

Speaker's Notes

Department of Speech Communication
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Summer/Fall 2000

Vol. 18, No. 1

From the Chair . . .

Welcome to fall! Though the weather seems to vary from near 90 to close to freezing, both the calendar and school year say that fall is here.

Since the last newsletter of summer/fall 1999, we have been busy and involved in the Department. We completed our first year under the new general education program. With this program, speech communication is a required course for virtually all students. Of course this means that we now have to serve a lot more students than we have in the past few years.

We have also seen an increase in students in our lower and upper division courses, as the Minnesota Legislature approved a new teacher licensure program. In response, the Department worked with the English Department to create a new English/Speech Teacher Licensure program. All English teaching students now must take a minimum of 24 credits in Speech Communication.

We also developed a new course last year to serve students in the Engineering programs. We now offer a modified public speaking course tailored to the needs of these students. All in all, with the addition of new majors and a large increase in minors, we have been seeing very full classes.

As a result of all this growth, the University has provided funding to the department to hire three full-time instructors to help meet the demand for general education courses. **Nanette Johnson-Curiskis**, who was in the department last year to fill in as a late hire, was asked to come back for a repeat performance. She is primarily teaching public speaking and interpersonal communication, and is also teaching the Performance of Literature course this fall. Our other two new hires are **Tony Boehler** and **Kam Jamshidi**. Both Tony and Kam are recent graduates of our graduate program, and are helping out by teaching Fundamentals of Communication, our large lecture/lab basic course, Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication.

We are also happy to have one other new faculty member. **Dr. Martine Linderman** has joined the Department to teach Intercultural Communication and other courses in the Department. Martine comes to us from the University Johannes Kepler in Austria.

Warren Sandmann, Chair

Department Happenings . . .

CTAM

Members of the Speech Communication Department continued to play an active role in the Communication and Theater Association

of Minnesota. **Dan Cronn-Mills** continues to serve on the executive board, the Board of Governors, and as the newsletter editor and webmaster for the organization. **Warren Sandmann** also serves on the executive board and the Board of Governors, and is in his fourth year as editor of the CTAM Journal. Both also took part in the 2000 annual convention, as did **Dr. Lisa Perry**.

All three helped to put together and take part in a panel presentation on First Amendment issues in the classroom. **Warren** also took part on a panel looking at the new teacher licensure in Minnesota, and on a Great Ideas for Teaching Speech: Assignment and Web Site Swap Shop.

NCA

The annual convention of the National Communication Association will take place November 8-12 in Seattle, WA. Speech Communication Department faculty will take part in a number of activities.

Dan Cronn-Mills is presenting a paper with MSU alum **Larry Schnoor** entitled "Evidence and Ethics in IE: An Examination of an NIET Final Round." Dan will also be serving as the respondent for the Top Four Papers in Argumentation and Forensics panel.

Lisa Perry is presenting a paper with MSU colleague **Tony Boehler** entitled "Engaging Ethos: Source Citation Accuracy in Intercollegiate Forensics." She is also taking part on a panel on teaching legal communication with her colleague **Warren Sandmann**. Lisa is also chairing and responding to a panel entitled "Theoretical and Historical Perspectives on Treating the Law as Literature."

Warren Sandmann will also be busy at NCA this year. He will be presenting and running workshops for a one-day mini-conference on Master Degree Programs in Communication. He will also be taking part in a panel featuring state communication association journal editors. He will be presenting a paper entitled "Kincaid v. Gibson: Hazelwood Goes to College," and will be joining his colleague Lisa Perry on a panel on teaching legal communication.

Tony Boehler, as noted above, will be presenting a co-authored paper with Lisa Perry. He will also be presenting a co-authored paper with MSU graduate student **Karen Daas** entitled "Before the Engagement: Making the Transition to Collegiate Forensics."

Three more graduate students will be presenting papers at the convention as well. **Brian Klosa** will be presenting on "Moving from One National Organization to Another: Adaptations Necessary to Success in Transition Between Forensic Organizations," as well as "Content and Form in Music Videos: An Evaluation of Genre Classification." **Jason Edwards** will be taking part in a panel on "Engaging the World's Problems in Seven Minutes: Extemporaneous Speaking." And **Bill Maze** will present on "The Impact of Attachment Style on Shutz's Interpersonal Needs of Inclusion, Affection, and Control."

Hey, Alumni!

Don't you get tired about reading what we're up to? We do. We want and need to hear from you. Drop us a note at Speech Communication Department, AH 230, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN, 56001, or

email us at warren.sandmann@mnsu.edu
Let us know what's going on with you.
Send us a business card. Other alumni
are wondering what happened to you as
well. Let them know where you are.

We'd like to set up an alumni
web site, and put alumni news in our
newsletter. But we can't do it without
you!

Faculty Happenings

Dr. Martine Linderman has
come to MSU from the University
Johannes Kepler in Linz, Austria. From
1994-1999 she designed, taught, and
supervised communication seminars and
field research courses required for
economics, marketing, and law students
at the Master's level and was the
decision maker responsible for awarding
MA degrees to French program students.

In addition, she designed and
taught international recruiting simulation
and interviewing seminars and provided
management and intercultural training
for Austrian business people working in
French settings

During 1998 and 1999, she
directed a committee of 15 members
from the European Union in the
preparation of the action plan for the
Renewable Energies Commission. And
for the Canadian Embassy, Vienna,
Austria, she organized, represented, and
managed Canadian business exhibitions.

In the spring of 1999, Martine
met Albert Linderman at an international
Sense-Making research workshop in San
Francisco. They married in the summer
and she moved to the Twin Cities. For
the past year she worked with
immigration lawyers and coordinated the
American Immigration Lawyers
Association (AILA) Midwest
Conference held April 14-15 at the

Immigration History Research Center at
the University of Minnesota.

She completed her Doctoral
Thesis at the University of Montréal,
Québec, and was awarded her Ph. D. in
1998. The dissertation is entitled
"Analyse comparative des pratiques de
deux groupes de releveurs de compteurs
(Québécois et Américain) soumis à la
surveillance sur un territoire balisé."
("Comparative Analysis of the Practices
of Two Meters Readers Groups -
Canadian and American - Submitted to
monitoring on an Assigned
Territory.")

Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills starts his
ninth year as a associate professor and
director of forensics at MSU, Mankato.
Dr. Cronn-Mills has had a very
productive year highlighted by the
publication of his book, "A Qualitative
Analysis of the Jehovah's Witnesses:
The Rhetoric, Reality and Religion in
the Watchtower Society," published by
Edwin Mellen Press.

In addition, he published three
journal articles, presented five
convention papers, served as a panelist
on a convention panel, and was a
respondent for a top-papers panel.

Dr. Cronn-Mills is active in the
discipline on a national and regional
level including completing a three-year
appointment as an officer with the
Argumentation and Forensics Division
of the National Communication
Association; serving as a member of a
grant-funded NCA project designed to
promote service learning in
communication; serving as a member of
the NCA Nominating Committee; and
serving as a member of the Technology
Committee of the Central States
Communication Association

Dr. Cronn-Mills continues his
active involvement within the forensic

community by serving as the tournament director for the Larry Schnoor Invitational Forensics Tournament, and as a member of the tournament staff at the NIET District 4 Qualifier Tournament and the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament. He is well known throughout the forensic community for the computer applications he developed and continues to refine which run the National Individual Events Tournament.

Finally, Dr. Cronn-Mills has been instrumental in providing opportunities for undergraduate research and presentations. Dr. Cronn-Mills and Dr. Lisa Perry co-sponsored four students who presented their research at the 2000 MSU Undergraduate Research Conference. Four students on the Maverick Forensics team have had their competitive speeches published in Winning Orations of the Interstate Oratorical Association in 1999-2000.

Kambiz Jamshidi joins the faculty at MSU after completing an undergraduate degree in Human Communication at Northern Michigan. While at NMU, he was chosen as one of top 50 students who are picked every year to train in leadership theories and performances. This two-year program taught him a lot about effective leadership skills

After graduating from NMU in 1998, he came to MSU to work on his MA in Speech Communication. He served as a teaching assistant for the department. He completed a thesis this past spring focusing on communication apprehension and instructor positioning in the classroom.

He is working this year as an instructor teaching Fundamentals of Communication, Interpersonal, and Public Speaking.

Dr. Lisa Perry has spent much of the past year working on forensics, teaching, home renovation, and service to the discipline, community, university, and her family. This fall Dr. Perry is assuming the Director of Forensics' role from Dan Cronn-Mills while he is on sabbatical leave. Luckily this year sees Maverick Forensics with a record number of three graduate coaches and an acting Assistant Director of Forensics, which has allowed her to develop an experimental limited preparation event for the Minnesota River Swing--Legal Extemporaneous Speaking.

In the service realm, Dr. Perry was appointed to serve on numerous University committees this past year, including the NCA Focused Visit Advisory Committee, The Commission on the Status of Women, the Judicial Board and Research Board. Dr. Perry has also joined the Mankato Area Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Government Relations and Business Development committees. And at the National Communication Association annual meeting last November Dr. Perry was elected to the position of Vice Chair-Elect of the Commission on Communication and the Law, and will be assuming the role of Vice Chair this fall and Chair in the fall of 2001.

Last spring the National Communication Association and American Forensic Association published the proceedings of the Biennial Alta Conference, which included Dr. Perry's article entitled "Legal Argument in Eighteenth-Century England: Clearing the Bar."

Last but certainly not least, Dr. Perry is a frequent visitor to the Twin Cities helping her parents remodel and re-landscape their home. This summer Dr. Perry adopted a puppy, Dahlia, who

is a border collie-lab mix and loves to herd her two cats.

Nan Johnson-Curiskis attended the 18th annual International Listening Association convention in Norfolk, Virginia, in March. The President elect/program chair of the ILA personally invited Nan to present a program showcasing the work she has done using videos to teach listening concepts.

The program was titled Video@listening.edu--The Use of Videos to Teach Listening. Erika, Nan's 14-year-old daughter, who attended the convention with her, handed out the supreme compliment. After the program, Erika said, "Mom, you are really a great speaker!"

Last March, Nan, along with Gwen Sullivan, also a member of the MSU Speech Communication Department, conducted a session on cultural diversity and communication for health care service providers for the Regional Health Care Education Center Conference in Mankato.

As a summer project, Nan participated in 2 workshops focusing on integrating digital curriculum into the classroom. The workshops offered advice on utilizing current technology for both instructors and students.

Dr. Sheryl Dowlin has had a busy past year, and has plans that will carry her through a busy next year as well.

Sheryl is in the midst of a long-term research project focusing on reconciliation communication between Dakota and Minnesota Communities. At the Mahkato Education Day and Pow-Wow in September, Sheryl did some videotaping of participants and completed 19 video interviews for her research project. This project is funded

in part by a Faculty Research Grant, and additional grants from the Minnesota Humanities Commission, the Mankato School District, and the Speech Communication Foundation.

Sheryl has also been busy with getting word out about her research. She presented a co-authored paper entitled "Healing History's Wounds: Reconciliation Communication Efforts to Build Community Between Native American and Non-Native Peoples" at the 1999 NCA convention. She also prepared a paper for presentation entitled "History of Reconciliation between Minnesota Dakota and Mankato Communities (1862-2000)" for the 2000 Northern Great Plains Conference held at Minnesota State.

In addition to conference preparation, Sheryl submitted a book chapter entitled "Maria Pearson (Running Moccasin): Warrior and Peacemaker" for a proposed book entitled Women Who Speak for Peace. The chapter describes the warrior and peace communication patterns of a traditional Native American woman and their influence to preserve ancient burial remains in the United States.

Sheryl also will be featured in a forthcoming volume of Peace and Change Journal with her essay "Healing History's Wounds: Reconciliation Communication Efforts to Build Community Between Native American and Non-Native Peoples."

With all of her research, Sheryl also kept active with her classroom and departmental duties. She collaboratively planned and organized the first annual department Alumni and Graduate Recruitment reception this past May.

Sheryl was also active in the larger community, serving as a consultant-liaison to the New Ulm

Reconciliation Planning Committee, serving as a consultant-liaison for the "Through Indian Eyes" Education Day in Perry, Iowa. She also served as a liaison between the Dakota Community and the Mankato School District for the 14th Annual Mahkato Education Day.

Dr. Warren Sandmann has also had a busy past year. He completed his third year as chair, and then was thrown into a second three-year term as chair. He continued working with the basic course, Speech 100, and is in his second year as TA director.

He also continued taking part in a number of university committees, most notably the Assessment Resource Team and the Learning and Technology Roundtable.

He also worked with the Undergraduate Research Conference, working on publicity, helping to prepare the conference program, and delivering the Keynote Address at the conference.

Warren also tried to keep up with his own scholarship, preparing and presenting papers and workshops at NCA and CTAM. He also completed his third year as editor of the CTAM Journal, and is well into planning for his fourth year.

Warren is currently working on revisions for a book chapter entitled "West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette" for a book project on the top Supreme Court Decisions on Freedom of Expression, to be published by the University of Alabama Press.

Outside of school, Warren was elected to the Bridges Site Council, the policy-making body of the Bridges Community School in Mankato. His son, Kyle, is attending school at Bridges this year.

Warren also got started on what will probably be a long career as a youth

sports coach, coaching YMCA T-Ball and Flag Football this summer and fall.

Dr. Patricia Palm was honored this year for 35 years of service to Minnesota State University and continues to teach a full load of courses. She is currently serving as the Arts and Humanities representative on the Academic Standing Committee. She is the library liaison for the department. She participated in the Central States Communication Association conference in Detroit this past April.

Professor Palm continues to work with the Honors Program. Last year she structured and taught the first sections of Speech 240 Technical Communication, a public speaking course for engineering students. They survived and she survived.

The Zonta Club of the Mankato Area presented her with the Zonta Woman of the Year Award in recognition of her leadership and service to that organization.

She continues to act as parliamentarian for the state Inter Faculty Organization and was active at the Delegate Assembly in March of this year. She is also on the District 7 Board of Zonta International as parliamentarian for the board and for District Conferences.

Her annual trip to Sturgis during Rally week allowed her to conduct some field research in nonverbal communication. She continues to enjoy gardening and it's her ambition to secure a fellowship at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Tony Boehler joined the faculty this fall after completing his graduate degree in Speech Communication this past summer. He completed a thesis entitled "Superior-Subordinate Communication and Employee

Perception of Managerial Competency," a study of management communication at a local industry.

Tony will be teaching Fundamentals, Interpersonal and Public Speaking this year, and is also serving as the Acting Assistant Director of Forensics this fall. He will continue working with the forensics program this spring.

From the Bullpen . . .

This fall we have nine graduate teaching assistants working away in AH 206B. All of the teaching assistants are working with the Speech 100 course, attending lectures and teaching the recitation sections where the real work takes place. Of the nine, five are returning graduate students, and four are new to the program, though not necessarily new to MSU or even the Speech Communication Department.

Returning this year are **Karen Daas, Brian Klosa, Ann Leonard, Bill Maze and John Rollins**. New this year are **Alison Czarnecki, Lou Eckert, Jason Edwards, and Travis Shives**.

Karen Daas, as noted above, is a second-year TA. In addition to teaching, Karen joined the Maverick Forensics coaching staff last spring. She is currently working on her thesis, which examines gender issues in televised Olympic coverage. Karen is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College.

Ann Leonard is in her second year as a graduate student at MSU. She has a BS in nursing from Winona State. Ann plans on combining her nursing background with her present communication studies to help health care professionals communicate more effectively. She hopes to work in either a consulting firm or large health care system doing training and development with various interpersonal

communication topics. However, Ann's educational journey will be put temporarily on hold this December as she and her husband Toby are expecting their first child.

Brian Klosa is a second year graduate teaching assistant in the Speech Communication department. Klosa, originally from Illinois, spends numerous hours helping to coach the growing Maverick Speech and Debate team. Focusing on an energetic teaching style and concentrating on his media based studies, Klosa hopes to graduate this spring and attain a teaching position in a community college in Illinois.

Travis Shives is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, recently completing his undergraduate degree in Marketing. In addition to being a student and teaching assistant, he is the assistant wrestling coach at Minnesota State University.

Lou Eckert recently completed her undergraduate degree in Speech Communication at Mankato, and began her graduate study last spring semester. She has a strong interest in interpersonal, non-verbal and small group communication. Given this focus, in addition to teaching Speech 100, Lou is working as a teaching intern in Small Group Communication with Dr. Patty Palm.

John Rollins, who holds degrees in English and Speech/Theatre Arts, is back at Mankato pursuing a second Master's degree. This time around, his focus is on Organizational Communication in Higher Education, providing a theoretical framework for his considerable practical experience in this area.

Jason Edwards graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN with a Bachelor's Degree in International

Relations and Spanish in 1996. Jason then received his Master's Degree in Political Science from North Dakota State University in 1998 before enrolling in the Master's degree program at Minnesota State.

Currently, Jason is a teaching assistant and assistant speech coach with the forensics team in the Speech Communication Department. Jason's research interests include myth, nationalism, ethnicity and forensics. Jason is excited to be a part of Minnesota State University and the Department of Speech Communication.

Alison Czarnecki completed her undergraduate degree at Minnesota State, and has started her work on a graduate degree in Women's Studies while she works as a teaching assistant in the Speech Department.

Alison has begun her research work already, looking at the role of media representation of violence against women, and the impact of that representation on women's self-image.

Bill Maze is finishing up his term as a graduate student and graduate teaching assistant this fall. He is finishing his coursework and working on a thesis examining conflict and communication patterns among romantically involved dyads, looking specifically at the relationship between an individual's attachment style and responses to conflict in close personal relationships.

Maverick Forensics . . .

1999-2000 saw the Maverick Forensics team continue its tradition of educational and competitive success. In September the team conducted a Parliamentary-style debate with the traveling **British debate** team. **Anne Gerbensky** and **Seth-Michael Smith**

debated with Simon Milnes (Oxford) and Christopher Ruane (Glasgow) to a packed house on the topic: This House Believes that Cultural Pluralism is More Important than National Unity. Professor Emeritus Larry Schnoor ably performed the role of Speaker of the House, while Assistant Director of Forensics **Dr. Lisa Perry** acted as the Moderator. This past year also saw the graduation of Travis Boerboom, and the addition of three new graduate coaches: **Tony Boehler**, **Karen Daas**, and **Brian Klosa**.

Once again Minnesota State University, Mankato placed first and second in Persuasive speaking at the state tournament and sent **Jenn Dettmann** and **Anne Gerbensky** to the **Interstate Oratory Competition** in Tallahassee Florida. Traveling with Jenn and Anne were coaches Dan Cronn-Mills and Lisa Perry. In April, 8 students traveled to the NIET in Lincoln, Nebraska hosted by the University of Nebraska, and **Anne Gerbensky** was honored for her success in reaching quarterfinals in Persuasive Speaking.

Maverick Forensics continued its active role in the governance of forensics organizations with **Anne Gerbensky** replacing **Seth-Michael Smith** as Student Representative of District IV to the NIET committee, Professor **Dan Cronn-Mills** serving on the District IV committee, and Professor Emeritus **Larry Schnoor** acting as tournament director for all three national tournaments: the NIET, NFA, and Interstate Oratory.

For more information about Minnesota State University, Mankato Maverick Forensics, contact Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills, Director of Forensics, or Dr. Lisa Perry, Assistant Director of Forensics. During the time Dr. Cronn-Mills is on sabbatical leave the fall of

2000, Dr. Lisa Perry is the acting Director, and Anthony Boehler is the Acting Assistant Director. Dr. Cronn-Mills can be reached at (507) 389-5534 or daniel.cronn-mills@mnsu.edu, and Dr. Perry's contact information is (507) 389-5533 or lisa.perry@mnsu.edu. The current travel schedule, team pictures and other information can also be found at the Maverick Forensics home page at <http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/spc/mm/Communication/MaverickForensicsHP.html>

**2000 Forensic Talent Grant
Recipients**

**David Brennan
Joshua H. Carlson
Rachel J. Dunfee
Danielle V. Owrak
Cindy Piehl
Jennifer Dressen**