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Communicator
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Department Head



This has been a very challenging semester for all of us. A number of our colleagues are dealing with serious health issues, and once again we find our classes in high demand. Fortunately, we continue to move forward and, in my view, the department is stronger this year than last.

We have good alumni support and, as is usually the case, there is a great deal of activity around Beering Hall. This semester we received alumni gifts that will support our undergraduate debate group, the Petticrew Forum, as well as a gift to support graduate student travel to professional meetings. We are indebted to our loyal alumni for these gifts.

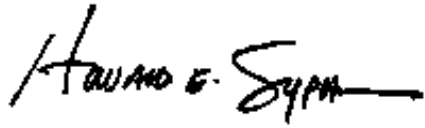
Our students have been very busy. The number of undergraduate students taking on internships has increased. We have several interesting initiatives under way, including more efforts to encourage international activity (in China and Italy) and more service learning opportunities as students and faculty work together to engage the community and to develop valuable, real-world projects and experiences.

We have two new faculty colleagues — Buddy Howell and Hyunyi Cho — and we welcome them to West Lafayette. We also welcome Pat Rochon and Erina MacGeorge to permanent positions.

We are especially excited that a number of our faculty members have been recognized for their excellence in teaching and research. Recently, department faculty members have received major grants from Motorola, Discovery Park and the National Science Foundation. At the same time, several specialty areas in the department's doctoral program were ranked in the "Top 10" nationally in a reputational survey conducted by our largest national professional association.

This summer Communication faculty members were spread all over the globe. Glenn Sparks was in Ethiopia, where he taught Mass Communication in a program funded by the Norwegian government; Marifran Mattson taught and coordinated the London Internship Program; Ralph Webb taught at Oxford; Austin Babrow returned from teaching the spring semester in the Italy Consortium program, while Felicia Roberts and Jay Wang taught in Florence and Asolo, Italy. I was also in Italy and Sorin Matei was in Romania.

We hope you will get a chance to visit us and Purdue this year. There is much to see and be proud of ... finally, we all wish our colleagues, Marifran Mattson and Hank Scheele, the very best and look forward to their return in 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HOWARD E. SYMPSON". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

[The Communicator](#) is the official alumni publication of the [Department of Communication](#) at [Purdue University](#). It is published twice yearly by students in COM252 under the supervision of adviser [Jane Gibson Natt](#).