

commTalk

A publication of the Department of Communication
Western Carolina University

Winter 2009

Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar for these important upcoming events.

Feb. 24-Advising Day &
Department Meeting

March 2-6-Spring Break

April 3-Crisis Communication Day

April 8-10-Easter Break

April 19-25-National Association of
Broadcasters/Broadcast Educators
Assn. conventions

May 1-Last Day of Classes

May 9-Graduation

TBA-Spring Picnic

Summer Internships

Now is the time to be lining up summer internships. Information is on the departmental website.

This is a required class and must be arranged prior to the summer session.

Contact the faculty member you would like to work with to make sure they are taking interns this summer.

Congratulations

Dr. Kathleen Wright retired at the end of the fall 2008 semester after 35 years.

Students who had her as an adviser will receive an e-mail with their new adviser assignment.

Big Announcement Coming At Advising Day Meeting

All communication department students are required to attend the department meeting from 3-5 p.m. on Advising Day, Feb. 24 in Hoey Auditorium.

The meeting is more than just an update of what is going on in the department. A major announcement will be made concerning every student in the program, even graduating seniors.

"The faculty have been working for the past year and half on a project that has a direct impact on the scope of the department," said Don Connelly, department head.

Students will have a difficult time registering for fall classes if they do not attend the meeting.

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken. No excuses accepted.

PRSSA To Host Regional Crisis Day

Western's Public Relations Student Society of America will host their annual Crisis Communication Day on April 3 in the Ramsey Center.

The keynote speaker will be Rick Lyle, APR, senior partner with Eric Mower and Associates, a public relations and advertising firm.

"It's important to attend Crisis Communication Day especially for those going into the PR field. It is a good way to show students and professionals that a crisis can happen in any situation. Professionals will give tips on how to respond to the crisis," said Whitney Black, event coordinator.

The WCU campus, the PRSSA chapter, and Catamount Communication

will be nationally recognized for this event. The local chapter is one of 15 in the country to win a regional activity bid. The national PRSSA chapter will advertise the event on its website, and the event will be nationally recognized at the annual PRSSA national conference. "We have worked really hard to get nationally recognized for this event, and we have a lot more work a head of us. Our members will learn valuable PR skills through hosting a regional activity," said Katherine Guinn, president of PRSSA.

PRSSA and Catamount Communication, the student-run PR firm, have held the event for the past

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PRSSA Congratulated for MHD Participation

To: Dr. Betty Farmer, PRSSA Faculty Advisor
From: Scott Philyaw, Director, Mountain Heritage Center
Re: PRSSA & Mountain Heritage Day
Cc: Don Connelly, Katie Guinn

I wish to formally commend the work of the PRSSA students during the 2008 Mountain Heritage Day festival.

I attended their club meeting before Mountain Heritage Day to discuss what they might do to assist. Impressed with their enthusiasm and professional attitude I chose to assign them to assist the 150+ vendors we expected that day. This is a potentially sensitive task as students would be representing WCU while working with outside vendors who are often unfamiliar with the university. It was especially important that our vendors be comfortable with our student workers.

The PRSSA students easily met my expectations. As the chair of our Craft Jurying Committee reported:

“Our Mountain Heritage Day craft vendors really appreciated the support by student volunteers to ‘booth-sit’ for them. The students this year were very helpful, courteous and a joy to work with. Please give them a big “Thank you” from the vendors and the vendor craft committee.”

Please let your students know how much I and other members of the Mountain Heritage Day committee appreciate their work. I look forward to working with them in the future.

Dishman Receives Certificate

Betty Dishman, administrative assistant in the Department of Communication, received a graduate certificate in technology and communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on Dec. 14.

Dishman completed her coursework through UNC’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has a bachelors degree in communication from Queens University in Charlotte.

TV Students Work BB Game

Senior broadcast students Will Combes and Russell Jones were hired as camera operators for the first commercial broadcast of a WCU men’s basketball game between Furman @ WCU on WMYA/My 40 Jan. 29.

Jack Connors, general manager of WLOS and WMYA, produced and broadcast the game.

Department Listing

Don Connelly
Department Head
OSU 109 227-3851

Betty Dishman
Administrative Assistant
OSU 109 227-3846

Padraig Acheson
ST 240 227-3801

Ruth Bennett
ST 272 227-2512

Michael Caudill
ST-273 227-2468

Debra Connelly
ST-239 227-2459

Dr. William Dulaney
ST-235 227-2329

Dr. Betty Farmer
ST-237 227-3804

Dr. Pamela Harris
ST-246 227-3425

Suzon Hawley
ST-270 227-2256

Cynthia Lee
ST 271 227-2944

Dr. James Manning
ST-247 227-3850

Mark Mattheis
ST 255 227-2943

Linda Nicodemus
ST-269 227-2389

PRSSA Crisis Day, cont’d from p. 1

four years. Crisis Communication Day focuses on the different types of crises that could arise in any profession, focusing on the public relations handling of the situation. Past speakers have included: Kathleen Fearn-Banks, author of “Crisis Communications: A Casebook Approach”, and Von Roebuck, senior public affairs specialist for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Summer 2009

Communication Class Schedule

Mini-Mester May 11-26

CMHC 201 Speech Communication 1-3:30 Dulaney
CMHC 201 Speech Communication 1-3:30 Manning
BCST 493 Special Topics in TV Production 1-3:30 Matheis
CMCR 496 Senior Seminar 10-11:30 Farmer
CMTD 313 Conflict Resolution 1-3:30 Bennett
CMHC 414 Gender Communication 1-3:30 Farmer

First Session June 2-July 2

CMHC 201 Speech Communication 10:15-12:15 Caudill
CMPPM PR Writing 8-10 Connelly
CMPPM 404 Desktop Publishing 10:15-12:15 Connelly
CMCR 494 Special Projects: Innovations 12:30-2:30 Dulaney

10 Week Session June 2-August 7

CMCR 483 Internship (section 10) Farmer
CMCR 483 Internship (section 11) Connelly
CMCR 483 Internship (section 12) Matheis
CMCR 483 Internship (section 13) Acheson