Hi Colleagues,

The belt-tightened paradigm that Communication has worked under for decades to educate students and graduate them into the professions heightens the pride that faculty take in our alumni. They have done so well!

When charting their accomplishments, we often cite nationally prominent alumni such as Yvette Nicole Brown ’94, who garnered fame as the character Shirley Bennett on the NBC sitcom “Community.”

Our alumni – far and near – are our pride. Yet, less often do we mention the alumni who keep the wheels of our communities rolling, such as Chad Murphy ’01, who is the award-winning news editor over at the Portage County Record-Courier.

And think of all your former students who work on this campus to smooth the path of today’s students toward their graduation!

Right here on campus, we rely on former students on a daily basis. Our alumni serve in so many capacities across the university that it’s not uncommon for faculty to contact a former student when they need to “get the job done,” whether it’s confirming a piece of otherwise elusive information or organizing a special event.

Now it’s time to identify all those Communication alumni who work at the university. Give Brenda their names, and she’ll create a “push pin” for their campus locations on our Google Earth map. With all our alumni, the university will soon be awash with push-pins.

Here’s to tagging our campus pride!

Terry
Devin Conner, left, and President Scott Scarborough, right (wearing pants) discuss the issues.

**Live from Akron: It’s Scott Scarborough!**

The campus community discovered President Scott Scarborough’s lighter side this week as he sat for an interview on the campus show “Akron After Hours” with host Devin Conner.

Scott and Devin bantered about how the university just enrolled a freshman class with the highest GPA in its history, which led Scott to comment on Devin’s status. And that wasn’t the president’s only zinger. But Devin did make some points, such as turning trash talk into a teaching moment on the value of recycling.

Devin’s obvious lack of pants during the interview paid homage to a broadcast tradition – anchors’ notorious disregard for what they wore below the desk, since they were only shown on camera from the waist up. Producer Brian Keith said he decided to go with the wardrobe malfunction when Scott saw Devin earlier in the day and quipped, “Nice outfit.”

Brian is proud of his production team. “I wanted to show the kids coming in that we’ve got a hip, cool president,” he said. “The president seemed to have a good time on the show.”

The Z-TV sketch is currently airing on “Akron After Hours,” and it may also be viewed at [http://youtu.be/FP9L511gHno](http://youtu.be/FP9L511gHno). The University of Akron students on the team that contributed to the comedy sketch include Frank Meyo, Tyler Warner, Christopher Rossi and Megan Smith; Jay Jackman also helped.
Here’s a sneak preview of the full interview with the president, which will debut on the School’s website: http://youtu.be/Y2LC65VUHZs.

Jennifer Dixon with Andrea Ferraro and Wendy Turrell, advisers, and Professor David Ritchey

Communication Senior Wins PR Scholarship

Senior Jennifer Dixon was awarded the David A. Meeker Scholarship from the Akron Area Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America this week.

Public relations and communication students attending The University of Akron, Kent State University, Malone College, Mount Union, Walsh University, and Youngstown State University can apply for the $1,000 annual scholarship.

Jennifer is pursuing a B.A. in Business and Organizational Communication with a concentration in Public Relations and a minor in Spanish. She is a student in the Honors College and plans to graduate in May of 2015. Jennifer has studied abroad in South Korea and in Spain. She serves as a Global Peer Support Leader in the university’s International Student Orientation.

Speech and Debate Success

The University of Akron Speech and Debate team was named Team Sweepstakes Champions at the recent Ruth A. Wilcox Memorial Tournament at Marietta College, besting teams from 12 other universities. The championship plaque is on display in the main office.

“Every week is a new set of competitors you can test your mettle against,” said Andrew Golden, the team’s graduate assistant. “Marietta is a step to nationals for our students.”

Sophomore Abby Zerull, a Communication major from Twinsburg, won three first place awards in the Marietta competition. Zerull was the top overall speaker at another recent tournament,
qualifying multiple events to Nationals. Seven other students qualified for Nationals: Lauren Fowkes, Alyssa Gieseck, Christopher Halley, Kelsey Jones, Tyler Jordan, Grant Morgan and David Trujillo.

In the past decade, the team has placed at the National Forensic Association National Speech and Debate Tournament, the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament and the Ohio Forensic Association State Championships.

Coach Mark Rittenour, senior college lecturer in the School of Communication, noted, “We are the only team in Ohio that has qualified for and attended both the NFA National Speech and Debate Tournament and the AFA-NIET for the past 12 years.” Last season, the team won seven individual state championships at OFA, which brings the total to more than 30 state champions in 10 years.

The University of Akron will host the 2015 OFA State Championships in February. According to Golden, “Hosting the Ohio Forensics Association State Tournament is an honor for us because we get to bring the most talented individuals in the state to our campus.”

The weekend of Nov. 22-23, the University of Akron will host two tournaments, which are free and open to the public. Rounds for both tournaments will start at 8:30 a.m., and final rounds on both days will begin about 3 p.m. Those interested in learning more about the competitions or in volunteering to judge over the weekend should contact Rittenour at mritten@uakron.edu.

**Faculty Presentations**

Mary Triece presented “‘Telling It Like It Is’: Women and Welfare Rights Struggles,” Nov. 6 in Leigh Hall.

**Faculty Publications**


**Announcements & Reminders**

- The School’s United Way goal is to endow the Ruth B. Lewis Memorial Scholarship, in the hope of awarding the scholarship next year. The current account balance is $4,316; to be endowed the fund must have at least $10,000. Dr. Lewis was an inspirational professor and former chair of the School of Communication who devoted her life to the rights of women and minorities, the groups that the scholarship addresses. To qualify as an endowment contribution,
donations should be earmarked for the School of Communication’s Ruth B. Lewis Memorial Scholarship.

• The interview with *Jay Leno* producer Dave Berg is now showing! This production is one of the interviews that was conducted by student media when the School hosted Berg for his “Behind the Curtain” presentation earlier this semester. It is now being shown on Z-TV and is also available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfLQHq9IxzE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfLQHq9IxzE) Headed by Jen Danczak, the production crew also included Alyssa Nichols and Christian Locke. It is also worth noting that the *Buchtelite* coverage is still available at: [http://buchtelite.com/23633/news/nbc-producer-dave-berg-discusses-jay-leno/](http://buchtelite.com/23633/news/nbc-producer-dave-berg-discusses-jay-leno/)

• Reminder: Those tenured faculty who have not yet participated in student visit days this year should indicate their preferred dates for the Spring Semester on the list in the office.

• The School of Communication will sponsor an off-site reception during the National Communication Association in Chicago that will feature “Race and Hegemonic Struggle in the United States: Pop Culture, Politics, and Protest” co-edited by Mary Triece. The reception will be 6-8 p.m., Fri., Nov. 21 at nearby Bar Louie, where discussion with the editors and copies of the book will be available. All are welcome!

• The School’s holiday party will be Wed., Dec. 10 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish, along with an unwrapped gift for a woman or a child to be donated to Harvest Home, the women’s division of the Haven of Rest.

• The Speak Off will be held on April 14 and the annual Speech Contest will be April 22 at the Quaker Square Grand Ballroom. The prizes will be: $1000 for first place, $750 for Second, $500 for Third, $250 for Fourth, and $250 for Fifth. There will also be an option to win a gift card for every one working the event.

**Fall 2014 Semester Calendar**

*Nov. 20 – Nov. 23: National Communication Association (NCA)*
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 22-23: UA hosts A-K Rowdy/ASTAA Swing Tournaments, Kolbe Hall
*Wed., Nov. 26 @ 5 p.m. - Sun., Nov 30: Thanksgiving Holiday – University Closed*
Fri., Dec. 5, noon – 1 p.m. Faculty Meeting, KO 111
*Dec. 8 – Dec. 14: Final Exam Week*
*Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: The School of Communication Holiday Party, KO 111*
*Dec. 13: Fall Graduation*
*Tues, Dec. 16: Final Grades Due*

**Faculty Matters Submissions**

After making a presentation, faculty should submit the presenter name/s, the title of the presentation and the venue at which it was presented.
After a manuscript has been published, faculty should submit a copy of the article along with the bibliographic citation. Announcements should be submitted by the Wednesday prior to the Friday publication dates. The last scheduled publication for the semester is Dec. 5. Corrections for the current issue along with new information intended for publication in future issues of *Faculty Matters* should be emailed to Christina Marek cm107@zips.uakron.edu. The interim director takes full responsibility for any errors or omissions in this e-newsletter. Thank you for reading!