Dear Gophers,

Spring has sprung in Minneapolis! As chair, I want to take an opportunity to celebrate our undergraduates and graduate students. We are likely to see about 250 undergraduates complete their bachelors degrees by the end of Summer 2017. Be sure to read our feature story about Communication Studies undergraduate Laura Cantor (page 14). You can be proud of the quality of the undergraduate and graduate students in Communication Studies.

[Continued on page 2]
The following undergraduates have been awarded scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year:

- Frank H. Peavey Forensic Scholarship: Ian Johnson, Bryce Piotrowski & Myna Sharma
- Audrey Hull Scholarship in Communication Studies: Veronica Lafky
- Nick Schoen III Undergraduate Prize in Speech Communication: Johnny Lee
- Stuart A. Lindman Scholarship: Kelli Birr
- Donald V. Hawkins Speech Communication Scholarship: Kasey Carpenter, Max Chu, Kelly Docherty, Austin Hegland, & Gemma Kumarae
- Arle & Billy Haebeler Scholarship in Speech: Alyssa Le & Jessica Schatz
- Marguerite Garden Jones Award: Alyssa Benson & Becky Copper

Our graduate students are also generously cared for by our alumni and faculty members!

- Maryann Schall Graduate Fellowship: Christian Angelich & Grace Geier
- Shapiro, Howell, Cashman and Smith Ethical Leadership Fellowship: Ryo Kanno
- Scott, Jensen, Campbell Fellowship in Rhetoric: Joy Hamilton, Kristiana Wright, Megan Yahnke & Luke Youngvorst
- The Old Buffalo Award: Carly Danielson & Svilen Trifonov
- Coakley Award: Al Hiland
- Frizelle Reid Memorial Award: Brittany Knutson
- Arle & Billy Haebeler Award: Elena Hristova & Samira Musleh
- Graduate Research Partnership Program (GRPP): Runchao Liu, Elja Roy & Matthew Struth
- Bart, Browne, Ziebarth & Rarick Media Studies Fellowship: Caroline Bayne

We bid a fond farewell to PhD students Al Hiland & Emma Bedor Hiland as they will be traveling east to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Al will serve as the Assistant Director of Debate at JMU and Emma will be teaching part-time at JMU as she completes her dissertation and serves as the editorial assistant to Laurie Ouellette on the journal Communication, Culture & Critique.

I wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing you in Dallas, Texas for the National Communication Association conference in November!

Ron Greene, Professor & Department Chair


Publications

Alumni Publications


Well Wishes to Hannah McMunn

Our graduate program coordinator, Hannah McMunn, will be embarking on a new adventure starting in June. She will be moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, along with some of her closest friends. In Pittsburgh, Hannah will be starting an Acts2Fellowship church and working at the University of Pittsburgh.

Hannah has always wanted to work in student services. Landing her current position out of undergrad gave her the opportunity to stay within the university. She has enjoyed working with graduate students and developing the department's program through reaching out to prospective graduate students; which is similar to what she'll be doing in Pittsburgh.

In the Department of Communication Studies, Hannah has enjoyed the high-energy environment while planning and running orientation and graduate visits. She will miss the friends she has made, along with the adventures that her and Lauren have had together. She will miss the Midwest, but is excited about starting this new chapter of her life.

She would like to thank everyone for supporting her during this time. Since becoming a Christian in college, starting a church has always been an opportunity that she has hoped for. If you would like to keep in touch or send well wishes, Hannah’s email is: hmmcmunn@gmail.com.
2016-17 Faculty, Staff, & Graduate Students

Faculty
Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, Professor
Ronald Walter Greene, Professor & Chair
Kate Lockwood Harris, Assistant Professor
Dean Hewes, Professor
Susanne Jones, Associate Professor
Ascan Koerner, Professor & Dir. Undergrad Studies
Laurie Ouellette, Professor
Mari Pajala, Visiting Professor
Mark Pedeltz, Professor & Dir. Graduate Studies
Gilbert Rodman, Associate Professor
Catherine Squires, Professor
Mary Vavrus, Associate Professor

Affiliate Faculty
Richard Graff, Associate Professor
Laura Gurak, Professor
Elaine Tyler May, Professor
Daniel J. Philippon, Associate Professor
Mary Lay Schuster, Professor
Jeffrey Simpson, Professor
Zornitsa Keremidchieva, Senior Lecturer - Macalester College, St. Paul
Jacquelyn Harvey-Knowles, Assistant Prof., UMD
John Logie, Associate Professor

Emeriti Faculty
Rosita D. Albert
Donald R. Browne
Alan G. Gross
Vern Jensen
Dave Rarick
Robert L. Scott
George Shapiro
Amy Sheldon
Michael Sunnafrank
Arthur E. Walzer

Senior Teaching Specialists
Nan Gesche
Mark Neuman-Scott
Diane Odash
Andrea Shada

Teaching Specialists
Erin Cole
Lisa Hutchinson
Rebecca Jurisz
Eric Short

Graduate Students
Christian Angelich
Caroline Bayne
Emma Bedor Hiland
Stephen Bennett
Min Kyong Cho
Carly Danielson
Jay Frank
Grace Geier
Lauren Guzman
Joy Hamilton
Wes Hansen
Al Hiland
Elena Hristova
Ryo Kanno
Brittany Knutson
Runchao Liu
Samira Musteh
Camryn Nelson
Samantha Perez
Elja Roy
Matthew Struth
Svilen Trifonov
Bree Trisler
David Tucker
Tara Wambach
Lauren Weinzimmer
Jules Wight
Kristiana Wright
Megan Yahnke
Luke Youngvorst

Support Staff
Angela Brandt, Administrative Supervisor
Lisa Clark, Undergraduate Advisor
Kathryn Kluegel, Undergraduate Advisor
Erika Ludorf, Student Worker
Hannah McMunn, Grad. Program Coordinator
Reed Munson, LATIS Consultant
Autumn Odean, Student Worker
Michael Sallberg, Accountant
Lauren Sietsema, Financial Preparer
Kiya Sturm-Lind, Executive Accounts Specialist
“At times the military has tried to cover up incidents of sexual assault, and the media have had a poor track record of covering these assaults too”

-Mary Vavrus

Media convey truths to the public. But just how much truth is in their messages, and how effective are they in revealing the nature of the institutions they cover? Associate Professor Mary Vavrus of the Communication Studies department seeks to answer this question by looking at the way the news and documentary media portrays women in the military.

Associate Professor Mary Vavrus grew up during the Vietnam Era. Her father was a World War II veteran, and both her parents were peace-loving. Military service made her father oppose war, but enabled him to use his GI benefits to attend college and pursue a PhD. This upbringing gave Vavrus multiple perspectives into the benefits and drawbacks of military life and the toll war takes on families.

Vavrus was researching news media representations of gender, feminism, and postfeminism when the 9/11 terrorist attacks happened. She soon became critical of media coverage of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed. The coverage, in Vavrus’s opinion, rendered military women virtually invisible and left her thinking “I should do something about this.”

Vavrus is currently working on a book that examines the ways that civilian news media cover women in and around the military-industrial complex. Each chapter analyzes media stories on a series of topics that relate to women in and around the military. One area of focus is on the sexual assault of service women, a prevalent problem she argues the media ignored until recently. “At times the military has tried to cover up incidents of sexual assault, and the media have had a poor track record of covering these assaults too,” Vavrus says. Her book examines news coverage of both women in combat and on the homefront—those with significant others or children in military service.

The 2012 documentary “The Invisible War” was a turning point in the fight for public recognition of the sexual assaults that were happening within all branches of the military, Vavrus says. Survivors of military sexual trauma, Senators, and Representatives were featured in the documentary, which uncovered the assaults of many service members and the lack of adequate response by the military. The Pentagon has initiated a program to eliminate the problem of sexual assault, but it has not been especially effective.

Vavrus stresses that the news media possess power to uncover injustices like these. This is where the political economy portion of her research comes into play. Many of the news outlets tasked with covering the military have strategic alliances and other financial ties to the military, a factor that may discourage them from undertaking investigations into military malfeasance. For example, General Electric—one of the world’s largest defense contractors—has a 49% ownership stake in NBCUniversal; NBC News is a subsidiary of NBCUniversal. NBC News programs tend to cast military women and the military in general in a positive light. Additionally, some of the retired military generals who appear on NBC programs sit on board of directors of defense contractors such as General Dynamics—conflicts of interest that are typically not disclosed when the generals opine about whether the U.S. should wage war. Links such as these motivate Vavrus to publish her research. “I want to see the media participate in peace journalism. This type of journalism teaches journalists how to resist militarism and write stories that don’t reinforce conflict situations. If this were possible,” Vavrus continues, “then my research will have succeeded.”
Professor Dean Hewes earned his doctorate degree in 1974 and began teaching at the University of Minnesota in 1989. After working at Arizona State University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Illinois, Hewes joined the University of Minnesota to perform research in his areas of interpersonal communication, communication dynamics, and research methodologies.

Professor Hewes is well known for his work developing the Socio-Egocentric model of group communication that generates a plausible explanation for patterns of communication in decision making groups that result from cognitive processes and not from social influence. Another focal point of Dr. Hewes’ work is the development of the Dual-Level Connectionist Model of decision-making which combines cognitive processes and social influences among group members.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Hewes has maintained a unique approach to his research that has separated him from many in his field. He creates formal theories based in mathematics— an innovative perspective that provides him with a distinctive view of group communication. “The Department of Communication Studies has provided me with a superb collegiate atmosphere that facilitates this work. The department holds weekly presentations on research where I received valuable feedback from my colleagues,” Hewes stated.

In November 2016, Professor Hewes received the the National Communication Association’s lifetime achievement award for his extensive work and studies of small group communication. He is the third recipient of the award from the University of Minnesota and was pleased to learn that it was a unanimous decision to select him for the award. Although Professor Hewes has received numerous awards throughout the course of his career and has had numerous articles published, he still feels humbled by the award. “I was kind of surprised to get it. I have never gone out of my way to get awards. I was kind of an outsider, you could say. So I was really appreciative when I heard the news.”

Hewes continues to teach undergraduate courses that are in his areas of specialty. He also leads graduate-level courses on conflict and cognitive basis at communication. When he is not teaching, writing or conducting research, Hewes enjoys playing volleyball and fishing for bass and muskie in Leech Lake. He also has a background in competitive debate. “After all is said and done, I think this award granted me some favorable credibility, and gave me a personal motivation to extend my work. I still have stuff left to say-- this award will help me do this.”

“"The Department of Communication Studies has provided me with a superb collegiate atmosphere that facilitates this work."  
-Dean Hewes
Snapshots of students working in Comm 3201: Electronic Media Production
Photographs taken by: Christy Ohlrogge (Top left), Peggy Lin (Top right),
Jason Murray (Bottom left), Joshua Kelley (Bottom right)

Emmy Nominees & Winners

We are excited to share that we had two nominees for this year's Upper Midwest
Student Emmys. In the fiction category, Joel Dehnel was nominated for his Comm
4204 (Producing for Television) senior project. In the director category, Sam Canniff
was nominated and won for his Comm 3970 (Directed Study) short film.
Congratulations!
Graduate Student Spotlight: Camryn Nelson & Kristiana Wright

Camryn Nelson is a pursuing her MA with a focus in critical media. In addition to pursuing her degree, Cammy has been a proud business owner of Brave Like Me for the past three years. Brave Like Me “empowers women through everyday bravery”. In our modern society, girls feel the urge to share life quickly which leads to lack confidence when they cannot meet this standard. In addition, it creates poor self esteem among girls.

Cammy was featured in DOVE’s 60 Years of Real Beauty Campaign. "Real beauty to me means challenging yourself to do the things you can’t and showing yourself kindness along the way". After graduation, Cammy plans to launch Brave parties, retreats, and conferences to continue her life’s ambition of empowering girls.

Kristiana Wright is a Ph.D. student pursing a degree in Rhetorical Studies, with a specialized focus in labor movements and socialist traditions. She is from Vancouver, Washington and enjoys practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in her free time. In the summer, Kristiana enjoys running while spending time at Lake of the Isles or Lake Calhoun. By the end of graduate school, she hopes to have completed a marathon.

Kristiana is passionate about teaching and the Fight for $15 campaign, and is excited to see the growing interest in activism and social justice. After graduating, she plans to continue working with non-traditional and working class students at a community college while remaining active in labor organizing. One of her highlights in her graduate education was receiving a top paper award at the National Communication Association Convention in 2015.

For future graduate students, she would like to offer her advice of being upfront about your interests. She is glad that she found a department that was so supportive of her desired research topic. She would like to thank Ron Greene and Karyln Kohrs Campbell for their generous support and wisdom throughout her time at the University of Minnesota. She invites you to check out her research related to rhetorical studies at https://spanalumni.academia.edu/kristianawright.

Cammy's official photo for the Dove campaign

Kris's official photo outside of Ford Hall

Photo: Autumn Odean
NCA 2016 Presentations


Danielson, Carly & Jones, Susanne. "'Help, I'm getting bullied': Examining Sequences of Teacher Support Messages Provided to Bullied Students"

Helwich, David & Hiland, Al. "The Basic Course: Developing Novice Debate Curriculum"

Frank, Jay. "On the Political Life of the National Climate Assessments"

Geier, Grace. "Rhetorical Agency of Sylvia Rivera and S.T.A.R"


Guzman, Lauren. "Creating space for women's ultimate frisbee: An analysis of the All-Star Ultimate Tour"

Hamilton, Joy. "The mountain west narrative: Gender performativity in tourism advertisements"


Harris, Kate. "Imagining Alternatives to Gender Violence: Working Collaboratively as Activists, Scholars, and Teachers with Community Anti-Violence Practitioners"

Harris, Kate. "Scapegoating as a Dual Process: Raced and Gendered Sexual Violence Victimization in U.S. Military and Universities"

Helwich, David. "Boot Camp for the (Political) Brain: Lowering Barriers to Political Participation through Debate Training"

Helwich, David. "Debate and Argumentation as Civic Callings"

Hiland, Al. "Debate's Civic Calling: Judging Presidential Debates"

Hristova, Elena. "Studies Concerning Indigenous Peoples: American Studies' Civic Callings III"
NCA 2016 Presentations

Keridchievea, Zornitsa. "The Rhetorical Cartography of Citizenship: Space and Gender in the Congressional Investigation of the National Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913"

Knutson, Brittany. "Allegorizing America: Troubling Tropes in Post-9/11 Literature"

Knutson, Brittany. "Isocrates' Helen: Myth, Signification, and (Wo)Men in Times of War"


Squires, Catherine. "Critical Approaches to Naming In/Civility"

Struth, Matthew. "Isocrates and Civic Pedagogy: On the Desirability and (Im)possibility of an Isocratic Revival"

Trifonov, Svilen. "The role of the American jeremiad in immigration reform debates."

Trifonov, Svilen. "Twenty-five years of democracy, twenty-five years of social protest: The role of the carnivalesque in Bulgaria’s 2013 anti-government protests."

Trifonov, Svilen. "Prudential claims in Barack Obama’s rhetoric about Edward Snowden and NSA surveillance."

Trifonov, Svilen. "Senate Bill 744 and the myth of comprehensive immigration reform."

Vavrus, Mary. "How is This Still a Thing? John Oliver's Takedown of Patriarchy in Politics"

Vavrus, Mary. "Militant Women and Militarized Feminism"

Walzer, Arthur. "Rethinking Spectacle and the Neoliberal Imaginary: A Discussion of Ned O'Gorman's 'The Iconoclastic Imagination: Image, Catastrophe, and Economy in America from the Kennedy Assassination to September 11'"

Wambach, Tara. "Isocrates' Helen in the Modern Age: Vision, Victimhood, and Pedagogical Vitality"

Yahnke, Megan. "Teen Pregnancy Discourse, Neoliberal Philanthropy, and Navigating the 'War on Women': A Milwaukee Case Study"

Youngvorst, Lucas & Jones, Susanne. "The Influence of Mindfulness on Empathy and Emotional Contagion During Supportive Encounters"

Youngvorst, Lucas & Koerner, Ascan. "Two Sides of the Same Coin? Associating Parenting Styles and family Communication Patterns"

Youngvorst, Lucas. "When Facebook 'Friends' Act Like Friends: The Role of Nonverbal Immediacy, Support Seeking, and Contextual Information on Users' Willingness to Provide Support"
Communication Studies Trip to Greece

Students spent three weeks in Greece studying the intellectual revolution centered on ancient Athens. Themes of the class included the foundations of study of rhetoric, formal drama, and democracy as this played out in gender roles, religion and sport. During their time in Greece, the 22 students visited sites ranging from 4,000 years old to the modern Greek parliament. The class met both the Liberal Education Arts and Humanities core and Global Perspectives theme requirements.

Communication Studies Association

The student led Communication Studies Association, CSA, is having another successful year. As part of their overall mission, CSA strives to deliver three key components to Communication Studies majors and minors: career, social, and community. This year, the CSA chose to focus mainly on the career exploration component in lieu of the university wide career readiness initiative.

The CSA strives to continually make career connections for Communication Studies majors/minors by creating exciting and informative events. This fall the CSA held their annual Alumni Panel Event. This event successfully attracts 40+ students each year by inviting six undergraduate alumni from the department to return to campus and share their professional stories with students in a personalized round table networking event.

With the start of spring semester the students of CSA wanted to continue to bring personalized networking opportunities to our majors and minors. In order to achieve this they created a bi-monthly schedule of a combination of site visits and small group professional presentations. To date, professional presentations have been held in the area of broadcast, media production, human resources, and talent management and a recent site visit to the Mall of America’s PR/Comm offices was a great success. A future presentation includes social media marketing and additionally a site visit to ValleyFair’s communication department is in the works!

This year has been all about creating worthwhile events for our students to network and explore all the amazing professional opportunities that await them after they complete their undergraduate degree – highlighting the value in a liberal arts education and the versatility of a degree in Communication Studies. The CSA is proud of their accomplishments and excited for what the next year may bring!
Confidence from the Classroom: Meeting the Workforce Head On

“I often find it difficult to even imagine that this is such a large program because of the support students like myself receive from the department’s faculty”

-Laura Cantor

Senior Laura Cantor has explored numerous opportunities in the Department of Communication Studies throughout her undergraduate career: working with faculty, landing exciting internships, and seeking on-campus leadership positions. The department has provided an incredible open and supportive environment that invites her and her classmates to dive into the material and engage in classroom discussions. Cantor says her public speaking professor, Christian Angelich, consistently made class engaging and helped her realize the benefits of pursuing a degree in communication studies. Last semester, Cantor completed her senior paper, ‘Born in the U.S.A.: Patriotic Irony and the Boss,’ with professor Mark Pedelty. Cantor still talks with him about her copyright and intellectual property interests and he provides a network of resources for her to establish a foundation for when she graduates.

“I often find it difficult to even imagine that this is such a large program because of the support students like myself receive from the department’s faculty,” Cantor says.

The Department of Communication Studies’ broad offering of classes prepares students for a wide array of internships and jobs. The summer before her senior year, Cantor interned with Tesoro Corporation in San Antonio, Texas as a corporate communication intern specializing in external communication and crisis management. “The internship was a rewarding experience for me because of the opportunity I had to work across several business units at a Fortune 100 company,” Cantor says. “It gave me a chance to apply communication tactics that I learned in class.” In the fall of 2016 Cantor interned with Xcel Energy as a corporate giving intern, assisting in the planning of several charity events and communicating with employees and retirees.

Back on campus, Cantor has served as the secretary for the Communication Studies Association, a student group that brings together undergraduate communication studies majors. The group hosts networking events and arranges visits to sites like the Mall of America, Valleyfair, and PR agencies, where members learn about the opportunities available to communication studies students post-graduation. Cantor also serves as the marketing and communication coordinator for the U’s Tau Sigma Honor Society chapter, a nation-wide honor society for transfer students. “In this position, I communicate messages to students via social media and help with spreading the message of the prestigious group of students,” Cantor says. She has received two scholarships from the Department of Communication Studies, including the Donald V. Hawkins Scholar Award and the Marguerite Garden Jones Undergraduate Award.

Over the course of Cantor’s studies in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), she has also taken courses in statistics, mass communication, and biology that expanded her understanding of various fields. After graduation Cantor will be working for an aerospace and built materials corporation as a communications leadership associate. “I believe to be truly successful in the workforce, and to be able to create effective solutions to real-life problems, requires having a greater perspective and understanding of the world--for which CLA has prepared me.”
MN Debate Team

The Minnesota Debate Team just concluded a very successful season of competition. For the ninth consecutive year, the Gophers qualified to the National Debate Tournament (NDT) after winning the District IV qualifier for the year running, besting programs from throughout the upper Midwest. The squad also had a standout showing at the American Debate Association's (ADA) national championship tournament, finishing third in the junior varsity division, fifth in the varsity division, and third in the ADA's Grand Sweepstakes, which recognizes a programs' performance across all divisions throughout the entire 2016-17 season.

MN Speech & Forensics

The University of Minnesota Speech Team had a great showing this year! The team attended the National Forensics Association tournament, held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin this year. There were 102 schools competing at the tournament and about 150 competitors in each event. See the NFA accomplishments below:

- 15th place overall at NFA
- 6th place in the President's One division
- Myna Sharma was a semifinalist in After Dinner Speaking
- Tom Lally was a quarterfinalist in Dramatic Interpretation
- Molly Dunn was an octafinalist in Prose Interpretation
- Myna Sharma and Dobbs DeCorsey were octafinalists in Informative Speaking
- Harry Steffenhagen was a novice finalist in Prose Interpretation and Persuasive Speaking

The UMN Speech Team also attended the collegiate state tournament in Minnesota (MCFA), where they were extremely successful:

- 2nd place overall
- Myna Sharma is the State Champion in Informative Speaking
- Tom Lally is the State Champion in Dramatic Interpretation
- Tom Lally and Harry Steffenhagen are State Champions in Duo Interpretation
- We had 11 students place with 25 events

The UMN Speech Team at the National Forensics Association tournament in Eau Claire, Wisconsin
April 2017
Community Engagement

Simon Calder interviews Dessa

Teaching faculty Simon Calder recently had the opportunity to interview with the Director of "Live at the Minnesota Orchestra", as well as local musician and poet/essayist Dessa. As City Pages highlighted, Dessa recently chatted over afternoon tea with our own Simon Calder on his show, Back to the City. They discussed Dessa's two orchestral performances with the Minnesota Orchestra, her full catalog, poetry, prose, and Thomas Hobbes.

Simon explains, "The video - which has had close to 700 views - is the most recent interview in my 'Back to the City: Minneapolis Music Conversation' series, which I devised, curate, host, and produce". Episodes are published through City Pages on a fortnightly basis and more frequently through his YouTube channel and mixcloud.com/simon-calder.

We encourage you to check out Simon's interview at: www.citypages.com/music/back-to-the-city-video-podcast-dessa-discusses-her-upcoming-performance-with-the-minnesota-orchestra/416217033

U.S. Attorneys' Office Visit

Similar to other upper division courses like Communication Ethics (Comm 3625), representatives of the U.S. Attorneys' Office visited the Freedom of Speech (Comm 3631) class to discuss recent court proceedings with our students.

After a short presentation clarifying their civil rights work and technological expertise, our speakers opened the floor to questions posed by students engaging Public Domain, Defamation, and Privacy. Students' lively dialogue about public domain and housing provided opportunities to gain insight on issues of protected class as well as housing discrimination of a Muslim religious organization. The class meets the Liberal Education requirement within the designated theme of Civic Life and Ethics.

Music Video Awards

Mark Pedely (producer, director) and Lauren Sietsema (financial preparer) have received two "Best Music Video" awards, one "Best Call to Action" award, and two official selections at film festivals for their work on "We Live in the Lake" and "You Can Build a Garden". You can check out their awards and videos at ecosong.net.
Community Engagement

“If you put real stakes in front of them, the students become more invested, and then they become more invested in the learning”
-Andrea Shada

Sometimes the best kind of learning is the learning done outside of the classroom. Students in COMM 3411: Small Group Communication get the chance to learn beyond the classroom, enabling them to explore challenging issues and generate innovative ideas and solutions outside of the academic setting.

Small Group Communication (COMM 3411) gives students a unique opportunity to explore challenging issues and generate innovative ideas and solutions outside of the academic setting. Taught by Senior Teaching Specialist Andrea Shada, the class has a service learning component which engages students with community and nonprofit organizations. In the Fall of 2013, Shada’s class assisted an alternative high school in Dinkytown. Her students worked to uncover why the high school students weren’t eating in the lunchroom, even though some students had access to reduced-cost or free lunches.

The class worked as a collaborative group to tackle the issue. First, they performed interviews with students and conducted research on what would make a space more visually appealing for eating. They discovered that the students felt the lunchroom was lacking aesthetically. The class formed a solution that included painting the lunchroom in order to make it more welcoming to students. The students in the class painted the entire lunchroom themselves and from their research were able to cater the design to what the students saw lacking in the lunchroom. The students now have a beautifully decorated lunchroom, resulting in an increase in the amount of students who ate at school.

Embedding service learning into small group communication helps students establish relationships with organizations in the greater Twin Cities community while also highlighting the skills of CLA students at the University of Minnesota. “I live for the light bulb moment,” says Shada, describing the moment when she sees her students learn something new and apply it to real world problems. “If you put real stakes in front of them, the students become more invested, and then they become more invested in the learning,” she explains. Shada says the most rewarding part of teaching a class with a service learning component is seeing how students rise to the occasion to help organizations with limited resources, such as nonprofits that can’t afford to hire professional consultants, and the fact that students gain professional experience.

Nearly three years after the lunchroom project, in Fall of 2016, students worked on a project with the Southeast Como Improvement Association (SEClA). The group worked with SEClA on their “Flowers are the Opposite of Graffiti” campaign, which wraps utility boxes in printed photos of flowers and plants. During the project, the group went door-to-door to gather votes on different box designs, created a Facebook page to spread awareness, designed and distributed paper flyers, and reached out to local business to connect them with Como neighborhood residents.

A student from this project, Alyssa Lee, provides an account of her experiences in the class. “I learned that organizations that are mainly composed of older individuals can be reluctant to try new technology, like creating a social media presence,” Alyssa says. Alyssa learned that the best way to connect to the community is to get out in the neighborhood and start talking with people face-to-face. “It was truly rewarding to gain a sense of making a difference in a real community that I’ve learned so much about.”
"I have been named faculty coordinator of St. Lawrence's relaunched Sustainability Program"
-Jessica Prody, Ph.D. 2011

"I earned the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential"
-Jennifer Charpentier, Ph.D. 2006

-Anthony Todero, MA 2009

"We just had our second daughter in January and my second book will be published by Minnesota Press in February 2018"
-Chris Paul, Ph.D. 2005

"Awarded sabbatical for Spring 2018 during which I will be working with Dr. Erin Szabo on a research collaboration looking at gender roles and sexually explicit media diet as contributors to college students' sexual scripts"
-Karyl Daughters, Ph.D. 2005

"I have been awarded a research fellowship from Rob Kling Center for Social Informatics at Indiana University and a full-year writing fellowship from the College of Arts & Sciences at Indiana University"
-Dan Hassoun, ABD 2013
Support Communication Studies!

There are a number of ways your gift can help support graduate and undergraduate students—the next generation of leaders and thinkers—in the Department of Communication Studies:

**Communication Studies Special Projects Fund**
Provides valuable discretionary support, allowing the department to make strategic investments in unexpected opportunities.

**Debate Competition Fund**
Fuels the drive of the Minnesota Debate Team to prepare and participate in regional and national competitions.

**Old Buffalo Fellowship and Scholarship Fund**
Carries on the tradition of distinguished excellence started by retired faculty members by offering graduate and undergraduate student support.

**Bart, Brown, Ziebarth and Rarick Critical Media Studies Fellowship**
Provides graduate fellowship support for students pursuing critical media studies.

**Shapiro, Howell, Cashman & Smith Ethical Leadership Fellowship**
Provides graduate fellowships for students pursuing a program that emphasizes the study of ethical leadership in politics, business, or academia.

**Scott, Jensen and Campbell Graduate Fellowship in Rhetoric**
Provides fellowship support for graduate students developing and applying rhetorical theory.

**Ernest Bormann Symbolic Convergence Theory Fellowship**
Provides graduate fellowships for students with high potential in their field and offering a preference for those interested in symbolic convergence theory.

**Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Fellowship**
Given annually to outstanding graduate students in recognition of their commitment to teaching.

For more information on how to give, contact Peter Rozga at 612-624-2848 or rozga001@umn.edu.