What's New With You?

Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to. Visit ***www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni*** to share your news online. The information you provide will be used in future publications. You may also update your contact information, nominate a distinguished alum or make a gift to the college.

Professor Berryman-Fink Retires After More Than Three Decades at UC

Cindy Berryman-Fink

Cindy Berryman-Fink retired on Jan. 1, 2009, after nearly 31 years of service to the department. Since 1978, she has been actively engaged in university, department and professional leadership roles. She taught thousands of students in undergraduate and graduate courses on gender communication, organizational communication, organizational diversity, applied communication research methods and interpersonal communication. Her roles included professor, department head, vice-provost, interim dean and chair of the Diversity Council.

Mitchel Livingston, Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, recalled Berryman-Fink's love for both scholarship and her students.

"Cindy has been a wonderful Diversity Council partner and friend, and without question, one of the finest faculty members I have ever known," he said.

Department head Teresa Sabourin echoed that praise.

"She was an invaluable colleague who made time for everybody," said Sabourin. "She knew the rules and the right way for things to be done, and could always be counted on for guidance."

"My 30-career in the communication department at UC has given me so many opportunities," said Berryman-Fink. "I will always carry with me the gifts of these amazing opportunities, joyful experiences and priceless relationships provided to me in this wonderful career at the University of Cincinnati."

Berryman-Fink and her husband, Chuck Fink, now live in Asheville, N.C., where she has started a pet care business and volunteers as a literacy and ESL tutor.

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Making Connections with Alumni

Annual event provides grad students with real-world examples of career possibilities

On Tuesday, March 3, the department's graduate program hosted the third annual Making Connections event. Organized and hosted by Assistant Professor William Jennings, director of the graduate internship and residency program, Making Connections brings together current graduate students and graduate alumni to show real-world examples of the career options open to communication majors.

Jeni Kues (center) talks about her career path with (left to right) Assistant Professor Suzanne Boys, Mark Jorgensen and incoming student Mandy Palmer.

Eric Winegardner (standing), the 2008 Communication Alumnus of the Year, talks to incoming and current graduate students about his work with Boston-based Monster International.

Alumni presenters at this year's event included Mark Jorgensen ('96), Jeni Kues ('02) and undergraduate alumnus Eric Winegardner ('98).

Jorgensen, who recently left his position as the director at the UC Foundation to launch Global Recruiters of Batesville, talked about making career transitions. He said a key factor in his success has been a willingness to adapt and change. Also, he pointed out the importance of building bonds with more experienced colleagues who can provide help and guidance.

"I believe all of us as alumni have benefited so greatly from our UC education that we should 'give back' by sharing our time, our talent and our financial resources," he said.

Kues is director of corporate communications for i-wireless, a mobile phone start-up developing a loyalty program with the Kroger grocery chain that will sell telecom products and services to store customers. She emphasized how important her education has been in helping her to work with a diverse group of people and make the creative decisions necessary in a start-up business environment.

Winegardner, who was last year's Communication Alumnus of the Year, is the vice president of client adoption for Boston-based Monster Worldwide, the parent company of online career giant Monster.com. He told students they should look for work that involves the things that they really love to do, that they are good at, and they can get paid for. He used a diagram to emphasize his point, explaining that students should look for fulfilling job opportunities where these three areas of their working lives overlap.

All three speakers mentioned that curiosity is a central asset for top job performance, and said that they could never have predicted the paths their careers have followed since graduation.

Department faculty members Kurt Neuwirth, Amber Erickson, Teresa Sabourin, Suzanne Boys, LisaMarie Luccioni and Steve Depoe attended the event along with 15 graduate students. A networking session followed the speakers' presentation, and several students made potentially valuable internship and career connections.

"Visiting campus and personally meeting tomorrow's workforce was a rejuvenating experience," said Winegardner. "I think I may have gotten just as much out of it as the students did!"

If you would like to present at next year's Making Connections event, please contact department head Teresa Sabourin at teresa.sabourin@uc.edu or (513) 556-4440.

UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati

From the Head

Dept. Head Teresa Sabourin

Dear Alumni,

I hope this has been a busy and prosperous year for you. We in the Department of Communication have had a very productive year that we would like to share with you in this newsletter.

When you next come to visit us you will notice that we have moved. To accommodate our growth in faculty and students (700 undergraduates, 20 graduate students), the department has moved to the first floor of McMicken Hall. We are very happy with our new home and are thankful to have the additional space for our rapidly growing department.

We always enjoy hearing about your experiences and would love to take you on a tour of our new offices. Visit the department's Web site at **www.artsci.uc.edu/communication** to keep abreast of the department's latest news, and always feel free to e-mail or call.

Stay in touch,

Teresa Sabourin
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Departmental News

Faculty News

Assistant Professor **Nancy Jennings** worked with colleagues at the Annenberg School of Communication in Philadelphia, Pa., to study children's literacy learning outcomes and children's interactions with characters from Super Why, a PBS Raising Readers program. Her research also included an examination of the para-social interactions between children and the program's characters. Jennings and her colleagues released a series of reports on the project. A related manuscript, "Educational Television as Mediated Literacy Environments for Preschoolers," was accepted for publication by Learning, Media and Technology.

Department Head **Teresa Sabourin's** article, "Making Sense of Abuse: Account Analyses of Male Batterers," was published in Family Violence: Communication Processes.

Associate Adjunct Professor **LisaMarie Luccioni** gave the graduation commencement address at ITT Technical Institute's Norwood campus. In April, she spoke at UC's You See Potential leadership conference. Her speaking engagements are scheduled to continue into the spring, when she speaks at UC's Diversity Conference April 15 and at the UC Women's Leadership Conference, "Got Image? Woman Leaders Wanted."

Assistant Professor **John Lynch** was nominated for the B. Aubrey Fisher Award for the best article in Western Journal of Speech in 2008 for his article, "Geography, Genealogy and Genetics." He will also participate in the Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee for UC and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. The committee reviews proposed research on embryonic stem cells.

Associate Professor **Heather Zoller** is now an associate editor at Management Communication Quarterly. Her organizational identity, image and issue management class is conducting a service-learning project with Cincinnati Bridges for a Just Community, helping the organization assess its profile and image.

Fullbright Award Takes Fairhurst to Sweden

Gail Fairhurst

Professor Gail Fairhurst is spending this April at Lund University in Sweden, thanks to support from a 2009 Fulbright Award. The prestigious award allows her to further investigate leadership discourse, a research area she finds particularly interesting.

"The opportunity to receive a Fulbright, travel and learn from a great group of colleagues is an opportunity of a lifetime," she said. "I am most grateful for this chance."

Fairhurst is regarded as one of the top leadership scholars in the communication discipline. Her work includes more than 20 years of consulting and training for business and industry, and her most recent book, "Discursive Leadership: In Conversation with Leadership Psychology" (Sage, 2007) has garnered international attention.

While in Sweden, Fairhurst will work with Dr. Mats Andresson and students and faculty in the College of Business Administration. Many of the faculty members share her interest in leadership from the perspective of language and social interaction, the role of power in shaping such interaction, and the ways in which identities and relationships form through discourse.

Student & Alumni News

PRSSA Chapter Wraps Up an Exciting Year

The UC chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) has had a busy year. New projects, a prestigious accreditation and a major move gave chapter members plenty of reasons to be involved and enthusiastic over the past 12 months.

The most physical change for the PRSSA chapter involved the creation of the COMMunity House, a residence for communication students in the Stratford Heights complex. Along with providing a well-equipped, spacious home for communication students, the house offers students easier access to communications student organizations, internships, faculty, research projects and special events.

The chapter also launched three exciting projects this year. A team of students is competing in Donate Life, Ohio!, a state-wide campaign competition that works to register residents as organ donors. The team recently reached its target number of donor registrations and is preparing for its final presentation, which takes place in May.

Chapter members are also competing in the Bateman Case Study, one of the most prestigious public relations competitions in the country. This year's client, the Consumer Banking Association, asked participants to educate high school students on being financially prepared and equipped for college. The team has implemented activities at Oak Hills High School and submitted its final report.

The chapter also launched Cinfluence, a nonprofit public relations firm, to give students a chance to develop strong leadership and teamwork skills through real-world experiences. The firm is working with the UC Accreditation Committee to implement a plan to educate the UC student body about the importance and benefits of accreditation. Cinfluence expects to conduct its first activities in April.

In addition to these campaigns, the chapter brings in speakers from a range of specialties to create networking opportunities and help students understand their many career options. This year's guests included Betsy Ross, CEO and co-president of Game Day Communications, Jeffrey Warman, executive creative director for Northlich and Carrie Krysanick, public relations director for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

All this work paid off for the chapter, when it became one of just 20 college and university groups to receive certification from the Educational Affairs Committee of the Public Relations Society of America.

For more information on the UC chapter of PRSSA, visit the chapter's Web page at: www.artsci.uc.edu/communication/undergrad/prssa.aspx

Alum Launches New Scholarship Fund

As of this year, the department has more than 700 undergraduate majors. The growing numbers are exciting, but they also mean an increase in the number of gifted students who need and deserve scholarship assistance.

Alum **Serena Levy** ('02) is helping the department address that need. After visiting campus last spring, Levy launched a scholarship fund aimed at helping students who have to juggle academic responsibilities with one or more jobs, as she did when studying here. She donated $1,000 to start the fund, which was matched two-for-one by her employer, Coca-Cola.

The $3,000 forms the basis for the Department of Communication Alumni Scholarship. The department is deeply thankful for the generous gift.

"If all our alumni contributed just a little bit, we could significantly ease the burden for our students in these challenging economic times," said director of undergraduate studies Lisa Newman.

Donations can be made by contacting Allison Essinger at the UC Foundation, 513-556-6435 or online at giveto.uc.edu.

Meet and Greet Old, New Friends at 11th Annual CommCeleb

Communication students, faculty, alumni and friends are invited to come together at the 11th annual Communication Celebration.

"CommCeleb is the biggest academic department celebration at UC, for the greatest major," said director of undergraduate studies Lisa Newman.

More than 120 intern posters will be on display, along with graduate research projects and highlights from certificate program and student organization activities.

The 2009 Outstanding Alumni award will be presented during the event to 1991 graduate Tom Carleton, director of special events for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

CommCeleb takes place from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, at Mick & Mack's Contemporary Café in the Tangeman University Center. The awards ceremony starts at 5 p.m.

If you would like to attend CommCeleb, please contact Lisa Newman at lisa.newman@uc.edu.