Wilkes University Gives Carl Brigado the Academic Support Award

By: Matthew Gogas

The best way to define someone is by the mark they leave on others. Carl Brigado has undoubtedly left a mark on others. Many in the Communications Department at Wilkes probably know “Carl,” as everyone calls him. For those who are unfamiliar with his work, he is the Director of the Thomas P. Shelburne Telecommunications Center and Chief Engineer. He has had a tremendous impact on the faculty and students here at Wilkes. He works closely with students in the television studio and always helps with instruction for classes pertaining to television. He makes sure that the studio has the best equipment and stimulates student creativity.

In light of all of Carl’s achievements and hard work, the Teacher Recognition Effectiveness Committee, also known as TREC, has given him the Academic Support Award for 2007. The award is granted to those who are not faculty members, but who serve to advance the quality of education for students here at Wilkes. The Committee which is comprised of six faculty members all chose Brigado as this year’s Academic Support Award recipient because of the excellent job he has done mentoring students and guiding them towards a successful future in television. “He is innovative, creative, and loves spending time with the students and that is a big thing for this award,” raved Dr. Andrea Frantz, who is a member of the TREC committee.

Carl was nominated for this award by Dr. Mark Stine, the chair of the Communications Studies Department, who also works very closely with him in the television studio. “As director of the Shelburne Center, Carl provides instructional support for all of our television-related classes, but Carl’s support goes far beyond engineering. He guides students in these classes through a variety of computer graphics programs, assists them with lighting, sound, and set creation, and works one-on-one with any student who desire assistance,” said Dr. Stine who was confident in nominating Carl and his abilities as a mentor to students.

“Working on Wilkes World, Carl has always given me assistance and he is always available. There has never been a time that Carl has not been there for me as a mentor,” stated Wil Mercado, the producer of Wilkes World.

Carl accepted the Academic Support Award this September. He was hired in 1983 by Dr. Kinney to develop a television studio in the Stark building, which he did successfully. Then he helped create the current television studio in 1996. Since then, he has worked to build new studios, acquire the most cutting edge technology, and guide students in their college career. “I just try to help them develop their own skills, let their own creativity surface, and to get them prepared for the outside world. I’ve been working here for twenty four years with that philosophy and it’s good to be recognized,” said Carl humbly.

Congratulations, Carl, on behalf of the Communications Department faculty and students.

Dr. Estwick Picked as Citizen Ambassador to South Africa

By: Jane Elnes-Crahall and Gina Bove

In February 2008, Dr. Evene Estwick, assistant professor of Communication Studies, will be part of the U.S. Citizen-to-Citizen Ambassador Program’s 10-day tour of South Africa. Selected as one of only 21 journalism professors and media professionals from across the U.S., Estwick and the other delegates will get a first-hand look at the role of the media in dealing with the AIDS epidemic in South Africa.

“South Africa has a serious AIDS epidemic,” explains Dr. Estwick. It will be interesting to observe how South African media professionals use traditional as well as new media to disseminate AIDS prevention information,” said Estwick.

Not only will the trip be an opportunity for her to study the impact of the media’s public service campaigns in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Estwick will also be meeting with journalists from South Africa. She plans to use this trip as a learning experience to be shared with her students, especially those enrolled in Intercultural Communication, which she will be teaching during Spring 2008.

Cont’d on page 2.
Highlights of the Communication Studies Annual Colloquium

By: Shauna Strellish

The Communication Studies Department held its annual fall colloquium to kick off the 07-08 school year on Tuesday, September 4 in the Henry Student Center Ballroom.

Dr. Mark Stone, Department Chair, welcomed all students and introduced the Communication Studies faculty. Stone invited the students who are the presidents and executive staff of all the communication related clubs to explain the extracurricular activities.

Wil Mercado, producer of Wilkes World, elaborated on what the student-run television program entails. Renee Loftus, WCLH Station Manager, introduced the radio E-staff for the 2007-2008 academic year. Andee Scarantino, editor of the school newspaper, The Beacon, discussed the need for writers on this year’s editorial staff, and Mr. Dan Broyles, director of forensics, introduced the officers of the Speech and Debate team.

Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall spoke about 2007 graduate Adrienne Richards completing her internship in Washington, D.C. Elmes-Crahall talked about the opportunity Wilkes students have to study at American University or Georgetown University and complete internships in D.C. Seven communications majors then spoke about their summer internship experiences ranging from working with the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Yankees to interning at a newspaper in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Andrea Frantz closed this year’s colloquium by introducing freshmen and transfer students to their mentors. Sophomores and juniors, who have had experience in the Department, are asked to mentor freshmen and transfers by helping them out with their first year in the department. Freshman mentee, Megan Smith, commented, “The mentor system was, for me, the best part. Being only tentative on my area of focus, having an upper classman with a different concentration will really help me decide by getting ‘live feedback.’”

The colloquium is a great start to the school year providing students with the opportunity to learn about the Communication Studies department.

Scholarships Awarded to Gwynn and Zastko at Annual Colloquium

By: Michele Flannery

Two Communication Studies students were awarded scholarships at the annual Communication Studies Colloquium held on September 4.

Jamie Gwynn, junior, received the 2007-2008 Departmental “Friends and Family of Communications” Scholarship. This scholarship is based on need, academic excellence and leadership in the department.

Nicole Zastko, senior, was awarded the annual student membership in the National Communication Association (NCA). Each year the faculty gives this membership to a senior who has an exceptional grade point average and plans on pursuing graduate studies in communications. The membership provides the student access to NCA’s graduate school fair, and subscription to a national communication journal.

Congratulations to Jamie and Nicole!

Dr. Evene Estwick Honored With Outstanding Achievement Award

By: Katie Marzzacco

Dr. Evene Estwick was honored September 15, 2007 with an Outstanding Achievement Award given by the Modern High School Alumni Association, Inc. in recognition of her “outstanding achievement and contribution as an educator.”

Dr. Estwick explained that the high school in Barbados that her aunt attended is now closed, but that the Alumni Association is located in New York. The association raises money for student scholarships and gives out these prestigious awards each year. The president of the association (who shares the same last name as Dr. Estwick, with no relation) presented her with her award.

The banquet drew approximately 150 people including Dr. Estwick’s 86-year-old cousin whom she was named after. Other relatives of Dr. Estwick were able to attend. Dr. Estwick said that the banquet included dinner, drinks, and dancing. Congratulations, Dr. Estwick.

Communication Studies Student Advisory Board

By: Michele Flannery

2007-2008

Freshmen Representatives
Mike Cignoli
Megan Smith

Sophomore Representatives
Michele Flannery
Nicole Frail
Andrew Seaman

Junior Representatives
Candice Halliday
Alyssa Koncelik
Lindsey White

Senior Representatives
Gerard Hetman
Dave Sebelin

Cont’d from page 1.

According to their web site (www.citizenambassadors.org), the U.S. Citizen-to-Citizen Ambassador Program was founded by President Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950’s. This is the first delegation to go to South Africa specifically to study the role of media in the AIDS crisis. Participation is by invitation only.

“Evene’s participation in this program is important to her research and teaching here at Wilkes. First hand knowledge of how another culture is dealing with the AIDS epidemic will enrich her teaching. Her doctoral research was in international media, so I think she is a perfect fit for this program,” said her colleague Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall.

Congratulations, Dr. Estwick. We all look forward to hearing about your adventures in South Africa.
On the Spot: Dr. Evene Estwick

Dr. Evene Estwick-- Traveler, “Foodie,” and Pop-culture Expert

By: Katie Marzzacco

Originally from Barbados, Dr. Evene Estwick came to Wilkes University after completing her undergraduate and M.A. in Mass Communication at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and her Ph.D from Temple University in Philadelphia. When she graduated, she had every intention of returning to Barbados for work, but fate brought her to us here at Wilkes University. Today she teaches Public Speaking, Basic Newswriting, Audio Production, Mass Media and Society, and Intercultural Communications. She finds the most joy in teaching Mass Media and Intercultural Communications.

Though most of Dr. Estwick’s life involves the study of communication in some way, she still finds time for her favorite things. There is nothing Dr. Estwick loves more than traveling. Some of her travels include Bermuda, London, Paris, Peru, Mexico, and St. Lucia. “That’s my lifetime dream, to do a trip of the world.” She even keeps a list of the top 5 places that she absolutely will visit even before she retires in Barbados. The list includes places like Brazil, China, West Africa, Greece, and Thailand. “I will go anywhere because I’m curious about the way other people live and how they look at life, and what kind of food they eat.”

Dr. Estwick travels so much that she keeps a standing list of things not to forget that she pulls out before each trip. She also has a cosmetic bag full of travel-sized accessories just to make the process a little easier.

Even though she loves seeing new and interesting places, she still hates the process of traveling. “I just find it tiresome. It’s not like I’m nervous about it[travel] at all because there’s been many times I’ve gotten on a plane and as soon as I sat down I fell asleep and an hour later I’d wake up and see we’re still on the runway.” Dr. Estwick does like to have nice things, but any extra money is put towards her next adventure. “I don’t believe in accumulating stuff. I believe in having experiences because 40 years from now, the stuff is not going to make a difference to me.”

The self-proclaimed “foodie” loves sampling foods from different countries. Actually, culinary school was once a possibility for the well-traveled adventurer. Though she has trouble picking one, her favorite foods are West Indian, African, Latin American, and Asian.

“I’ll eat anything, I’ll try it once.”

Dr. Estwick is actually planning a February trip to South Africa to observe Mass Media. “I obsess about going places. If I wasn’t a responsible person, I would probably travel a lot more.” With family and friends spread out all over the globe and an unquenchable thirst for travel, Dr. Estwick will always be jetting to her next destination.

Faculty to Present Papers at NCA’s National Convention

By: Michele Flannery

Students aren’t the only ones with papers due this semester.

The Communications faculty, as a group, will be presenting a panel at the National Communication Association’s Annual Convention in Chicago on November 15.

The title of the panel is “Following a Purposeful Pathway: Integrating the Mentoring Arc at All Levels in a Small University Communication Studies Department.” The subject matter of the panel is important to Wilkes University because it is central to the university’s mission and initiatives, according to Dr. Mark Stine, department chair.

“This unique presentation will have the potential of putting Wilkes on the map as a university that stresses mentoring, and does it well,” Stine said.

Each faculty member has their own presentation about different areas of mentoring.

Professor Daniel Broyles’ presentation deals with mentorship of a first year faculty member and how members can benefit from this mentoring. Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall is looking at mentoring from a multi-level view at the student managed Public Relations Agency, Zebra Communications. Dr. Evene Estwick’s presentation focuses on mentorship for international students.

Dr. Andrea Frantz’s presentation deals with mentoring the pre-college and first year student in communications. Dr. Bradford Kinney’s presentation discusses mentoring from high school through post-graduation, including alumni-faculty relationships. And Dr. Mark Stine’s presentation deals with assessing the mentoring model.

The NCA is the largest national, non-profit organization that works to enhance communication scholarship and education, according to natcom.org.
Alumni Profile: Kalen Churcher ‘98

By: Jamie Gibson

Kalen Churcher began her career at Wilkes ahead of the game. When she was a freshman she already had 15 credits transferred in from various AP classes she took in high school, and she had a goal of completing the rhetoric concentration in the Communications Department. That all changed when her first advisor, a telecom professor, encouraged her to take some audio and video production classes and by the end of her freshman year she had completed all the requirements for that concentration. The following year, she began to study the organizational concentration, because, she says “I liked it a lot, I liked planning special events like fund raisers, press conferences, even political debates. I still enjoy it; I just don’t get to do things like that very often.”

After she completed all of the requirements for the organizational concentration, with the encouragement of Mr. Bigler, she started taking classes that would help her complete the journalism concentration. Ironically, the last concentration she completed was rhetoric, the one she originally wanted to complete as a freshman. Kalen became the first student to complete all four concentrations in the Communications Department, and she did it in only seven semesters. “I’m very competitive and when I found out that it could be done and no student had done it before, it made me really want to do it. I always planned out my schedule one or two semesters ahead of time, and sometimes I had to take a few 18 credit semesters, but it was worth it.”

Since graduating, Kalen has had jobs ranging from public relations for the American Lung Association, reporting for the Times-Leader for 7 years, doing freelance journalism, and most recently, teaching at Penn State University, and part-time at Wilkes. She credits being able to handle these diverse jobs with her experiences at Wilkes. Being involved with a number of organizations both in the Wilkes community and outside such as, The Beacon, IABC (a pre-Zebra organization), Lambda Pi Eta, WCLH, the Commuter Council, and being a Big Sister, along with completing all 4 concentrations, have given her the skills to make her more knowledgeable and marketable to potential employers.

Kalen is currently studying at Penn State University where she is working on completing her dissertation so she can graduate in 2008. She recently traveled to Louisiana to do research on her dissertation at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, studying how inmate produced media is used as a means of self governance. She spent 2 months interviewing and observing inmates (most of whom were convicted murderers), and employees about their award winning, well respected prison magazine and television and radio stations. When asked if she was nervous about going into this kind of setting she replied, “A lot of people have asked me that, and right now I’m not nervous, but that could change, I’m just more concerned about conducting good research and getting my dissertation done.” Now, having finished her research, when asked about her experience in the prison Kalen says, “All the prisoners were like southern gentlemen, they called me ma’am and held doors open for me. The prison itself was almost like a college campus, it was beautiful.” Churcher is currently teaching Feature Writing at Wilkes.

Alumni Help Students Connect the Dots

By: Jamie Gwynn

On September 13, eighty students and twenty-eight alumni gathered at the Henry Student Center Ballroom for “Connecting the Dots,” an event organized for the first-time by Career Services and the Alumni Office. Students had the opportunity to learn how successful alumni transitioned from Wilkes students to professionals.

“I think all the alumni here, regardless of what their career was or [currently] is, wanted to inspire people and let people know that if you work hard you can achieve your goals and your dreams,” said Carol Bosack, Director for Career Services.

“But that’s piece number one; meeting people and making connections is piece number two,” said Bosack.

And it was the Communication Studies alumni who predictably took over the spotlight from that point forward.

Andy Mehalshick, Bridget Guinta, Kristin Hake, Gabrielle Lamb, Bridget O’Connor and Emily Taylor are former Communication Studies majors who attended the event and were willing to give back important advice that they have found useful in their careers.

“My advice is to get involved and not just internships,” said Andy Mehalshick, class of ’83 and currently a reporter and anchor for WBRE. “You can’t learn [everything] from a book; get a job somewhere, whether it’s part-time or whatever, and get involved. You got to get involved and be aware of what’s happening.”

Gabrielle Lamb, class of ’04 and currently the Economic Development Specialist for the Wilkes-Barre Chamber, extended the advice of Mehalshick. “When you’re out there looking for a job I can assure you your degree alone is not what’s going to help you in getting a job; it’s going to be the activities and experiences that you’re apart of when your in college [that will help],” said Lamb.

Kristin Hake, class of ’04 and currently Community Relations Coordinator at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, interrupted Lamb with advice that every Communication Studies major should have memorized when they begin their academic careers. “Keep a portfolio of everything you done,” Hake said, which was what she needed to get her position.

Amy Fusco and Brian Switay, both Communication Studies majors, enjoyed the event from a student’s perspective.

“I think it was interesting because you got to meet the people [who are] doing the job you’re one day going to be doing,” proclaimed Switay. Fusco agreed.

“I thought it was very educational on how to find a job and it was a good way to connect with people and get an internship.”
Zebra and Pharmacy Produce PSA Campaign

By: Jamie Gwynn

Zebra Communications and seventy-two Pharmacy students (P4) collaborated to create radio PSA’s dealing with pulmonary diseases. The cross-major project took three weeks with a goal of enhanced awareness for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Asthma and Smoking Cessation. The top two PSA’s will be sent from Wilkes for broadcast on local radio stations.

Dr. Daniel Longyhore, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Dr. Dan McCune, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, jointly thought of the PSA campaign and wanted their class to take an active role.

Specifically, McCune stated, “We wanted to have something more community oriented. We wanted to have them do something that’s more active than just listening to lectures.”

Goal accomplished.

The pharmacy class was broken up into twelve groups of six people each, with groups in charge of developing a thirty-second PSA. They had to research and write scripts. Representatives of Zebra Communications edited each PSA and then chose the top six for production. Based on production, the top two were then chosen to be sent to local radio stations to be run in coordination with Respiratory Awareness Week, October 22-27.

Prior to the project, what these pharmacy students didn’t have in mind was receiving input from Zebra Communications, and it was a learning experience for both sides. Christine Seitzinger, of Wilkes Marketing/Communications, brought Zebra in to help make this campaign happen.

On working with Pharmacy students, Jared Lyman, a senior Entrepreneurship major in the Public Relations class, said, “I learned something about a disease that I didn’t know about before and it really brought me to realize that pharmacy students have a really creative innovative side.”

Zebra students Cheryl Gressley, Samantha Clarke, Carlton Holmes and Wil Mercado helped with the technical production in the radio station.

Candice Halliday, junior Communication Studies major, concurred. “It was a good teamwork event. I didn’t realize that pharmacy students were [that] creative.”

But I think Kevin Fahey, a P4 Pharmacy major, puts it best on why it was important for Zebra Communications to be involved.

“You guys know a heck of a lot more about communication than we do.”

Adjunct Faculty Honored to Be a Part of the Communication Studies Department

By: Megan Krisanda

Among the adjunct faculty in the communications department is Dale Mikolaczyk. He teaches telecommunications and brings 30 years of experience to the classroom. He was in charge of the Space Systems Divisions of CBS and NBC television networks in New York City. In the late 1980’s he worked for AT&T Satellite operations and engineering at the World Trade Center.

This is Mikolaczyk’s second year teaching at the University. He attended the University of Scranton and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

“Wilkes is second to none in communications and I am proud to be associated with Mark Stine’s fine department,” said Mikolaczyk.

In addition to his teaching at Wilkes, he hosts syndicated radio shows such as “Saturday Night Live at the Oldies” as Shadoe Steele over Sirius Satellite radio. He also works for 15-radio and 2-TV stations as Rusty Fender’s 20/20 traffic reports for the past 22 years.

Wilkes Alumni, Stacy Smulowitz, is teaching her second class at Wilkes. She taught Research Methods nine years ago. Her experience at Wilkes as an undergraduate was a “wonderful experience. Jane and Brad have always been there for me at the drop of a hat.”

She is honored to be helping out the communications department by teaching a section of public relations this semester. She graduated from Wilkes with a bachelor's in organization and interpersonal communication along with a minor in marketing. She received her master’s degree in corporate communication from Ithaca College, New York and is pursuing her doctoral degree at Rutger’s University, New Jersey.
Colloquium Features Communications Summer Internships: Summer Interns Share their Experiences

By: Candice Halliday

From New York to Nashville, the internship opportunities for Communications majors at Wilkes are endless. Seven communications students gave their insight at the Communications Colloquium on Tuesday, September 4th, about their summer internships. These students applied what they learned in the classroom to real life situations in the Communications field by completing summer internships.

The communications students who interned over the summer include seniors Samantha Clarke, Cheryl Gressley, Gerard Hetman, Carlton Holmes, and David Sebelin. Jamie Gwynn, junior and Andrew Seaman, sophomore also completed a summer internship.

Jamie Gwynn hit the ball out of the park and took on a local internship with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees. Gerard Hetman promoted the authenticity of North Eastern, PA by interning with Happenings, a local advertising firm. Samantha Clarke interned under the bright lights of the Rachael Ray show in New York City.

Cheryl Gressley grabbed her cowboy boots and headed to Tennessee for an internship with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Carlton Holmes interned as a sports reporter with the Star Ledger, his local paper in New Jersey. David Sebelin played detective and went behind the scenes by interning with the Carbon County Court House. Finally, Andrew Seaman spent his summer interning on the national desk of the Washington Times in the political arena of Washington DC.

At the Colloquium, each student discussed how they benefited from their internships. They offered advice on what to do and what not to do when finding the right internship. A few highlighted exciting experiences, like Sebelin when he talked about wearing a bullet proof vest.

Clarke explained, “The Rachael Ray Show’ allowed me to learn a lot and meet a lot of great people. It is also fun to watch the show now and say, ‘I worked on that.’” One piece of advice Clarke offered was to live in the city where you intern because you have a chance to learn more about the area and people.

Sebelin described his experience as follows, “I found it to be out of the ordinary. It was a lot more writing than I expected, which turned into a good thing. My writing skills led to other exciting opportunities like observing the judges and other court officials.”

The Department of Communication Studies places approximately 40 interns each year in various jobs. Anyone interested in interning should contact their advisor or the co-op office.

Intern of the Month in New York City

By: Megan Krisanda

Her last summer before graduation, communications major Samantha Clarke, wanted to do something big. What’s bigger than spending the summer in New York City interning for a celebrity talk-show? Clarke interned for Rachel Ray’s talk show this past summer and was awarded intern of the month for July.

For most of the summer the talk show was on hiatus, but the last two weeks were the most memorable says Clarke. “The last two weeks started tapings, it was really neat to see how it all comes together and works out in the end,” explained Clarke. She has been working in the television studio at Wilkes since her sophomore year and is very interested in pursuing a career in the field.

Unfortunately Clarke did not meet Rachael Ray because she was away for most of the time doing other shows, but she did catch a few glimpses of her. “I rode an elevator with her once, but never had the chance to introduce myself,” said Clarke.

During her last week, Clarke spent a lot of time in the television studio. “I helped out in the control room and observed,” said Clarke. She also made some good contacts for when she graduates in May. She also made friends with other interns and remains in touch with a lot of them.

Clarke was nominated for intern of the month by Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall. “She took advantage of every professional opportunity they gave her, from serving as a stand-in on a remote shoot to helping edit promotional tapes. She managed the adjustment to NYC easily and put in extra effort,” said Crahall. Interns of the month receive a certificate and a voucher for the bookstore.
Alumni Profile: Jesse Choper '57

By: Mark Congdon, Jr.

Did you know that the Wilkes Speech and Debate Team was once nationally ranked, and we competed with universities and colleges such as Harvard, N.Y.U. and West Point? Look at copies of The Beacon in the mid-1950s and you can read about the successes of the Debate Team. Did you know that many of those students who competed in those competitions became very successful with their careers?

One of those students is Jesse Choper. He graduated Wilkes University in 1957, and now is a nationally known Earl Warren professor of Public Law and former Dean at the University of California in Berkeley, California. While attending Wilkes, as a senior, Choper was ranked number 2 in the country in debate.

Since competing in the Speech and Debate Team and graduating from Wilkes in 1957, he went on to receive his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and after graduating in 1960, worked as a law clerk for then-Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court. He also taught law at schools including Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania from 1957 to 1960, and the University of Minnesota Law School from 1961 to 1965. Even more astonishing is that he is a visiting professor at schools such as Harvard Law School, Fordham Law School, the Free University in Amsterdam, and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia to name a few.

In a recent phone interview, Choper enthusiastically stated, “Being involved in the Speech and Debate Team was a very worthwhile experience for me and extremely influential. It was an introduction to something totally different than I’ve ever done. It enabled me to speak in a logical manner, think in an organized way, and allowed me to understand both sides of an argument. It was the best training I ever had to prepare me for law school!”

Not only did the speech and debate team give him the foundation he needed to succeed in law school and in his years after, but Choper made many lifetime friends and mentors. “Dr. Arthur Kruger, the coach of the Speech and Debate team at the time, built the Wilkes Debate Team. He came to me in the middle of my first year and told me he wanted me to get involved with the debate team. He had an enormous influence in my thinking and was an internal figure that helped me throughout my education,” said Choper. Kruger was nationally known and wrote the book Honor Debate that Choper still uses to this day.

Choper added that he met and made many great friends. “Jim Nevares and Jay Harold Flannery, Jr. were members of the team, and we were really good friends and kept in touch over the years. Jim became a very successful banker and Nick, that was Jay’s nickname, was an Associate Justice of the Appeals Court in Massachusetts,” noted Choper.

Choper’s most memorable experience at Wilkes with the Speech and Debate Team was when they competed in the Harvard Tournament. He declared that it was his biggest win coming in first place against schools such as MIT, Harvard, Georgetown, Amherst, Eastern Nazarene, and Maine.

Choper summed up his experiences here at Wilkes by saying that the Speech and Debate team’s greatest benefit it has to offer students is, “The process of logical thinking is great for anything you become. Its most direct use is in law, however, being involved and competing in competitions has great value in regardless of what you do!”

Personal Account: There is More Than Meets the Eye with the Wilkes Speech and Debate Team

By: Alyssa Benner

When I tell people I’m a member of the forensic team their eyes get big and they ask if I do all that cool CSI stuff. I calmly tell them, “No, no, no. Forensics originally means speech and debate in Latin.” I like to tell people this fact because it’s a good conversation starter, and typically students involved in forensics are very outgoing and chatty.

Last year the Wilkes Forensic team consisted of Jeff Niemic, Mark Congdon Jr., Raquel Wheby, Matt Gold, Valerie Martinez, Laura Nowicki, and myself. Currently the 2007-2008 year has seen an increase in members. Bianca Sabia, Steve Felter, Xiaoqiao Zhang and Dana Lehman have all jumped on the speech and debate wagon. New members are always welcome.

Forensics has many perks, such as increase in confidence in public speaking, the ability to meet new people and sustain friendships, and the knowledge of various events that could help you when entering the workplace.

Upcoming tournaments allow the team to travel as far as Montreal, Quebec for the 28th CFA Winter Tournament. Closer tournaments include Manchester, New Hampshire, NYC, New York, Harrisonburg, Virginia, amongst others. If the team makes it to NFA nationals we will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee.

Forensics is a team effort. Making it to nationals, which is difficult, depends on the team as a whole, not simply one individuals achievements. In order for the team to sufficiently work, a Student Committee has been elected. Jeff Niemic was nominated as the President and Mark Congdon Jr. was given the title of Vice President. Matt Gold was elected Treasurer; The Historian is myself, and the semi-serious title of Funmeisters was given to Xiaoqiao Zhang, Bianca Sabia, Mark Congdon Jr. and myself.

Professor Daniel Broyles, the team coach, enthusiastically said, “I’m as stoked as a bonfire out of control. The next phase of the team’s growth is to increase our presence and competitiveness at competitions and to further develop our debate program. With the newly elected student committee members, I know such goals are completely reachable. And with the assistance of the “fun-meisters,” I know we will all have a blast working together.”

If you’re interested in finding out more or potentially joining the team, please contact Coach Broyles at Daniel.broyles@wilkes.edu.

2007-2008 Speech & Debate Team
Department Offers Three “New” Courses for Spring Semester

By: Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall

Check the Spring 2008 course offerings and you will find three new topics courses in Communication Studies. New courses add vitality to the curriculum. Check with your advisors about how these courses can fit in your concentrations.

Want to learn how to win arguments? COM 398A: Advanced Argumentation and Debate, taught by Dr. Bradford Kinney, is a result of student initiatives. After their Argumentation and Debate class in fall 2006, students petitioned the Department to offer an advanced class. Dr. Kinney agreed and so, on Tuesday and Thursdays in the spring, the most skilled debaters in the Department will have their chance to refine their skills in public discourse. The course will count as an upper-level elective in the Rhetoric concentration. Pre-requisite in COM 204 or permission of Dr. Kinney.

And, here is a great opportunity for our majors to learn in a different setting. For the third year, Dr. Mark Stine and Dr. John Hepp are offering COM/HST 398: B, History of Communication. COM 398B is the 30credit course that accompanies the London Trip over the January Intersession. This course can count toward any of the concentrations. See Dr. Stine for additional information about the course and the trip to London.

The third special topics course is COM 398: C, Controlling Spin: News, Politics and PR, taught by Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall. The focus will be on how citizens (young voters) are influenced by and can influence the presidential election. Students who helped create the FreshInk300 blog during Spring 2007 will have the chance to keep it going. We will also be involved in the presidential primary debates. This course will count as an upper-level elective in all of the concentrations. See Dr. Elmes-Crahall for further information.