

Speaker's Notes

Department of Speech Communication
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Summer/Fall 1999

Vol. 17, No. 1

From the Chair . . .

Long time, no newsletter. And a lot has happened since the last edition of the Speech Communication Department newsletter. For the first change, look above. This newsletter is now coming to you from Minnesota State University, Mankato. The name change became official in the fall of 1998.

What else is new? Look below. Since the last newsletter, the Department has a new chair. I took over as chair in the fall of 1997, when then-chair Hazel Rozema left Mankato to take a position at the University of Illinois-Springfield. I am starting my third year as chair, and my fourth year as a faculty member at Mankato.

More changes? We have three "new" faculty members. **Dr. Lisa Perry** joined the department in the fall of 1998. Lisa has a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, and a J.D. from Baylor University. Lisa is serving as the assistant director of Maverick Forensics, and is teaching a variety of courses in the department. "New" this fall are **Nanette Johnson-Curiskis** and **Gwen**

Sullivan. Had to put "new" in quotation marks, as Lisa is now starting her second year, Gwen is back after a year off, and Nan has a long history with MSU, including working as adjunct faculty in the past.

Still more? You've got it! We are starting our second year under the new semester system at Mankato. No more fall, winter and spring quarters. Instead, we have fall and spring semester. School started much earlier this year and will end much earlier as well. The new calendar underwent a little tinkering so the Vikings can stay in town for training camp.

What's that you say? Still want more changes? Starting this fall, there is a new general education plan in effect at Mankato. We changed our Speech 100 class. Speech 100 will be the main required course for all students completing their speech and oral reasoning requirement. The new 100 course features a weekly lecture to three sections of about 250 students, and then about 25 twice-weekly recitation sections seating approximately 28

students. The new course focuses on public speaking, interpersonal communication and group communication.

More? You want more? That's all we have for this year (and it's about all we can handle for one year as well.) There is certain to be more change in the future, but the faculty of myself, Lisa, Gwen, Nan, Drs. Patty Palm, Sheryl Dowlin, and Dan Cronn-Mills (who continues directing the Maverick Forensic program) are ready for the new millennium. And last, one great point that has not changed: **Kathy Steiner** is still in charge of the department behind the counter in Armstrong Hall 230.
Warren Sandmann, Chair

Department Happenings. . .

CTAM

The Speech Communication Department was ably represented at the 1998 Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota annual convention, held this past September in Brooklyn Park, MN. Attending the convention were **Dan Cronn-Mills, Lisa Perry, and Warren Sandmann.** Warren organized a panel on the Minnesota Graduation Standards and Performance Packages in Speech. Dan and Lisa represented the Maverick Forensic Program at the Minnesota Collegiate Forensic Association meeting held at the convention.

Both Dan and Warren continue as executive board members with

CTAM. Dan remains as webmaster and newsletter editor, and Warren is in his second year as journal editor.

MSU continued to be active in CTAM at the 1999 Convention in Moorhead. Dan Cronn-Mills, Warren Sandmann, and Gwen Sullivan attended and presented at the convention. Dan organized a panel on judging high school forensics; Warren put on a workshop on scheduling and hosting a speech tournament; and Gwen presented a workshop on communicating with people with disabilities.

NCA

The annual convention of the National Communication Association was held November 20-24 in New York City. A number of MSU faculty took part in the convention.

Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills chaired a panel called "A View of Forensics From The Outside Looking In;" took part on a panel entitled "State Associations in Cyberspace: A Conversation with Web Managers;" and chaired the "Top Three Papers in Argumentation" panel.

Dr. Sheryl Dowlin presented a paper entitled "Reconciliation and Building Community: A Traditional Native American Woman's Approach to Restoring Cross-Cultural Relationships."

Dr. Lisa Perry took part in a panel on international political communication, presenting "Whose Communication? Whose Democracy? Some Considerations for Political Communication in Post-colonial Africa."

Dr. Warren Sandmann took part in a “Roundtable Discussion: Freedom of Expression(s);” chaired a panel on “Current Issues in Academic Freedom,” on which he also presented a paper entitled “Contemporary Cases on Academic Freedom;” and presented the paper “Almost Over: ‘Separate But Equal’ Flunks Out of Graduate School.”

Faculty Activity

Dr. Lisa Perry is working on two publications in her major areas of research, as well as developing curriculum for undergraduate and graduate courses in legal communication. One article, “Legal Handbooks as Rhetoric Books for Common Lawyers in Early-modern England,” has been published by Hambledon Press in *Learning the Law: Proceedings of the 13th Biennial British Legal History Conference*. Dr. Perry continues to revise other chapters from her dissertation on renaissance forensic rhetorical theory, of which some of the material was the basis for a paper she presented at the International Society for the History of Rhetoric biennial meeting in Amsterdam this past summer. Another article in the revision stage deals with communication in the democratization of developing African nations. Based on this research interest, Dr. Perry will be participating in a seminar on communication and democracy in Eastern Europe at the National Communication Association convention in Chicago this November.

After 12 years of service in her role as co-coordinator of the Mankato Education Day Program, a reconciliation effort involving all 3rd grade children in the Mankato area and members of the Dakota (Sioux) communities, **Dr. Sheryl Dowlin** has resigned that position. She continues, however, to remain involved in cross-cultural activities as a consultant to the Dallas County Conservation Board assisting in the planning and preparation of an annual Native American celebration of the cultural history in Iowa.

Sheryl's relationships with the Dakota have led to a number of unique experiences, one of which includes being adopted, in the Indian way, by Maria Pearson (Yankton Sioux) as her sister and receiving the Dakota name Wawokiya win (meaning "helping woman").

Sheryl has been invited to present a paper at the 1999 NCA Conference in Chicago entitled “Healing history's wounds: Reconciliation communication efforts to build community between Native American and non-Indian peoples.” In the future, Sheryl plans to honor a request to research and write Running Moccasin's life story as an activist and change-maker in American Indian repatriation and reburial affairs.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Sheryl always looks forward to her summer visits and activities with her parents, children and grandchildren in Idaho, Minnesota and Missouri.

Starting his third year as chair, **Dr. Warren Sandmann** has kept busy with departmental and university responsibilities, and has continued working on his own research and scholarly interests.

Warren has been appointed to four university-wide committees: the Honors Advisory Board; the Undergraduate Research Council; the Learning and Technology Roundtable; and the Assessment Resource Team. These committees promise to keep him busy for the foreseeable future. He also continues to serve professional roles in the discipline. He is currently completing his second year as editor of the *Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota Journal*, which recently was named top state journal by the Central States Communication Association. Warren is also in his second year as vice-chair and program planner for the Commission on Freedom of Expression of the National Communication Association.

Scholarship has also remained an area of interest. In addition to his work at NCA, Warren has submitted proposals for presentations at the 1999 Alta Conference on Argumentation, and the 1999 Webnet Conference on Education and Instructional Technology. He is also planning a presentation for the 1999 CTAM convention.

At home, Warren is finally at home (he hopes) as he and his family are all living in the same town in which they

are all working--for the first time in his married life.

Dr. Patricia Palm took part in the Central States Communication Association conference in St. Louis, Missouri, which met from April 7-11. At the conference, Patty chaired a panel program entitled "Workshop on Teaching Ethics in the Organization." The panel was put together by Dr. Hazel Rozema, a former chair and faculty member in the department.

Patty was also a workshop presenter for SMILES (Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises) staff and volunteers. The topic of the workshop was assertiveness skill development. Michelle Sturm, a fall 1998 graduate of the Speech Communication Department, is on the SMILES staff.

After two years as President of the Mankato Area Zonta International, Patty has spent a quiet year as Past President, a member of the membership committee, and as the District 7 parliamentarian. On April 17 she gave a presentation on the basics of parliamentary procedure for Zonta's District 7 Area 3 annual meeting. District 7 includes the states of Missouri, Kansas, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota, and the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Area 3 includes all of Minnesota.

Patty completed her fourth term as Director of Teaching Assistants this past year. Last May 6, she and the six

TAs who have spent the year together in the 206B bullpen celebrated the end of the year with a closing dinner session.

Among many other activities, **Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills** received word a book based on his dissertation thesis is being published by Edwin Mellen Press. The book looks at the communicative practices of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

New for 1999-2000 . . .

New faces (well, kind of new) in the Department this fall are **Gwen Sullivan** and **Nanette Johnson-Curiskis**.

Gwen, a 1997 graduate of the MA program here at Mankato, spent a year as a faculty member and the assistant director of forensics during the 1997-98 academic year. Following that year, Gwen took a little time for herself and her husband, and together they came up with a new baby girl, Savannah. She also worked at developing her communication consulting business, Communication Innovations. This year, while still juggling her consulting and raising Savannah, Gwen is teaching in the department, helping out with the new Speech 100 course.

Nan is also a graduate of the MA program at Mankato. She has taught at a number of high school and post-secondary institutions, most recently Gustavus Adolphus. Nan is in the department replacing Dr. Shelley Smith, who resigned to take a position at the University of Minnesota this year.

Nan will be teaching intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, interviewing, nonverbal communication, and listening.

Maverick Forensics . . .

1998-99 was a year filled with change and continuity. The team continued its competitive success under the direction and coaching of Director of Forensics **Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills**, and graduate coaching assistant **Travis Boerboom**. **Dr. Lisa Perry** joined the team in the fall as Assistant Director of Forensics, working with Dan and Travis on coaching and introducing the students to American-style Parliamentary debate. **Larry Schnoor** returned to his alma mater as a coach emeriti, and the students are pleased to have one of the founding fathers of the AFA-NIET to help with coaching.

Dr. Perry comes to Minnesota State University, Mankato from the University of Maryland at College Park, where she coached and competed in American and World's styles of Parliamentary debate. Her collegiate forensics competition was for Macalester College and the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Another name new to Maverick Forensics was Minnesota State University, Mankato. The university name change resulted in many interesting announcements at awards ceremonies, including University of Minnesota, Mankato. No matter what the

name of the school, though, the individual and team awards continue to be proudly displayed in the main office of Speech Communication.

This year's team was remarkable in the number of people qualified for AFA-NIET Nationals in multiple events and the number of people who received "legs" but did not qualify. Nineteen students earned "legs" for the National tournament, while eight qualified for the NIET in Tuscaloosa Alabama hosted by the University of Alabama. At the AFA-NIET **Seth-Michael Smith** broke to the quarter final round in Persuasion and **Laurel Waldoch** took 5th Place in Communication Analysis at the tournament. Seth and Laurel competed at another national tournament this spring, as they were the two representatives for the state of Minnesota at the Interstate Oratory competition.

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. Dan can be reached at (507) 389-5534 or daniel.cronn-mills@mankato.msus.edu, and Lisa's contact information is (507) 389-5533 or lisa.perry@mankato.msus.edu. Current travel information, team pictures and web pages can also be found at the Maverick Forensics home page at <http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/spcomm/Communication/Forensics/MaverickForensicshp.html>.

1998-99 Forensic Talent Grant

recipients:

Erik Anshus	Kristi Otto
Alissa Berndt	Sarah Schmidt
Sarah Caliguire	Dorie Shoutz
Tracy Conner	Anne Smisek
Elizabeth Moses	Jason Spitzer

1999-00 Forensic Talent Grant

recipients:

Andrea Bean	Gretchen Block
Jason Harber	Idanis Martin
Patrick McIntyre	Nick Morrison
Ellen Nelson	Jennifer Parsley
Michelle Stevens	Emily Waterston
Nicholas Wzorek	

From the Bullpen . . .

Armstrong Hall 206B may be remembered by many Mankato students as that #&%\$! classroom that no one could find, that had no windows, and reached about 90 degrees on most days. Today, 206B is the graduate teaching assistant office, otherwise known as the Bullpen.

During 1998-99, the Bullpen was the home of six graduate assistants: Tony Boehler, Kambiz Jamshidi, Bill Maze, Ed McBride, Anne Mongeau, and Tracy Murphy. A seventh graduate teaching assistant, **Travis Boerboom**, spent the year next door to the bullpen, where he also served as the assistant coach for the Maverick Forensic program.

Tony Boehler came to MSU, M from Gustavus Adolphus, down the road in St. Peter. Tony noted that working with students at the college level has been a real rewarding experience. He had experience working with athletics, but this was his first year in an academic setting. He was pleasantly surprised at how his teaching in athletics has helped him in the classroom, letting him keep the classes relaxed with humor while being a “speech coach.” Tony hopes to go on for a career as a college professor, so he has been happy to use this as a learning experience, and to work with all the faculty at Mankato. He added that the faculty have always been willing to sit down and “talk teaching” with him, allowing him to learn as much in these sessions as in a formal classroom setting.

Kambiz Jamshidi joined the Mankato program after completing his undergraduate degree at Northern Michigan University. Kam noted that he has enjoyed his teaching experience so far this year, saying that he has worked to help his students learn about communication just as he learned about the field. He added that, while enjoyable, teaching has been a lot of work. Kam is working on his own scholarship as well, beginning study in a project on communication apprehension that he hopes to turn into his thesis.

Bill Maze did his undergraduate work at Winona State, and has also done some graduate work at Colorado State. Bill notes that his experience at Mankato

has been one filled with a variety of opportunities aimed at preparing him for a career in education. Aside from the obvious academic requirements as a Masters candidate, he considers his experience as a graduate teaching assistant an invaluable asset for his career plans. Like Kam, Bill is also well on his way in his own scholarship. Bill is working on a project that looks at attachment styles in relationships.

Anne Mongeau did undergraduate work at both Bethany Lutheran College and Mankato prior to her graduate study at Mankato. Ann also noted both the enjoyment of teaching as well as the hard work involved. Ann is well underway in her research, as she is in the midst of her thesis work. Ann is looking at the leadership and communication styles of the three candidates in the Minnesota Governor’s race of 1998. Her thesis concerns the why and the how of Jesse Ventura’s victory. Ann also has a full-time position lined up, in which she will be serving as the coordinator of a global ministry program based in Minneapolis.

Tracy Murphy completed her undergraduate education at St. Cloud State University and started her graduate career here this past fall. Tracy stated that this past year she learned that the classroom is where she belongs. She was both challenged and rewarded by her work in the classroom, particularly the work in motivating those students who may have been not-so-motivated. As

with the rest of the TAs, Tracy has also begun her own research work, looking at the role of media in its representation of violence.

Ed McBride is working on a multidisciplinary graduate degree in Speech Communication and Women's and Ethnic Studies.

The 1999-2000 lineup in 206B features five new teaching assistants working with returning TAs. New this year are Karen Daas, Brian Klosa, Ann Leonard, John Rollins, and Andrew Thangasamy.

Karen Daas is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, and in addition to her graduate studies, she is employed as a book editor by Capstone Press in Mankato.

Brian Klosa will be working as both a teaching assistant and forensics assistant. Brian is a forensics gypsy, having spent some time at a number of institutions of higher learning. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University.

Ann Leonard is making a career switch in her graduate studies. A graduate of the MSU nursing program, Ann is an RN who is looking to get involved in health communication consulting.

John Rollins has a long history at MSU, having received a bachelor's and master's degree in Speech/Theatre, back when MSU had a joint program. He is taking some time off from a teaching

career to complete a master's degree in Speech Communication.

Andrew Thangasamy is a graduate of Southwest State University and is in the Political Science graduate program. Andrew competed on the forensics team at SSU when he attended there. He is hoping to go on to complete a Ph.D. in Political Science.

The Speech Communication Department of Minnesota State University offers you the opportunity to support the scholarship, teaching and performance of the Department faculty and students. The Speech Communication Foundation offers financial support for added educational opportunities for Speech students. This year, for example, the Foundation helped to sponsor a debate featuring the British National Parliamentary Debate Team. If you would like to support educational experiences such as these, please consider a contribution to the Speech Communication Department. You may contribute by giving to the "MSU Foundation" at: Warren Sandmann, Chair
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Keep in touch!

Please let us know what you've been up to so we can include you in a future newsletter. Contact us at

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