I may have mentioned last time that one of the best parts of serving as chair is that I am often among the first to hear good news. There has been a great deal of that recently, with three of our faculty winning prestigious awards from NCA and one of our number receiving a Dean’s Fellow award from the College of Liberal Arts along with being granted tenure. One of our undergraduates (they are many but all are dear to us) was the commencement speaker last spring, and another was named Big 10 Athlete of the Year, only the second time in Iowa history that a woman athlete has been so honored. Details are inside this newsletter, along with news of publications, speeches, and of course travel to exotic places.

A boost to Becker Communication Studies Building morale arrived, amid great anticipation, in early fall. A ping-pong table now resides in the computer lounge, and is pulled out for odd moments between serious scholarly pursuits. During orientation week for the new graduate students, a game emerged in the main lobby that involved 7-8 players running around the table, each trying not to be eliminated by letting the ball drop. With the crowd of 10 more gathered along the stairs and upper levels overlooking the lobby, there was more (and louder) laughter than any of us remembered hearing in these hallowed halls. John Peters was the originator of this excellent idea, and we thank him.

At the final department seminar of the academic year last May, I mused – following Ambrose Bierce – that every journey is hardest on those left behind. When graduate students leave for distant employment opportunities, we miss them, even as we eagerly greet the incoming class. Our hope is that this newsletter reaches all of you – we love to hear from you! I should also note that, with my term as DEO due to end in July 2008, this will be my last opportunity to write this greeting. Our hope is that this newsletter reaches all of you – we love to hear from you! I should also note that, with my term as DEO due to end in July 2008, this will be my last opportunity to write this greeting. The end of this adventure still seems a very long time from now, so it would be premature to thank people who have made life worth living or reflect on what it’s been like to steer this august ship for a little while. So be it: my thanks to all my colleagues and all the office staff, especially Becky Scott, for keeping this department going.

We hope to see a great many of you at the Iowa party at NCA this week, 8 p.m. Friday in the NW5 Room at the Hilton Towers. We also hope you’ll come back to Iowa City for Bruce’s official retirement party on April 26th. We have a new conference room at the northeast corner of Becker that we hope to name after Bruce. Again, details inside; and Go Hawks!
**FACULTY NOTES**

**Barbara Biesecker** spent 2007 as Editor of Forum Series in Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies. Forums to date: “American Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism as Cultural, Social and Political Forces at the Present Time,” “Homeland Security,” “Cultural Studies and the Political Economy of Communication,” and “Judith Butler: Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind.” She has a Published essay “No Time for Mourning: The Rhetorical Production of the Melancholic Citizen-Subject in the War on Terror.” Philosophy and Rhetoric 40, 1 (2007): 147-167. Barb taught Visual Rhetoric at the American University in Paris this past summer. We are also pleased to announce that Barb was the recipient of the National Communication Association’s 2007 Douglas Ehninger Award.

This year the University of Minnesota Press published the revised and updated paperback edition of Kembrew McLeod’s Freedom of Expression: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property, which won the American Library Association’s Eli M. Oboler Award for “best scholarship in the area of intellectual freedom.” The Media Education Foundation released a companion documentary, also titled Freedom of Expression, which Kembrew produced and directed. He is also taking ballroom dance lessons in the event of any “dance off” that might spontaneously occur at a party or at a faculty meeting.

**Mark Andrejevic** received tenure this year and was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. In addition, Mark received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Scholar Award. This faculty development award recognizes newly promoted faculty members who excel in both teaching and scholarship. Mark teaches media studies and publishes on the impact of television and digital media. His first book, Reality Television: The Work of Being Watched, published in 2004, explores the new roles that the public and producers play in reality TV. His second book, The Limits of Interactivity: Surveillance, Democracy, and New Media, published in 2007, explores the ways in which digital media offer the public both participation and the possibility of being monitored. Andrejevic joined the Communication Studies faculty in 2003, after completing his doctoral degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**John Durham Peters** has kept busy as the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies and teaching seminars for graduate students and the introductory course, Core Concepts in Communication Studies. He’s traveled a bit in 2007. He was invited to be the first Beaverbrook Visiting Scholar at the Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University, in Montreal, Canada, in March 2007. Snippets of his presentation in English, and dubious French and Spanish, are available at http://media.mcgill.ca/en/node/705.

**David Hingstman** joined several other faculty members and graduate students at the Alta Argumentation Conference in Utah in August. His paper presentation introduced the work “On Justification: Economies of Worth,” by two French sociologists, which he believes will find a place next to the works of Perelman/Olbrechts-Tyteca and Toulmin in the pantheon of rhetorical argumentation. He is continuing work on a book manuscript that will rewrite the history of rhetoric in modernity by investigating how it constituted the discourses of political economy; most recently, he presented on the rhetoric & political economy of Thomas Reid at NCA.

He also visited Carleton University, York University, and McMaster University in Canada, the University of Navarra, in Pamplona, Spain, the University of Oslo, Norway, Seoul National University and Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, the Ayala Art Museum in Makati City, Philippines, and Bayreuth University in Germany for lectures, conferences, and discussions with colleagues and students. He is always glad to return to the oasis of Iowa City.

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**Faculty Notes (Cont.)**

**Steve Duck** had a relatively slower year. He published a revised edition of his classic Human Relationships (Human Relationships 4th Edition, SAGE UK, 2007), and one book chapter while he continued his Editorship of the Erlbaum Series in Personal Relationships. He presented seven conference papers, was an invited speaker at the Honors Conference of CSCA, gave an invited talk at UW-LaCrosse, reviewed Excelsior College’s communication curriculum and the Psychology Degree at Manchester University in the UK and was a consultant on two grants. This relative lack of evident productivity is explained by the fact that he and **David McMahan** (PhD UI 2001) have spent most of the year writing one revolutionary Basic/Hybrid Course text based on a relational approach to Communication Studies and another on Principles of Speech.

**Leslie Baxter** has received the Bernard Brommel Award for distinguished scholarship in family communication.

**David Depew** has written a paper on the Rhetoric of Darwin’s Origin of Species. It will appear in The Cambridge Companion to the Origin of Species, to be published in 2009, the 150th anniversary of that famous text. He has also published in collaboration with several scholars, a discussion of the play/movie, *Inherit the Wind*, a famous but figurative treatment of the Scopes Trial. It will appear in Evolution: Education and Outlook.

**Kristine Fitch** continued to serve as editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Research on Language and Social Interaction*, assisted by indispensable editorial assistant Jean Allgood. She also continues to co-chair the Social and Behavioral Science IRB. She published an article entitled “Cognitive aspects of ethnographic research” in Discourse Studies, co-authored a chapter with graduate student **Megan Foley** entitled “The persuasive nature of emotion and the cultural nature of feelings in organizations” in a book edited by Francois Cooren, *Interacting and organizing*, and presented “Betty la Fea meets Ugly Betty: Acquiring an idiom for class and race in the U.S.” at the International Pragmatics Association conference in Goteborg, Sweden. She was faculty mentor for the Summer Research Opportunity Program, directing the research of Pepperdine student Tasha Williams.

**Bruce Gronbeck** (1966, 1970) is half-way down the retirement slide this year. He’s teaching now and will teach again next fall, but then call it quits. You can tell he’s old: people keep honoring him with “lifetime achievements” – a sure sign that the end is near! Last year’s award came from the Public Address Conference in Nashville; this year it will be from the Critical-Cultural Studies Division of the National Communication Association, and the second Bruce Gronbeck Political Communication Award, selected by the Couch Center, will be given at the Political Communication Division of NCA. As well, he’s picked up a Fulbright Senior Specialist appointment at the University of Bergen (Norway) for spring, and over the year is doing lectures (Saginaw Valley State, St. Francis University), including the Van Der Ahe Lecture at Loyola Marymount University.

He continues writing as well. Out this summer was a foreword, “The Politics of Representation,” for the book *Bad Girls: Cultural Politics and Media Representations of Transgressive Women* (Peter Lang, 2007), written by **Susan Owen** (1989), **Sarah Stein** (1997), and the late **Leah Vande Berg** (1981). This fall saw a book he edited with Karen Tracy and the late **James McDaniel** (2000), *The Prettier Doll: Rhetoric, Discourse, and Ordinary Democracy* (University of Alabama Press, 2007), in which he also had two chapters. And, naturally, with both major parties having no incumbents, the Iowa Caucus has forced both Democrats and Republicans to criss-cross the state; every time they do, some journalist or other needs a quotation from an Iowa academic to put into paragraph seven or so – why not Bruce?

Watch your e-mail for signs of his impending retirement weekend next April.

This past year, **Tim Havens** became a part-time member of the newly reformed African American Studies Program at the University of Iowa and published *Global Television Marketplace* (British Film Institute Press, 2006), the first comprehensive analysis of the business of international television trade. Tim also published two journal articles, “The Hybrid Grid: Globalization, Cultural Power, and Hungarian Television Schedules” in Media, Culture & Society and “Universal Childhood: The Global Trade in Children’s Television and Changing Ideals of Childhood” in Global Media Journal. In Spring 2008, he will take over as the chair of the Television Studies Interest Group of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.
C O M I N G S  A N D  G O I N G S

This summer saw the departure of Tomasz Tabako, who headed south to Atlanta and joined the faculty at Georgia State University.

We were excited however to welcome Steven Torriano Berry to Iowa for a one year visiting lectureship. Steve is an associate professor from Howard University who teaches courses in television, film production and script writing.

G R A D U A T E S

We are excited to say 2007 was another wonderful year for us as we said congratulations and goodbye to many successful students as they earned their Ph.D.’s and moved on to new endeavors.

Andrew Baerg (Advisor Joy Hayes): Defended and graduated last fall – Andrew is an Assistant Professor at the University of Houston-Victoria.

Scott Benjamin (Advisor David Depew): Defended his dissertation in the spring and graduated in May. Scott is living in Portland.

Chuck Goehring (Advisor Barbara Biesecker) will be defending this fall. He moved to California with his family this summer.

David Heineman (Advisor Bruce Gronbeck): Defended his dissertation in the spring and graduated in May. David is now an Assistant Professor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Dan Kirkpatrick (Advisor, Steve Duck): defended April 16 and graduated in May. Dan is already employed working with Alcohol Dependency program in Chicago and Lithuania, but also looking for university employment.

Kit Lam (Advisor Bruce Gronbeck): Kit defended her dissertation in the spring and returned to Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages, Taiwan.

Sam McCormick (Advisors David Depew/John Peters): Sam defended his dissertation last fall and graduated in May. He is now an assistant professor at Purdue University.

Maurine Orwa (Advisors Leslie Baxter/ Shelly Campo): defended her dissertation in the spring and graduated in May. Maurine recently accepted a position with the Iowa State Public Health Department.

Tracy Routsong (Advisors Leslie Baxter/ Shelly Campo): Defended her dissertation in the spring and graduated in May. Tracy is now an Assistant Professor at Washburn University.

Jill Tyler (Advisor Steve Duck): Jill defended May 8th and will graduate in December. She is an Assistant Professor at University of South Dakota.

Scott Varda (Advisor David Hingstman): defended in June and graduated in July. Scott is now at Baylor University.

G R A D U A T E  A W A R D S

Seashore Ballard Fellows: Margaret Schwartz
Michael Albrecht
Carroll Arnold Fellow: Alina Haliliuc

Spristersbach Dissertation Prize: Erin Rand (honorable mention)
Ramona Tomlin Mattson Fellowship: Megan Foley

James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference Award: Samantha Joyce (honorable mention)
Young Cho Chuck Goehring

Douglas Ehninger Prize for Teaching Excellence: Sam McCormick
We welcomed a large incoming class this fall, and are pleased to introduce 13 new students:

**Gustaf Atilla Hallsby:** Atilla is coming to UI after receiving his BA from the University of Illinois – Urbana. He comes from a strong background of Swedish and Turkish heritage and has an immense interest in languages, also fluent in Spanish and German. He is drawn to Iowa to study rhetorical intersections of culture, public address, and science.

**Caroline Henauw:** Caroline recently completed her MA in Communication from The University of Louisiana in Lafayette where she examined relational dialectics. These studies are personal to Caroline as she examines the phenomenon of long-distance relationships – her family is all in Europe (she hails from Belgium) and her time in Louisiana made her aware of geographic proximity and its importance to relationship development.

**Daniel Faltesek:** Daniel comes to Iowa from Fox News where he has been a production assistant and fill-in weatherman. From his production background he found an interest in watching, criticizing and producing television programming and will focus on production knowledge and the understanding of media as a whole. Daniel received his BA from Concordia College in Moorhead.

**Max Roth:** Max received his MA in Political Science from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Max studied Philosophy and English in his undergraduate work and from those studies (along with his background in Political Science) Max was intrigued by the UI Communication Studies department’s work of both socio-scientific and humanities-oriented perspectives.

**Sofia Karatza:** Sofia has chosen to continue her studies here at The University of Iowa! She obtained her MA in Journalism from UI and wrote her thesis on the critical study of the ideology of imperialism in the British newspaper coverage of Cyprus. Sofia will now address the relationship between mass media and social injustice.

**Curtis Livesay:** Curt comes to Iowa from the Illinois State University in Normal, Ill, where he received his M.S. in Interpersonal Communication and Rhetoric. Curtis has presented several papers at the CSCA conferences and this past year has been the Vice President – Elect of the Student Section at NCA. Curtis will continue his studies in the field of Interpersonal Communication and qualitative research methods.

**Paul Johnson:** Paul obtained his Masters of Communication from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. He will come to Iowa to continue his education and study the theories of 18th century rhetoric and other areas of interest like Marxism, critical theory, and the work of Kenneth Burke. In addition, Paul will be a member of our collegiate debate team as his experience as a debater, teacher, and coach will make him a welcome addition.

**Evelyn Bottando:** Eve comes to Iowa from receiving her M.A. from Purdue University, Calumet. Eve gained much teaching experience while earning her M.A. and in addition served at the Conference Coordinator for the 6th Global Fusion Conference. Eve comes to Iowa to continue her interest in Global Studies.

**Michelle Passo:** Michelle completed her M.A. from Southern Methodist University, Dallas and will come to Iowa to study the history of television programming and consumption, coupled with the masculinity and femininity both in on screen representations and expected role(s) of the audience.

**Hua (Sue) Su:** Sue received her undergraduate and masters degrees at Sichuan International Studies University, China. She will study interpersonal communication and relationships, and conduct research that both adds to the theoretical understanding of the subjects and suggests improvement to the social practices.

**Jong In Chang:** Jong In has earned a highly competitive Presidential Graduate Fellowship. She earned her M.A. from Seoul National University, Korea, and will plan to study the socio-cultural transformations in the information age and various cultures in the cyberspace at Iowa.

**Kristina Gordon:** Kristina has received two masters, one from George Washington University in Washington, DC and the other from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Kristina is interested in studying television and popular culture in the tradition of Stuart Hall, John Fiske, and Ien Ang. She comes to Iowa with the distinction of a Dean’s Graduate Fellow.

**Shin I (Sidney) Yueh:** Sidney comes to Iowa after receiving her BA from National Taiwan University and her MA from University of Pittsburgh.
We heard from many alumni who received the Iowa Gazette last year. Please take a moment and keep us up-to-date and reply to the form on the back of this newsletter, or send us an email at commstudies-inquiry@uiowa.edu

2007 Recipient of the Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award: Dr. Ekaterina V. Haskins, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In remarkably short order, Dr. Ekaterina Haskins (1999) has established an exceptional record of scholarship, with an award-winning book on Logos and Power in Isocrates and Aristotle, as well as articles and chapters on such topics as the collective memory embodied in American postage stamps, commemorations of 9/11, and images of New York City in television programs. Her current project on the construction, destruction, and reconstruction of the Church of Christ the Savior in Moscow as a site of public memory spans the Czarist, Soviet, and post-communist periods.

This award will support her examination of the constitution of national identity through the rhetorical construction of the Church as an architectural structure, using archival materials and an impressive tapestry of theoretical constructs. Her project, while historically specific and rich, also promises broad theoretical and critical implications. The result will enhance our understanding of rhetorical history, rhetorical theory, public memory, visual analysis, and cultural identity. Dr. Haskins well deserves the Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award to foster and promote philosophical, historical, or critical scholarship in rhetoric and public discourse.

Adam Roth: moved to Providence, and took a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and Director of the Basic Course Program at the University of Rhode Island.

The Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Lecture Series was presented on October 18, by professor Howard Giles, from UC Santa Barbara. The event was always a highlight of our academic year.

The Orville and Maude Hitchcock Lecture was held on April 19th. Our lecturer was Dr. Karlyn Kohrs Campbell who conducts research in rhetorical criticism, rhetorical theory, political communication, women’s communication, and social movement rhetoric.

The Leah R. Vande Berg Lecture in Media Studies was held on April 24th. Glenda Balas (PhD 1999) presented a screening of “The Long Road to Decatur: A History of Personal Influence”—a film she recently finished. Glenda is also working on a documentary on Sam Becker that we are anxiously waiting to see.

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**Samuel McCormick** (2007) received the 2007 Cooper Award for Teaching Excellence. The Cooper Award is named after former Central States Communication Association (CSCA) President Pamela J. Cooper and is presented to one M.A. level graduate teaching assistant and one Ph.D. level graduate teaching assistant.

**Edgar Johnson** (Rhetorical Studies, 2000) has received an advance contract from SUNY Press for his book *What about Us? Standards-based Education and the Dilemma of Student Subjectivity*. The book builds upon his dissertation research to explore the unintended consequences of using rational-actor models of human subjectivity as a basis for public education policy. He also is producing a documentary film *From the Ashes: The Neon Christ Story* which examines marginal youth cultures and DIY cultural production through the lives of the members of the short-lived (1983-1986), Atlanta-based punk band, Neon Christ, as well as their fans, friends, and young people from the contemporary punk scene. (For more info, see: [http://nx.motherbuster.com](http://nx.motherbuster.com) or [www.myspace.com/neonchristatlanta](http://www.myspace.com/neonchristatlanta)) Edgar currently works the Department of Communications and Professional Writing at Augusta State University in his native state of Georgia, and has recently applied for tenure and promotion to associate professor.

**Valerie V. Peterson** (1999): Teaching at Grand Valley State University and recently was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Valerie has kept busy with many recent published articles in regional journals. Three of the four chapters of her dissertation have now been adapted for publication, the latest which will appear in 2008 in the Popular Communication Journal. She also told us of several other recent publications, including Anton, Corey and Valerie V. Peterson. "Who Said What: Subject Positions, Rhetorical Strategies, and Good Faith." Communication Studies 54:4 (2003): 403-419. (lead article).

**Brent Malin** (2000) not only moved to the University of Pittsburgh this summer but released a second CD, "Long Long Way." [www.brentmalin.com](http://www.brentmalin.com) ought to get you to it. Brent's on the vocals, acoustic guitar, and piano.

**Amanda M. Goeller** (2005): Currently a Staffing Specialist with Manpower, Inc. in Rockford, Ill.

**Marie Eleanor Brittin** (1942): Marie is retired from Ohio State University.

**Shirley Rich Krohn** (1944): Shirley began her career as a secretary for the American National Theatre Association, has achieved remarkable success in the entertainment industry and started her own casting company. Shirley was the recipient of the 2007 Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Medallion.

**John R. Foxen** (1957): Retired after a career as Professor of Speech and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science at Alfred University, Alfred, NY.

**Andrew Armas** (1984): Andrew is an ESPN Avid Editor where he has received nine Emmy Awards for Sports Television Editing. No stranger to receiving awards, Andrew was the National Student Production Award Grand Prize winner in 1984.

**Brian E. Busche** (1990): Brian is currently a technology consultant with Agency.Com in Chicago where he plays a key role in developing websites for large corporations such as Hewlett Packard, Motorola, Energizer, and Samsonite.

**Matthew J. Murphy** (1992): Matthew was elected into the Illinois State Senate in November 2006 where he holds the seat for the 27th District.

**Chris Ruckdaschel** (1995): After working at his alma mater for almost two years in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Chris left UI and accepted a position with the NCAA in Indianapolis.

**Lindsay (Runyan) Knudson** (2001, 2006): Lindsay is currently the Associate Director, Alumni & collegiate Relations for the UI Carver College of Medicine. In 2004 she received the Premier Performance in Alumni Affairs award from the AAMC and in 2005 received the Gold Medal for Alumni Relations Program a CASE Circle of Excellence award.

**Chanda (nee Schatzle) Leonard** (2001): Chanda is currently an Associate Specialist for the marketing division of Citibank in Elk Grove, Ill. She previously held a position at Global Payments where she was awarded the Circle of Excellence Award for dedication and commitment.

**Jamie Paramski** (2004): Currently is an analyst for a sporting goods company, but is returning to school at National Louis University to become a high school Spanish teacher.

**JR Textor** (2004): JR obtained his commercial real estate license and is a sales associate with CB Richard Ellis Hubbell in Des Moines, IA.

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IN MEMORY

It’s always sad to hear about alums who’ve passed on. The Alumni Association keeps us up-to-date and we take this opportunity in the newsletter to pass along the information.

Andrews, Mr. James R. (1941)
Aurelius, Mrs. Ruth H. (1946, 1972)
Baker, Mr. Robert S. (1958)
Balcer, Dr. Charles L. (1949, 1954)
Barbachano, Mrs. Lois M. (1936)
Bundy, Dr. Wayne (1940, 1950)
Clark, Mr. Robert J. (1949)
Cornell, Mrs. Ruth R. (1944)
Cronkhite, Dr. Gary L. (1965)
Curtis, Mr. Charles E. (1960)
Damaso, Miss Ines M. (1955)
Feldman, Chuck (1967)
Greer, Mrs. Kathryn M. (1967)
Hoffer, Mr. Thomas W. (1960)
Holmes, Mrs. Polly Mudge (1945)
Hutchins, Dr. Carolyn Moran (1959, 1978, 1982)
Lozes, Mr. John L. (1943)
Lutz, Mrs. Charlotte V.P. (1943)
Lyman, Mr. Douglas C. (1959)
Miller, Dr. Donald Y. (1949, 1950)
Nelson, Mr. John T. (1938, 1945)
Nichols, Dr. Ralph G. (1934, 1948)
Parker, Mrs. Anita P. (1941)
Richards, Dr. Gale L. (1942, 1950)
Schoch, Mrs. Mary E. (1937, 1938)
Sims, Ms. Sheryl L. (1991)
Sorensen, Mr. Hobart H. (1939)
Stewart, Mr. Robert L. (1957)
Towner, Miss Elizabeth E. (1941)
Twiggs, Mr. Robert Deleon, Jr. (1950)
Wagner, Dr. Lillian R. (1940)
Walker, Mr. Keith E. (1957)
Ware, Mr. Jack C. (1948)
Wilcox, Ms. Josephine H. (1930)
Wilder, Mrs. Mary J. (1951)
Willy, Dr. Todd G. (1962)
Windrem, Mr. Emory O. (1949, 1950)
Yuill, Mrs. Helen A. (1942)

LOSS OF A COLLEAGUE

Julie Burke was on the faculty at Iowa from 1981 to 1988 before moving on to the University of Oregon and then Bowling Green State University. We’re sorry to say that she passed away on October 31 this year after a bout with pancreatic cancer. She did her Ph.D. at Illinois and taught interpersonal communication for us—the first person hired to teach in that area. She and her Newfoundland dog Tory—the dog outweighed her—cheered student and faculty alike. Her poker playing needed some work and her attempted kayak roll in a stream too shallow for that maneuver emphasized the importance of helmets for all. Grad students will remember her as author of the what is still the spine of our graduate requirements, and surviving alums from that period will recall a warm yet firm teacher, kind of short but long on influence upon those who worked with her.

RUTH H. BECKER 3/6/22—4/8/07

Our dear friend and Sam’s companion, Ruth Becker, past away last spring. Ruth was born in Berlin, Germany on March 6, 1922, the daughter of Dr. Hans and Kathe Salzmann, but was rescued from the Nazi regime in 1939 by the British-organized Kindertransport. She lived with a British family for a year and then sailed to New York City to rejoin her family who had been interned in Cuba. She earned her nursing degree and taught at Mt. Sinai Hospital School of Nursing in New York and her BS and MS degrees at Columbia University. She moved to Iowa City in 1952 to join the faculty of the University of Iowa College of Nursing and married Samuel Becker in 1953. Ruth helped to develop the Johnson County Association for Retarded Children and was instrumental in establishing the first pre-school for retarded children in the county. She also set up and supervised a summer program for retarded children in 1968. Ruth helped to establish Iowa City’s Hospice organization in 1983 and helped run training sessions for new volunteers from 1983 to approximately 1988, and also served as a volunteer caregiver from 1984 to 2000. She was honored in 1990 as Hospice Volunteer of the Year and received the Helen Zervas Award for her various contributions to Hospice.

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Save the Date:
04/26/08

Bruce Gronbeck
Retirement Celebration

As you may know, Dr. Bruce Gronbeck is retiring from the University of Iowa. As recognition of his 35 years as the heart and soul of the Department of Communication Studies, we will honor him at a reception on April 26, 2008.

This celebration will coincide with our annual Leah R. Vande Berg Lecture, which Bruce was instrumental in establishing.

This is a great opportunity to return to Iowa City and hang out with Bruce and other old friends from the Department. More information regarding the celebration events will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you in April!
**UNDERGRADUATE NEWS**

**Ryan Gourley** graduated with highest distinction in Communication Studies and with honors in Psychology and was the student speaker at the May 2007 commencement ceremony. He’s been a member of the Dean’s Student Advisory Committee since 2004. He has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society and the National Association of Collegiate Scholars. He also belongs to the student national honor societies in both psychology and communication. Ryan acted in a number of student film and theatre productions, served as a peer advisor for the Psychology Department, and as member of the Campus Activities Board.

**Hillary Joy Mintz** is the 2007 awardee of the Jerome and Marian Feniger Award had an opportunity, as did the students in Margaret Schwartz’s Media, Advertising & Society class to meet with Jerome Feniger when he visited campus in the April. After graduation, Hillary joined the Quad Cities CBS4 News team in June 2007.

**Catherine Clark** who interned at WQAD8 in summer ’07, has obtained an internship with FOX Cable Networks in LA next summer. This opportunity was made possible through a UI Alumni - Tom Tyrer - who visited campus upon an invitation from the Alumni Association two years ago and met with Communication majors. He is the senior vice president of FOX Cable Networks.

**Ryan Gourley**

Hawkeye senior Communication Studies major **Diane Nukuri** has been named Big Ten women’s cross country Athlete of the Year. The Pickering, Ontario, native is a four-time Big Ten Runner of the Week honoree and only the second Hawkeye woman to be named Athlete of the Year. Her championship title this year shattered the school and course records by over 45 seconds with a time of 19:37.60. She was the first Hawkeye to win the Big Ten Championships since Tracy Dahl in 1992.

**Samantha Crafton**, a student in Hemani Hughes’ Race, Ethnicity and the Media class, will present a paper she wrote for Hemani’s class at the annual NCA conference in Chicago this November. The paper “The Media and the Alleviation of White Privilege Guilt: A Critical Analysis of Marc Forster’s Monster’s Ball,” is written about the movie Monster’s Ball which is generally praised for its depiction of race relations in a small Southern town and the intense and unlikely love affair that develops between a black woman and an extremely racist white man. Most viewers perceive the film to be redemptive and optimistic about the differences that exist between blacks and whites. However, upon closer analysis, both the public reception of the film, and the film itself, does not adequately attend to issues of race coupled with gender.

**John Barto** completed an internship with Good Morning America and then left for Los Angeles where he will be working for CBS in production for a sitcom.

The A. Craig Baird Debate Forum first-year team of **Lauren Gannon** and **Kyle Vint** won the District IV qualifier to the National Debate Tournament in February. To our knowledge, they were the only team with two first-year participants at the prestigious national championship in April. The Forum hosted two excellent debaters from Britain in October’s International Debates; their kilts were the talk of the town!
Each year we are privileged to honor outstanding undergraduate students with scholarships/awards. The spring 2007 recipients were:

**H. Clay Harshbarger Award:**
- John Garland
- Max C. Dulberger

**Robert P. Newman Award:**
- Margot Beth Satow

**A. Craig Baird Award:**
- Samuel Korab.

**Cristen Loza DeBighley Award:**
- Mark DiBenedetto

**Jerome and Marian Feniger Award:**
- Hillary Mintz

**Orville Hitchcock Awards:**
- Ryan S. Gourley
- Margot Beth Satow
- Max C. Dulberger
- Bridget M. Kemps
- Mark DiBenedetto
- Robert E. Kemp

**Sam Becker/Herb Meinert Scholarship:**
- Ingrid Frisk.

**Joseph Sitrick Broadcasting Scholarship:**
- Hillary Mintz

**C. J. Starr Award:**
- Heather Parker

**Patrick and Kimberly Hatting Scholarship:**
- Misti Crosby

On May 5, 2007, we proudly inducted 51 new members into The University of Iowa Omicron Kappa Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta. This is the highest honor awarded to the top undergraduate students in Communication Studies by the National Communication Association. Bruce Gronbeck, professor and founding member of the Iowa chapter of Lambda Pi Eta welcomed the new inductees.
This honor roll gratefully recognizes graduates, faculty, and friends who contributed $100 or more from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, to the Department of Communication Studies and the A. Craig Baird Debate Forum through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University.

Contributors are listed alphabetically. A (PC) follows the names of those who qualified for membership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club Patrons Circle by contributing $2,500 or more to any area in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Contributors of $1,000 through $2,499 from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, qualify for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club, which is indicated by a (DC) following their names.

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Willhoite, George J., Falmouth, Maine
Young, Susan West, San Rafael, Calif.
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In honor of Bruce Gronbeck’s 35 years of service and inspiration, Iowa’s Department of Communication Studies is establishing a fellows program. The fund will provide tuition fellowships for outstanding graduate students and furbish a conference room named in his honor. The Gronbeck Graduate Fellows Program will strengthen our national standing as a top-ranked doctoral program.

For more information about how you can support the Department of Communication Studies, the Gronbeck Graduate Fellows Program, or the A. Craig Baird Debate Forum through annual gifts, life-income gifts, or other forms of charitable contributions, contact Jeff Liebermann at The University of Iowa Foundation, Levitt Center for University Advancement, P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, Iowa 52244-4550; (319) 335-3305 or (800) 648-6973; e-mail: jeff-liebermann@uiowa.edu.
Thank you.
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Department of Communication Studies

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As part of the Department of Communication Studies’ ongoing work and service, we always want to hear about you. We have appreciated responses from you in the past, and hope that you will continue to keep us informed. Just send the information below to us at:

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