

Fall 2012

CMST Connect, Vol. 5, No. 1 Fall/Winter 2012

St. Cloud State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/cmst_newsletter



Part of the [Speech and Rhetorical Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

St. Cloud State University, "CMST Connect, Vol. 5, No. 1 Fall/Winter 2012" (2012). *CMST Connect*. 8.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/cmst_newsletter/8

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Communication Studies at theRepository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in CMST Connect by an authorized administrator of theRepository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact rswexelbaum@stcloudstate.edu.

CMST Connect

ST. CLOUD STATE
UNIVERSITY

Volume 5, No. 1 ♦ Fall/Winter 2012

As the semester came to a close and I read through the articles in this issue of *CMST Connect* I was once again reminded of the pride I have in the work that my CMST colleagues and students do here at SCSU.

Fall was the first semester of my new term as department chair and it was an exciting and interesting one. In paragraphs below I will share some of the activities that made fall semester stand out for me and in the pages that follow we highlight more news from our students and faculty members.

In December we witnessed outstanding performances by a number of our Performance Studies' students at Pioneer Place theatre in downtown St. Cloud. Stephen Dolence, Alura Richardson, Brett Blocker, Shelby Auer, Christopher Benjamin, and Kyle Sepp shared personal narratives about their lives and educated their audience about significant social issues in a way that personally touched all of us who were there. In the second act, Professor Jen Tuder shared her performance "Suicide Punchline" which examined the challenges that face people who survive the suicide of a loved one. We look forward to a similar evening featuring Forensics students and Tami Spry in the

spring.

Our Communication Club invited speakers from the community to share their experience and knowledge with our students. Michelle Kaas spoke about her work as a trade show and advertising manager at Wolters Kluwer. Dan Barth spoke about owning, operating, and expanding his local business, Pioneer Place and now D.B. Searle's. Retired Judge Charlie Flinn and attorney Kim Pennington spoke to the mediation class about their experiences mediating disputes in the St. Cloud area.

We also learned that several of our colleagues received important grants for their research. Matt Vorell received a new researcher grant for his research into the coping strategies of temporary medical workers. Soumia Bardhan received a research grant to study the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's identity dynamics in Post-Mubarak Egypt. And I received a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board to develop my skills in dance choreography. My plan is to connect my interest in communication and dance through performance.

And, of course, my colleagues continue to publish their research. Eddah Mbula-Mutua



has published her work on understanding Haiti's tragedy, Renee Strom has published her work on social support for college students, Matt Vorell has published an article on temporary workers, and an auto-ethnographic work by Tami Spry will be published this month as well.

There is, of course, much more to say about the work of our students and faculty members. There is not room to list it all. But we hope that you enjoy reading the highlights of our semester in these pages of *CMST Connect*. (Special thanks to, student intern, Amber Rowan for her work editing this issue and for the redesign of the newsletter logo).

— Jeff Ringer

CMST

Connect

ST. CLOUD STATE
UNIVERSITY

T
A
B
L
E

O
F

C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S

Letter from Chair	1
Table of Contents	2
Advisory Council	3-4
Featured Professor: Bassey Eyo	5-6
New Faculty: Soumia Bardhan	7
Featured Student Organization: Players Performace Group	8
Grachek Scholarship	9
Spotlight: Student Organizations	10-11
Where are they now? Trevor Gohner	11
Where are they now? George Henkemeyer	12
Where are they now? Shireen Sarah Ghorbani	13
Where are they now? Michael T’Kach	14
In Briefs	15-16
Special Thank You	17
Newsletter Credits	18

CMST Advisory Council: Creating Connection through Conversation

By: Lindsey Rogers

Sometimes, even the most highly educated people just need some good advice.

In the Communication Studies department, that advice comes from the department's Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council is unique to the CMST department at St. Cloud State. It was first implemented during the 2006-2007 school year to facilitate meaningful conversations about the department and the department's role in the community. Even at its first meeting, the Council featured an impressive variety of community members, students, faculty, and alumni.

The mission of the Council is as multifaceted as its members: the department wanted to build a bridge between the educational world and the professional world; help its students transition into the workplace and market their unique skills; develop a positive and relevant identity for itself;

and last, but not least, develop connections with the community and with alumni.

"We wanted to look at how we could move beyond the four walls of our institution," said Roseanna Ross, a professor in the CMST department and co-creator of the Advisory Council.

Though the Council has advised on everything from surveys, to departmental reviews, to marketing, to curriculum, the general mission of the Council to "connect" remains the same.

This connection takes place in many ways. Kati Rothstein, a 2009 graduate of the CMST program, says that being involved on the Council has helped her to remain in touch with connections she thought she would lose.

"(When I graduated), I didn't want to leave school," she said. "Communication Studies was a huge part of my life, and I made so many connections. Now, I still get to talk to the professors

who I had, and I get to give back to my university."

Greg Murray, an agency partner at Mahowald Insurance, is working to improve a different type of connection. Although Murray is not a Communication Studies alumnus, he understands the importance of connections between the business community and the educational community.

According to Murray, uninformed business people can find the "slow pace" of higher education "frustrating." However, he notes that this isn't always a bad thing.

"I had to listen a lot and learn a lot to understand," he said. "I had to learn how it [the department] works and how it can integrate into our community....These disciplines have a history. You can't just change that at the whim of the job

CMST Advisory Council continues on next page...

...CMST Advisory Council continued

market.”

Jackie Schuh, a former Council member and local attorney, also sees the value in connection.

“Being on the Council was an opportunity to bridge the community and St. Cloud State,” she said. “I think it is a means to strengthen university ties and to reach goals by supporting the positive intermixing of business and education processes.”

These are the types of conversations that Ross had in mind when she worked with the department to create the

Council.

“Conversations tend to disappear,” she said. “What keeps them alive is the structures and people who are involved.”

Currently, the Council only meets once per semester; however, many members agree that their involvement with the Council has benefitted themselves and others. “It’s a great opportunity,” said Schuh. “If someone is asked to be involved, they should do it. It is a chance to do something meaningful that doesn’t take an unreasonable

amount of time.”

With that said, Ross believes that there is still room for growth.

“I don’t think we’ve reached the full potential of what the Council can be, but we are going places,” she said. “Part of it is just having the vision.”

While there may never be a simple answer to the issues discussed by the Council, the process of having conversations is vital. This is something that the individuals in Communication Studies probably know best.

If you are a community member or alum who might be interested in serving on the CMST Advisory Council please contact the CMST Department at cmst@stcloudstate.edu.

Check out the Department of Communication Studies’ new LinkedIn group!
SCSU Speech Communication/Communication Studies—St. Cloud State University



Featured Professor

By: Jason Tham



As a member of the SCSU Communication Studies Department faculty for more than 27 years, Professor Bassey Eyo prides himself on guiding students to succeed in their careers. A native of Nigeria, Professor Eyo completed his bachelor's (Business and Economics) and master's degree (Corporate Communication) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and doctorate (Communication Studies with emphasis in Organizational Communication and Management) at the University of Minnesota.

At SCSU, Professor Eyo teaches most communication courses, but primarily Communication in the Workplace (CMST 341)

as well as Communication and Contemporary Leadership (CMST448/548) – both upper-division courses designed for Communication Studies' majors and minors who are interested in learning competent organizational communication and managerial communication skills. Moreover, Professor Eyo is the creator of the current leadership communication curriculum, which was pioneered in 1986.

A respected authority, Professor Eyo aspires to transform the lives of his students through reflective education. "I teach for growth," said the dedicated teacher. "You have to be very positive about the students and come [into classes] with a lot of good will; with an aim to teach for transformation." Over the years, hundreds of students who have been taught by Professor Eyo have assumed successful careers in their lives. "I truly enjoy seeing the success of my students," said the devoted educator who never ceases to help students excel in every aspect of their educational and professional

development.

As he sees the challenges facing most college students today (juggling multiple jobs while attending school, leading a loaded lifestyle, and handling other personal commitments, etc.), Professor Eyo aims to support his students by teaching them proper time-management and priority-setting. He also expressed that he relishes every moment he spends connecting with his students at a deeper level. Throughout his time at SCSU, Professor Eyo has helped students to attain outstanding achievement (one student is Brian Schoenborn, an accomplished attorney who is a managing partner of Leonard, Street and Deinard's at St. Cloud).

In addition to his teaching profession, Professor Eyo is also an acclaimed corporate communication consultant who is experienced in assessing issues in organizational

Featured Professor: Dr. Bassey Eyo continues on next page...

D
R.

B
A
S
S
E
Y
O

E
Y
O

...Featured Professor: Dr. Basseyy Eyo continued

communication and helping organizations to achieve better communication. Some of Professor Eyo's clients are St. Cloud Hospital, VA Hospital, Antioch/Creative Memories, Eaton Corporation, Pillsbury, Thrivent, and the Executive Leadership Development Institute in Minnesota for Senior Overseas Executives. He has also contributed to several projects with the Minnesota State Department, St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce's Creating St. Cloud Area Leadership Project, and SCSU's strategic planning and SCSU's cultural diversity assessments (for Department of Residential Life).

"Communication is central to human organizations," said the veteran communication scholar. Professor Eyo

believes that communication, combined with technical concepts and skills, is essential for all jobs and positions. "Communication is one way to understand organizations as human and relational systems," he added. He strongly believes in the growing, pervasive recognition of communication competency across many departments and disciplines. "Communication may not be everything; but you cannot do anything without it," he said.

Professor Eyo sees the society through a systems worldview, whereby at the heart of that human system is communication competency. This explains his passion in studying and understanding a systematic approach to organizational communication, with

progressive changes in the 21st Century brought about by the need for adaptability, information technology and social media. "I try to understand organizations as a specific system," he concluded.

Yet, as he continues to dive into such scholarship, Professor Eyo doesn't overlook his family, who contribute a huge dimension to his craft. "I truly love watching my four children grow along with the pride of my wife, and helping them consider education as their priority," he said.

Finally, Professor Eyo revealed other passions of his when he's not teaching or consulting businesses: dance, tennis, and reading. In terms of music, Professor Eyo admitted that he is a big fan of rhythm n' blues and soft jazz.

Internship Program

The Communication Studies Department boasts a nationally recognized internship program. We would be excited to place our interns with your organization. If you have an internship opportunity with your organization or are interested in creating one, please contact Matt Vorell, our internship coordinator for 2012-2015. You can reach him at msvorell@stcloudstate.edu.

Are you a Communication Studies alumni who has news to share? Had a child? Have you become involved with your community? Recent wedding? Made a major career transition? Update the Communication Studies Department about your life moments. Email the updates to us at cmst@stcloudstate.edu.

New Faculty



Soumia Bardhan

Welcome to assistant professor Soumia Bardhan who is teaching Intercultural Communication fall and spring semester at SCSU. Dr. Bardhan has a Ph.D. (2011) in International/ Intercultural Communication from the University of New Mexico (UNM). Her primary research interest is Communication and Islam, which follows two tracks. First, within the context of Islamic cultures, socio-politics, and histories, she explores the rhetorical and symbolic practices individuals and groups employ to create discourse/s and the implications of these dynamics and practices for social change and international/intercultural understanding. Second, she studies the developmental and democratic potential of new media technologies in transitioning and post-authoritarian Muslim societies. Specifically, the public-counterpublic communication dynamics in these societies and how new media technologies function as a communicative tool in this regard.

Soumia completed her B.A. with Honors (2001) in English Literature from the University of Calcutta, India and earned her M.A. in Communication from the University of Madras, India (2003), and received the Tamil Nadu State Governor's Gold Medal for securing University First Rank. The Communication and Journalism department at UNM presented her with the Everett Rogers Doctoral Research Scholar award in 2008 for outstanding performance as a doctoral student.

Dr. Bardhan is fluent in English, Hindi, Bengali, has a diploma in French; and has completed novice-level training in modern standard Arabic. Soumia was a mediator for the Albuquerque Metro Court from 2010-2012, and served on the board of the Albuquerque chapter of the United Nations Association of USA from 2011-2012.



NAME - A - FRAME

The new home for the Department of Communication Studies is the historic and restored Riverview building.

The department has the opportunity to preserve some of the building's visual history. Luken Architecture donated copies of 12 historic photos depicting life in Riverview during its time as the campus lab school.

We are asking your help to have these photos framed. Six have already been "named," so we have six opportunities for you to "name-a-frame." For a donation of \$300, we will frame one of these historic photos, mark it with your name on the back, and recognize your contribution in our next newsletter. **Won't you consider this unique way to help us preserve our history?** If you are interested, please contact the

Department of Communication Studies at 320-308-3210 or cmst@stcloudstate.edu.

A Look Inside Players Performance Group

By: Erin Hermansen

“Being creatively engaged, and learning about how to make something from the ground up is very empowering for students,” said Jen Tuder, Director of Players Performance Group (PPG). PPG is not your average résumé-building club; it’s a place where students can grow mentally and emotionally through various performances.

PPG showcases student performances, open mic nights, and guest artists who come to St. Cloud State University to showcase their work. The group focuses on cultural and social issues through performance, to help gain a better understanding of them. Generally, each performance involves about 6-12 student performances. As of this semester PPG is working on something brand new, called “The American Dream,” where students are “rethinking, reimagining, and criticizing the American dream,” said Tuder. They are working in collaboration with the Theater Department and will showcase their final

performance in the spring.

For students, PPG is something that can be extremely rewarding in the long term. “The students in Players often talk about the sense of community they become a part of, and learning about social issues they didn’t understand before,” said Tuder about the feedback she received from the students. Not only are students taking the time to practice and research these performances, they are also learning valuable skills and ideas along the way. Tuder also mentioned that seeing the students bond over time and form lasting friendships is a great experience for her.

Most students joining PPG don’t have any theater or performance background. The requirements for joining are to simply audition. Players isn’t just looking for talent, they’re looking for interest and commitment.

PPG is also seeking more SCSU campus awareness, because of how beneficial and fun it can be for students to take

part. For the first time this year, Players presented a show called Performance Encounters to raise funds for the CMST Department’s production budget, which will support departmental student performances like this. Performance Encounters took place on December 10, 2012, at the Pioneer Place downtown St. Cloud. Performance Encounters was the first annual of (hopefully) many performance collaborations at the Pioneer Place. The two-act performance consisted of student presentations and a performance from Dr. Jen Tuder called Suicide Hotline. There will be another two-act performance in the spring featuring competitive Speech (Forensics) students and Professor Tami Spry.

For more information on PPG and how to become involved, visit their Facebook page: Players Performance Group. You can also contact the Director, Jennifer Tuder at jltuder@stcloudstate.edu.

Grachek Scholarship

Art and Barb Grachek have established a fund to provide opportunities for future generations of students to receive an education at St. Cloud State University. “Barb and I strongly value and hope to encourage through our scholarship endowment the opportunity for students to have a study abroad experience,” expressed Art. Both Art and Barb and their daughters, Sara and Rebecca, received B.S. and M.S. degrees from SCSU. Art and Barb later earned advanced degrees; Art received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Speech Communication and Barb received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Both returned to SCSU and served the institution throughout their 30-plus year careers. Art served as Professor of Communication Studies, chairing the department for 13 years; Barb served in various administrative positions, including 6 years as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Both Art and Barb had extensive involvement with and placed a high value on the study abroad experience. “Thus far we have been very pleased with the experiences students have had who have received our study abroad scholarship. Just this past summer, one of the students visited our home and shared with us her excitement about her studies in South Africa. Not only did the program allow her to broaden her educational experience, she literally has found a second home and a future spouse,” Art stated.



The scholarship award of \$1,000 is based on the following criteria:

1. Recipient is a full time student at SCSU
2. Currently enrolled and intends to return to SCSU following the study abroad experience
3. Pursuing a major or minor in Communication Studies
4. Enrolled in one of SCSU study abroad programs
5. Has a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
6. Must write a one-page essay describing what the applicant plans to accomplish in the study abroad program and how this experience will help the student achieve personal, professional and educational goals

The Communication Studies Department provides several opportunities for you to financially support our students and programs. For information on how you can contribute to our scholarship and department accounts, contact the Foundation office at (320) 308-3177 or email them at foundation@stcloudstate.edu.



Spotlight

Lambda Pi Eta

SCSU's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), the official undergraduate honor society of the National Communication Association, invites outstanding Communication Studies' majors and minors to join this honorary organization. In order to qualify for membership, students must have completed at least 60 college credit hours, with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a minimum Communication Studies GPA of 3.25, and have completed at least 12 credit hours in the Communication Studies Department. The lifetime membership earns students an official membership certificate and pin, the opportunity to wear a red and white honor cord at graduation, the privilege of having honor society membership indicated on transcripts, and recognition at the Communication Studies annual Spring Banquet.

Players Performance Group

Players Performance Group is a performance group that provides students the opportunity to explore contemporary social and cultural issues through performance of original theatrical pieces. Players create performances through improvisation and group collaboration. Players does many on-campus performances and travels to national performance festivals to share their work with other universities. For more information on PPG and how to get involved, visit their Facebook page: Players Performance Group. You can also contact the Director, Jennifer Tuder at jltuder@stcloudstate.edu

Conflict Resolution Services for Students

Conflict Resolution Services for Students is a student group at St. Cloud State University that consists of Communication Studies' students who are studying how to manage conflict constructively. Most student members have completed courses in conflict management and mediation. This year, in addition to learning mediation skills, student members are learning to coach students who are facing conflict. Student coaches meet with their clients for a one-on-one conversation about conflict and how to manage it. This makes the third semester of the coaching. Overall, about 100 students will have received coaching from the group and about 15 students have learned how to be coaches. "This is a valuable exercise that helps them all improve their conflict management skills," communicated co-advisor Professor Jeff Ringer.

Communication Studies Club

The Communication Studies Club launched a new speaker series this year called Direct Connect, in which the club features communication professionals from various careers offering advice for CMST students. Comm Club organized a Spring Registration Workshop to answer students' questions about course registration. Every year, Comm Club hosts the Department Banquet for the CMST Department. The club also organizes social events, fundraising activities, and other community engagement activities.

Forensics

The SCSU Speech & Debate Forensics Team is off to another great start this year. The team has already competed in six tournaments this fall. Many veteran students have advanced to final rounds and new members are making an early mark in the community. The team of senior Scott Athey (Milbank, SD) and junior Daniela Lorenz (Ellsworth, WI) won Parliamentary Debate at the Vocal Viking Tournament at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN on November 2-3. The Talking Huskies anticipate a strong finish to the fall semester and a great showing at this year's various regional, state, and national competitions in the spring. To learn more about SCSU Forensics, please visit their website, <http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/forensics/forensics.html> or find them on Facebook (SCSU Forensics Alumni). Thanks for your support of SCSU Forensics!

For More Club Information

Lambda Pi Eta

Jennifer Senchea
308-3230
R 110
jasenchea@stcloudstate.edu

Players Performance

Jennifer Tudor
308-3125
R 107B
jltuder@stcloudstate.edu

Forensics

Scott Wells
308-3000
R 211A
sdwells@stcloudstate.edu

Conflict Resolution Services for Students

Jeff Ringer
308-2217
R 117B
ringer@stcloudstate.edu

Communication Studies Club

Bruce Hyde
308-5162
R 203A
rbruce@stcloudstate.edu

*Career.
Relationships.
Citizenship.*

Roseanna Ross
308-3240
R210A
rgross@stcloudstate.edu

Diana Rehling
308-1693
R 218
dlrehling@stcloudstate.edu

Updates from CMST Alumni: Where are they now?

Trevor Gohner -2009

After graduating from SCSU with a degree in Communication Studies in 2009 I ventured south to Mankato, MN, to begin my master's degree. I earned my master's degree in Counseling & Student Personnel in 2011 and began working at Minnesota State University, Mankato shortly after. Right now I work with MSU's Student Support Services TRiO program, working with low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. It is my job to advise them on academic and financial aid matters to ensure they are successful college students.

The faculty and courses of the CMST department at SCSU helped prepare me for the work I do now, and I would not be where I am without the caring guidance and mentoring from CMST faculty.

While I very much enjoy the work I do, I would love to be able to add teaching CMST to my workload, which is why I am working on a graduate certificate in CMST here at MSU. When I am finished, I hope to teach basic CMST courses as an adjunct instructor.

Please send my regards to all the CMST faculty; I cherish my years at SCSU and am thankful to have found the best major for me and found excellent mentors as well. Shout out to all my fellow Huskies! I might work at a rival school, but no matter where I work I will always have my SCSU pin displayed prominently on my bulletin board.



Updates from CMST Alumni: Where are they now?



George Henkemeyer-1998

What did I do with my Speech Communication Major? **Be prepared to answer the question: What can you do with a major in Speech Communication:** I remember walking down the hallway of the Speech Communication offices wondering what I would do with a Speech Communication major. On the wall of one of the offices, I found an announcement board documenting hundreds of different occupations of past Speech Communication graduates. Positions ranged anywhere from government speech writers to small business owners.

My current position is with the Kellogg Company (the maker of cereals, cookies and wholesome snacks) working in the Information Technology Department as the Learning and Development Manager. This position involves strategizing, designing and building performance based training programs to fit the constantly changing needs within the Kellogg Community.

Looking back at my college days at St. Cloud State, I can honestly point to a few key moments that influenced my career (I just did not realize it at the time).

Modeling: In my textbooks and exams, I could not figure out why there is a model for everything. There is the process of managing interpersonal communication, the six speaking skills for sharing self-information and the many models of communication. In the Kellogg world of strategy and learning, we use many models and process maps

to define our approach. Many times a model or a process map is the clearest way to quickly tell a story to our executive stakeholders in order to get their buy-in. A four step process is easier to picture than talking through a 50 word PowerPoint slide when you have five minutes to sell an idea.

Listening: Listening sounds easy (I actually received a B in the class) but I learned early that it takes concentration and engagement. Listening is another one of those key skills that I learned is vital to the business community. When I graduated from St. Cloud State, I thought I knew it all. Quickly I found out that I can only go as far as my learning and experiences will take me. I started listening for direction, and questioning to seek understanding. From there I can establish users' needs and create a direction for execution and growth.

Struggles--Is it work-life balance or just life balance: This notion of work-life balance is confusing to me. Working in an IT Department, we are rolling out tablet computers and smartphones in order to keep people more connected to the world and to our work. As I balance my life between two boys under 13 and a demanding position, I have found that technology indeed does make my life easier to manage. Whoever thought about effectively working from home 20 years ago? Or being on a video conference call at your local hockey rink while your 10 year old is practicing? Yes, I take work home with me and work on it during odd hours but I am able to leave work early and be home when my boys need me. Now, if only we could get the Star Trek transporter to work I could get out of Chicago traffic.

My newest interest is in the future. It comes from a speaker we are bringing to Kellogg's – Bob Johansen. He is a 10 year forecaster who has written many books including "Leaders Make the Future: Ten New Leadership Skills for an Uncertain World." In this book, Bob details many of the leadership skills you need to conquer a VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity) world. The key for me is to never lose my interest in learning, and continue to look to the future. I have been living by the philosophy that it will all work out as planned.

Updates from CMST Alumni: Where are they now?

Shireen Sarah Ghorbani
2003



My undergrad experience at SCSU played an important role in developing my professional trajectory. After leaving St. Cloud I joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in the Peace Corps in The Republic of Moldova. My work there largely focused on community and organizational development. I was involved in gender and development work and collaborated with the local Amnesty International office to support the Stop Violence Against Women campaign, the first public anti-gender violence demonstration in the country.

After returning from the Peace Corps, I became the director of a children's theatre in Bismarck, North Dakota. My interests in organizational communication, first sparked at SCSU, became more refined as I started

to think about the complex relationship between volunteers and organizations. I applied to graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and completed my M.A. in Organizational Communication and Women's and Gender Studies in 2009. In my time at UNL, I taught Intercultural Communication in a format that allowed me to virtually connect my classroom in Lincoln with two global sites— a university class in Tyumen, Russia, and a class at Fatima Jinnah Women's University in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

In the fall of 2009, I began my PhD in Organizational Communication at the University of Utah. My research interests rest at the intersection of organizational communication and violence. My dissertation looks at policies and practices that

seek to address the problem of campus sexual assault. I hope to extend the literature of bullying and harassment to better understand the role of communication in organizational responses to other forms of violence.

I live in Salt Lake and am working on my dissertation, which I plan to finish next year. I married fellow Communication Studies' student, Nick Steffens in 2003, and together we try to take advantage of the stunning landscapes of Southern Utah and the quick access to the slopes in the winter.

The mentorship and friendships I developed with some of the Communication Studies' faculty at SCSU remain very dear to me to this day.

Updates from CMST Alumni: Where are they now?

Michael T 'Kach 1982

I graduated from St. Cloud State with an Interdepartmental Communication Studies degree focused on Intercultural Communication and Futuristics, and received my MPNA from Metropolitan State in 2003.

After graduating SCSU in 1982 the first stop was Kyoto, Japan. Currently I'm an Energy Efficiency Manager at EnerChange in Minneapolis. I co-authored the program, and after a pilot-proving phase it became a formal program of the Minnesota Department of Commerce for State Conservation Improvement (CIP).

With more than 15 years as Technical Liaison working back and forth with Japan I developed a small database software company and began working to help small nonprofit organizations enjoy some of the efficiency that big companies were benefiting from. This led to a roster of all not-for-profit clients and a passion to help these organizations not feel technologically deprived. Returning to seek additional education and develop an understanding of the unique challenges of the not-for-profit environment led me to combine my liaison background with my awareness of the challenges within the not-for-profit environment. EnerChange is setup to exclusively help not-for-profit organizations save energy with lower gas and electric costs. The program remains 100% free to our users and program participants enjoy a professional engineer walk-through of their building and a list of opportunities to implement energy efficiency measures in the most cost-effective, fastest ROI possible. Behavior change remains critically important as the #1 effective measure to save energy!

I've enjoyed a wonderful use of my education. What I received, especially the Intercultural Communication courses I took, were the foundation of all the ventures I pursued; I'm a long ways from the farm in St. Croix County, Wisconsin. I think the education I received was particularly significant to my development; most of my professors held Doctorates in their fields, class sizes were small and the connections were lifelong! It was a true life-changing experience!



Save the date for spring performance!

Players Performance Group's show, Performance Encounters, presented in December 2012 was the first performance collaboration at the Pioneer Place. Save the date for the second collaboration, featuring the student competitive Speech Team (Forensics), that will be held in April 2013, to raise funds for the CMST Department's production budget, supporting departmental student performances.

In Brief...

Molly Young Marinovich Scholarship

The Mollie Young Marinovich scholarship is awarded to outstanding CMST interns. Mollie Young is a 1981 graduate of the Speech Communication Department and co-founder of Nametag International. She has deep brand marketing experience working with Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies, and specializes in the development of global brand and nomenclature strategy, and is responsible for client/project continuity. This year Molly Young Marinovich award recipients are interns: Mariah Scholler, who interned at Microbiologics as a Marketing Assistant Intern; Jenny Olson, who interned at Wells Fargo as a lead teller; and Bobbi Jo Mueller, who interned at Universal Music as a Promotions Intern and at Carnival Music as a Publishing and Records Label Intern.

ADR Conference

CMST students Sue Harding, Margo Kanthak, and Ona Lawrence— members of the Conflict Resolution Services for Students organization— attended the annual ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Institute sponsored by the Minnesota Bar Association (MBA). The students each received a \$355.00 scholarship provided by the MBA for registration. The students attended sessions on “Mediating with Difficult People,” changes being considered to the state’s official rules guiding mediation, and difficult mediation situations. The institute provides 6 hours of continuing education for mediation.

The Minnesota Supreme Court has approved the CMST 428/528 Theory and Practice of Mediation course as a mediation qualifying course. Students who complete the class can be listed on the state’s roster of qualified neutrals (i.e. mediators). Once one is listed as a qualified neutral, one must complete 6 hours of continuing education each year.

Dr. Erika Vora's Book

Dr. Erica Vora, Professor Emeritus of Intercultural Communication at St. Cloud State University, recently published her new book called, *Silent No More: Personal Narratives of German Women who Survived WWII Expulsion and Deportation*. The book unleashes the history of thirty-three German survivors who were forced from their homes in Romania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Germany. The survivors share their experience from train transportation to starvation and forced labor. Dr. Vora’s book can be purchased on xlibris.com by searching for “Erika Vora.” Professor Vora is a visiting scholar and intercultural communication consultant around the world.

In Brief... Continued

CIM Conference

St. Cloud State University College of Liberal Arts will be hosting the International Communication in the Millennium Conference, May 20-24, 2013. Organized by the Association of Turkish and American Communication Scholars in cooperation with the University of Texas at Austin, Anadolu University (Turkey) and Istanbul University (Turkey), the objective of this conference is to establish and continue an international multidisciplinary forum for the development of innovative dialogue between Turkish and American scholars around popular and main issues of the communication field in the new millennium. Although the cooperation is mainly between these two countries' scholars, other countries' scholars are welcomed to this symposium as well. The symposium aims to foster and promote work that is intended to make a constructive contribution to the communication field and its development. The association features original papers on a variety of topics, including: Communication Theory and Communication Studies, Public Relations and Advertising, Journalism, New Technologies, Cinema-TV and Broadcast, Ethics, Communication Education. The symposium welcomes work of scholars and graduate students in the communication field. Inquiries can be directed to Roseanna Ross (rgross@stcloudstate.edu).

Elyse Pineau

The Department of Communication Studies and the College of Liberal Arts worked hand in hand to sponsor a special event this semester that featured guest scholar and artist on Critical Performative Pedagogy, Dr. Elyse Pineau, as part of the University's thematic series, "Holding the mirror to ourselves: A yearlong campus community exploration of approaches that foster a culture of engagement among faculty, staff, and students in teaching and learning." This series of autoethnographic performance poems explored the art and activism of daily classroom practice. Looking back on twenty years of fieldwork in the performance classroom, Dr. Elyse Pineau articulated the transformative power of an art-based education grounded in creativity, collaboration and corporeality. As the generative touchstones of her sabbatical book project, "Performance Unfolding: A Poetics of Classroom Practice," Pineau offered these 'instructional autoethnographies' as incitement to practice education as an aesthetic staging ground for self and social renewal. Dr. Elyse Pineau is an associate professor in the Department of Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Her interests and specialties include: performance methodologies; communication pedagogy; writing, directing and adapting for the stage; narrative theory and gender studies. Her presentation was also supported by the Don and Arlene Sikkink CMST Speakers and Library Fund.

Career.....Relationships.....Citizenship

CMST Department Mission and Goals

We are a community of scholars who participate in the creation, discovery, and dissemination of knowledge about communication. We are committed to communication as central to self and community. We demonstrate that commitment in the following ways:

We educate students in the theories and principles of human communication so that they become competent and responsible communicators and critical thinkers.

We maintain a working environment within the department that respects the tensions between individual professional pursuits and departmental needs and goals.

We shape and respond to the needs of the campus, community, and society through exchanges of expertise and promotion of the discipline.

We address throughout our curriculum the need for understanding diverse ideas and cultural experiences.

Special Thank You To

Advisory Council

The purpose of the Advisory is to advise the department on matters of curriculum, programs, community service, student recruitment, intern and graduate placement.

Art Grachek- Emeriti Faculty

Katie Harms- CMST Alumni
Sales Manager: Scherer Bros.

Greg Murray- Geography Alumni
Mahowald Insurance

Chad M. Roggeman- CMST Alumni
Attorney-at-Law: Roggeman Law Office

Kati Rothstein-CMST Alumni
Exec. Team Leader: Target

Justin Wampach- CMST Alumni
Part owner at Adjuvant

Eddah Mbula-Mutua-CMST Faculty

Paula Tompkins-CMST Faculty

Bassy Eyo- CMST Faculty

Mathew Vorell- CMST Faculty/
Internship Advisor

Roseanna Ross- Outgoing CMST Chair/
Faculty

Jeff Ringer- CMST Chair/ Faculty

Scholarship Donors

CMST scholarship donors provide opportunities for recognition to the best of our student graduates. Your confidence in our students and your support is most appreciated!

Robert and Alice Wick Scholarship

Charles and Carol Vick Scholarship

Arthur and Barb Grachek Scholarship

Ray Pederson Scholarship

Julie K. Peters Scholarship

Kendall Ethics Award

Mollie Young Scholarship

Mary Ahles Adams Forensics Scholarship

For more information about how you can contribute to our scholarship and department accounts, contact the Foundation office at (320) 308-3177 or email them at foundation@stcloudstate.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

DEPARTMENT

CHAIR:

Jeff Ringer

FACULTY:

Traci Anderson

Soumia Bardhan

Jeff Bineham

Wendy Bjorklund

Bassey Eyo

Bruce Hyde

Debra Japp

Marla Kanengieter

Eddah Mbula-Mutua

Marge Pryately

Diana Rehling

Roseanna Ross

Pam Secklin

Jennifer Senchea

Tami Spry

Suzanne Stangl-Erkens

Renee Strom

Paula Tompkins

Jennifer Tuder

Matthew Vorell

Dave Warne

Scott Wells

Dan Wildeson

STAFF:

Diana Leither

GRADUATE

ASSISTANT:

Susan Harding

INTERN:

Amber Rowan

CMST CONNECT IS PRODUCED BY THE ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Communication Studies
Riverview 117
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota
56301-4498

Office: 320-308-3210
Fax: 320-308-2250
Website: www.stcloudstate.edu/cmst
Email: cmst@stcloudstate.edu

Editor: Amber Rowan (Fall 2012)
Editorial contact: Roseanna Ross
Email: rgross@stcloudstate.edu
(320) 308-3240
Student Writers: Lindsey Rogers,
Jason Tham, & Erin Hermansen.

St. Cloud State University

720 Fourth Avenue South St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498



St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity (full statement at bulletin.StCloudState.edu/ugb/generalinfo/nondiscrimination.html)

TTY: 1-800-627-3529 SCSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. This material can be made available in an alternative format. Contact the department/agency listed above.

Member of Minnesota State College and Universities.

EDUCATION FOR LIFE.