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Testimonials Sought

After 40 years of teaching, research, service, creative endeavors, and irascible behavior at Purdue, Professor Marv Diskin is turning in his A sticker and is retiring to his California retreat in Palm Desert. We're looking forward to a retirement dinner on May 13, 2005, and if you're interested in attending, please let us know. Former students are encouraged to send a video clip sharing recollections of "Marv" stories. (Format: 1/2" mini dv, dvd).

You can also send us a note or e-mail, sharing your stories and wishes to: dcable@purdue.edu or via mail to: Diskin Tribute, Department of Communication, Purdue University, 100 N. University St., BRNG2114, West Lafayette, IN, 47907

In the News



Professor **Glenn Sparks** was again in the news during the Halloween season. Sparks was interviewed by the *Tampa Tribune* about [Halloween profits](#) and by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and *The Associated Press* about the [thrill of being scared](#).

Department News

Top Tier

The **National Communication Association** in November ranked three areas of Purdue's Communication Department in the "Top 10" of U.S. programs. Interpersonal Communication, Organizational Communication and Health Communication received national rankings from No. 4 to No. 8 among all doctoral programs in the country.

"We are pleased with the results of this reputational survey, which was conducted by our largest national scholarly society," said Department Head Howard Sypher. "Very few Communication programs can claim to have three of their instructional areas rated among the 'Top Ten' of all doctoral programs in the U.S. On the other hand, we can improve on these rankings and intend to do just that over the next few years."

Publications, Grants, Honors

John Greene and **Brant Burleson**, professors, received the Gerald R. Miller Book Award from the NCA Interpersonal Communication Division in November for their co-edited book, "The Handbook of Communication and Social Interaction Skills," (Erlbaum, 2003).

Robin Clair, associate professor, received the outstanding book of the year award from the Ethnography Division of NCA for her book, "Expressions of Ethnography."



Toby Arquette, assistant professor, was interviewed before the election on [how technology has transformed political campaigns](#).

Senior Faculty Positions

This fall, the department launched two searches for senior faculty in Health Communication and Health/Organizational or Mass Communication. "It's not often a department can hire two full professors in the same year," said Professor Steve Wilson.

In addition to experience, these senior faculty are expected to bring with them external grants and the ability to establish new programs and help connect the department to other units on campus.

The new hires come at a time when the department is preparing for a National Research Council review. Communication is going to be included in the NRC's review of doctoral programs for the first time.

"The ratings will carry a lot of weight in terms of how our department is perceived in relation to other communication programs across the country as well as in comparison to other departments in Liberal Arts," Wilson said.

Department Hosts Grants Workshops

The department this fall hosted several grants workshops for faculty and graduate students.

Two of the workshops were hosted by distinguished members of the Health

Mohan Dutta-Bergman, assistant professor, piece in *Health*

Communication on unsuccessful media strategies in existing health campaigns received [coverage in more than 20 media outlets](#), including [Australia's Big News Network](#). Dutta-Bergman also had 13 articles accepted for publication in 2004, including articles in *Journal of Communication* and *Health Communication*.



Glenn Sparks, professor, and Miller, W. (2004). News coverage of the war in Iraq: Cognitive and emotional consequences for viewers. In Berenger, R.D. (Ed.), "Global media go to war: The role of news and entertainment media during the 2003 Iraq war" (pp. 305-312). Spokane, WA: Marquette Books.

Jennifer Thackaberry, assistant professor, received a \$1,000 SLA Dean's Research Incentive Grant for a project called "Identification and Resistance in Wildland Firefighting Safety." She plans to attend the anniversary gathering of a landmark wildland firefighter safety conference in Missoula, Mont., to study how members of the wildland firefighting community (many of them Forest Service insiders) have changed the way safety has been talked about, researched, and managed over the last 10 years.

Jane Gibson Natt, assistant professor, \$750 Dean's Teaching Development Incentive Grant for "Computer-Assisted Reporting."

Erina MacGeorge, assistant professor, \$720 Dean's Teaching Development Incentive Grant for "Communication 102 Curriculum Development."

Steve Wilson, professor, \$6,000 CGS/Ford Foundation grant for feasibility planning for a professional master's degree track in Science Communication.

Erik Garrett, Ph.D. candidate, had a Top 3 student paper at the Philosophy of Communication division of ICA.

Meina Liu, Ph.D. candidate, and **Patrice**

Communication field, who also presented colloquiums on recent research.

Dr. Dale Brashers, director of graduate studies in the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois, spoke on "Peer Social Support and the Management of Uncertainty for People living with HIV."

Dr. Pamela Whitten, of the Department of Telecommunication and Institute for Healthcare Studies at Michigan State University, spoke on "Telehealth Research: The Need to Merge Communication into an Interdisciplinary Approach."

Buzzanell, professor, had the lead article in *Journal of Business Communication* with "Negotiating maternity leave expectations: Perceived tensions between ethics of justice and care."

Steve Wilson, professor, had four recent publications: Morgan, W. M., & Wilson, S. R. (in press). Nonphysical child abuse: A review of literature and challenge to Communication scholars. In P. Kalbfleisch (Ed.), *Communication Yearbook 28*. Mahwah, NJ : Lawrence Erlbaum; Olufowote, J. O., Miller, V. D., & Wilson, S. R. (in press). The interactive effects of role change goals and relational changes on employee upward influence tactics. *Management Communication Quarterly*; Wilson, S. R., Morgan, W. M., Hayes, J., Bylund, C., & Herman, A. (2004). Mothers' child abuse potential as a predictor of maternal and child behaviors during playtime interactions. *Communication Monographs*, 17; and Wilson, S. R., & Morgan, W. M. (2004). Persuasion and families. In A. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 447-471). Hillsdale, NJ : Lawrence Erlbaum.

Pat Rochon, assistant professor, \$2,000 Service Learning Faculty Development grant.

New Hires



Hyunyi Cho
Assistant Professor
Health Comm
Public Relations



Pat Rochon
Assistant Professor
Media, Technology
and Society



Members of the department's Public Relations Student Society of America attended this year's national conference in New York City. Members held fund-raisers throughout the year to help supplement the cost of attending the conference.

[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](#).

