I first visited St. Cloud State University during my interview for a teaching position in the spring of 1980. That trip from my family home in Ohio, in itself, was a journey out of the ‘one little corner of the earth’ that I had known for the first 30 years of my life—one step in life’s journey of discovery that I travel still…

A journey where education was and continues to be the golden passport!

The lure of St. Cloud State’s education abroad programs was one of the reasons I accepted that position offer 30 years ago, coupled with the commitment of the university and the Communication Studies faculty to student growth and transformation through culture learning.

Since that time I have had the opportunity to do research, study, and teach on lands much further from my Ohio farm than St. Cloud, MN. And each experience has not only expanded my professional expertise and deepened the content of the courses I teach on this campus, but has also had a profound impact on me personally as I have journeyed from a mono-cultural point of view to a larger world view, developing new perspectives, new mental/emotional/behavioral responses, new awareness of self and my abilities to embrace difference.

And I feel privileged each time I have the opportunity to facilitate that type of transformation for my students on a study abroad sojourn.

The Communication Studies Department has traditionally been a department that challenges students to explore their cultural values and world-view and the impact on communication, and to develop those characteristics and communication skills important to bridging difference. The education abroad experience is one strategy to accomplishing this goal.

In this issue you will read about faculty, alumni and students whose study/teaching/research abroad experiences have had a profound impact on their lives and the lives of others.

Between the years 2004-2010, over 300 CMST majors and minors have studied in countries ranging from Great Britain, to Poland, to Japan, to Thailand, to Chile. Each would tell a story similar to those represented here.

As an educator, I hold a fundamental belief that the influence of these study abroad experiences and a student’s culture learning will be felt far beyond the individual. Young Yun Kim addresses this when she discusses the ‘intercultural person.”

The intercultural person represents a type of person whose cognitive, affective, and behavioral characteristics are not limited but are open to growth beyond the psychological parameters of his or her own culture...With an openness toward change, a willingness to revise our own cultural premises, and the enthusiasm to work it through, we are on the way to cultivating our fullest human potentialities and to contributing our share in this enormous process of civilizational change.

--Theories in Intercultural Communication, Kim & Gudykunst, eds.

And, in the words of First Lady, Michelle Obama:

“Studying in countries like China isn’t only about your prospects in the global marketplace. ...It’s also about whether you can come together and work together ...to make our world stronger. It’s about the friendships you make, the bonds of trust you establish and the image of America that you project to the rest of the world.”

Effective communication is essential to cultural understanding and the creation of those bonds of trust. As you will read inside this issue, the Communication Studies discipline and our CMST graduates have much to offer in this arena.

Roseanna Gaye Ross, Ph.D.
Professor, Chairperson
Department of Communication Studies
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The Beta-Psi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the department’s National Honor Society for CMST students, was first established in 1994. Lambda Pi Eta, founded in 1985 at the University of Arkansas, became a part of the National Communication Association (NCA) in 1988. It became the official honor society of the NCA in July 1995. LPH is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) whose mission is to build a visibly cohesive community of national and international honor societies, individually and collaboratively exhibiting excellence in scholarship, service, programs, and governance. LPH has over 400 active chapters at four-year colleges and universities worldwide.

The primary goal of LPH is to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in communication studies. This is accomplished through a rigorous induction process. To be considered for membership in the SCSU Beta-Psi chapter, students must have completed at least 60 college credit hours, have 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.

Along with rewarding outstanding achievement, Lambda Pi Eta strives to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of communication and stimulate interest in the discipline. The Beta-Psi chapter accomplishes this goal through activities that highlight what the communication field has to offer. One recent highlight was LPH’s cosponsoring of a research presentation by Dr. Judy Pearson of North Dakota State University. An alumni of the SCSU Communication Studies program, Dr. Pearson has taught communication courses on all levels throughout colleges and universities in the Midwest. She has written 34 books, 80 professional articles, and has presented over 300 professional papers. She has also served as a past president of the National Communication Association. Approximately 86 people were in attendance including current St. Cloud State University Communication Studies faculty, alumni, and students (both Communication Studies majors as well as non majors). The presentation was extremely well received and served to highlight not only important research in the communication discipline but the easy application of such research to students’ professional and personal lives.

Other goals of LPH are to promote and encourage professional development among communication majors and explore options for graduate education in communication studies. The Beta-Psi chapter strives to achieve this goal by hosting annual graduate school discussion panels which give students the opportunity to explore career possibilities associated with a graduate education in communication. A variety of professors serve as panelists from the Communication Studies Department to answer questions and give advice. The students who have attended have reported that they enjoyed having personalized conversations with Communication Studies professors and found the information shared incredibly helpful in deciding on future career paths.

A final goal of LPH is to establish and maintain closer relationships between faculty and students. The LPH advisor is available to all members to answer questions, offer advice and also inform members of networking opportunities. An example of such opportunities can be found through membership in local communication organizations, like the Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota (CTAM) as well as membership at the national level, through the National Communication Association. Such organizations help keep students abreast of information and opportunities that may be available to them, and it is the LPH advisor’s duty to use such tools to help members be as successful as possible in their education and future career.

St. Cloud State’s Beta-Psi chapter of Lambda Pi Eta has enjoyed robust membership. Every spring new inductees are honored at the spring Communication Studies banquet, a formal affair that allows our talented Communication Studies students, and Lambda Pi Eta inductees, to be recognized and celebrated for all they bring, and give, to the Communication Studies Department.
I recently had the opportunity to interview one of the Communication Studies Department’s outstanding alumni, James Bernard. James was gracious enough to take time out of his schedule to meet with me in my office on campus. James graduated from St. Cloud State in 2001, continued with a Masters program at SCSU, and currently works at the Neighborhood House in St. Paul, MN. He was involved in Forensics, co-president of the Communication Studies Club, and recipient of the Molly Young Marinovich Outstanding CMST Internship Award. Through our discussions, I was able to gain new appreciation for the importance of gaining cultural experiences, stepping out of your comfort zone, and the applicability of a CMST degree.

Matt Bray
CMST Connect Student Editor

Tell me about the Neighborhood House in St. Paul.

JB: Neighborhood House is a refuge settlement house which was started around 113 years ago by the women of Mount Zion Hebrew Temple to help recent arrivals to the United States. As it is now, we have a food shelf, a youth center, access resources, and volunteers. I teach language skills and citizenship classes where students learn the language skills to navigate in the United States. The classes are taught in an immersion format. We have three full-time paid teachers and two part-time evening teachers, in addition to many volunteer-taught classes. I have been teaching there for about three and half years.

Are there any specific communication skills or theories that you use all the time?

JB: Intercultural communication is tricky. It’s tricky to balance the task and relationship aspects of communication. In the classroom, because I am dealing with so many different cultures and languages, we are all trying to learn English, but there are differences in cultures and the way people act. An important thing is to get to know the person you are talking to. Be overly respectful, watch before you act to see what other people are doing, and learn from your mistakes.

You won the Outstanding Internship Award. Tell me about your internship.

JB: I did an internship for Catholic Charities, in Minneapolis, in their communication department. I did this internship in the summer of 2001. That was a good opportunity to relate the theories to what I was doing there. We had to reflect, write papers, and discuss it so for me that tied everything together. For instance, if I were to do something persuasive in nature and apply this specific theory, I would reflect on how well that worked. It’s helpful to do something with a theory in mind and see how it turns out and learn from it.

You have traveled and taught in Japan. What was that experience like?

JB: I have been to Japan four times. The first time was when I had a roommate in college who lived in Japan; I went to visit him for a couple weeks. The initial experience in rooming with him was that there were a lot of intercultural challenges that came up just living together. Then when I went to Japan for the first time, I started to realize how his culture and his upbringing were very different from mine. The second time I went to Japan, I was director of an English camp. In each camp, we had about 20 counselors who were high school and college students. I worked with a Japanese counselor and my job was to manage the American counselors and to keep the schedule moving. That was interesting because in Japan, when someone older or higher position than you is doing something a certain way, you have to follow that. He would stay up until 3:30 in the morning; because of that, I had to stay up and work. The third time I went to Japan, I had just started graduate school at SCSU; my undergraduate roommate from Holes Hall was getting married and I just went for his wedding. The last time I went was with students from Eastview High School in Apple Valley as a chaperone. The students went to experience Japan and learn the language.

What attracted you to the international experience?

JB: My roommate was from Japan and I built a relationship with him, so originally just to visit a friend. You can go anywhere in the world but it’s more fun to visit someone you know. Being a CMST major and studying intercultural communication added to my interest because I was practicing it on a daily basis. I really feel like I’m part Japanese in the sense that in Japanese culture it’s all about building relationships. I’m not really an aggressive or direct person. In the United States, you can be more direct, where in Japan it’s more about building relationships. I think my personality fits well with the culture.

What would you say to someone who is considering studying abroad or traveling in general and can’t quite decide?

JB: One of the things I wish I would have done as a student is study abroad. I thought about going to Costa Rica. I was apprehensive
because I thought I couldn’t go to college in a foreign country because my Spanish wasn’t good enough, even though I took Spanish classes. I think it’s really important to just get out of your comfort zone. When you study abroad as a student, it’s less expensive and a lot easier. Later on, you have a job and a house and life starts getting in the way. So it’s a good opportunity to travel in a carefree way. I really wish I would have done it.

MB: Any advice you would give to a current college student?
JB: Don’t be in a rush to graduate. There are a lot of opportunities you have as a student that you don’t have once you’re in the “real world.” Be involved as much as you can while you are in college. I greatly value being a part of Japan Club and the Communication Studies Club. For instance, in the Communication Studies Club, we got to organize the first stem cell donor drive. I had so many experiences that I never would have just sitting in a class. Don’t worry about “What am I going to do with a CMST major;” you can do whatever you want because it applies to everything. The degree is very applicable later in life.

MB: What would you consider a dream job?
JB: Honestly, I love teaching ESL because it brings all the cultures into one place. You can fly to Japan, or Korea, or Russia, or El Salvador but all of those cultures come into my classroom on a day-to-day basis and I get to learn from them. It helps me to experiment. I can be creative and learn about cultures, all from teaching students.

MB: You obviously love teaching ESL; what do you find most rewarding as a teacher?
JB: I teach them language skills and grammar rules, but I would say I learn more from them than they do from me. I have very smart students. The volunteers in my classroom who realize how smart the students are and how much they can learn from them are the ones who are successful because they are empowering the students. If you want to learn a little bit, take a class. If you want to learn a lot, teach.

MB: What were your favorite CMST classes?
JB: Communication and interviewing was possibly my favorite class, which was taught by Bruce Hyde. I took the interviewing class because I liked the professor. I thought it was going to prepare me for job interviewing, which it did, but interviewing is anytime you are talking with someone asking them questions. I really found that to be applicable, and I got a lot of confidence from that class. Small group communication with Rin Porter was also great. I was in a very cohesive group with a leader that emerged right away. We decided to take a weekend trip to South Dakota for one of our projects. It was great because I learned so much about group interaction by seeing what a successful group looks like. While in Forensics, David Warne taught me a lot about public speaking and forced me to get out of my comfort zone. Each CMST class I took was interesting and useful.

MB: When you think back at your time at SCSU, what sticks in your mind?
JB: I think about the clubs, the classes, and learning how to learn. Going back to my roommate Kanya: I enjoyed helping him with his papers and with his intro to speech class. He said to me, “You really should be a teacher because you’re a horrible student and you could really relate to struggling students.” Kanya saying that stuck in my mind. I also was a teaching assistant for Joanna Pucel for an Intro to Speech class. I taught a few lessons and assisted with the grading; that was something that stood out for me.

I remember walking down the hallway in the Math Science building and all of the doors were open to the CMST professor’s offices. Not every department is like that. I felt like I had access to every single professor, regardless if I was in their class or not. I felt like I was being supported by the whole department because I could visit or talk with anyone at anytime.

Are you an alum of Speech Communication or Communication Studies 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
St. Cloud State University is extremely proud of its ability to foster scholarship in a global community. Hundreds of international students from all parts of the world add to the diverse culture of St. Cloud State, and hundreds of students from the United States will study abroad each year, gaining a wealth of knowledge and experiences. Not all students will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity, but luckily for them, departments on campus, such as the Department of Communication Studies, have professors who have themselves been abroad or come from home countries other than the U.S., and bring amazing experiences to the classroom.

The Department of Communication Studies has both an intercultural communication major emphasis and minor in its curriculum which offer opportunities for students to learn to be a part of this global community. Even if students choose not to pursue one of these academic programs, they will receive an experience in Communication Studies classes that will be flavored by those professors’ experiences in countries other than the U.S. As professors gain new experiences abroad, immerse themselves in a culture and a new education system, they learn new ways of applying the discipline and teaching and interacting with students that enrich them as educators. With professors from countries other than the U.S., or spending time in such varied locations and bringing experiences to share with their colleagues and students, the Department of Communication Studies can integrate ideas from other education systems to create new and effective methods for teaching, and offer classroom experiences that reflect this new knowledge.

Not only do the experiences of professors abroad help create new methods for teaching, they also provide a great boost to the content of specific classes on campus. What better way to learn about listening, interpersonal conflict or nonverbal communication in other cultures, for example, than to learn about these topics from a professor who has researched or taught abroad or has first hand experience with other cultures view these topics? In addition to addressing cultural differences and perspectives in communication, there are amazing experiences related to the history and roots of Communication Studies that professors can share with students. Dr. Jennifer Tuder, while reflecting on a past trip to Greece and her hope to return in the near future with a study abroad group, had this to say:

“I’m excited about the possibility of visiting Greece to explore the common roots of performance and rhetoric. [...] In ancient Greece, performance helped the polis make political and moral decisions. It helped heal the sick. It brought the community together. I want students to stand in those vast, ancient theaters and feel that power for themselves.”

The passion associated with her trip will surely be evident in Dr. Tuder’s classes and interactions with students, possibly invoking increased interest and drive. At the very least, students can gain much more that is colorful and personal from examples or stories from professors who have been abroad. The experiences of professors from the Department of Communication Studies truly give students a greater appreciation for and knowledge of all areas of Communication Studies.

As a department, Communication Studies has a long history of professors studying and researching abroad. The professors of the Department of Communication Studies boast a wide range of experiences abroad, both in the countries they have visited and in their role when visiting other countries. Communication Studies professors have taught, studied, or conducted research in a diverse list of countries and cities which includes Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Bulgaria, Denmark, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, and Serbia.

One of the programs with the longest history, which many professors in the Department of Communication Studies have experienced, is the British Studies Program located in Alnwick, England. This program is also very popular among students and gives professors and students the opportunity to share an experience abroad and partner in the education process. This learning community creates a strong sense of camaraderie among students and CMST faculty, which in turn makes students more interested in and committed to their educational experience. Dr. Paula Tompkins commented on her experience with the British Studies program:

“When I’ve taught in the British Studies program in Alnwick, England, I have seen students’ understanding of the world and their place in it expand in ways they never imagined. Because of SCSU’s long-term relationship with the Alnwick community, students have numerous opportunities to get to know people who live there and learn about British culture by involving themselves in the community, besides what they learn in classes and on field trips. [...] If I were able to include a study abroad experience in the program of every student who majors or minors in communication studies, I would.”

Any Communication Studies major, and any student taking a general education class from the Department of Communication Studies, is going to have an experience that is enriched by the professor’s experience abroad. The long history of international experience within the department has given rise to unique and educational classroom experiences for students which influences their development as members of the global community that is St. Cloud State University. After students leave the University and enter the workforce, they are equipped with helpful skills to guide them as they continue to strive for excellence.
Connecting the World with its Students

People have never been more connected to each other than they are at this moment. With people all around the world having the ability to be connected, one word becomes relevant: communication. Globalization and communication walk inextricably, hand in hand, but what connects them? SCSU CMST students have discovered that connection through study/education abroad programs. The Department’s study abroad hotspot is Alnwick, England where students and teachers spend their semester or short term stay in the mystical Harry Potter castle. In the last six years, 92 students have made a journey to England alone to study on the British Studies Program in Alnwick, England (housed in the Duke of Northumberland’s castle). But England is not the only place CMST students make their mark; there are programs in much of Europe, Mexico, Australia, Africa, Asia and many more.

With unforgettable cultural experiences, unique landscapes, visits to historical monuments, and interaction with the locals, students are introduced to new perspectives, foods, languages and arts. Communication skills are the most important tool one can possess, not only while traveling abroad, but to stay relevant in a world of cultural interaction and globalization.

Benefit of being a Communication Studies Student in a foreign place?

As a student, one of the best ways to secure “out of classroom experience” that features a global perspective is to attend class in a different land! Once immersed in the Communication Studies major or minor programs, students become equipped with a unique set of skills useful to becoming a cultural learner. With studies in areas such as intercultural, nonverbal, interpersonal and small group communication, communication theories and rhetoric—all of which are taught in the CMST program—students are poised to grasp and adapt quickly to nuances of a new culture.

Graduating in May 2011 with a CMST interdepartmental degree, Sheana Thompson reflected on her experience in Alnwick, England:

“While studying abroad I learned the importance of intercultural communication knowledge. Not everyone speaks the same so I had to be aware of nonverbal and the use of specific words… this also helped me adapt to different environments quickly. My semester abroad was one of my best academic semesters.”

Kevin Weingart, a CMST major who is also graduating in May, shares what doors have opened for him through the Alnwick program:

“When communicating with people from other countries, it was tough to understand them because of their accents. Because of this, I had to actively listen in order to understand what he/she was saying. I couldn’t passively listen otherwise I would have looked incompetent and communication would be short, virtually ineffective. I also learned a lot about culture, in particular, the differences between individualistic cultures and collectivist cultures, and their respective cultural norms.

The life skills and self awarenesses that are developed when time is spent in a different cultural setting impact the lives of students far into their futures. Communication Studies students already are introduced to the framework of good communication and studying abroad allows them to apply that knowledge to life experiences.

Applying those Communication Skills to “Real Life”

Worldview is enhanced through education abroad. Studying abroad fills those gray areas of the mind with color and reason. An experience on non-U.S. soil develops skills for success in both professional and personal relationships. New perspectives are introduced. CMST student Kevin Weingart notes the necessity of an international perspective:

“This experience will help me professionally; I can put this experience and what I learned from it on a resume that will make me, as a professional, look more desirable to a future employer. Today’s jobs and economies are becoming more global. Thus having a global background will give a person an advantage over someone who doesn’t have this background. Education abroad gives you the necessary tools that employers desire such as independence, communication competence, dependability, and teamwork skills.”

Carrie Klaphake, graduating December 2012 with a degree in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Leadership & Organization and Travel & Tourism, reflects on how her education abroad experience in Alnwick has impacted the rest of her life.

“I learned life lessons that I have been efficiently communicating to my peers since I have been home. I have attended a conference where I have learned how to shape the experiences that I gained while abroad to communicate them in a professional way to stand out during things such as job interviews.”
If the plans for your future are still just fumes from the furnace of your life, choosing an education abroad experience might just be the match to fire things up! Employers often look for intercultural experience because business is no longer limited to city, state, or country. Forum-Nexus, a study abroad agency with over 20 years of experience, remarks that “employers recognize the fact that those students who have successfully completed a study abroad program are likely to possess the skills needed in the global economy – economic and geographical knowledge, cross-cultural communication skills, analytical skills, flexibility, an understanding of and familiarity with local customs, an ability to adapt to new circumstances, and often a proficiency in a new language. Students who study abroad should highlight these unique set of skills to potential employers to distinguish themselves from the rest.”

Kirstin Barker, who is expected to graduate in Fall 2011 with a CMST degree, went to Australia in 2010. With a much more open mind, she sanctions the program:

“It was an experience that I will never forget and I wish that it had never ended. I had the chance to travel all over Australia and go to New Zealand and Fiji. All countries were culturally different and I am glad that I got the chance to do as much as I did. This was a once in a lifetime chance.”

No matter where you go or what classes you take, studying abroad will leave students with advantages and experiences that only come from stepping out of your comfort zone. Samuel Johnson, a British author of the 18th century optimistically illustrates an “either, or” to the concept of travel: “All travel has its advantages. If the passenger visits better countries, he may learn to improve his own. And if fortune carries him to worse, he may learn to enjoy it.”

Faculty: Where Are They Now?

Don Sikkink
Professor Emeritus
SCSU, Department of Communication Studies

Dr. Don Sikkink was a member of the Communication Studies Department from 1963 to 1990. During his time Don held multiple positions including: associate professor; professor; department chair; Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences; director of the first international program in Aalborg, Denmark; Acting Director of International Studies; Dean of Fine Arts and Humanities; and Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Special Assistant in Academic Affairs. Don’s major teaching interests were debate, persuasion, public speaking and parliamentary procedure. His major research efforts that directly impacted SCSU were the “Proposal to Internationalize the Curriculum” and the “Self Select Study” which led to the B.E.S. degree.

Don and his wife Arlene started The Arlene/Don Sikkink Speech Communication Department Library/ Speaker Endowment at St Cloud State University. The primary purpose of this endowment is to allow the Communication Studies Department to provide a “hands on journal” experience in the departmental library. A secondary purpose is to provide matching funds to bring guest speakers to campus who appreciate free speech highly, because without it “he or she would be in jail.”

Don and his wife retired in 1990, sold their hobby farm and bought a cabin on Spectacle Lake, MN which was home base for 6-7 months of RV travel each winter. During that time, he worked for an organization called Partners in Policy Making whose goal was to provide training for persons with developmental disabilities and their parents. “I taught Parliamentary Procedure so they could go to school board and city council meetings and know what was going on and so they could do a better job with their advisory councils,” Sikkink said.

Don also taught the same subject in the summer at the University of Minnesota Clerks Institute.

By age 72, Don and his wife decided that Tucson, AZ was the place they wanted to live so they bought a house in Sun City Vistoso and came back to the lake cabin for three months each summer. This past summer the Sikkink’s sold their lake cabin and at almost 83, Don and his wife are now selling their house and moving into a rental retirement community called Santa Catalina Villas, where their small apartment looks out to the mountains. “This place will help us continue to live independently by providing some meals, cleaning, and all maintenance,” Sikkink said.

As Dr. Sikkink looks back on his 27 years at SCSU, two memories stand out; “The first is that the institution provided me with a chance to do a variety of tasks most of which were challenging and interesting. I am grateful for that chance. The second is my admiration for the people in my department and the quality of their teaching. I hope the interest in relating to students with scholarly and interesting material continues today.”

We would like to hear from more emeriti faculty! Get in touch with us at cmst@stcloudstate.edu
Dr. Jeffery Bineham, SCSU Professor of Communication Studies, greeted me with a smile on the dingy winter day of our meeting. We settled into easy conversation and I took a look around his office. Besides a great view of campus, Dr. Bineham has a large decoration hanging behind his desk. Letting my curiosity get the better of me, I asked him to explain the meaning of the text on the decoration. The writing, *Nakutakia Kila La Kheri*, means, “I wish for you every wellness.” This expression and decoration was a gift to Dr. Bineham from a friend and colleague in his department and is written in Kiswahili. This could be translated different ways, but Dr. Bineham likes this translation because of the elegance of the wording and the simplicity of the words.

The idea that words have multiple meanings and implications is something that Dr. Bineham has had an interest in since his first Communication Studies class as an undergraduate student at George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon. Remembering his undergraduate experience, Dr. Bineham explained that he was not sure what he wanted to study when he began college, but after his first experience with a Communication Studies class he had found his niche. His real interest in the rhetoric side of Communication Studies came when he looked at the influences that media and language have on the way in which we think and the perceptions that we hold about certain issues.

Dr. Bineham tries to inspire his students to question what we know and how we know it. Currently, Dr. Bineham is teaching Rhetorical Theory, Argumentation and Advocacy, and an Introduction to Communication Studies course. In 2006 he, along with several other professors at St. Cloud State, received a Grant from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to redesign sections of the introductory Communication Studies course using undergraduate teaching assistants and on-line components.

In each course Dr. Bineham teaches, he wants to challenge his students and he wants them to understand that it is not always about the letter grade; rather it is about growing as an individual. Dr. Bineham cited an important person who was in his life when he was an undergraduate, Dr. Michael Graves. Dr. Bineham said that Dr. Graves challenged him at every turn and became a personal mentor to him and eventually encouraged him to attend graduate school. Even though being challenged with new ideas and thought processes was difficult, he knows that Dr. Graves taught him how to expand his ways of thinking and to be inquisitive.

When he is not teaching students at St. Cloud State University, Dr. Bineham loves spending time with his family and volunteering. Currently Dr. Bineham is a reading tutor with the Adult Basic Education program where he helps an individual learn to read, thus gaining lifelong skills. When he is not volunteering, Dr. Bineham enjoys various outdoor activities such as running, tennis, and biking, as well as going to the theater, where he enjoys seeing various types of performances. In addition to these activities, Dr. Bineham also likes to travel.

During his career at St. Cloud State University, Dr. Bineham has taught in Alnwick, England in the summer of 2001, and directed the St. Cloud State University British Studies program in Alnwick during the Fall of 2006. During the Spring of 2008 Dr. Bineham also participated in St. Cloud State’s Faculty Study Tour to South Africa. He expressed how much he enjoyed this experience because not only was he given the chance to experience yet another culture, but he was able to connect with a faculty member at Nelson Mandela University who was interested in the same area of Communication Studies as he is and still keeps in touch with him today.

When talking about experience abroad it is easy to see Dr. Bineham’s excitement and passion for experiencing new ideas and culture. He believes that everyone should take advantage of the study abroad opportunities they have when they are in college, no matter what, because not only will they gain a global perspective, they will also be better equipped to work in a global economy. “Travelling and studying abroad is especially valuable to Communication Studies students because when they study abroad they are immersed into another culture, forced to learn new norms and language. This directly relates to everything that students in the Communication Studies Department are learning in their classes,” Dr. Bineham explained.

Whether he is teaching abroad, or in a classroom at St. Cloud State University, Dr. Bineham pushes his students to think outside the box. His passion for rhetorical critiques of popular culture and politics, and the philosophy of rhetoric, comes through in his conversation, his teaching, and his research. Currently, he explained that he is working on compiling a collection of his writings into a possible manuscript for a book. His work has appeared in a number of academic journals, including *Philosophy and Rhetoric, Communication Monographs, Communication Education, Communication Studies, Western Journal of Communication, Southern Communication Journal, Journal of Communication and Religion, Communication Reports*, and in several book chapters.
The St. Cloud State University Talking Huskies (speech & debate program) are enjoying another great year! The team continues to grow with over 25 students being served by the program. Three students have qualified for the prestigious American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament so far this year: Sarah Collie in Prose Interpretation, Thomas Opatz in Dramatic Interpretation, and Noah Gahm in Program of Oral Interpretation! In the last few months, the program has participated in numerous Star Performances, three public Showcases, hosted SCSU’s collegiate tournament, and judged at various high school meets. The SCSU Talking Huskies look forward to attending the Pi Kappa Delta and the American Forensics Association national tournaments at the end of our season. We will also be hosting several more public Showcases in April and preparing for our annual high school summer speech camp in late July. To learn more about the Talking Huskies and our happenings, please visit our website (http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/forensics/forensics.html) or find us on Facebook (SCSU Forensics Alumni).

**Communication Studies Club**

The Communication Studies Club has been dedicated to the bone marrow registration drive this semester. Partnering with “Be the Match”, the club has been giving presentations, raising funds, and recruiting participants to be listed on the bone marrow registry. The club was excited to participate in this event after the Riverview open house last year. Additionally, the club has also been working on the banquet to recognize scholarship recipients and to celebrate the department’s student organizations.

**Conflict Resolution Services for Students**

The Conflict Resolution Services for Students (CRS) provides FREE mediation and conflict coaching services to SCSU students. Our newly created website addresses some of the common conflicts experienced by college students and lists skills students can apply to their particular conflict situations. Members of student organizations may request workshops on conflict management by simply visiting our website, www.scsuresolveit.com. The organization has also been hosting walk-in sessions to serve the needs of those students interested in getting immediate help with their conflict situation. In addition, we have conducted two training sessions on conflict coaching—training students to become conflict coaches so they can help others in need.

**Lambda Pi Eta**

Lambda Pi Eta is currently recruiting new members and presently 14 new members are set to be inducted at the Spring 2011 Communication Studies Banquet. Lambda Pi Eta is the featured student organization; read more on page 3.

**Players Performance Group**

Players Performance Group is a public forum for contemporary social and cultural issues. Members are provided a space to explore intellectual and educational growth by cultivating critical engagement with various social problems. Players addresses such problems through aesthetic means and a commitment to dialogic communication between self, other, and society. On March 30 and 31, Players presented an installation performance entitled Voices From the Holocaust. In Voices, performers developed personal narrative and movement responses to the testimony of Holocaust survivors from the book Witness: Voices From the Holocaust. The performance was structured in a gallery-style format, with audience members invited to proceed from one performance “exhibit” to the next at their own pace. Players is working in conjunction with Dr. Daniel Wildeson, director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Dr. Tami Spry’s CMST 310: Performance and Literature class. The project will culminate in a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Players is also pleased to host performances from faculty and an alumnus this semester. Former student Kim Salitros’ solo performance, Growing Up: Living with Domestic and Sexual Assault, presented the audience with voices from Ms. Salitros’ past and educated the audience about how communication both constrains and liberates survivors. Dr. Erika Vora read excerpts from her new book, The Will to Live: A German Family’s Flight From Soviet Rule—a collection of family narratives that details her family’s struggle in the aftermath of World War II. Players will complete spring with showcases from performance students and Forensics Team members. For further information, please contact Dr. Jen Tudor, Director of the Players Performance Group.

**Forensics--Talking Huskies**

The St. Cloud State University Talking Huskies (speech & debate program) are enjoying another great year! The team continues to grow with over 25 students being served by the program. Three students have qualified for the prestigious American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament so far this year: Sarah Collie in Prose Interpretation, Thomas Opitz in Dramatic Interpretation, and Noah Gahm in Program of Oral Interpretation! In the last few months, the program has participated in numerous Star Performances, three public Showcases, hosted SCSU’s collegiate tournament, and judged at various high school meets. The SCSU Talking Huskies look forward to attending the Pi Kappa Delta and the American Forensics Association national tournaments at the end of our season. We will also be hosting several more public Showcases in April and preparing for our annual high school summer speech camp in late July. To learn more about the Talking Huskies and our happenings, please visit our website (http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/forensics/forensics.html) or find us on Facebook (SCSU Forensics Alumni).
Where are they now?
Updates from CMST Alumni

Amy K. Hornstra
(2000)

Eleven years have come and gone since graduating from St. Cloud State in the spring of 2000. The past eleven years have passed by much more rapidly than I ever would have expected. Thinking about my time at St. Cloud, and what I put into obtaining my degree in Speech Communication, above everything else I am overly thankful for three things. I am thankful for the flexibility I learned and how to take every moment as it presents itself. I am also so very thankful for my love of travel that resulted after spending a summer in the British Studies program in Alnwick, England.

When I graduated in 2000 I really had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up. Consequently I took some time to explore my new found love of international travel. In doing so I tried to carve out a path that would lead me to happiness and help me continue to grow as I actually grew up myself.

After my European adventures I grounded myself and took on my first “real job” with the American Cancer Society (ACS) where I worked as an Income Development Specialist. It was in this position that my love for volunteering, event planning and working with others grew stronger and became a large part of my life. In 2001 I became a Big Sister through Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the experience has taught me so much more than I have been able to teach my Little Sister. In the past 3 years I have also become quite involved with the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America. Having lived with Crohn’s since I was 19 years old, it has felt amazing to give to this organization and help people whose lives are completely consumed by these diseases. This organization has given me the opportunity to challenge myself and participate in physical events that I never thought I would be healthy enough to complete.

Besides volunteering, my time at ACS exposed me to the world of event planning and created a path I never envisioned while completing my degree. I am currently employed as the main trade show and marketing communications specialist at Pentair Technical Products. I feel fortunate for this position as the last few years have forced me to face many challenges. As the economy shifted it made me re-examine my career path. My degree in Speech Communication taught me flexibility and has been a base for everything that I have accomplished in my life.

I currently live in Minneapolis with my 6 year old pup Oliver. I try to handle every day that presents itself with grace and a smile. As I progress down the path to becoming a grown up I continue to tell myself that skipping is encouraged.

Andy Jacobs
(1996)

Recruiter and Account Executive. Here, I was fortunate enough to meet my wife and best friend, Angie. We married in October 2002 and moved back to my hometown, St. Cloud, MN in 2003.

In January 2004, I began my professional career as a Financial Advisor and joined my father, James Jacobs and brother David Jacobs as a partner at Jacobs Financial in St. Cloud, MN. I am passionate about the career I have chosen and fortunate to work with my family every day. Most importantly, I am blessed with an opportunity to truly make a difference in people’s lives.

My wife Angie and I have a three year old son, Mason. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, golfing, traveling, and attending community charity and sporting events. I am actively involved as a Board Member with the March of Dimes Central MN Division, and a proud member of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce and Business Network International RiverCity Chapter.

I am a financial advisor and partner with Jacobs Financial in St. Cloud, MN. I graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and minor in Speech Communication. After studying abroad through SCSU’s British Studies program in ’93-’94, I found an interest in the travel and tourism industry. Upon graduation, I worked for a short time at Business Incentives in Edina, MN as a Meetings and Incentive Travel Representative. From 1997-2003, I was employed at TEKsystems, an IT Consulting firm in Edina, MN as a Professional
Who Was Ray Pedersen?

The Ray Pedersen Scholarship is one of the scholarships in the CMST department that provides opportunities for our students who demonstrate academic achievement and talent in the field of Communication Studies. In past issues, we have included articles on various scholarship donors that provided readers with the opportunity to read about the individuals who donate scholarships. So, who was Ray Pedersen?

Ray Pedersen taught at SCSU between 1947 and 1957. He was a speech advisor from 1947-1950 when the program was a part of Division of Language and Literature. When the program gained department status in 1951, Pedersen was appointed chair and remained so until 1957. While on sabbatical leave to study for a doctor’s degree at Stanford University in March of 1956, he was hit by an automobile while crossing a freeway in San Bruno, California and died from the accident.

I had the great opportunity to sit down with Alice, the spouse of Robert Wick, past Department Chair and University President, to discuss who Ray Pedersen was as a person. Ray and Robert Wick graduated from the same college and both eventually ended up at SCSU, where after Ray’s death, Robert became the Department Chair. “Ray and Bob (Robert Wick) had a great working relationship. Bob had great admiration for his dedication to his work,” Alice said. Throughout my interview with Alice, she stressed Ray’s dedication to his work and his students. He was likeable, friendly, creative, and his dedication to drama made him a favorite professor among students.

A former student, who wishes to remain anonymous, has set up an endowment in Ray Pedersen’s name. This scholarship is awarded to CMST students who show talent in Communication Studies or communication arts, and who show financial need. This scholarship helps students pursue academic opportunities just as Ray had done when he taught drama at SCSU and was the Department Chair. This endowment represents the dedication Ray had toward his students while he was at SCSU and is kept alive by the scholarship that rewards students’ achievements in the field of Communication Studies.

I would like to thank Alice Wick and Art Grachek for their assistance in preparing this article.

-Matt Bray

Bone Marrow Registration Drive Visits SCSU

By Megan Hamlin

This year, the Communication Studies Club is very happy to announce they are sponsoring a bone marrow registration drive. Thanks to the “Be the Match” foundation, the club has enjoyed this challenging process.

Many people might not understand the importance of holding a drive like this so the club is working very hard to promote the drive. When a patient needs a bone marrow transplant, and members of their friends and family are not a match, the bone marrow donor list is their last chance at finding hope. Many people are saved every year thanks to this list and the “Be the Match” foundation.

Since tissue types are inherited, patients receiving bone marrow must be of the same race or ethnicity as the donor. On the current “Be The Match” bone marrow registry, about 74% of donors are Caucasian. Hispanic/Latino donors make up about 10% of the list while African American and Asian donors each make up about 7% of the list. Those statistics mean that if a Caucasian person is in need of a bone marrow transplant and can’t find a suitable match within their family, they still have a 74% chance of surviving. The odds of someone of a different race surviving the same situation, however, are considerably worse.

In light of these shocking statistics, the club has decided to concentrate our energy on getting a very diverse group of donors to join the registry this year. Everyone should have a fair chance to fight for their life. Since St. Cloud State University has such a diverse campus, the Communication Studies Club believes it is very possible to broaden the spectrum of the current donor list. The bone marrow donor drive will be held on Thursday, April 28th from 10am-3pm in the Cascade room in Atwood.

Becoming a member of the bone marrow registry is very simple and only takes a few minutes. At the drive, there will be four stations. The first is an information booth where people can ask questions to make sure they know exactly what they are volunteering for. The second station is where the health forms and questionnaires are filled out and the third station is where the health forms are verified with a member of the “Be The Match” foundation. The final station is where the DNA is collected that will be placed on the donor list. This process is very quick and painless and involves nothing more than a few mouth swabs.

After a donor’s DNA is collected, the “Be The Match” foundation sends it off to be tested and added to the donor list and then eventually stored. This process costs about $100 per donor. The bone marrow recipients are not charged to view the list or to receive any matching tissue. The “Be The Match” foundation incurs all of the costs to maintain this life saving list. The Communication Studies Club has set a goal of 100 new donor registrants and $2,500 to help with the cost of the new additions to the donor list.

The club understands that becoming a bone marrow donor is not for everyone and that some people may not be able to make it to this drive, so persons wishing to make a monetary donation, can do so on the drive’s website: www.bethematchfoundation.org/goto/CSC

Even the smallest donation will help the organization to achieve its goal. The website can also be used to sign up for the bone marrow donor registry. The Communication Studies Club thanks everyone who has helped in the development of this drive.

Remember that you have the power to heal, the power to save a life, all you need to do is take the first step.
In brief ...

We would like to acknowledge our faculty’s recent book publications. Professor Paula Tompkins’ book “Practicing Communication Ethics: Development, Discernment and Decision-making” was published January 2010 by Allyn and Bacon. Professor Erika Vora’s book “The Will to Live: A German Family’s Flight from Soviet Rule” was published this past year. You can read more about Erika’s book in the “Spotlight” section under Players Performance Group. Professor Tami Spry’s book “Body, Paper, Stage” will be available May 2011. “Body, Paper, Stage” is a methodological introduction to the field of performative autoethnography. Look for these great books at your local book store or online!

Recent Faculty Awards

Dr. R. Jeffrey Ringer received the 2010 Outstanding Educator Award from the College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

Dr. Tami Spry received the Outstanding Scholar Award for the Central States Communication Association for 2010, which is awarded each year for outstanding scholarship.

The International Listening Association has bestowed upon Erika Vora the honor of “Listening Legend of 2011.” The article can be found in “The Listening Post” of the International Listening Association.

Dr. Roseanna G. Ross received the College of Fine Arts and Humanities Leadership Award for 2010.

Dr. Bruce Hyde was chosen by the Honors students as Honors Professor of the Year for 2010-2011.

Honored Service Learning Project

President Potter has chosen the Communicating Common Ground project and Professor Eddah Mutua-Kombo to receive the MN Campus Compact Presidents Civic Engagement Steward Award for SCSU. Communicating Common Ground is a service-learning project that brings together racially and culturally diverse high school and university students to dialogue about building strong diverse communities. The overall objective is to create a learning environment where, in dialogue, culturally and racially diverse high school students can enhance communication among themselves in order to respect and understand differences of opinion, culture, religion, nationality and racial identities, among others. The project was initiated four years ago with participating students from Tech High school, and Apollo High school. In Spring 2010, Sauk Rapids-Rice High school students joined the project. Thus far, this SCSU, ISD 742 and ISD 47 collaboration has made it possible for 175 students to gain relevant knowledge and skills about (1) creating a climate of acceptance (2) knowing how to constructively respond to cultural differences and (3) applying knowledge and skills gained to become engaged citizens who can lead St. Cloud to be a community where racially and culturally diverse groups co-exist with mutual respect to one another.

Distinguished Author Visits Communication Studies Department

Jonathan Wyatt, distinguished author from the University of Oxford, UK, visited the Communication Studies Department from March 14-25, 2011. Dr. Wyatt is the Head of Professional Development at the University of Oxford. He is also a distinguished author in narrative and collaborative writing. Dr. Wyatt worked with the CMST 410 Contemporary Issues in Performance Studies class in their focus on collaborative writing. He also visited other CMST classes, presented at a Friday Colloquium on March 18th, and did a reading for the CMST Performance Series on March 23. Dr. Wyatt’s visit was made possible through the use of the CMST-Sikkink Library and Speaker fund.
Career.............Relationships.............Citizenship

CMST Department Mission and Goals

Mission Statement: 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 Council is to advise the department on matters of curriculum, programs, community service, student recruitment, intern and graduate placement.

Katie Harms - CMST Alumni
Leighton Broadcasting

Greg Murray - Geography Alumni
Mahowald Insurance

Chad Roggeman - CMST Alumni
Roggeman Law Office

Kati Rothstein - CMST Alumni
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Jacqueline Schuh - CMST Alumni
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Stacie Vos - Community Partner
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Thomas Opatz - CMST Student Representative

R. Bruce Hyde - CMST Faculty

Matthew Vorell - CMST Faculty

Bassey Eyo - CMST Faculty

Roseanna Ross - CMST Chair

Paula Tompkins - CMST Faculty

Scholarship and Alumni Foundation Donors

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

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Robert and Alice Wick Scholarship
Bailey Hess

Charles and Carol Vick Scholarship
Nicole Wohleber

Arthur and Barb Grachek Scholarship
Anna Morris

Ray Pederson Scholarship
Scott Athey

Kendall Ethics Award
Jonathan Ewald

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 alumni accounts, contact the Foundation office at (320) 308-3177 or email foundation@stcloudstate.edu.
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