

The second graduate research forum for Spring 2007 will be held on **Wednesday April 11th** at 4:30pm. The location will be the Rosemont Rm. In the Connelly Center. This is an opportunity for both graduate students and faculty to share research papers that are at any stage of the invention process. Take this as an opportunity to get feedback on your research and also to practice presenting in front of your peers. This is a great chance to practice for ECA which is rapidly approaching. Presentations will be approximately 10-12 minutes followed by additional time for questions and feedback. All interested parties should be prepared to send a short overview of their research by **Monday April 9th**. All research information should be sent to Adria Eichner at adria.eichner@villanova.edu.

The Communication Department Graduate Program Newsletter: The Medium

Graduate Students Presenting at ECA 2007

The Eastern Communication Association Conference will be held April 26th through April 29th of 2007. The conference location will be Providence, Rhode Island and all graduate faculty and students are welcome to attend. Three graduate communication students will be participating in a panel that will be presented on Saturday April 28th from 1:45—3:00pm. The panel will consist of Mina Ivanova, George Boone, and Julia Morris with Dr. Christina Morus acting as the respondent. This panel will focus on looking at new media from the theoretical perspectives of Kenneth Burke. Each student chose a specific form of new media to evaluate in the tradition of Burkean thought.

Julia Morris is studying the action of "blogging" in the online world. She is using Sociolinguistic literature as her foundational argument along with the concept of "webspeak." She is also utilizing Computer Mediated Communication as that is the most prevalent of terms used to identify the language choices and writing used to communicate with others on the Internet. Her interest lies in how these terms are entered into the online conversations either with ease or with difficulty and how the terms can either unite or divide those in conversation.

George Boone will be talking about Burke's identification in relation to McLuhan's description of technology as an extension of man. After integrating these two concepts, he will move to a discussion of character identification versus objectification in media. He will then argue that the objectification/identification dichotomy is not appropriate for video games. Instead identification is better placed in opposition to control when in the context of video games.

Mina Ivanova will explore the application of Burke's concepts of identification and consubstantiation to pod casts. Her work seeks to highlight their relevance and also their limitations. One of the features of new media which makes them distinct is their interactivity and portability. We can no longer apply the traditional Aristotelian model of communication: sender-message-receiver, because now the roles of producers and consumers have to a great extent merged. In addition, dissemination of pod casts is also in the hands of both producers and consumers. She will also apply Walter Ong's idea of secondary orality to pod casts - they are a product of literate culture, and they are essentially "written" (recorded) info, but in the form of speech.

Summer and Fall Courses

Classes are held from 6:30pm to 9:30pm on the days indicated:

Summer Courses:

Com 8207 Organizational Communications, Dr. Maurice Hall, Tuesdays

Com 8306 Media Production, Professor Seth Mulliken, Wednesdays

Fall Courses:

Com 8002 Quantitative Research in Comm. Dr. Emory Woodard, Tuesdays

COM 8100 Strategic Comm Theory, Dr. Christina Morus, Mondays

COM 8101 Persuasive Performance, Dr. Heidi Rose, Thursdays

COM 8300 Public Relations Writing, Professor Bill Cowen, Tuesdays

COM 8307 Visual Communication and Culture, Dr. Gordon Coonfield, Wednesdays

War and Rape: The Body of Woman as a Spoil of War

On March 15th, Dr. Christina Morus and Dr. Sally Scholtz gave a presentation about the role of rape in warfare. The lecture was held in the Cinema of the Connelly Center. Dr. Scholtz began the lecture with an introduction to the topic of rape in war and an in-depth look at the legal history of this phenomena. She focused on how rape was often looked at as a natural outgrowth of war and how this impacted the legal sanctions that were placed upon it. She also noted how rape degrades, demoralizes, and dehumanizes the victims and has recently been used as a method of ethnic cleansing. Dr. Christina Morus then explained the case study of Bosnia in her lecture entitled: Bosnia: The Land of Rape and Honey. She gave a detailed history of the area formerly known as Yugoslavia and focused on how these events led to the genocide that took place in the early 1990's. Dr. Morus focused specifically on the Serbian policy of rape as genocide (cont. p.3)



Important Information about Spring Deadlines and Graduation

com-mu-ni-ca-tio
n (kə-myū'nī-

kā'shən) 
n.

1. The act of communicating; transmission.
- a. The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, writing, or behavior.
- b. Interpersonal rapport.

communications
(used with a sing. or pl. verb)

- a. The art and technique of using words effectively to impart information or ideas.
- b. The field of study concerned with the transmission of information by various means, such as print or broadcasting.
- c. Any of various professions involved with the transmission of information, such as advertising, broadcasting, or journalism.

Graduation is right around the corner, and there are important dates and times to remember. Let this serve as a friendly reminder of what to keep in mind as the end of the semester draws to a close. Any additional information can be found at www.villanova.edu/studentlife/specprograms/commencement/.

-Friday April 13th: Master's Thesis is due in the final form to the Graduate Studies Office for those who are expecting to complete the degree requirements by the end of the spring semester.

-Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Saturday, May 19th at 5pm. All graduates are invited to attend and sit with their families.

-Commencement will be held on Sunday May 20th at 10am.

-The individual colleges hold receptions for the students and their guests following the commencement ceremony. This is where graduates will receive their actual diplomas. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences will hold their reception at the ground floor cafeteria of Dougherty Hall. This reception should go no later than 1pm.

Achieving Your Master's Degree While Working Full-Time:

A Few Questions for Chris Nielwocki

What is your full-time job?

-I am an IT analyst for Villanova University and the Vista Group Coordinator for the College of Engineering. I'm in charge of managing online classes for that specific college.

How far along are you in the Graduate Communication major, and where did you do your undergraduate degree?

-I am about 9 credits shy of graduating, and I did my undergrad here at Villanova. I've been here over 8 years now.

Why did you choose to attend Villanova, and what do you hope to do with your degree when you graduate?

-I chose Villanova because it is free schooling since I work for the university. I hope to work for a corporate advertising agency in the creative department when I graduate.

What are the best and worst things about working full time and getting your Master's degree at the same time?

-The best thing for me is that my bosses are really understanding about the fact that I am still in school. They let me leave work early if I need to study for a test or do some schoolwork. The worst thing would have to be that school definitely cuts out a lot of your social life. I usually have to come right from work to go to class or the library.



First Spring Research Forum of 2007 is a Success

On February 8th, the Graduate Communication Department held its first research forum of Spring 2007. Both students and faculty were encouraged to present their current projects in order to receive feedback and questions. The forum was held in the Rosemont Room of the Connelly Center at 4:30pm. Three students and one faculty member presented their work to those in attendance. After the presentations were completed there was a very informative question and answer period. Here is a brief overview of what each person presented.

Dr. Leonard Shyles

Digital diversity: beyond content demographics to production, access, and exposure

Dr. Shyles's study is an effort to learn whether the digital transition in broadcasting has enhanced diversity in **production** and **access**, or whether it has merely created a greater cultural divide. Since 2000, the television medium has undergone a transition from analog to digital platforms, impacting all aspects of the industry, from production to storage to transmission to access, enabling people who were once just audience members to become video producers and exhibitors. Among the questions now confronting diversity researchers is determining what segments of the public have taken advantage of these new capabilities. Dr. Shyles will be using content analysis and survey methods to answer his research questions regarding the digital transition in broadcasting.,

Mina Ivanova

Changing Media Representations of the Gypsies in Bulgaria

Mina is exploring the Changing Media Representations of the Roma, or Gyp-

sies, in Bulgaria. She is looking at the way both Gypsies and Bulgarians are responding to these changing representations in the context of increased focus in the European Union on equal opportunities and non-diversity. Mina is specifically looking at photos that portray the Roma in both positive and negative ways. She wants to analysis how these photos contribute to the changing perceptions of the gypsies in European society. Mina will look at whether these changing perceptions can serve as a catalyst for improvement in the dominant culture's treatment of the gypsies.

Carrie Neff

Calling for Liberation of Narratives: South Africa's AIDS Epidemic

Carrie wants to use narrative theory as a basis for her work on the AIDS epidemic in South Africa. She aims to create a health (cont p. 4)



George shares his ideas at the forum

War and Rape (Continued)

that was used on women in the region known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. She noted that there were more than 30 rape camps set up in schools, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, and factories. 20,000 women and girls would become victims of rape in this deliberate military process. Forced impregnating or killing of the victims were methods to speed up the process of ethnic cleansing. Dr. Morus also focused on several reasons why women are not given

justice as victims of rape. She noted that women will silence their stories, will become ostracized from the communities, or will not be viewed as equal in terms of human rights. She reinforced that crimes against women must be seen as crimes against humanity and that acts of rape must be punished. Dr. Morus and Dr. Scholtz finished the lecture with suggestions for helping the situation in Darfur

where mass rapes and genocide have been reported. Their suggestions include alerting local politicians to concerns over Darfur and getting involved in student organizations that work to end this ongoing tragedy. Rape and war are not simply things of the past.



Research Forum (Cont)

campaign that breaks through the overwhelming stigmas that surround this topic. South Africa's government has failed to manage the disease and is continuously "lambasted for its lethargic response to a pandemic that kills close to a thousand people a day" ("A War Still," 2005, p. 45). Amidst widespread government denial, the millions of infected people have been silenced by a deep-seated and alienating stigma that has been cultivated from a culture of ignorance and fear. What little progress has been made is the result of health promotion campaigns established to spread awareness of the epidemic's gravity. Carrie aims to create a campaign that uses narrative theory in order to break through the stigmas surrounding AIDS in South Africa.

George Boone

Community Created and Transformed in the Cyber world? An Analysis of Identification in Video Games

George is researching the role of identification and control within the world of video games. Identification within the context of new media opens up many avenues of research, in particular the process of identifying with video game characters. Video games allow individuals not only to identify with certain virtual representations of people, but also allows people to control that character. Thus, a new dialectic tension can be observed, the tension between controlling a character and identification with that character. Video games are often based on television series or cartoon programs and allow players to "play as" certain television characters, thereby furthering an identifying relationship between the characters in those programs and introducing a controlling aspect into that relationship. For video games, identification and character choice immediately brings issues of control into the conversation. George plans on exploring many of these issues within his research.

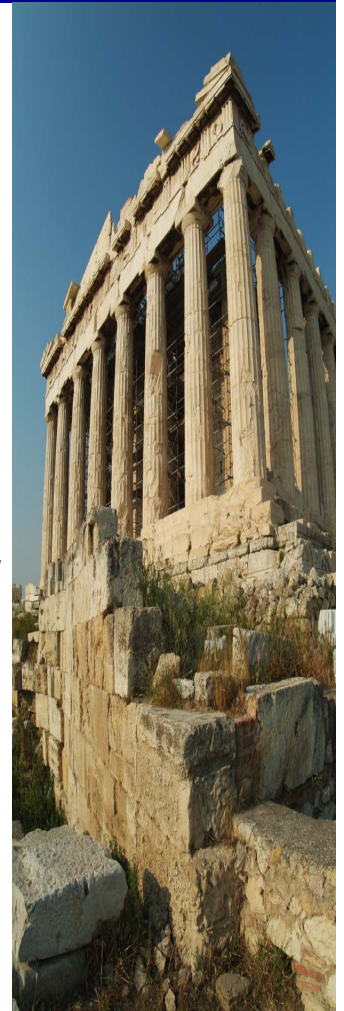


George, Mina, and Carrie share a smile after presenting at the first spring research forum of 2007.

A Review of Dr. Kristin Langellier's Visit

Dr. Kristin Langellier of the University of Maine visited Villanova on Monday March 12th and Tuesday March 13th. She spoke to two communication classes during her visit. Her first presentation was in the Qualitative Research Methods course which is taught by Dr. Susan Mackey-Kallis. In this talk, Dr. Langellier focused on how she views the research process and how her personal style affects her work. She talked about her use of storytelling and narrative as a focal point for her research and writing. The topics that Dr. Langellier has studied include: women's storytelling, the quilting culture, breast cancer narratives, Franco-American storytelling, and the Somali Narrative. A strong focus was put on the fact that storytelling and narratives are co-constructed by both interviewer and interviewee. The interviewees can use the storytelling as a way to heal the wounds of their specific ordeal. On Tuesday, Dr. Langellier spoke to Dr. Heidi Rose's undergraduate class about her latest project on Somali Identity. Somalis have been forced to flee their homeland and many are settling in Maine. Dr. Langellier is working on a narrative project that makes use of a series of conversations and meetings with the community. Through this project she hopes to create a collection of real stories about the Somali immigration and transition to Maine. These stories can then be shared with future generations as a way of preserving the experiences for years to come.

In just a few short weeks several of the graduate students in the Communication program will embark on a five week program that will take them to many historical sites in Greece. The communication discipline has its origins in the study of the spoken word and its power to move and persuade. Greece is the site of much of the history of the spoken word, from epic storytelling, to oratory, to drama, to the messages of the oracles. This is an opportunity for graduate students in Communication to gain important insights into the roots of the discipline and make contemporary applications through hands-on experience in Greece. Students will have the chance to study the teachings of important scholars of rhetoric and philosophy and the historical foundations of the contemporary study of rhetoric and democracy. Some of the readings may include excerpts from Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Rhetoric, Plato's Phaedrus and Gorgias, and the writings of Isocrates, Protagoras, and Homer. Course instruction will take place both in traditional classrooms and in specific ancient performance sites. The students' primary work—analysis and performance of significant rhetorical and literary texts—needs to be grounded in the specifically historical, social, and cultural contexts, and much of this is gleaned from the physical space. Thus, travel to these sites is an integral part of the academic program. All of this information plus more can be seen at <http://www.internationalstudies.villanova.edu/summer/greece.htm> If this looks like something that would be of interest for your summer travels in 2008, contact Dr. Susan Mackey-Kallis. Here is a tentative look at the schedule of travel for this year's Greece trip:



Summer 2007 Itinerary

- 23rd May: Depart Philadelphia, PA via Lufthansa Airlines to Athens Greece
- 24th May to 30th May: Stanley Hotel, Athens Greece
- 30th May: Overnight Ferry, Piraeus to Heraklion Crete
- 31st May to 5th June: Malia Park Hotel, Malia, Crete
- 5th June to 13th June: Avra Hotel, Santorini
- 13th June to 18th June: Hotel Villa Apollonia, Delphi
- 18th June to 22nd June: Europa Hotel, Olympia
- 22nd June to 26th June: John and George Hotel, Tolo
- 26th June to 29th June: Stanley Hotel, Athens, Greece