareness event, raising money to support research into breast cancer. The donation went to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists. And Professor **Kathryn Sorrells** completed the half marathon in Carlsbad, CA; it was a fundraising event that benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Thanks to all who contributed in finding a cure for cancer and saving lives!



This semester was an adventure! As the new director of the Communication for Youth Institute (CYI) program I started the semester with anticipation and excitement. I am happy to say that I am ending the semester extremely pleased with our results and looking forward to next semester. The CYI program is growing in leaps and bounds. Due to the dedicated work of the CSUN students we have formed numerous relationship with local schools. This semester we had 41 youth participants between 5th and 12th grade, our greatest concentration of students coming from grades 5 - 8. Additionally, again thanks to the efforts of our CSUN students, the youth participants have raved about our program. So much so that I have schools contacting me asking to be notified of the next session. We are indeed growing at an incredible rate and based upon the pre-enrollments we have already received for next semester I project we will exceed this semesters participant enrollment. Most notably we have seen major break throughs with students. One such example came from a parent of a 5th grader. She told me that her child is not the same. Her daughter who was once shy and timid, thanks to CYI, has blossomed due to the public speaking skills she has learned through the program. This is just one such example of the tremendous impact our CSUN students are having on the community through the CYI program. For more information please contact: Lisa Thranow - thranow@csun.edu.



SILLARS

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housed there and speech and theater students moved back and forth between areas in plays, forensics, and courses. We were proud to have as students people named **Paul Newman** and **Jo Ann Woodward**. It was a noteworthy coincidence.

Fred McMahon was our first forensic director, followed by Don Cameron and they and those who followed them gave our college a fine reputation in forensics circles. We also became very active in academic ways. For a state college with a heavy teaching load we did our share of publishing and we always had heavy student and faculty participation in conferences like the Western States Communication Association and the National Communication Association. During my time at San Fernando Valley State College (1956 – 71) the college reorganized, and theater became a separate department. Theater became a department in the College of Fine Arts, and Speech was a part of the College of Arts and Sciences (later the College of Humanities). Part of our commitment to a strong academic emphasis was the number of students we sent off to graduate degrees and university teaching. Just a few of those people who made a reputation for themselves include: **John Cagle**, **David Quadro**, **Don Ellis**, **Gary Collier**, **Gage Chappel**, and **Bill Freeman**. Bill, like **Mary McEdwards**, was a graduate who became a member of the Department faculty.

In addition to a commitment to academic excellence we had an extensive commitment to active interaction among faculty, students, and staff. Our secretaries like **Ollie Stevener**, **Marion Magee**, and **Rita Dinehart** were part of and leaders of the family. We also, along with faculty around the college, were pleased that we would be a small college where we all would be able to interact with one another in an ideal academic community under the leadership of **Delmar Oviatt**, Dean of the branch campus, and then Vice President. We designed interactive liberal education courses, emphasized performance and writing experiences, and built our college to be small with small classes. Then one graduation we had a speaker who complimented us for our efforts. He quoted **Daniel Webster** in the Dartmouth College case, "She is a small college but there are those who love her." Unfortunately, we had just learned the day before that San Fernando Valley State College was projected to grow to thirty five thousand students. It was a new era and new adaptation had to be made.

I left San Fernando Valley State College in 1971 a year before it became California State University Northridge and joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts. In 1974 I joined the faculty of the Department of Communication at the University of Utah from which I am now retired. However, I have never lost the pride that I had in the Department of Communication Studies at CSUN. We tried to establish a tradition of faculty and student camaraderie and academic excellence that, I believe, has been carried on since those early days. It has been done with a much more diverse student body that provides wonderful challenges and opportunities that we of the early days did not have. It has been done through budget shortfall and earthquake. I hope that you are proud of the Department of Communication Studies and, like me, pleased to have been a part of it.

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE UPDATE

by Jeanine Mingé, Director of Performance Ensemble

The Performance Ensemble packed the house in both Spring and Fall 2008 with productions of *The Barbie Chronicles* and *Fifteen Cents*. *The Barbie Chronicles* was adapted from the book by Yona Zeldis McDonough, *The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty*. The show was adapted by our students and directed by **Courtney Gruttemeyer (B.A., 2006; M.A., 2008)**. The show took a deep look at the Barbie doll's material and ideological impact on the lives of modern men and women. Her plastic arms carry the weight of anger, adoration, and admiration. Enlightening those who adore her as well as those who abhor her, *The Barbie Chronicles* left its audiences thinking about and toying with Barbie in ways they might never have imagined. The script was written and performed by members of the Performance Ensemble, including **Jennifer Ahern, Kristy Asbury, Danielle de Asis, Jameela Bintwasi, Ian Cowan, Ashley Fernandez, Paula Fleischer, Courtney Gruttemeyer, Adriana Gustavson, Amanda Laurell, Bianca Mercado, Alex Reyes, and Kyle Straub**. The music and sound was put together and performed by Department Chair **Bernardo Attias**. We performed *The Barbie Chronicles* in the Studio Theatre in Nordhoff Hall in May 2008.



workers at the doll factory in *The Barbie Chronicles*

I applaud the work of all of the Ensemble members. On November 14th and 16th, 2008 the Ensemble brought *Fifteen Cents* to the Little Theatre in Nordhoff Hall. *Fifteen Cents* is a performance ethnography generated from the Performance Ensemble's collection of stories from their everyday work lives. Performance ethnography is a research process that explores important social issues through the interrogation of everyday life experience. After collecting interviews and writing personal narratives, the Ensemble created this script. These stories are an honest portrayal of the class struggles that encompass and frame social interaction in the Los Angeles area. For the final scene/s of our show we used a modified version of Forum Theatre, which is a Theater of the Oppressed technique created by Brazilian director, writer and playwright, **Augusto Boal**. Performers included **Lena Ayzasian, Michael Benabou, Nicole Embree, Bernardo Jimenez, Wade MacDonald, Tara Menkin, Sandra Nassralla, Trisha Neimeyer, Tetsuya Ogi, Elizabeth Pineda, Joseph Ramirez, Frank Ramos, Sarkis Sarkisian, Lusine Shaginya, Kiran Soomar, and David Yoakley**. **Kyungwon Kang, Michele Clevering, Paula Fleischer, and Derek Dreblow** handled props and set design; **Trisha Neimeyer** and **Jeanine Mingé** directed the choreography. Director Jeanine Mingé worked with Assistant Director and Stage Manager Courtney Gruttemeyer, and Bernardo Attias handled the sound and music. We also had a special guest vocal performer, **Esmeralda Xochitl Flores**, a CSUN alum and San Fernando Valley native, who performed "La Niña" by **Lila Downs**.



Rehearsing for *Fifteen Cents*

In addition to these stage performances, the Performance Ensemble worked outside of the classroom environment, during the summer semester, to create a performance for the Freshman Convocation on September 4, 2008. The students were enthusiastic about the challenge to think outside the box.

They worked collaboratively to create, interrogate, complicate, and assemble a performance piece in response to the book, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, the best-selling book written by Freshman Convocation Keynote speaker **Barbara Ehrenreich**. *Survival Moments*, the culmination of our summer workshops, was a thought provoking movement-based piece. After the Freshman Convocation in the Matador Square, we garnered the attention of passing freshman, staff, and faculty. We were thrilled to have Barbara Ehrenreich as an audience member. **Cheryl Spector**, an organizer of the Freshman Common Reading program, commented, "I want you to know how thoroughly impressive you were out on the Matador Square with *Survival Moments* after Convocation! I think Barbara Ehrenreich would still be sitting out there watching you right now. She really enjoyed the performance, and so did I. I am SO glad that you were part of the afternoon's events; you added so much to my own pleasure in the day's various moments. Thank you!" I applaud the work of the Performance Ensemble members, **Nicole Embree, Michelle Matta, Sheila Selva, Joeseeph Ramirez, Rachella Felix, Elizabeth Ho, Kyungwon Kang, Michelle Mcfarquhar, Michele Clevering, Christine Burke, Paula Fleisher, Courtney Gruttemeyer, and Professor Kathryn Sorrells**. They deserve a loud Brava! for their hard work and insightful contributions. I believe the Performance Ensemble saw transformative results for themselves and for those who audienced the event.

We also produced two workshops directed by visiting performance artists. In the Spring of 2008, Elizabeth Whitney and Lea Robinson came to campus for a four-day workshop investigating intercultural relationships called **Miscegenations**. The



Miscegenations workshop

workshop culminated in a performance in the Little Theatre in which students explored this theme through digital narratives produced in collaboration with the visiting performers. And in Spring 2009 visiting artist Amber Dawn Cobb led a three-day intensive workshop focused on writing and creating artistic expressions in response to experiences of sexual assault and violence. The workshop, which was titled **Weaving and Stitching Stories of Sexual Assault and Violence**, invited survivors and supporters of survivors to transform their written words through the paper making process. We were thrilled to have more than twenty workshop participants engaged in each stage of the workshop.

The truly amazing component of Performance Ensemble is that each of us gets to explore our otherwise undiscovered creative talents, or cultivate the talents we already cherish. Performance Ensemble is a unique collaborative effort. Each member has a voice, a say, and adds to the import of our shows. Performance Ensemble is dedicated to cultivating social justice, tapping into social issues that matter to the Ensemble, and to the larger community.

We welcome new members at any time and encourage student creativity, participation, and input. If you would like to join us, please contact me. We would love to hear your voice.

AT THE GRAMMY MUSEUM

In conjunction with the International Exchange Student Center and with the support of the Office of Student Development & International Programs (Dig L.A.), Professor **Daisy Lemus** took her students in her Communication and Technology class to **The Grammy Museum** in downtown Los Angeles. The field trip also included 20 international students from all over the world. The museum opened in December 2008 and aims to display cutting-edge exhibits of engaging, educational, celebratory, and inspirational messages about music. The students were instructed to fully engage in the exhibits while maintaining a self-reflexive perspective on how their experience was shaped by the way the various kinds of communication technology the exhibits use to convey their messages. Professor Lemus and her class thank **Christopher Aston** (B.A., 2002; M.A., 2004) and **Yeprem Davoodian** (B.A., 2004; M.A., 2007) for making the field trip happen.



"This experience solidified to me the concept of taking one message and having the ability to spread it to millions of people, especially through the medium of music, whether it be about protesting Vietnam or loving college." ~Brianna Lundgren

"I exited the Grammy Museum elevator, stepped out onto the fourth floor, and was immediately enveloped in full sensory pop culture at its best." ~Bethany Garboski

"The Grammy Museum was a place that I could connect to the music and I was learning in a fun hands-on and visual way." ~Angela Glass

DECEASED



Nickie Stambolis

It is with sadness that the Department notes the passing of the following people.

Alex Clyburn, a student in the Department, passed away on April 14th, 2008, at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena, California.

Beverly R. Mosley (B.A., 1999) was among 25 fatalities in the tragic collision of Metrolink #111 on September 12th, 2008. Ms. Mosley was employed by Kaiser Permanente as a Health Care Mediator.

Nickie Stambolis, who was the Department's Administrative Assistant for many years, passed away on July 28th, 2008.

Carol Joan Wurthman, retired faculty **Len Wurthman's** wife, passed away on May 23rd, 2008.

Laurie Zeluck Carter (B.A., 1981), known professionally as **Laurie Z.**, passed away in February 2006 from lung cancer. Laurie was an independent musician who received 15 Grammy nomination considerations. Her musical legacy continues in the Laurie Z. Scholarship Fund for Stanwood, Washington Middle School girls.

"Our secretaries were part of and leaders of the family."

~ Malcolm O. Sillars

FORENSICS AT SAN FERNANDO VALLEY STATE COLLEGE

In the Beginning... by Don Cameron

San Fernando Valley State College became an independent college in September, 1958. The majority of the founding faculty transferred from the Los Angeles State College campus, which at that time was near Vermont and Hollywood boulevards in Hollywood. **Malcolm Sillars** was the first chair of the Speech Department. The forensics program began in the Fall of 1959, when **Fred McMahon** was appointed to the faculty and became the first Director of Forensics. Coaching debate and individual speaking events was not Fred's preferences, however, so with the beginning of the Fall 1960 semester, **Don Cameron** was appointed Assistant Professor and Director of Forensics. Don had completed his Ph.D. degree in June, 1960 at Northwestern University, where he had received graduate assistantships assisting the Northwestern debate teams.

San Fernando Valley State College (the campus became California State University, Northridge in 1971) soon had a very active debate and individual events program. Professor Cameron was given 6 units reassigned time, or one-half of his teaching assignment, and the Associated Students budget provided excellent financial support. During the first two years, students attended many tournaments at Southern California campuses and traveled to Arizona, Utah, Montana, Nevada and Kansas for competitions.

In November, 1962 the campus hosted the Western States Speech Association tournament, which was held annually in the days immediately preceding the WSSA annual convention. This event was a major undertaking, with over 80 campuses sending about 600 students for competitions in debate and four individual events (impromptu speaking, oratory, extemporaneous speaking and interpretive reading). During the Spring 1963 semester, four students competed at the national Pi Kappa Delta conference and tournament at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In Spring 1965, after several years of coming close but not qualifying at the regional level, the debate team of **Janet Padden** and **Jeff Sobel** qualified as one of four teams from the western

Emeritus Faculty **Donald J. Cameron** was hired in 1960 as the Director of Forensics. He chaired the Department from 1970-73 and has continued at the University in various roles including Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Assistant Vice President for Faculty Affairs, and Vice Provost. He has also held leadership positions in the field, including President of the Western States Communication Association.

United States to attend the national debate championships held at the US Military Academy at West Point, New York. Professor Cameron was one of the seven judges during the final round when, on a 4-3 decision, the team from Harvard defeated

Georgetown. **Larry Tribe**, later to become a noted Harvard Law School professor was a member of the Harvard team and **Bob Shrum**, who became speech writer to several Presidents and Presidential candidates, was on the Georgetown team.

We had many outstanding students in the forensics program in the early 1960s. **Gary Collier, Steve Mann, Al Haber, Rachel** and **Sue O'Brien, Diana McIntosh, Trelawney Wray, Kathy Eberhart, Sharon Achen** and **Don Gilliland** were among the most successful. **Frank Zimring** was in the debate program for two years, prior to transferring to Wayne State where he became one of the nation's top debaters. Zimring has become a noted constitutional law scholar whose articles are widely read. Many others, too numerous to mention, have gone on to successful careers in the legal, educational and other professions. Don Cameron was Director of Forensics from the Fall 1960 semester until the end of the Spring 1965 semester, when he was appointed Dean of Student Activities. **John Clendenning**, also appointed to a faculty position in Fall 1960 after completing his Ph.D degree at the University of Iowa, assisted with the debate program from 1960 - 62. **Paul Rosenthal**, a new faculty appointment, was assistant debate coach in 1962 - 64. In the following years **David Quadro, John Tagg** and **Steve Shiffrin**, at various times, had responsibility for the program. The program

continued to have excellent financial support from the Associated Students budget and was supported by the Speech Department through reassigned time of faculty members and the assistance of some excellent graduate students (Quadro, Tagg and Shiffrin were each graduate students at SFVSC). **Dick Strong**, who had been a successful college debater at the University of Redlands, and **Raymond Zeuchner** served as debate coaches in the 1970s, prior to the arrival of **Don Brownlee**.



Debaters Wendy Johnson and Ann Browne with a forensics trophy in 1963

FORENSICS SQUAD UPDATE

by John Kephart III, Director

Matador Forensics has had an exciting year thus far, winning numerous awards at eight intercollegiate forensics tournaments, as well as hosting the **British National Debate Team** in the fall semester. The British were at CSUN in October as part of their tour of the United States, and participated in a public debate against members of our own Matador Forensics Squad on the role of the United States in world affairs. The event was well attended



by members of the campus and surrounding community, including a group of about 35 students from Northridge Academy High School. This is the second time in the last year the squad has hosted an international team after putting on an event with the Japanese National Team last February.

In intercollegiate competition the speech and debate team achieved recognition at tournaments featuring universities from across the country. The Matadors have had a participant in the finals of at least one event at every tournament they attended. In individual events competition, which features 11 competitive public speaking events, the squad has had participants in the final rounds of informative, persuasive, impromptu and extemporaneous speaking as well as dramatic interpretation. Senior **Erick Johnson** took home third place in informative speaking at the “**Amazing Race**” hosted by Mount San Antonio College, while junior **Anne Marre Bautista** took home a superior award in dramatic interpretation at the **Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association Fall Warm-Up**.

Debate competition was just as busy. Matador debaters have advanced to at least the quarterfinals at seven of the eight parliamentary and policy competitions they attended in the fall semester. Freshman **Jenna Dookun** and **Amanda Paige Michaels** have been to the quarterfinals twice in parliamentary debate, and Jenna has been recognized as a top 10 speaker, including third and first place speaking honors at successive tournaments, at multiple events. Not to be left out, our policy debaters have also excelled at various competitions. Junior **Calvin Abbasi** and senior **Laura Wolke** have reached the final round twice, and took first place in the JV division of the California State University at Fullerton tournament over winter break. Consistently recognized for their speaking ability, they

have a combined 7 top five speaker awards between them at four tournaments, with Calvin being recognized as the second speaker at both the **Ray Buchanan Invitational** at Pepperdine University and the **Kathryn Klassic** at Cal State Fullerton.

Perhaps our greatest honor to date this year has been squad president **Laura Wolke** winning the “Best in Forensics” award at the Cal State Fullerton tournament. This

award is given to a debater who not only succeeds competitively, but who has a dedicated interest to creating and sustaining community, and helping others learn and grow as debaters and students. Laura’s selfless dedication to the squad and wider forensics community did not go unnoticed, and we extend a special congratulations to her.

With the season only half over the Matador Forensics squad looks forward to an exciting spring semester, including a demonstration debate with visitors from Chinese Universities, and our district, state, and national tournaments. We will be sure to keep you updated on our success. Please feel free to contact Director of Forensics **John Kephart** at kephart@csun.edu for any additional information.



Calvin Abbasi and Laura Wolke

FACULTY NOTES

This past summer Department Chair **Bernardo Attias** performed his work *From Wax Cylinders to Vinyl Symphonies: Historicizing DJ Culture* at the Association for Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica in July. He also traveled to Japan, where he presented his essay *Consulting Debra: Conspiracy Argumentation in the War on Terror* at the Third Tokyo Conference on Argumentation at Chuo University. In May, Ben presented a paper at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association in New York entitled *Noise, Technology, and the Work of Art: Reconceptualizing the Turntable*. He also attended the conference of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG) in Nashville, Tennessee, where he participated on the panel "Sex Talk: Discursively Storying Our Identities," along with **Jeanine Mingé**. At the NCA in San Diego, he presented on a panel, *Emerging Racial Categories/ Concepts* along with **Karyl Kicenski (B.A., 1992; M.A., 1994)**. He also participated on a panel at WSCA along with **Amy London-Edwards (B.A., 1998; M.A., 2001)** about technology in the classroom. In April he presented his work on *Technology and the Body* to the Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference in New Orleans and performed on the panel *Embodying Electronic Dance Music Cultures* at the Pop Conference at the Experience Music Project | Science Fiction Museum in Seattle. Ben also participated in two University retreats, presenting *Things I Wished I Had Known as Department Chair* to the Chairs and Deans Retreat in August 2008, and *How Will We Build a Virtual University?* at the Faculty Retreat in January 2009. While in Japan, Ben also performed as a DJ at the O-wa Rock and DJ Club in Kiryu, thanks in part to Department alum **Yuki Yokoyama (B.A., 2005)**, who works nearby at the Global Lounge; in March performed in Hollywood alongside internationally reknown drummer **Bernie Galane** and tapdancer **Nicole Embree (B.A., 2009)**. Nicole will begin as a student in the graduate program in Fall 2009.

Sakilé K. Camara has four essays in press: *Understanding Conformed and Disrupted Black Bodies in Intra-racial Interactions: A Focus Group Discussion on the Wearing of Natural Hair*, which will be published in *Interracial Communication: Contexts, Communities, and Choices*, edited by **Deborah Brunson** and **Linda Lampl**. *African Masked Dance and the Wearing of Drag: Reflections of Gebser's Myth and Magic* will appear in **David Zuckerman**, ed., *Communication, Comparative Cultures and Civilizations*, to be published by Hampton Press. *Exposing Hypocrisies of State Power: The African-American Press and the Holocaust*, coauthored with **Felecia Jones Ross**, will be printed in Michael Husek's *Social and Political Thought on Oppositional discourses and Democracies*, and *Scripting and Consuming Black Bodies in Hip Hop Music and Pimp Movies*, coauthored with **Ronald L. Jackson** will be published in *Hip-Hop Culture*, edited by **James B. Stewart** and **Derrick P. Aldridge**. She was also active at conferences, presenting *Analyzing Strategic Responses to Discriminatory Acts: A Co-Cultural Communicative Investigation*, coauthored with **Mark P. Orbe** at NCA. And at the Sixth Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities she

presented her essay coauthored with **Darlene Drummond**, *Otherness-Centered Messages in Interpreting Media Texts: A Thematic Analysis*.

Paul Fotsch's book *Watching the Traffic Go By: Transportation and Isolation in Urban America* continues to receive critical attention; it won the 2008 Goffman Award for Ecology of Social Interaction from the Media Ecology Association. Paul presented work from his book to students and faculty in the Aronstam Library, focusing specifically on the question, "Why is L.A. Traffic Such a Nightmare?" The presentation was sponsored by the Department and by the CSUN Communication Studies Association. At the International Communication Association Conference in May, Paul presented his paper *Urban Space and Immigration Discourse*.

Marisa Garcia-Rodriguez (M.A., 2009), one of our Teaching Associates, presented her paper *Reclaiming the Latina Body through Performance Art* to the National Association of Chicana/Chicano Studies conference in Austin, Texas in April. She was also the 2007-2008 recipient of two awards from the University Student Union -- the Proctor award for outstanding service to the Board of Directors and the Aida C. Salazar award for outstanding outreach to the campus community. She also helped raise funds for the Performance Ensemble's *Miscegenations* program last Spring. Marisa is currently working on her thesis, entitled *Shattered Images: A Textual Analysis of Frida Kahlo*.

Jim Hasenauer, who in addition to being a 26-year veteran of our faculty is also an avid mountain biker and committed environmentalist, was elected to the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. For 22 years, Professor Hasenauer has volunteered in various non-profit organizations; he is currently the president of the California Trails and Greenways Foundation and serves on the California Roundtable on Recreation Parks and Tourism. He was also a founder of the Concerned Off Road Bicyclists Association in Los Angeles and a former president of the International Mountain Biking Association. He also served five years on the California Recreational Trails Committee and coauthored *Mountain Biking Santa Monica Mountains' Best Trails*. He was sworn into his post with the Governing Board in March 2009.

William Kelly's work, *Applying a Critical Metatheoretical Approach to Intercultural Relations: The Case of U.S.-Japan Relations*, was published in Molefi Asante, et al., (eds.), *The Global Intercultural Communication Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2008).

Director of Forensics **John Kephart III** received his Ph.D. from USC in 2008 and was hired as an Assistant Professor in our Department. He presented his paper, *Political Campaign Advertisements as Deliberative Exchange*, at NCA in San Diego. He also published an essay that he coauthored with Z. Majdik and G.T. Goodnight: *The Presidential debates of 2004: Contested Moments in the Democratic Experiment*. The essay was published in the 2008 volume of *Controversia*.

Former T.A. **Jed Link** taught public speaking and argumentation at CSUN and coached on the debate team. In 2004, Jed moved to Washington, DC, where he worked on Capitol Hill as an aide for a U.S. Senator from Montana. In 2006, he was the campaign director for Western Montana. He currently works for the at-large Congressman from Montana where, among other things, he oversees new media outreach and helps devise messaging strategies. In 2006, Jed married Tiffany Potter who is studying at Johns Hopkins Medical School for her MD/Ph.D.

Performance Ensemble Director **Jeanine Marie Mingé** finished and defended her dissertation in 2008, and has taken off running in her first year as a tenure-track faculty member. In addition to her leadership of the Ensemble, Jeanine has continued to pursue her agenda of scholarship and creative activities including two performances at NCA: *Landing Home* and *Trans/ form: Growing Up Ludovic in Ma Vie en Rose*. She also helped conduct the preconference workshop entitled *What it Is: Imaging and Writing*. At WSCA she served as a respondent on the panel *Attachment in Absentia*. She attended the OSCLG in Nashville, Tennessee, and participated on the panel *Sex Talk: Discursively Storying Our Identities*. Her essay *Power, Pleasure, and Play* was published in *Qualitative Inquiry* in January 2009.

Former Department Chair **Peter Ogom Nwosu** received an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship and has been serving as the Strategic Planning Fellow in the Office of the President at Tennessee State University. He will be participating on a panel entitled *Public-Private Partnership in Strategic Planning: Tennessee State University and Deloitte Consulting* at the Society for College and University Planning Conference in Portland, Oregon this summer. At NCA he responded to the panel *Doing Conventional Research in Unconventional Settings*. He has several forthcoming publications, including a chapter in *The Sage Handbook of Intercultural Competence* and two chapters in the 12th edition of *Intercultural Communication: A Reader*. Finally, his book *Beyond Race: A New Vision of Community in America* has gone to production.

Kathryn Sorrells presented a Top Four paper in the International and Intercultural Communication Division of NCA, *Crossing Borders*. She also served as WSCA's Second Vice President for 2009/09. She also published, with former faculty member **Gordon Nakagawa**, a chapter in *Transformative Communication Studies* (ed. O. Swartz) entitled *Intercultural Communication Praxis and the Struggle for Social Responsibility and Social Justice*. Her essay *Re-imagining Intercultural Communication in the Context of Globalization* will be published in T.K. Nakayama and R.T. Halualani, eds., *A Companion to Critical Intercultural Communication Studies* by Blackwell this year. Kathryn also ran a half marathon in Carlsbad, California at the end of January to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The material below is culled from the Master's Thesis of **Mary Miller Moore (M.A., 1991)** on the Department's history; her thesis, *An Oral History of the CSUN Speech Communication Department: Insights into Culture and Climate*, can be perused in the Richard B. Aronstam Library.

The branch campus of Los Angeles College in Northridge was considered by some to be a bastard offshoot of Los Angeles State College. In 1956 it was "out in the **boondocks**" and thought to be quite uncivilized.... Some employees considered themselves banished if they were transferred to the new campus. **Mary McEdwards** noted that "They took all the **troublemakers** from Cal State L.A., including **Sillars**.... The ones they sent over were complaining too much about Cal State L.A." **Bill Freeman** elaborated: "This was a satellite campus. But I could tell they got rid of people with big mouths. **Charlie [Mudd]** was stubborn, and **Mal [Sillars]** had a mouth **twelve miles wide.**"

The casual atmosphere of the early days was characterized by what **Mary McEdwards** labeled a "**seat-of-the-pants**, make-the-rules-as-we-go" approach.

We are a very cohesive unit. We have often used the **metaphor of the family**. We tended to use that most when [we] felt the closest, but I think it would still be appropriate in those times when we act like all families and are not necessarily united.... But I don't see that as non-familial. I see a family that has some sharp differences of opinion. [We] tended to take the attitude that we're all in this together.

~ Former faculty member **Susan H. Komsky**

Sillars was like a super-hero, with a big '**R**' for **rhetoric** stamped on his chest. Every time he walked out of class, students trailed him. He had lots of energy, vitality.... He set the tone. He corralled people everywhere to talk, tell stories, ask opinions, laugh out loud.

~ Former faculty member **Bill Freeman**

Richard Aronstam, known for his warmth and **sense of humor**, was loved by his CSUN students and was a "notoriously easy grader." He was a principal writer for the "**Amos and Andy**" radio shows as well as a song and gag writer for **Red Skelton**, **Eddie Cantor**, and others. He used several different names professionally. He loved to joke and make puns. He asked **Bill Freeman**, "Did you know that **Moorpark** is '**Kraproom**' spelled backwards?" ... Aronstam was an eclectic reader. **Don Salper** said that "Aronstam read more than any of us, and he never had a Ph.D."

We've always had a very strong tradition of **political involvement** in the University. If I were to talk about a cultural norm in this department, that would be one of the first ones I would come up with. It was something that was presented to me early on in the socialization process. We were simply expected to do this. And that builds a certain kind of cohesiveness, too.

~ **Susan H. Komsky**

When **Charlie Mudd** was arrested, **Lloyd [Welden]** had to bail out the **most conservative member of the Department**. Humorous.

~ Former faculty member **Len Wurthman** on Charlie Mudd's arrest during an antiwar protest in the late 1960s.

We were a politically active Department. Actually divided into "good guys" and "bad guys." Good guys (in white hats) led by people like **Sillars** ... the **super liberals**. Won every battle... Mal carried everything around in his hip pocket... Every time he walked out of class, students trailed him. Lots of energy, vitality.... For a while it was Mal's Department, whether he was Chair or not. In some ways he was crude and young and arrogant, but he was right.

~ **Bill Freeman**

Yeah, **Fred McMahon** was unique. Delightful to have around the office. Comes in and sings Gilbert and Sullivan. A freedom.... I understand he used to wear beanie, cape, **Bermuda shorts**.

~ Former Department Secretary **Virginia Watts**

SUPPORT EXCELLENCE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT FUND

We are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary in a time of economic crisis. The State of California has responded to its economic difficulties in part with deep cuts in education funding. The gap between the costs of educating our students and the funds provided by student fees and state funding is growing. We are seeing fees increase, but those increases do not even begin to make up for what we are losing to cuts. In short, it is incumbent upon us to raise additional funds to bridge the difference between fees/state support and the actual cost of educating our students.

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:

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You can also easily and conveniently make a secure online credit card gift using the University Website -- just go to www.csun.edu and click "Supporting the University" and follow the instructions using the online form. Be sure to choose "Communication Studies" from the list of Departments when contributing online.

Should you prefer to make a gift in support of a specific program or scholarship rather than the Department Fund, contact the Department Chair to make arrangements. You can also call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (818) 677-3621 to discuss other giving options.

WHAT'S BUZZING? ALUMS IN ACTION

Judy Battaglia (M.A., 2007)

is on the executive board for the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG), and will be helping to plan and host the 2009 OSCLG national conference at Loyola Marymount University, where she teaches fulltime as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. She also served as a reviewer for NCA, both in the Feminist Division and the GLBT section. Judy also helped actress **Mia Kirshner** get her book project, *I Live Here*, into schools through the Ambassador Program. Judy was featured in the Professor Profile of the December 2008 edition of Amnesty International's newsletter.



Judy Battaglia with Mia Kirshner

Current graduate student **Les Belikian (M.A., 2009)** presented two papers at NCA. On the Competitive Papers in the History of Rhetoric panel he presented *Figuration, Dialectic, and Failure in the Phaedrus*. His essay *The Circle, the Mirror, and the Rhetoric of Ingenium* was selected as one of the Top Four Student Papers in Rhetorical and Communication Theory. Congratulations, Les!

Mia Briceño (M.A., 2007) continues work on her Ph.D. in Communication Studies with a minor in Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She was a teaching assistant in their Rhetoric of Rome Education Abroad program this past summer and joined three other assistants and 23 students for two months in Rome to study the Rhetoric of Rome, Travel Writing, and Italian Film. At NCA this year she presented three papers -- *Whither Humor in Feminist Rhetorical Studies*, *Prepregnancy, Risk, and Reproductive Capability in the CDC's "Recommendations to Improve Preconception Health and Health Care, and The Function of the Simple Resolution and the Importance of the Term "Femicide" in H. RES. 100*. At the Eastern Communication Association convention in Pittsburgh in May she presented her paper, *Transparent Euphemisms for Anti-Feminist Rhetoric: A Rhetorical Criticism of Harvey Mansfield's "Suggestions from a Friend."*

Michael Lane Bruner (B.A., 1991) is currently Associate Professor of Critical Political Communication and Graduate Director at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. A former performance poet in Los Angeles, having co-founded the Lost Tribe and the Carma Bums, he earned his M.A. degree at Louisiana State University in Performance Studies in 1993 and his Ph.D. in Rhetorical Studies and Critical Theory at the University of Washington in 1997. Michael is the author of over two dozen scholarly essays and three books: *Strategies of Remembrance: the Rhetorical Dimensions of National Identity Construction* (University of South Carolina Press, 2002); *Market Democracy in Post-Communist Russia* (Wisdom House Academic Publishers, 2005); and, most recently, *Democracy's Debt:*

the Historical Tensions between Economic and Political Liberty (Prometheus Press, December 2008). For his research, Michael won the National Communication Association's New Investigator Award in Rhetorical Studies in 2003 and the Heston Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Performance Studies in 2006. He currently serves on the editorial boards of *Text & Performance Quarterly*, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *National Identities*, the *Southern Journal of Communication*, and *Controversia*, and he is now

working on his next two books: *Globalization and the Arts of Resistance*, with Tom Tabako, and a book of essays on the relationship between mediated fantasy and materiality. Michael sends his fond hellos and warm thanks to Professors Christie Logan, Rebecca Litke, and Peter Marston: "Thanks for getting me started on the academic path!"

Thomas Dowd (M.A., 2002) is a Visiting Instructor and Director of Debate at Hawai'i Pacific University. He joined the faculty after serving eight years as the Associate Director of Debate at Loyola Marymount University. He has taken teams to the final round of U.S. Nationals and the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence.

Marie Echavarri (B.A., 2007) lives in Valley Glen in the San Fernando Valley and just completed her M.A. in Organizational Leadership at Woodbury University. She is an adjunct faculty member at College of the Canyons, where she teaches English, business communication, medical office procedures, and finances. In addition, she continues her work with the Economic Development Division at College of the Canyons providing consulting, curriculum development, and professional development training to businesses throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. Her training repertoire includes communication, business writing skills, English as a Second Language (ESL), team building, organizational leadership, group dynamics, and change management.

Katie L. Gibson (M.A., 2000) published her essay *The Rhetoric of Roe v. Wade: When the (Male) Doctor Knows Best* in *Southern Communication Journal* 73:4 (October-December 2008). At NCA she presented her essay *Gonzales v. Carhart as Protective Legislation: Investigating Paternalism in the Rhetoric of the United*

States Supreme Court and served as a respondent for the panel on *Communication and the Law: From Shame and Security to Speech and a Living Constitution*. At WSCA she participated in the pre-conference entitled *Border Rhetorics: Mapping American Citizenship, Cultural Space, and American Identity*, presented her paper *Undermining Katie Couric: The Discipline Function of the Press*, and responded to the panel *Top Four Papers in Rhetoric and Public Address*. Katie is an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at California State University Long Beach.

Julia Johnson (M.A., 1992) and **Marc Rich (M.A., 1993)** have an article in the second issue of the new NCA journal, *International and Intercultural Communication*. Its title is "Why Are You Showing This Stuff Down Our Throats?" Preparing *Intercultural Educators to Challenge Performances of White Racism*. Dr. Johnson received her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and is an Assistant Professor at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; she taught as a full-time lecturer in our Department in 1998. Marc Rich got his Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, and he is an Assistant Professor at California State University Long Beach.

Rachel Levitt (B.A., 2006; M.A., 2008) is working on her Ph.D. in Communication Studies at Arizona State University. As she graduated CSUN she won the Nathan O. Friedman Award and the Dean's Outstanding Graduate Student Award. At Arizona State she has been awarded a Teaching Excellence Award, an award given to the best out of hundreds of graduate students (and rarely presented to first year instructors). Congratulations, Rachel! She presented her performance art project, *Signification Straight*



Signification Straight Jacket
by Rachel Levitt

Jacket, at the OSCLG conference in Nashville, Tennessee in October. At the NCA she performed her piece *Trans-lations: Negotiating Trans* and presented her paper *The Problems of Fire with Fire: Locating an Alternative to Power/ Post/Neoliberal Feminism*. And at WSCA she presented her paper *Frantic Signification: Performativity and Schizophrenia in Conversation over a De- and Re-territorializing of Meaning*.

Jeremy J. Lovejoy (B.A., 2007) is currently living back home in Orange County, working for HDR Inc. -- an employee-owned architectural, engineering, and consulting firm. Jeremy works in the Irvine branch as part of the Information Systems Department as a Technical Analyst. He's also attending Concordia University Irvine and working on his MBA. He writes in: "I feel that the CSUN Communication Studies department gave me the insight into thinking things

WHAT'S BUZZING? ALUMS IN ACTION

through logically and gave me the idea that I need to continue to challenge myself. I miss the undergraduate atmosphere, the group projects, the studying together and the school spirit; I also miss the excellent teachers."

Alexander Lyon (M.A., 1997) received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder and is an Assistant Professor at The College at Brockport in the State University of New York. He is also the Coordinator of Graduate Studies for the Department of Communication. His article *The Mis/recognition of Enron Executives' Competence as Cultural and Social Capital* was published in the October-December 2008 issue of *Communication Studies*. He has been publishing consistently in the field since 2003, and currently has a work in press, coauthored with Robert R. Ulmer, entitled *Ethics in "Big Pharma": Communicating the Risks of Medicine*. The piece will be published in the third edition of *Case Studies for Organizational Communication*, edited by Joann Keyton & Pam Shockley-Zalabak.

Daniel Makagon (M.A., 1995) is now an Associate Professor in the College of Communication at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. Daniel's latest book, co-authored with Mark Neumann of Northern Arizona University, was published by Sage in October: *Recording Culture: Audio Documentary and the Ethnographic Experience*. He edited a special edition of the online Performance Studies journal *Liminalities* entitled *On The City* (4:1, 2008). He presented his paper *Into the Night* on the panel *Ethnographic Spaces: Urban, Suburban, And Virtual Communication Pedagogies* at NCA. He won a best article award at the previous NCA in the Ethnography Division for his article in *Communication and Critical Cultural Studies* entitled *Sonic Earthquakes*. He also shares his unique experience teaching a class in Fall 2008 called *The City at Night*:

The class met from 10PM-1AM. Although most courses about urban life feature some discussion of the night, the scheduling of these classes prohibits a consistent first-hand collective experience and analysis of the city at night. This experiential learning class allowed students to understand and use a variety of fieldwork methods to help them learn about the unique cultural practices that take shape in the city at night. We went out with the Guardian Angels, CTA employees, dumpster diving with food activists, did service work with an organization that feeds the homeless and provides health care, met with homeless drug addicts on Chicago's West Side, and concluded with a trip to the Adler Planetarium so we could shift our attention from the streets to the sky.

Jodie D. Mandel (B.A., 2001; M.A., 2004) has been teaching Communication full-time at the College of Southern Nevada since 2007 and will be applying for tenure at the end of this year. She serves as the faculty advisor to the largest student organization on campus, the Association of Students in Communication (ASC) and is finishing her second year as a faculty senator. This semester, she is teaching the first ever honors course offered in her department and has been an instrumental faculty member in delivering

the Public Speaking Course 100% online. Aside from her teaching responsibilities, she is on various committees on campus and has developed a service learning project with Nathan Adelson Hospice and 3 Square of Las Vegas. Last November, Jodie served on two panels at NCA in San Diego: *Teaching the Beginning Public Speaking Course in the Online Format* and *The Unconventional Student: Teaching the College Communication Course to High School Students*.

Katie Marino (B.A., 2008) has been pursuing a career in music since her graduation, and she is excited to be making her dreams come true so quickly. She has been touring with singer Jessica Simpson as a background vocalist. Simpson is currently promoting the release of her country music album *Did You Know*; Katie performed with Simpson at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville Tennessee as well as on the Early Show, David Letterman, and the Sprint NASCAR Race in Charlotte, North Carolina. She has also been successfully recording and performing on her own, including a performance at Magic Johnson's 10th Annual Children's Mardi Gras and another at the Zahari Ty 2008 Glamour Me Chic Fashion Show. Learn more about Katie's music career at <http://www.katiemarino.com>.

Barbara L. Mason (B.A., 1981) found herself without a job in 2007 after twenty-three years in sales. She posted her resume on Monster and Career Builder and, within four days, had recruiters calling for interviews. She lives in Massachusetts and is happily employed by Larson-Juhl, a division of Berkshire-Hathaway. She writes in: "I credit, not just my job experience, but my well-chosen degree in Communication Studies, with an emphasis on Organizational Communication (spearheaded by **Paul Krivonos**) and several classes on Women's Studies (thanks to **Mary McEdwards** and **Jim Hasenauer**). Sometimes I can't remember where I was, the day before, but I seem to never forget the professors that made an impact on my future decades.... There is no question that, after all these years, my CSUN degree was the right choice and has continued to serve me well, in everyday applications and on a resume I didn't know I'd be needing at fifty!"

Isoko Nakasone (B.A., 2006) has worked for the last two years as a career counselor in her home town of Okinawa, Japan. She begins a new career this April; she will teach Communication and Hospitality at Japan's Hotel Institution.

Bridget Sampson (B.A., 1991; M.A., 1993) became a certified True Colors facilitator this year; she is very excited to be teaching True Colors to a number of audiences, including staff members at the CSUN Health Center, students and staff members of the Educational Opportunity Program, and employees of Mattel, Inc. She's also a Kolbe certified facilitator and has kept busy doing training and consulting work for a variety of organizations. Bridget has been teaching in the Communication Studies Department for fifteen years now as a lecturer (and taught two years prior to that in our T.A. program).

Trisha Sharky Pineda (B.A., 2003; M.A., 2005) has been teaching English for the Hesperia Unified School District. She has taught American Literature, Language and Composition Advanced Placement, and World Literature Honors. In the 2009/10 Academic Year, Trisha will be spearheading the Speech program at the new Oak Hills High School.

Jon Leon Torn (M.A., 1997) finished his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in 2008; he is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Northern Arizona University. He presented three papers at NCA this year: *"Habitat for Disinterestedness": The Spectator and the Imperial Public*, *Arendt on Kant: Public Judgment and Popular Philosophy*, and *Unconventional Realism: Obscure Style in Europe from Muret to Steele*.

Raffi Vartanian (B.A., 2007) is currently applying to Law schools. After graduating, he began working for a law firm in order to gain experience in the field. He intends to pursue an advanced degree and is also considering a Master's degree in Communication Studies.



Raffi Vartanian graduates

Ivan Villanueva (M.A., 2007) presented his paper *Acculturation Patterns of Mexican Migrants in Los Angeles: The Myth of the American Dream* at NCA.

Melissa Youssefi (B.A., 2002) is the West Coast Brand Manager for Cattier Champagne. She oversees the sales, marketing, and sponsoring for California, Nevada, and Arizona.

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.

Contact us!

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