Message from the chair

New building, new faculty bring fresh energy

Construction is well underway on the Department of Communication and Culture’s new building on Third Street. All went according to schedule, and we moved in before the beginning of fall classes. It has been a long wait, but we are excited about the prospects of being located in the heart of campus and in close proximity to the downtown area. The new address, 800 E. Third Street, will give the department a more visible profile on campus, while making us more accessible to our still growing population of undergraduate majors and graduate students.

We continue to grow in terms of faculty as well. This year, we welcome two new faculty members. As a sign of our strong interdisciplinary connections to other units on campus, we hired these faculty in conjunction, respectively, with the American Studies Program and the International Studies Program.

For a joint American studies position in the ethnography of media, we hired Susan Lepselter. Her research and fieldwork concern UFO abduction stories in the broader historical context of American narratives concerned with abduction and captivity. Susan comes to us from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow. She obtained her PhD from the Department of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin, after having earned previous degrees from Columbia University and Wesleyan University.

With International Studies, the department conducted another successful search for a position in global media studies. Stephanie DeBoc, who is in the process of finishing her PhD in critical studies at the University of Southern California, accepted our offer. Her work focuses on film and media co-productions in the Asia-Pacific. When Stephanie begins her position in January 2008, after having completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Japan, she will return to familiar ground. She earned an MA in comparative literature and in East Asian languages and cultures at IU in 2000.

Susan and Stephanie will join three faculty members we hired last year, Karen Bowdre, Susan Seizer, and Jon Simons. With these and other hires the department has made over the last few years, we have been able to maintain and enhance our reputation for top-flight scholarship in the three areas that define the department — rhetoric and public culture, film and media studies, and performance and ethnographic studies — while continuing to build significant interdisciplinary relationships among these areas and between the department and other IU programs.

Part of our department’s innovative reputation owes to its ability to offer students the opportunity to work with leading scholars and teachers either to pursue a specialization in one of these areas or to engage in cross-disciplinary study. Part also owes to the department’s breadth in its study of communication forms in cultural context: from oral culture and speech to theatrical performances and photographs to film, television, and the Internet; from the United States and Latin America to Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

This year, congratulations are in order for Distinguished Professor Richard Bumman, who won the Edward Sapir Book Prize for his co-authored work Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality, and Associate Professor Susan Seizer, who was awarded the Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize for her Srigamas of the Tamil Stage: An Ethnography of Special Drama Artists in South India. Congratulations are also due John Lucaites, who was promoted to full professor. His co-authored book, a study of photography’s status as public art in a democratic society, No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy, is out this year from the University of Chicago Press. In 2008, John will also assume the editorship of flagship journal The Quarterly Journal of Speech.

Other faculty accomplishments include the publication of two timely books by Phaedra Pezzullo: Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics of Pollution, Travel, and Environmental Justice (University of Alabama Press) and a co-edited anthology, Environmental Justice and Environmentalism: The Social Justice Challenge to the Environmental Movement (MIT Press). William Wiethoff’s Crafting the Overseer’s Image (University of South Carolina Press) continues his work on slavery and racial relations in the South.

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas’s co-edited textbook Intercultural Communication (Pearson Education) draws on her extensive pedagogical experience in this area. Blackwell published Jane Goodman and Leila Monaghan’s co-edited textbook, A Cultural Approach to Interpersonal Communication, which arises out of both faculty members’ longtime supervision and revamping of C122 Interpersonal Communication.

This year also saw a few changes in our departmental officers and staff. Robert (continued on page 6)
Faculty


In April, Ted Strifhas was awarded the IU Student Alumni Association’s Student Choice Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching. Undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the university nominate faculty and vote on this highly prestigious award. Ted also received the Trustee’s Teaching Award.


Richard Bauman has been awarded the 2006 Edward Sapir Book Prize for his co-authored work *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). The Sapir Prize is awarded in alternate years by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology to a recent book that makes the most significant contribution to scholarly understanding of language in society. Richard was invited to deliver the keynote address at the second Language in Media Conference at Leeds University in September.

Mary Gray has finished her third year teaching at IU. In fall 2006, Mary taught CMCL’s first stand-alone, service-learning course on community-based media. She was on leave in spring 2007, working to complete her forthcoming book *Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and the Queering of Identity* (NYU Press). Her recent essay “Face Value: Mediating Social Distance and Safety Through Facebook” can be found in the May issue of the sociology journal *Contexts*.

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas gave a presentation on “Barbed Wire Enclosed Spaces: Elites, Ethnic Tensions, and Public Policy” at the 2007 invitational Oxford University Round Table in Oxford, England. At IU, she co-taught a Telluride Association Seminar in Ithaca, New York. She also attended a seminar on civic engagement at high school students from various backgrounds. She was also elected to an at-large member position on the World Communication Association’s Board of Directors, appointed to the Educational Testing Service’s Praxis Speech Communication Advisory Committee, and received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant from the IU offices of the Dean of Faculties and Institutional Development to research the educational value of diversity courses at IU. Finally, in addition to giving a keynote address at the state Student Personnel Association Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in February, Caroline was appointed to serve on the Affirmative Action Committee for the Democrat State Committee. This committee will help put together the national delegate plan for the 2008 National Committee.

Jane Goodman started a new research project on secularism in Algeria and France. To that end, she spent part of last summer in France, funded by grants from the New Frontiers Program and the College Arts and Humanities Institute. She published *A Cultural Guide to Interpersonal Communication: Essential Readings* (Blackwell, 2007, with Leila Monaghan), which was inspired by her redesign of CMCL’s C122 Interpersonal Communication course. In the spring, she was invited to give a paper at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School of Communication. She also began a two-year tenure as the department’s director of graduate studies.

Robert Terrill continues as director of undergraduate studies and advisor for Lambda Pi Eta. He had the honor of being elected to the Bloomington Faculty Council for a two-year term, beginning in fall 2006, which has given him the opportunity to learn a great deal. He also was given the opportunity to publish an essay honoring his late mentor at the University of Arkansas, Janice Hocker Rushing, in the *Southern Communication Journal*.

Cindy Smith won the 2007 Lambda Pi Eta Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching. Her co-authored chapter “You Were on Indian Land: Memories of Native American on Alcatraz Island” (with Teresa Bergman) will be included in the upcoming collection *Spaces of Public Memory: Rhetorics of Museums and Memorials* (edited by Carole Blair, Greg Dickinson, and Brian O’Toole).

John Lucaites recently published *No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy* (Chicago, 2007) with his co-author Robert Hariman. He and Hariman have also published an essay in the June issue of the *Journal of American History* and were honored with this year’s Paul Boase Prize for Scholarship by Ohio University. This past year, he was a research fellow at the Poynter Center on the Bloomington campus, participating in an interdisciplinary faculty seminar on memory, aesthetics, and ethics. He was appointed editor elect for the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. He will spend this academic year as a faculty fellow for the College Arts and Humanities Institute, working on his next project, *Seeing and Being Seen as a Citizen*.

Jon Simons has been settling down in his Hoosier home, getting used to driving on the right side and wielding a chainsaw. He completed a co-edited anthology, titled *Images: A Reader*, presented a couple of conference papers about emotions and (continued on page 4)
Two new faculty join CMCL

Susan Lepselter joins the Department of Communication and Culture and the American Studies Program after completing an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship at the Penn Humanities Forum at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her PhD in folklore and social anthropology from the University of Texas, Austin, in 2005. Her research explores the poetics of both popular media and everyday life, focusing particularly on American captivity narratives, themes of gender and class, and discourses of memory in American social life. Her articles have appeared in Public Culture and in Histories of the Future (edited by Daniel Rosenberg and Susan Harding) and E.T. Cultures: Anthropology in Outer Space, edited by Debora Battaglia. Lepselter’s dissertation, based on fieldwork in Texas and Nevada, is called “The Flight of the Ordinary: Narrative and Poetics, Power and UFOs in the American Uncanny.”

Stephanie DeBoer will be joining the Department of Communication and Culture as an assistant professor in global film and media in the 2008 spring semester. She is currently a JSPS/SSRC postdoctoral fellow at Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo, where she is expanding her research on Japanese and Chinese language film and media co-productions. Her scholarship often sits at the intersection of multiple disciplinary and cultural contexts — across Asia-Pacific locations of media production, such as Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Beijing, and across such disciplinary fields as film and media studies, cultural geography, and area and transnational studies. She is now also taking advantage of Tokyo’s rich media scene — watching films, visiting media installations, and taking in the content on her cell phone. This, undoubtedly, will contribute to her future courses on Asia-Pacific film and media, global media studies, and media technologies. In addition, she enjoys yoga, travel, and listening to music.

Dissent from War, Kumarian Press, Robert Ivie

The rhetorical presumption of war’s necessity makes violence regrettable, but seemingly sane, and functions to shame anyone who opposes military action. Ivie proposes that the presence of dissent is actually a healthy sign of democratic citizenship and a responsible and productive act, which has been dangerously mis-cast as a threat to national security.

Ivie, a former U.S. Navy petty officer, puts a microscope to the language of war supporters throughout history and follows the lives and memories of soldiers and anti-war activists who have dealt with degrees of confusion and guilt about their opposition to war. Arguing that informed dissent plays out largely in the realm of rhetoric, he equips readers with strategies for resisting the dehumanizing language used in war propaganda. Through his careful study of language strategies, he makes it possible to foster a community where dissenting voices are valued and vital.

Communication & Culture

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Communication & Culture and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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Student News

Undergraduate awards, honors

During the 2006–07 academic year, a number of CMCL majors were nominated for Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and largest academic honor society. In fall 2006, the following seniors were invited to join: Sarah Baldwin, BA’07; Natalie Edler, BA’07; Matthew Skiba, BA’06; and Jeffrey Smith, BA’07. Additionally, Nicole Skovgard, BA’07, and Kristen Huff, BA’06, were welcomed into Phi Beta Kappa in spring 2007.

An unprecedented number of departmental scholarships were awarded to outstanding continuing students for the 2007–08 academic year. The $1,500 Norvelle Scholarship was presented to Kacy Ruklic, and MacDowell Giliam Scholarships of $1,000 each were given to Thomas Cook, Dustin Eagan, Ashley Elskus, Branden Hayward, Mark Isom, Eric LaMagedeleine, Jessica McCreeght, and Jordan Sanders.

CMCL majors excelled on the athletic front as well as in the world of academics. Leila Vaziri, BA’07, took home the gold medal in the 50-meter backstroke at the 2007 FINA World Championships, tying her own world-record time set in the semifinals.

— Tara Kaufman

Graduate student accomplishments

PhD candidate Matt Yockey has an article, titled “Somewhere in Time: Utopia and the Return of Superman,” appearing in the fall 2007 issue of The Velvet Light Trap.

Katie Williams had a book review published in the spring ‘07 issue of Women’s Studies in Communication.


Chad Beck was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, a Louise McNutt Graduate Fellowship, and a Latin American Fellowship for his research on TV Azteca in Mexico and its U.S. Spanish language network Azteca America.

Shelley Bradfield’s journal article “Text and Context: ‘The Case of Home Affairs’” was accepted for a 2008 special edition of African Studies on Feminism and Contemporary Culture in South Africa. At the Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference in March, Shelley presented a paper on “The Paradox of Women Journalists: Tracing the Character Type of the ‘Girl Reporter.’” She presented another paper, on “How to Lose (Critics and not Fans) … in 10 Days: The Dialectic of Review and Reception,” at the Southern States Communication Association’s conference in March.

Kathleen McConnell received the Robert R. Ferrell Endowed Fellowship and College of Arts and Science Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2007–08.

Suncem Kocer received two research grants for the summer, IU Office of International Programs pre-dissertation research grant, and a David C. Skomp summer fellowship. She also gave papers at the meetings of the American Anthropological Association, the San Francisco State University Film Studies, and the Association of Central Euroasian Studies.

Jason Sperb is currently co-editing a collection of essays on cinephilia in digital culture for Wallflower Press. His essay “Sensing an Intellectual Nemesis,” which won the CMCL Virginia Gunderson Award last year, recently appeared in the fall issue of Film Criticism. His essay, “Empty Spaces: Mapping the Chaotic Milieu of the Modernist City in Sunrise (1927),” is forthcoming in a special issue of Studies in the Literary Imagination. Finally, Jason’s first book, The Kubrick Facade (2006), received a very favorable review in Choice Magazine this past summer.

Faculty, staff news

(continued from page 2)

politics, and taught new graduate and undergraduate classes.

This past semester, Yeidy Rivero was invited to present on her new research on Cuban commercial television at several institutions. Her first essay on the subject, “Broadcasting Modernity: Cuban Commercial Television 1950–1953,” was recently published in Cinema Journal. In addition, she wrote an article on the ABC show “Ugly Betty” for Ms. Magazine and was selected to participate in the “Anatomy of an Idea” seminar in Burbank, Calif., sponsored by ABC and the International Radio and Television Society Foundation.

Robert Ivie’s newest book, Dissent from War (Kumanian Press, 2007), addresses questions of conscience, communication, and democratic citizenship to advance ways of resisting the dehumanizing language of war propaganda. His newest course is a senior seminar on peace-building communication. His most recent article, “ Fighting Terror by Rite of Redemption and Reconciliation,” appears in Rhetoric and Public Affairs (summer 2007) as part of a special issue on rhetoric and the war in Iraq. In September, Robert presented a paper at the Euricom Colloquium on Communication and Peace, held in Piran, Slovenia. He is the editor for Presidential Studies Quarterly’s special issue on “Shadows of Democracy in Presidential Rhetoric,” due out in December.

Ilana Gershon is starting a new research project, titled “The Break-Up: Disconnecting over New Technologies,” in which she investigates how people end romantic relationships using new technologies. She edited a special issue of Ethnos called “ Reflexivity in Other’s Contexts” (December 2006), a comparative exploration of how different social orders inspire different types of reflexivity.

Gregory A. Waller enjoyed his sabbatical, during which he lectured in Australia and Canada, worked on his current research project (“Japan-in-America: The Turn of the 20th Century”), and recorded commentaries for two films in the forthcoming Treasures of American Film Archive DVD set.

Joan Hawkins was recently one of four IU faculty to receive a Summer IU Active Learning Grant. The grant is designed to fund the course development for an undergraduate History of the American Avant-garde Cinema course, which Joan is teaching this fall. Her “Now Is the Time of the Assassins: Todd Haynes’ Film about Rimbaud” was published in Todd Haynes, James Morrison, ed. (London: Wallflower Press: 2007). “The Sleazy Pedigree of Todd Haynes” will appear in Sleaze Artists, Jeffrey Scione, ed. (forthcoming from Duke). Joan recently contracted to write six columns for Flow, an online journal of television and new media. The first of these, “Dish Towns U.S.A. (or Rural Screens, Part One)” appeared in July at http://flowtv.org/?p=525. She is one of the organizers of the Film Indiana: Screening Shorts Conference.

4
Before 1960

Phyllis Ann (Hiatt) Welch, BA’52, and her husband, R. Dewey Welch, BS’52, have been together since meeting in their freshman year of college. They have two children, Susan H. Spyker, BS’81, and Patrick C. Welch, BA’83. R. Dewey, retired chair and CEO of Burger Packaging Corp., Elkhart, Ind., recipient of IU’s 1990 Distinguished Alumni Service Award, and a former member of the IU Foundation Board of Directors, was named to IUP’s Presidents Circle this year.

1960s

Katherine “Kiki” Wayman Mehner, BS’69, MBA’73, owns her own business, Entrepreneur’s Source, which provides business coaching. She lives and works in Annandale, N.J., and she has lived on the East Coast since 1973.

1970s

Cydney Finkel Fox, BA’72, received a doctor of audiology degree from the School of Audiology at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Elkins Park, Pa. She lives in Granada Hills, Calif., and practices at Audiology Services of Newhall.

1980s

Francis “Frank” Eagan, BA’83, is director of corporate relations at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. His wife, Tonja (Conour), BA’90, MPA’94, is CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana in Indianapolis. The Eagans have two sons.

Kendall L. Harnett, Cert/BA’89, is the producer and director of the documentary Freewheels 55: The Fifty-Five-Year History of the Little 500. The DVD features 70 race finishes, 80 personal interviews, and behind-the-scenes footage of the 1979 Academy Award-winning film Breaking Away. As a student at IU Bloomington, Harnett rode for the 1989 Little 500 champion Cinzano team and later coached the Landsharks women’s team. He is currently making documentaries and teaching film in Maine. The documentary is available at www.little500.net.

1990s

Mary Elizabeth Knish, BA’90, is director of communications at AARP Tennessee. Her “Choices for Care” campaign received honorable mention honors from PR News’s Nonprofit PR Awards 2006 in the advocacy campaign and lobbying efforts category. She works and lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Angela M. Cody, BA’92, of Denver, writes, “I spent 14 years in the U.S. Air Force, five years in a ‘Corporate America’ sales job, and discovered the beauty of home-based business and being my own boss. No more being an employee.” Her web site is www.vmdirect.com/seemetal.

Thomas W. Adams, BA’93, is the founder and president of Epic Eyewear, which deals exclusively with private-practice optometrists. His wife, Lisa L. Stafford, BS’94, OD’96, has a private optometry practice in Franklin, Ind. They live in Lebanon with their daughter, Samantha Grace Adams. Tom can be reached at TAdams@EpicEyewear.com.

Darin L. Messer, BA’95, participated in the 60-hour Potomac Highlands Epic Adventure Race over Memorial Day weekend in West Virginia’s Monongahela National Forest. “The hair on my arms and neck were standing up, and I had chills knowing that I was about to cross off another goal off my life list — to complete a multi-day adventure race,” he writes about the end of the race. “This was by far the most physically taxing, mentally draining, and spiritually uplifting experience any of us had attempted to conquer.” Of the 18 teams that toed the starting line, Messer’s team was one of five that completed the entire course. Messer is the president and treasurer of the Johnson County (Ind.) Chapter of the IUAA.

The Rev. Lisa Marchal, BA’96, recently completed a work-study leave at the University of London, studying human rights. She has begun an internship with Results, a Washington, D.C.-based non-governmental organization that works to eliminate poverty and hunger. "I hope to partner my vocation in the church with this human rights background to help me dig deeper into social-justice work," she writes. Marchal is a member of the IU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board.

Carolyn Novak Wiethoff, MA’98, was honored by IU Bloomington’s Commission on Multicultural Understanding with its 2006-07 COMU Faculty Award. She is a clinical assistant professor of management in the Kelley School of Business in Bloomington. A member of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Student Support Services Office Advisory Board, Wiethoff has given a number of presentations about Indiana Equality, a statewide organization that advocates for the rights of GLBT individuals.

2000s

Stanley W. Florek, BA’00, is pursuing an MBA in sustainable business at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute in Bainbridge Island, Wash. “As a result of my training, I founded an information-technology consulting firm, Advantive,” he writes. “It is employee-owned; decision-making and profits are distributed at all levels of the company, and our culture is one of trust, accountability, and caring. I have not regretted leaving my day job for one minute. Since the start of 2007, we have grown from two to nine clients and are on track to double our revenues [from] last year.” Florek is chief operating officer of the company and lives in Seattle.

Philip J. Popovich, BA’01, moved to Mesa, Ariz., in March and works as the marketing director for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Matthew R. Cramer, BA’02, is a production assistant at television station KETV in Austin, Texas. His wife, Allison (Mehring), MBA’03, is a marketing manager for the retail point-of-sale business for Dell Inc. in Austin. She focuses on complexity management. The couple were married on Aug. 19, 2006, and live in Austin.


Adrian D. Elibott, BA’02, and Eric M. Satz, BS’02, were married on May 28, 2006, in St. Louis. The couple met while attending IU Bloomington. Eric writes that they were thrilled to have attending their wedding many college friends, who honored the couple with an “IU groom’s cake.” The couple live in Atlanta and can be reached at ericsatz2@yahoo.com.

J.D. Malcom, BA’03, is a mortgage analyst at American Mortgage and Realty in Indianapolis. Malcom lives in Indianapolis.

Emily A. Detroy, BA’04, is a project manager at Coolfire Media in St. Louis. She has worked at the production company for more than six months and helped launch their new web site, www.coolfiremedia.com. Detroy lives in St. Louis.
Chair’s message
(continued from page 1)

Terrill, who continues to do a wonderful job in his capacity as director of undergraduate studies, was joined by Ted Strifhas, who gracefully and successfully assumed the position of director of film and media resources, and Jane Goodman, who, in her first year as director of graduate studies, recruited a distinguished class of incoming graduate students. We also welcomed a new staff member, Kathy Teige, as graduate secretary. Kathy replaced Bonnie Clegdenning who had worked in this position in the department for many years. Kathy joins Amy Cornell, Tara Kaufman, Sabrina Walker, and Deb Munson, who ensure on a daily basis that the department runs smoothly and that our many students’ advising needs are met.

Our graduate students continue to present papers at conferences and pursue activities that otherwise enhance their visibility in the profession. Several have won highly competitive and prestigious awards. These include Chad Beck, who, for his dissertation research on Mexican television, globalization, and cultural identity, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship and the Louise B. McNutt Graduate Fellowship, and Kathleen McConnell, who won a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship and a Robert H. Ferrell Endowed Fellowship for her dissertation research on protest rhetoric and race.

I have been very pleased to serve as acting chair of the department over the last year. In my new job, I have been more impressed than ever with the quality and commitment of our faculty, students, and staff. After I step down this summer, Greg Waller will return from his sabbatical leave to resume the chairship and teaching.

More information about the many activities of CMCL faculty and graduate students is available on our departmental web site at www.indiana.edu/~cmcl. Here you can find a listing of the lectures, screenings, and public events sponsored by the department. You are most welcome to attend any of these events. In the meantime, please keep us informed of your activities and accomplishments. We are very grateful for your advocacy and support, especially at a time when state funding for higher education continues to fall. Even the smallest gift can help to fund activities that benefit the department at large, including the funding of visiting speakers, graduate student research and travel support, and special programs for undergraduates.

— Barbara Klinger