Department Graduated 22 at May Commencement

By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

On Saturday, May 19 twenty-two Communication Studies majors achieved a major professional milestone—they graduated from Wilkes. The Department’s faculty, staff and remaining students wish them all great success in their careers. We also want them to know they have had an impact on the program that will last for many years.

Dr. Mark Stine, Chair of the Department says, “We have a number of truly outstanding seniors who demonstrated excellent leadership skills, and have the potential for representing the Department well in their future careers.” Reflecting on her experience working with the seniors in “Wilkes World,” sophomore Candice Halliday said she appreciated “the exceptional involvement” of the seniors and their “willingness to mentor” younger students to take on leadership roles.

During their time at Wilkes, many of the seniors accepted mentoring roles and helped programs like Zebra Communications, WCLH 90.7, The Beacon and “Wilkes World” grow in new and exciting directions. Dr. Bradford Kinney observed, “It will be hard to fill the shoes of some of our graduating seniors.”

Congratulations!

Beacon Wins First Place Rating and Outstanding Merit Award

By: Matt Gogas

For the sixth consecutive year, The Beacon has won a first place rating from the American Scholastic Press Association. The Beacon staff submitted their two best papers of the year and the American Scholastic Press Association reviewed and granted The Beacon a first place rating amongst colleges and universities of Wilkes’ size.

This comes as no surprise to the Beacon advisor, Dr. Andrea Frantz. “I am pleased that this hard working staff has once again been recognized for the quality of the publication they produce,” Dr. Frantz said. Andrew Seaman, assistant news editor for The Beacon added, “I think it is wonderful to be part of a first place newspaper with an award winning contributor. I also think it is a yearly validation of the quality work our students at Wilkes turn out.”

Along with winning the first place rating, The Beacon won a certificate of Outstanding Merit for their cartoon entitled, “A Sight for Sore Eyes,” done by their cartoonist, Aleksander Lipinski. This is the first time the Beacon has ever won a certificate of Outstanding Merit. The entire staff is proud of Aleks and his cartoon. “It’s always nice to be recognized for your hard work,” says Lipinski. “All of a sudden those long hours spent putting the paper together on Sunday don’t seem so bad.” A lot of talent has come and gone through The Beacon doors over the years, and for Lipinski to be the first to be recognized for an individual effort speaks volumes. “We’re all thrilled to have him aboard and are extremely proud of his accomplishment,” said Nick Podolak, the paper’s News Editor.

Congratulations to Aleks, Dr. Frantz and the entire Beacon staff.

May 2007 Graduates

Rebecca Bria
Ariel Cohen
Candice Davis
Stephanie DeBalko
Nicolette Doliva
James Feeney
Jaclyn Francese
Daniel Giancola
Ashley Gibson
Neal Jackloski
Nora Jurasits

Jason Lewis
Carmen Marmo
Laura Nowicki
Bridget O’Connor
Luke Pisarcik
Dara Rees
Adrienne Richards
Neal Santoski
Joseph Shurmaitis
Jessie Teevan
Alicia Vieselmeyer

Index

2. Dr. Frantz Coordinates
3. Shelburne Upgrades
4. Dr. Frantz Co-authors
5-8. Graduation Special
9. What is the Attraction
10. Surviving the Freshman
11. Zebra Holds Poli-Palooza
12. Collage of Photos
Dr. Frantz Coordinates Civic Journalism Division at AEJMC Convention

By: Michele Flannery

Dr. Andrea Frantz was busy all winter preparing for the AEJMC’s National Convention that was held this summer in Washington D.C.

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) is a very large national organization for those who teach in all aspects of communications from telecommunications, to journalism, to public relations and advertising.

Dr. Frantz is the chair of the Civic Journalism Division of the AEJMC, which educates and promotes civic engagement through journalism by using new media and listening to the wants and voices of citizens. The division provides leadership in the use of new media such as blogs and the Wiki idea.

The highlight of this convention was the reopening of a museum that is dedicated to the history of communications and reporting. The museum is part of the Smithsonian which has been remodeled to accommodate the new communications wing. There is even a faux television studio where visitors can report their own news.

“The museum is very interactive,” says Dr. Frantz. “I hope to give my students an opportunity to visit the museum next semester.”

The museum doesn’t officially open until October, but Dr. Frantz and her colleagues got a sneak peak this summer at the convention. Overall, Dr. Frantz enjoys her position as chair and coordinating the convention. “It has been very fun and connected me with new colleagues,” says Dr. Frantz.

The Communications Department as a whole can be very proud of Dr. Frantz’s accomplishments with the AEJMC. “It’s always an important part of faculty development to participate in national organizations,” said Dr. Mark Stine, department chair. “Participating at such a significant level at a national conference really puts Wilkes University on the map,” added Stine.

Bigler High School Conference a Big Success

By: Jaclyn Fracese

Workshops and speaker sessions filled the day for over 220 high school students during the 7th Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference on March 30th. The Conference turned out to be a great success. Dr. Andrea Frantz, Conference Coordinator, stated that this might have been one of the best conferences yet. Eighty of our current majors helped make it a success by volunteering as tour guides, evaluators and coordinators of the workshops.

Keynote speaker, Gene Polcinski of The First Amendment Center in Nashville, TN was a big hit with the high school students. Seven of the other speakers graduated from the Communication Studies Department here at Wilkes. New to this year’s conference was a press conference with the Keynoter and twenty of the high school student editors.

The four hands-on workshops in public relations, print journalism, television and radio were conducted by our own students and got great reviews from the high schoolers. They really seemed to enjoy the doing the hands-on workshops since it gave them the opportunity to learn about the various areas offered in our program.

Next year we are hoping to have an even better Conference with more great speakers and more workshops that can not only teach and entertain the high schoolers but bring new light and attitude to our campus. Well done, everyone!
Meet Dr. Mark Stine, Department Chair—Man of Many Tastes

By: Cheryl Gressley

Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Studies Department, Dr. Mark Stine, came to Wilkes University in 1999 after receiving his doctorate degree from Temple University. However, his passions bring more to the academic world than the Department or he realized at that time.

Dr. Stine has many hobbies beyond his professional work in academia and telecommunications. He has a deep passion for gourmet cooking, which he developed at a very young age. “Since I was a little kid, I can remember enjoying cooking and helping my mother in the kitchen,” Stine said. So when he turned one of his passions into a segment on Wilkes World, no one was surprised. This year Dr. Stine and sophomore, Candice Halliday, brought the world of fine dining to Wilkes World. Their “4-Minute Gourmet” segment has become one of the most popular segments. They create dishes like like buffalo steaks topped with crushed cheerios and eggs Benedict topped with crab meat. Yum.

His favorite chefs include Julia Child and Graham Kerr.

Shelburne Upgrades Equipment and Switchboard, Debuts New Cooking Segment

By: David Lewis and Brian Switay

From the expert techniques of Emeril Lagasse to the average grade school kid making a grilled cheese sandwich, every great cooking segment needs up-to-date equipment. And, what good is having a cooking show if you cannot tape it and share it?

Recently, the Shelburne TV Center upgraded its equipment to make it easier for Us to make the filming process much smoother. “The Ross Digital 2 Switcher has given us the capability of enhanced digital effects and allows recording digital signals. It is complemented by the new Kyron MicroX Duet Character Generator, which has the ability to produce television show quality credits,” said Carl Brigido, the Shelburne’s studio director. Thanks to the efforts of Brigido and Jeff Pavis, the new technology was installed efficiently with no hassle.

The TV programs benefiting most from the new technology are the “Four Minute Gourmet,” featuring Dr. Mark Stine and Candice Halliday and “Out and About,” with Lindsey White and Brian Switay. These two very different segments are seen on Wilkes University’s own half-hour series, Wilkes World.

“Four Minute Gourmet” has a new format. Dr. Stine and Halliday whip-up the best possible gourmet meals with 10 random ingredients selected by White, Switay or special guest “shoppers.” The resulting meal is guaranteed to be a must-see segment.

Switay says, “upcoming shows include Mother’s Day Dinner extravaganzas and a “Relay for Life” challenge for Dr. Stine, which aired on April 27th and 28th.”

Any Communication Studies major interested in joining the crew of either of these segments is invited to come to the live taping of Wilkes World, usually from 11-1 on Tuesdays. Wilkes World airs from 12-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays on Ch. 15, Wilkes TV. E-mail contact is wilkes.world@gamil.com

FreshInk Blog Featured on WYOU Interactive

By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

On May 15 voters across Pennsylvania went to the polls to cast their votes in the primary election. That same night, Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall and two of the students in her spring Communication Criticism class were the guests on WYOU-TV’s interactive news segments to discuss politics and young voters. Cheryl Gressley, senior, and Jamie Gwynn, junior, represented the 22 students in COM 300 who wrote for their blog, FreshInk 300.

The executive producer at WYOU first asked about the blog last January when Dr. Elmes-Crahall was on the show to discuss the President’s State of the Union Address. When Christine Seitzinger approached the station about having the students on to discuss their blog, the producer jumped at the chance. “Our goal was to get the word out that youth voting is not a boring process, and I believe we accomplished that goal,” said Gwynn who loved the experience.

cont on pg. 8
Dr. Frantz Co-Authors Pharmacy Journal Article
By: Mark Congdon, Jr. and Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

In late May, Dr. Andrea Frantz, associate professor of Communication Studies, learned that an article she co-authored was accepted for publication in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. Granted, it may seem unusual for a Communication Studies professor to publish in a pharmacy journal. But, she co-authored the article with Dr. James Culhane, associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, with whom she has been teaching and collaborating for several years.

The article, “An Interdisciplinary Oral History Initiative: Student Negotiation of Expertise,” was a result of oral histories that were gathered through joint efforts of students in both Communication Research Methods and the History of Pharmacy courses.

What excited Frantz and Culhane the most was the opportunity to present the results of their interdisciplinary efforts to a broad audience of scholars. “For the article, our purpose was really to examine the value of interdisciplinary work and how students negotiated their own disciplinary expertise through the oral history partnerships. We extracted student voices from their own self analyses and analyzed their perceptions of the success of the partnerships as well as what expertise they believed they brought to the table. We discovered that…little research focuses on the students’ perceptions of outcomes. In addition, our project was unique in that it paired two such different disciplines,” said Frantz.

Culhane added that, “I have collaborated with other scientists on research projects but until now would have never conceived of working collaboratively with another faculty member outside of my discipline, let alone doing archival work and collecting oral histories. This opportunity for me is an example of the “magic” of Wilkes.

Culhane and Frantz received a grant to enable them to move the research forward, from a journal article to a book. According to Culhane, “The book will be mostly a compilation of about 30 oral histories that pharmacy and communication studies students collected between the spring of 2003 and the fall of 2004. We will let the voices of our pharmacists tell the history of pharmacy in the Wyoming Valley over the last 50 years. Their stories and memories are a reflection of what was going on in the profession nationally during this time period.”

Frantz summed everything up by saying, “I would love to see more research that gets away from traditional academic silos and pushes to cross political boundaries on campus. I’d like our department to be seen as a program that leads the pack with that charge.”

Dave Sebelin Wins PPRS 2007 Scholarship
By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

Right after the spring semester ended, David Sebelin, senior Communication Studies major, learned he won the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society’s 2007 university scholarship. Sebelin becomes the first Wilkes PR student to win the scholarship, which is open to all PA residents interested in careers in public relations.

Sebelin, who was nominated for the scholarship by Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall and Dr. Bradford Kinney, is the 2007-08 Board Co-Chair of Zebra Communications, the student-run PR agency at Wilkes. He has served on several Zebra account teams in the past year, including the Palermo-Heart-to-Heart Foundation fundraiser, the NEPA Regional Cancer Institute team and the League of Women Voters’ “We’re Young. We Vote” campaign. A major with concentrations in both Rhetoric and Organizational Communications/PR, he also works in production with “Wilkes World,” and is an editor with the Communication Criticism blog, Freshink300.

Dr. Bradford Kinney, who has advised Sebelin since he entered Wilkes feels the scholarship is a “public recognition of how much David has grown.” Having watched as his protégé gained self-confidence and direction in his communication skills, Kinney added, “I am delighted for him. The scholarship could open many doors.”

When he learned he received the scholarship, Sebelin was grateful to the PPRS “for proving students the opportunity to apply.” He also expressed his gratitude to the faculty and his family. “Receiving this scholarship has been a great honor for myself and my family. My parents have sacrificed so much to pay for my schooling and this scholarship has been a blessing to us all,” Sebelin said when asked how he reacted to receiving the scholarship.

This past summer, Sebelin traveled to Harrisburg to receive the scholarship at the PPRS dinner. Clearly, his hard work at Wilkes is getting David noticed by professionals in public relations. Congratulations, David!
Communication Studies Seniors Honored

By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

No one who has worked with the 2007 graduating class will be surprised to know that many are being honored for their achievements, both academically and as leaders on campus. This is the time of year when the hard work is acknowledged by the Department and the University.

Six of our seniors were named to Who’s Who Among Students in America’s Colleges and Universities, including: Rebecca Bria, Candice Davis, Nicholette Doliva, Jaclyn Francese, Bridget O’Connor and Luke Pisarcik. They were presented with certificates at the Wilkes Senior Leadership Luncheon on April 27.

At the same luncheon, Candice Davis was given the Department’s “Outstanding Leadership” Award for her many contributions to WCLH 90.7, Zebra Communications and the Department’s Student Advisory Board.

Adrienne Richard received the University’s “Outstanding Intern” Award based on her excellent work in the fall at the ABC News Bureau in Washington, DC.

The faculty of the Department present several awards to seniors throughout the year. Last fall, Rebecca Bria was given the student membership in NCA, based on having the highest academic average in the Department. This year, the Bigler Scholar Award was given to Adrienne Richards for exemplifying the highest ethical standards in journalism.

And, based on both academic excellence and leadership within the program’s co-curriculars, the faculty selected Dara Rees as “Outstanding Senior in Communication Studies.”

Adrienne Richards named University’s Intern of the Year

By: Gerard Hetman

For her work in the Washington D.C. bureau of ABC News during the fall 2006 semester, senior Communication Studies major Adrienne Richards was named the “Intern of the Year” for Wilkes University.

A native of Mechanicsburg, PA, Richards completed her internship while studying at American University in Washington, D.C. for the fall semester as part of American’s Washington Semester program. The curriculum allowed Adrienne to get hands-on experience completing journalism assignments and projects in places such as the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Bureau of ABC News. She also participated in classes and workshops taught by nationally-known journalists, including CBS news anchor Bob Schiefer.

“I was truly blessed to be able to receive the chance to further my career quest with this opportunity,” Richards said of her internship experience at ABC. “I am also blessed and honored to have an adviser who supports and recognizes my efforts,” referring to Dr. Andrea Frantz, who is her academic advisor.

Dr. Frantz, associate professor of communications studies, nominated Adrienne for the award after serving as her academic advisor during her years at Wilkes. Richards is the third Communication Studies major to be selected for the University’s Intern of the Year Award within the past four years.

She was given a plaque and monetary award at the recent Senior Leadership Luncheon on April 26. For her outstanding achievements while interning with ABC News Washington Bureau, Adrienne Richards is the Wilkes 2006-2007 Intern of the Year!!
Dara Rees Picked for Department’s Senior Award

By: Matthew Gogas

Congratulations to this year’s Communications Department Outstanding Senior, Dara Rees. The full-time Communications faculty chose Dara as this year’s Outstanding Senior because she achieved both an outstanding high grade point average and was a leader within the Department’s co-curricular activities, especially TV.

“It is always a difficult choice, but what stands out about Dara is her high grade point average and she is a natural leader,” says Dr. Mark Stine, the chair of the Communications Department. Dara has been the producer of “Wilkes World” for the past year and has been involved with Shelburne productions her entire college career. A double major in Theatre Arts, she has been involved in many theatre productions at Wilkes. She is also active with The Chamber Singers, and she also does community service whenever she can.

Last summer, Dara took her career interest in television and interned with WBAL-TV and ABC affiliate in Baltimore, MD. Because of the initiative she showed there by setting up an on-line broadcast, Dara was named “Intern of the Month” for July 2006.

When she graduates Wilkes, Dara plans to be a television news reporter. She was overwhelmed by the Outstanding Senior Award, and said, “Being the first person in my family to go to college, graduation itself is a defining moment. This award lets me know that I did well while I was here. Hopefully, it means that I left my mark (and hopefully it wasn’t just graffiti!) It has been a very intense 4 years with many high and lows. Looking back, they are all things that define who I am and only make me stronger.”

Congratulations from the entire Department to Dara on this honor!

Congratulations Candice Davis: The Outstanding Co-Curricular Leader for Communications Dept.

By Valerie J. Martinez

On Thursday, April 26, 2007 the Extra Curricular Leadership Luncheon was held to commemorate students who have been leaders throughout the Wilkes Community, particularly within co-curricular activities. Faculty in each department select the student who they feel is most deserving for this award. The Communication Studies Department recipient for 2007 is Candice Davis, a May graduate.

Candice is an essential member in the Wilkes Campus Community. Most students know her as one of the ‘Get Hype Girls’ but she is also the Hip Hop Director for WCLH, as well as the Marketing and Promotions Director. Many of the freshmen may know Candice as their mentor, not only in Communications but as one of the e-Mentor Orientation Leaders, which she did for the past two years.

Some of the other activities included being part of the Department’s Student Advisory Board, a member of the Zebra Communications Board, a Resident Assistant for the past two years and President of her Freshman and Sophomore Classes.

Most recently, she has been involved in the Search Committee for the new Provost. This semester she is interning in Marketing/PR at the Wachovia Arena.

Candice Davis is an excellent role model to students who may feel that they are unable to manage time or for students who are unaware of opportunities on campus. She epitomizes what the college experience should be. In fact, when asked what advice she could leave with us she stated, “ There’s time when you feel overwhelmed, stressed out, or like giving up but being able to look back at what you created from start to finish and have it come out just like you wanted is the reward itself.” Her words should be an inspiration to students and hopefully will encourage the student body to become involved. Candice also wanted to thank the faculty in the Communications Department and leave advice for future Communications students, “You should be thankful that we have professors that push us to exceed our limits and to receive these opportunities. Our department cares about us and that is all the thanks I need”.

Dr. Stine presenting Candice Davis her award.
Zebra Holds Annual Awards

By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

Over 30 Zebra Communication members and faculty met at the Arena Bar and Grille for one rockin’ night on May 2 to celebrate the busiest year ever for the student-run public relations agency at Wilkes. But the night belonged to Zebra’s seniors.

Zebra graduates seven Board members: Rebecca Bria, Candice Davis, Nicholette Doliva, Jaclyn Francese, DJ Giancola, Bridget O’Connor and Luke Pisarcik. Senior staff members included Jim Feeney, Ashley Gibson, Jason Lewis, Laura Nowicki and Jeanne Stapleton. Among the seniors are Bria and Pisarcik, the current Board co-chairs and Francese, this year’s office manager. Rebecca Bria was given the annual “Jane’s Award for Leadership” for her many contributions to Zebra throughout the year.

The “Outstanding Campaigns of the Year” included the Club Mardi Gras “Halloween Extravaganza” to benefit the Children’s Service Center, which raised nearly $2,500 while attracting several hundred costumed college students to the new downtown Club Mardi Gras. Singled out for her exceptional leadership on this campaign was Bridger O’Connor, who was given an “Account Manager of the Year” Award. The full staff of this team included Luke Pisarcik, Stacey Kittrick, DJ Giancola, Nicholette Doliva and 20 students enrolled in Carole Mancuso’s COM 302 class.

The other consensus choice was the “Make Change for the Holidays” Fundraiser to benefit the local Salvation Army. The kettle drive raised over $1440.00—another new fundraising record for Zebra. “Outstanding Account Manager” awards for this campaign were shared by Jennifer Haberek and Tyler Jenkins. Their staff included 27 students in Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall’s COM 302 class.

Other campaigns nominated by the Board for Honorable Mention recognition were the Fall Semester’s “We’re Young, We Vote” televised focus group, and the 7th Annual Tom Bigler Journalism Conference.

Zebra also voted to recognize three clients for giving the student-run agency the opportunity to perform exceptional projects while serving as professional models. Three clients will receive certificates and citations from Zebra as “Client of the Year” for 2006-07, including Ruth Hughes, Director of the Small Business Development Center, Captain Gilbert Parkhurst of the local Salvation Army, and Gino Fast, Manager of the Club Mardi Gras.

Zebra Communication’s 2007-2008 Executive Board

Cheryl Gressley, Board Co-chair
David Sebelin, Board Co-chair
Samantha Clarke, Office Manager
Mark Congdon, Jr., Asst. Office Manager
Dana Lehman, Operations Manager
Gerard Hetman, Asst. Operations Manager
Jane Elmes-Crahall, Faculty Advisor
Good-Bye and Hello to WCLH 90.7’s E-Staff

By: Carlton Holmes and David Lewis

When the lights dim and the dust clears, sometimes all you can hear are voices. During times of uncertainty in this world, we listen to voices of reason for guidance and leadership, including at the Wilkes radio station, WCLH 90.7. The executive staff, or E-Staff, has done more than its share to advance the college radio experience here at Wilkes.

Unfortunately, this year we say good-bye to two graduating seniors who have been pioneering forces on the E-Staff, Ariel Cohen and Candice Davis.

“It has been a unique opportunity to help produce a radio station and it is not going to be easy leaving something behind that I’ve lived with for the past four years,” remarks senior E-Staffer and station manager, Ariel Cohen.

As a freshman, Ariel had a dream that it would be fun working in a radio station. Without his leadership and dedication, 90.7 would have trouble “keepin’ it locked.”

Candice Davis, another graduating senior, was involved in starting the station’s most popular show, The Urban Itinerary. She has devoted countless hours toward 90.7, and her hard work and devotion at the station is obvious. “Working at WCLH has been rewarding in terms of the job experience and the valuable lessons I have learned along the way,” Davis says.

To these graduating E-Staff members, we wish you the best and thank you for your leadership. You are leaving the station stronger than when you arrived. And, to any majors interested in getting involved, email the station at wclhp@gmail.com

Richards receives 2007 Bigler Scholar Award

By: Gerard Hetman

After four outstanding years as an undergraduate majoring in communications studies, senior Adrienne Richards is the 2007 Tom Bigler Scholar.

The award, presented each spring to a graduating communications major, is named after the late Tom Bigler, a pioneering figure in local broadcast journalism and a professor emeritus of Communication Studies here at Wilkes. The award embodies the professionalism and high ethical conduct in the field of Journalism that was embodied in Mr. Bigler’s work during his long and distinguished career.

When asked for her feelings on the award, Richards was quick to give credit to those who helped her succeed while at Wilkes. “This award signifies four years of hard work, an advisor who is deeply committed to high ethical standards in journalism and a Communications Studies Department that provides students with the foundation to succeed in their endeavors.” Adrienne’s name will be added to a plaque in the lobby of Capin Hall to remind future young journalists at Wilkes of her accomplishments.

Dr. Andrea Frantz, associate professor of communications studies, advisor to The Beacon and academic advisor to Richards, nominated her to receive this award.

After receiving her degree in Communications Studies, Adrienne plans to pursue a career in journalism. No matter where she goes, her education at Wilkes will serve as a foundation for her budding career. The Department congratulates Adrienne Richards on a job well done!!

Fresh Ink (Cont from pg. 3)

The show’s host, Eric Scheiner, focused on the growing involvement of 18-29 year old voters and how the Wilkes student blog was changing perceptions about young voters. “I believe that our appearance will help younger voters take a moment to do a bit of research on websites from the candidates,” said Jamie Gwynn. “To have an opportunity to get our blog recognized on television is incredible,” he added.

While on air during three segments between 5 to 6:30 P.M., Gressley and Gwynn answered questions from the host and two callers who questioned their views on abortion and issues they thought would be important in the 2008 presidential campaign.

WYOU promoted the FreshInk blog and encouraged the viewers to log on, read their student articles, and send reactions. FreshInk was established to fill a void in the political sphere—the absence of public discourse by and about young voters. With media attention like the appearance on WYOU, FreshInk may become a meaningful contributor to the national discussion on the 2008 presidential campaign.
What is the Attraction to D.C. that Lead Five COMM Majors to want to Intern There?

By: Shanita Quarles and Xiaoqiao Zhang

Five current Communication Studies majors are hoping internship experiences in Washington D.C. will move their careers forward. Adrienne Richards, Raquel Wheby, Alison Woody, Andrew Seaman, Jamie Gwynn and Mark Congdon Jr. are all focusing on the competitive world of Washington internships. It is interesting that all of these very engaging and intelligent majors have directed their internship experience to Washington D.C.

“What is the attraction to Washington D.C. that led you to want to intern there?” was a question we asked Andrew Seaman, current sophomore and Adrienne Richards, graduating senior. Both Communications majors focused their internship hopes on D.C.

Richards, who already completed her internship with ABC News during Fall 2006 said, “Having experienced an internship (in Washington), opened my eyes to endless career possibilities within my field of study.” Richards, who also completed a full semester of courses at American University’s Political Journalism Program, recently received Wilkes University’s “Intern of the Year” award for her D.C. experience.

The desire to intern in D.C. developed for Seaman when he got the opportunity to attend a political journalism conference last semester. Along with three other majors recommended by Dr. Andrea Frantz, Seaman was impressed by what he saw and applied for a summer internship for 2007. “Even though some people thought that you may have to be at least a junior, any student who is enrolled at a four-year college with good grades can apply,” explained Seaman. He also had to submit a 300-word essay as a writing sample for the summer program at Georgetown University.

Seaman declared that, “So far, interning in Washington has been the highlight of my life. My time spent there not only gave me experience in radio and print journalism, but it also allowed me to answer some of the questions I have. These are questions that I do not take lightly because they will decide what I do with my life. I plan on doing more internships to figure out the rest of those questions but as far as internships go, I can honestly say I would not exchange the experience I had for any other.”

The American University program that Richards attended required at least a junior status and good grades. It also required the recommendation of the Department and the Wilkes Cooperative Education Office. Richards says she had a great time there, and encouraged other students to take the opportunity because, “You can share new ideas, new experiences with everyone else” when you come back. She noted that she met people from all over the world while at American.

Apparently, other Communication majors took her advice. Junior Raquel Wheby is enrolled in the American program in Fall 2007, followed by Alison Woody who plans to be there in Spring 2008.

Perhaps the most competitive program of all is the White House Internship. But the highly competitive nature of the program did not discourage junior Mark Congdon Jr., who, right before Easter break, got a call he had been waiting for- a phone interview for the White House Internship. That was a screening interview, meaning he made the cut and was a finalist from several thousand applications. However, he found out that he didn’t receive the internship, but enthusiastically said, “Even though I wasn’t selected for this, I’m pleased that I was a finalist. Dr. Elnes-Crahall, Dr. Kinney, and Dr. Estwick encouraged me to apply. If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have considered applying for this amazing chance to work in our Capital. Being a finalist really boosted my confidence!”

So what is the attraction to D.C. that is leading so many of our majors to that area? And, what accounts for the successful placement of so many Communication students from Wilkes? Seaman feels it is the encouragement of the Wilkes faculty.

“I think the faculty make our students a force in the D.C. area,” said Seaman. Dr. Frantz points a lot of journalism students in that direction and with her support they apply, and several are gaining great professional experience.

Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall agrees with the role of faculty, but adds, “It isn’t only the faculty recommendations that enable us to place interns, it is the excellent work our students do when they get internship placements. Any internship program that has dealt with a Communications intern from Wilkes is more than happy to have another.”

Seaman concluded by encouraging others to have as many internships as possible. “I would really recommend that everyone complete as many internships as they can. Most of the people I met in my program already had several and it is what all of the speakers and practicing journalists pushed. Just get all the experience you can and have fun while doing it,” said Seaman.

If anyone is interested in a Washington D.C. internship, see your Communications faculty advisor or contact the Cooperative Education Office.
Surviving The Freshmen Year Experience in Communication Studies

By: Nicole Frail, Monica Turner, Michelle Flannery, Maureen Iskra, Pat Ziegler, Dave Lewis, Danielle Hritzak, TJ Dennis, AJ Wallace, Xiaoqiao Zhang, Shanita Quarles

When entering college for the first time, the amount of anxiety and pressure may be overwhelming. Challenging classes, seemingly intimidating professors, and high expectations are enough to make any college freshman second guess the next four years. Lucky for you, we’ve been through it all. We’ve survived our freshmen year and we’re ready and willing to give you some tips that we used to successfully complete our first year at Wilkes University.

Get involved with clubs or activities. Wilkes’ clubs are designed for students with similar interests to interact and form friendships and bonds that will aid them throughout their entire college experience. Communication organizations like Zebra, The Beacon, Wilkes World TV show, WCLH 90.7, the Speech and Debate Team, and the Department’s newsletter, The Medium, are excellent ways to form relationships not only with other Communications majors, but the department’s professors as well.

Don’t be naïve. Even though the majority of Wilkes students are friendly and helpful when it comes to getting lost or asking for advice on classes, you still have to be careful who you trust. Dave Lewis learned his lesson during summer orientation. Seniors asked his group to step outside of the SUB to take a picture. As they stood beneath the balcony, smiling for the camera, they were suddenly ambushed with water balloons. “Listening to your inner voices of reason are the best source to trust whenever in doubt,” Lewis advises.

Don’t give up on your advisor, they’ll come around. Our advice is to keep calling him, keep emailing him, but most importantly, drop by his office whenever you can. No matter who your advisor is, we highly recommend getting to know them because they’re key to a successful college career.

Learn how to prioritize and get ready to do your fair share of work. International student from China, Xiaoqiao Zhang, is proof that as long as you learn to manage your time, you can do well in both sports and classes. “Not only did I do great in school, but I also got Freedom Conference Player of the Year [for tennis] and was the MASCAC Singles Champion.”

Though joining groups, participating in sports, and having a social life is demanding, it’s important to remember that schoolwork should always come first. As expected, college is not high school. “It’s high school on steroids,” jokes Michelle Flannery.

We’re here to tell you that with the help of friends and faculty, you’ll be fine. Make as many friends as you can, keep your grades up, and enjoy yourself. And finally, here at Wilkes University, it’s crucial that you have either a good umbrella and/or a jacket with a hood because, as you’ll soon find out, it does nothing but rain in Wilkes-Barre.

Alumni Update: Amanda Leigh Brozana, ’04

By: Matthew Gogas

Amanda Leigh Brozana graduated from Wilkes in 2004 after four years of activism. In her freshman year, she helped maintain the Beacon’s existence by serving as managing editor when the newspaper’s leadership was in doubt. She concentrated in journalism, organizational/public relations, and rhetoric and continued to write for her hometown newspaper. While on the Zebra Board, Amanda was also the first editor of the Department’s newsletter, “The Medium.”

She has since graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Master’s Degree in journalism and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Critical and Cultural Studies from the University of Alabama.

Always interested in teaching at the college level, Brozana has been preparing herself for a college professor’s life. Her Master’s thesis was entitled, “Like Printing an Invitation to a Meth Party: An Examination of Mississippi Newspaper Editor and Publisher Decisions Regarding Publishing Same-Sex Marriage and Engagement Announcements.” That research was presented at the International Communication Association’s Convention in Dresden, Germany in July 2006.

Currently, she is teaching two classes at the University of Alabama as part of the doctoral program, Beat Reporting and Depth Reporting.

In addition, Brozana is also teaching five classes at Stillman College, a historically black institution. At Stillman she is teaching Intro to Media Writing, News Writing and Reporting, Magazine/Feature Writing, New Media/Desktop Publishing, and Applied Journalism. “Even though it is a historically black college in the south with journalism, not a COM program, there are a lot of similarities to Wilkes - especially the feeling of community and family. I appreciate that, and for that reason, I think I fit well here,” says Brozana.

Also, she received permission to get Stillman on the college publisher network. This means that the Stillman College newspaper is now available online at: www.stillmanadvance.com.

The University of Alabama Community-Based Partnerships office has granted Brozana a $9,000 grant to start a community newspaper. Her students from both UA and Stillman College are working together this semester to create the publication. The paper comes out bimonthly. The newspaper website is www. westendjournal.com. “We made a significant impact already just by allowing the college, all the students, and the community a voice of their own in the mainstream media,” says Brozana about the West End Journal.

Brozana will graduate with her Ph. D. in Critical and Cultural Studies in December of 2008 at the earliest. From then on, she plans to teach at a smaller institution like Wilkes University. “In the long run, Wilkes is the type of institution I want to come home to. Not maybe Wilkes specifically, but that type of institution and department - a COM program, more than just journalism.”
Zebra Holds “Poli-Palooza” Youth Voting Rally

By: Katie Marzzacco

“Success!” That is what is to be said about Wilkes University’s first ever Poli-Palooza event that took place on Monday, April 23rd. The purpose of this event was to encourage youth voting and to raise interest in getting involved with the voting process. The Poli-Palooza was the brain child of a group of Zebra Communications members—Mark Congdon, Lyndsey Phillips, Laura Nowicki, Jeanne Stapleton, and Augusto Lombana. When they pitched the idea to both Zebra Communications and the Wilkes-Barre League of Women voters, all were ready to jump on board. The red, white, and blue theme dominated the old bookstore and gave all who entered the feeling that they were a part of something important.

Not only were students encouraged to vote, but they were greeted with refreshments and the great up-and-coming band, “Maybe Someday.” The band brought in students who just couldn’t resist their great sound. Also, Professor of Communication Studies Jane-Elmes Crahall gave an extremely informative speech in which she talked about voting and the changing role of politics in our society.

When junior, Mark Congdon was asked if he thought the event was a success, he replied, “There were around 50 people who either stayed or were in and out. More importantly, we were able to register 5 college students to vote. I think that’s a success in itself!” As well as 5 students registering to vote, many students took forms to complete themselves. No matter how many people registered to vote, all involved were educated about politics, voting, and the importance of both to students at Wilkes University.

Congratulations, Zebra!

Dr. Elmes-Crahall on Lecture Tour

By: Andrew Seaman

Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall is going on tour. No, not rock tours like most college students are used to, but a lecture tour. During 2007, Dr. Elmes-Crahall is contracted to do a national speaking tour in conjunction with Julie Fiorie, President of Fiorie Speakers Forum based in Boston. Her lectures focus on “Presidential Campaign Rhetoric: New Words, Fresh Ideas.”

Her first stop was speaking for the Hadley Memorial Fund in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on March 19th. Then, on April 19th she spoke before 400 people at the Ft. Worth, Texas Lecture Foundation. Upcoming lecture stops include Michigan and Virginia. As the 2008 presidential election draws closer, Professor Elmes-Crahall expects to have more invitations to speak. Her lecture topic focuses on the need for the American electorate to become “more energized and more rhetorically savvy” in order to control the political spin that will increase in the campaign.

Jamie Gwynn, a sophomore Communication Studies major and one of Dr. Elmes-Crahall’s students said, “To be a student and have one of my teachers on a lecture tour shows just how invaluable they are to the Communications program.” Dr. Mark Stine, chair of the Department, added, “There are really two great benefits of doing a national tour. One is to give Wilkes University a lot of national attention so when somebody hears “Wilkes University” they will recognize the name. Jane can also utilize what she speaks about and bring that back into her classes, which is another plus for her students.”

Dr. Elmes-Crahall verified that her tour is helping the University. While sharing a funny experience about her travels she said at least two families from Texas are seriously looking into sending their children to Wilkes in the coming years.

About her time traveling, Dr. Elmes-Crahall said she didn’t expect to do full-time lecturing because the travel is exhausting, and above all, she is a teacher.

Annual Zebra Summer Training Session Photos

Kristin Hake teaches Zebra members the In Design program.

Julia Marranca learns the ins and outs of In Design at Zebra’s annual training session.
Collage of Photos at Annual Zebra Dinner