

Communicator

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Communication

Media

Theater

**Public &
Interpersonal
Communication**

**Public
Relations/
Organizational
Communication**

**Communication
Disorders**

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CHASS Announces New PhD Program

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences recently gained approval for the implementation of an innovative new PhD program from the UNC Graduate Council. The *PhD in Communication, Rhetoric and Digital Media* will focus on communication practices and problems of the digital age. **Dr. Melissa Johnson**, in a recent interview, provided insight on the planning, implementation and goals of this highly anticipated program.

Dr. Johnson explained that the idea has been in discussion for a number of years with planning beginning in earnest in 2001. A joint effort of the departments of Communication and English, the PhD committee was comprised of members from both departments. The English department members were **Carolyn Miller, Chris Anson, and Jason Swarts**. The Communication department members were **Dr. Melissa Johnson, Dr. Victoria Gallagher, and Dr. Sarah Stein**. These members worked hard to provide the board with research and information necessary to gain approval.

Dr. Johnson discussed the importance of this program and why NCSU is entering this innovative field. The program is the first of its kind in North Carolina and is one of only a handful nationwide. Primarily developed to address the changes in human interaction caused by the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies, the new PhD program prepares students to understand, analyze and impact development of new technologies. There is an increasing demand in higher education for faculty with technology specializations in areas such as rhetoric, composition, organizational communication, and media studies. The new PhD program prepares students for the academic community, but additionally qualifies them to conduct research, manage development, and analyze policy in the specific uses and general social applications of new communication technologies. Knowledge gained can be used to influence technology and information design.

Students will take interdisciplinary core courses and depending upon the area of specialization, will have other courses in Computer Science, Graphic Design and Psychology. Engaging in qualitative and quantitative research, students will analyze the uses and potentialities of new communication media and information technologies with attention on their impact on human interaction, values and diversity.

When asked why students should select NCSU for this program, Dr. Johnson emphasized the strong market area and field of research, notably Research Triangle Park, and highlighted the strengths of existing NCSU programs. The computer sciences, visual communication and engineering courses support the new PhD program and NCSU, as a whole, is committed to its success.

Dr. Linette Meredith Joins Faculty

Faculty and students welcome **Dr. Linette Meredith** to the Department of Communication. Dr. Meredith arrives from Aurora, IL where she practiced as a speech-language pathologist. Dr. Meredith will be teaching courses in Language Development, Phonetics, Introduction to Communication Disorders and Articulation/Phonological Development and Disorders.

Dr. Meredith's current research focuses on Reading and Spelling Disabilities in Children with Phonological Disorders and Regional Variations in African-American Vernacular Dialect.

Explaining why she chose NCSU, Dr. Meredith praised the collegiality among faculty, the strong leadership of CHASS and the Communication department, and the opportunities for collaborative research and mentorship from outstanding academic faculty. Other factors influencing her decision are the structure of the curriculum, the focus on undergraduate students, and the emphasis on bridging research and practice.

Dr. Meredith brings practical experience to the department and can provide students with meaningful information and insight into communication disorders.

Dr. Meredith, thanks for joining us and please accept a *Wolfpack* welcome from the faculty and students of the Communication department.

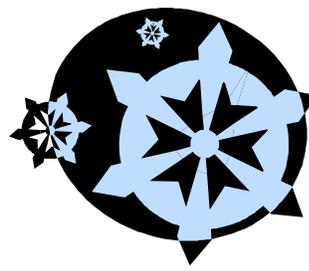
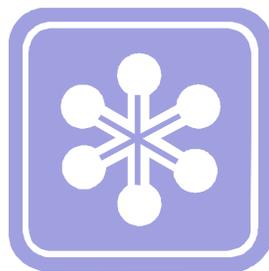
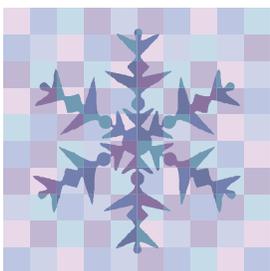
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ivorie Stanley, a senior from Clayton, NC recently discussed some of the coursework for students in the communication disorders concentration. Stanley explained that foremost, the ability to help and improve communication for clients was a strong motivator for studying communication disorders and she will become a speech pathologist. Speech pathologists assess, diagnose, treat and help to prevent speech, language, cognitive, communication, voice, swallowing, fluency and other related disorders.

The communication disorders curriculum at NCSU emphasizes observation as a learning tool and Stanley has spent countless hours observing babies, school children and hospital patients for communication disorders. Unlike other disciplines where knowledge can be gained primarily from the text and classroom, communication disorders students log many hours outside of the classroom, in various settings, to gain knowledge and experience.

Courses in language development are also incorporated. Stanley describes with pleasure listening to babies and the fascination of witnessing their communication evolve into language. Stanley has also observed patients at Wake Medical Hospital who have suffered trauma which affected their ability to communicate. For these patients, speech pathologists are involved in helping this person to learn to communicate again.

New technology and practices in the field constantly improve the chances of successful treatment of persons with disorders. Stanley is excited about her future and knows that NCSU has prepared her for the field. She looks forward to continued studies and advent into the professional world.



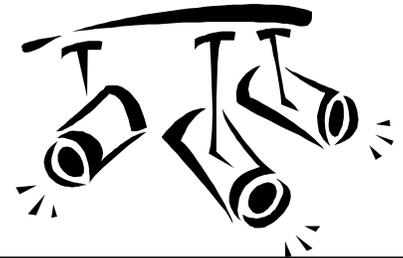
BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVO!

Thunderous applause greeted the cast and the “ST★R”, **Dr. Patricia Caple** received a lengthy standing ovation. A critical success, *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, by August Wilson, ran October 28-November 7 at Thompson Theatre. Thirty people waited hopefully but unsuccessfully to get into the sold-out Sunday afternoon performance that the reviewer attended.

The play, a drama with music, provides a vivid portrait of the lives of African-American performers in the 1920’s. Set in a recording studio, the tale portrays and the audience witnesses the lives, ambitions, and desires of the band members. In their interaction, we glimpse the rage of Levee (Anthony L. Hardison) which stems from brutal acts witnessed as a child and the suppression of his dreams and ambitions. The band gathers for the recording of some of Ma Rainey’s songs and we see Ma, the lead character, depicted as an uncommon character not bowed by the pressures of the white record executives. She displays courage and strength and this strength is founded on her incredible talent. The remaining characters portray an array of types and personalities that the playwright uses brilliantly to add depth to the play.

The play, an indictment of racism, ends with a startling murder. Leaving the audience with powerful imagery and food for thought, August Wilson wrote a timeless piece that can move and educate audiences even today.

This production was phenomenal. With the quality of production and the selection of entertaining, thoughtful works everyone is encouraged to support **University Theatre**.



DIVERSITY MATTERS

More curriculums, across colleges at NCSU, are integrating diversity and issues of globalization. The following excerpt from an interview with **Dr. Juliette Storr**, who teaches COM 392-*International and Intercultural Communication* and COM598Q-*International Public Relations*, will provide insight into the significance of this emerging issue.

Q. What is the importance of the intercultural and globalization message that is woven into the curriculum?

Dr. Storr-“Over the last two decades globalization became the buzzword. It appeared everywhere. It was appropriate to use the word, however, beyond the “hype” of the word are the realities of the phenomenal global transformations that are now more evident in our public and private spheres and particularly in the business environment. One of the significant areas of change is the increased interaction among people of different cultures. As a result, there is a crucial need to improve our understanding of different cultures and cross-cultural communication. Cross-cultural communication studies is fundamentally a field about human communication, both mediated and personal. It is imperative that communication studies embrace a multicultural perspective as most of the worlds communication in the twenty-first century will cross-cultural. The department has an ethical obligation to prepare our students to function in a multicultural world, domestically and internationally. This is the imperative for intercultural and international communication and globalization in our curriculum. The “hype” has become a reality.”

CAREER CENTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

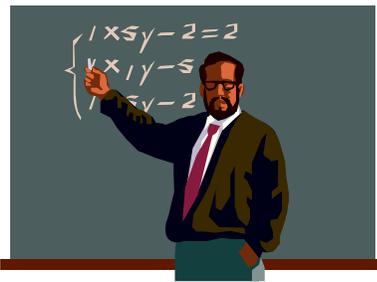
The University Career Center needs the help of faculty and students in spreading the word about one of its services. The university-wide, online resume service, **ePack**, connects employers with students. In finding ways to increase awareness of this program, research revealed that faculty was the #1 way in which students learn of the Career Center.

Students entering the highly competitive employment market can benefit from the services of the Career Center which include career planning and job search assistance for students and alumni. Over 1800 employers use the site to search resumes, post jobs and internships, schedule interviews and information sessions.

NCSU does a wonderful job in preparing students for employment by providing them with an excellent education. The Career Center is a valuable resource for students and with your help, the Career Center can help students prepare for and enter the workforce.

Inform students at all levels of the Career Center and its services. The Career Center is located at 2100 Pullen Hall. The Center's website, www.ncsu.edu/career is easy to navigate and provides instruction on posting the resume. A great topic for advisement or discussions of employment, please help increase awareness of this invaluable tool for students.

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it." -Margaret Fuller



This semester, we have witnessed and hopefully participated in national elections, welcomed Chancellor Oblinger, and groaned over increases in tuition. The Communication department has gained experienced faculty and implemented ways to improve the quality of the educational experience for students. We say goodbye to graduates and welcome back to all returning students and faculty...

Happy Holidays

***Faculty meeting– December 18th, 12:30-2:30, Caldwell M8.**

"One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension."-Oliver Wendell

The Wolfpack Communicator

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