

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

# COMMSTUDIES

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## CHILE WELCOMES COMMSTUDIES' HANNAH KUETHER

### Shannon Eberhardt

This spring, Hannah Kuether will graduate from Hamline with both a Communication Studies major and a Certificate in International Journalism (CIJ). Kuether, who chose to come to Hamline in the first place for the CIJ program (directed by Professor Suda Ishida), spent the spring semester of her junior year studying and interning abroad in Chile.

From March to July of 2008, Kuether found herself in Valparaíso completing the requirements of the certificate program. International Journalism students must complete a semester of study abroad that includes an internship in journalism in the country where they are studying. Kuether's internship in Chile took the form of being a columnist for the student newspaper at her university.

Three times a week, Kuether penned her International Student of the Day column. Journalism was a very popular subject at Kuether's university, so approaching students for interviews was easy. "It was fun to talk to people," she said of the experience. "There were so many funny 'lost in translation' types of things to write about!"

Kuether was Hamline's first student to travel to Chile as part of an exchange program. Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Fernando Delgado, even visited during her semester abroad in hopes of forging a stronger connection with the university.

Since her first year at Hamline, Kuether has taken a Spanish course every semester. While she's certain that this preparation was essential for her semester in Chile, Kuether says that nothing compares to the real-life learning of being immersed in the dialect and slang

of a foreign country.

Of course, there was more to be done in Valparaíso than study, write for the newspaper, and learn the intricacies of the language. According to Kuether, the port city is "gorgeous" with lots of history from the early 1900s and before. "The city is literally built into a hill," she explained about the seaport that is also a major cultural center.

Additionally, Kuether's semester abroad meant a home-stay with a Chilean family. Her host family experience was "different," but it allowed Kuether to experience Chile in a more intimate way that would not have been possible via on-campus living.

With commencement nearing and the impending thought of life-after-

KUETHER continued on page 4

## INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS 2008

*Maura Youngman, Class of '09*

Scotland, Spring of 2008

*Linda Sjostrom, Class of '09*

Ireland, Spring of 2008

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## PROFESSORS EMBARK ON NEW ADVENTURES

### Matthew Perushek

Professor George Gaetano started instructing at Hamline in 1994 when he was hired as an adjunct faculty member. He was accepted into a tenure track position at Hamline in 1999, and he was tenured in 2005. Professor Gaetano's areas of interest during graduate school were communication between fathers and sons, and the use of humor in small groups. He was instrumental at getting the Family Communication class started at Hamline, and he has taught FYSEMs related to humor communication.

However, fall semester brought something new to Professor Gaetano's plate. He instructed a FYSEM about reincarnation, a topic where he has no previous experience. The class attempted to analyze a variety of perspectives related to reincarnation, with multiple religions represented. He enjoyed teaching this topic because it was a new topic that provided a challenge for him. Professor Gaetano spoke in November at the alumni event about his new class, and he participated in a group at the event to discuss new topics in the

Communication Studies field.

Professor Gaetano has also recently been involved with a FYSEM task force at Hamline, which was



charged with the task of evaluating FYSEMs. The Dean's evaluation reports that the FYSEMs are making good progress, and further, they are deemed important aspects of the Hamline Plan.

As part of the department's efforts to continue developing the Communication Studies program, Professor Gaetano will be offering a course in Leadership in the fall. Professor Gaetano would like to continue contributing to the growth of the department by developing a course related to culture and organizational

communication, or international organizational communication.

Professor Patricia Palmerton started teaching at Hamline University in 1985 and was tenured in 1991. When she began teaching at Hamline she was the only person in the department. She was originally charged with establishing the speaking across the curriculum program while creating the infrastructure needed to build the Communication Studies department. Professor Palmerton has taught nearly every course that Hamline University Communication Studies has offered.

In October 2006, Professor Palmerton worked with an organization in Scotland, Equibuddy. This organization does equestrian vaulting with children that have disabilities. Professor Palmerton was hired by the organization to assess the outcomes of vaulting for individuals with disabilities. In June of 2008 she returned to Scotland, and this time focused on internal organizational dynamics. This research was internal research for the organization, as is most organizational

PROFESSORS NEW ADVENTURES continued on page 5

### Attention Alums!

You can designate a tax deductible contribution to Hamline University to be used for the Communication Studies department. Your charitable gift will be used for equipment, curriculum development, majors meetings, student research support, and scholarship development. The Communication Studies department thanks you in advance for your consideration!

## COMMSTUDIES ON ICE

### Congratulations Matt Perushek, Class of '09!

Bronze medalist

2009 World Junior Championships

Men's Curling

Vancouver, Canada

## MAJORS MEETING: UNITING PROFESSORS, ALUMS & STUDENTS

### Emily Gable

In the middle of fall semester, the Communication Studies department held the annual majors meeting, where professors and current and former students got to meet and talk about what's going on in the world of communication studies today. Highlights of the meeting included getting to know new professors Julie Woodbury and Justin Killian, and hearing the stories of former student Glen Fladeboe, who is now consulting with the non – profit organization Minnesota 2020.

Professor Julie Woodbury was first to take the podium. As a public relations specialist, she is teaching both Essentials of Public Relations and Public Relations Cases and Campaigns in the spring of 2009. These courses will include looking at public relations in various companies, PR skills for the individual and the concept of “facework”, which has to do with being persuasive and effective in the field of public relations.

Professor Justin Killian is also new to Hamline and the communication studies department. With a degree in both communication studies and rhetoric,

Professor Killian is currently a graduate student studying communication studies at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Interested in politics, he has spent a lot of time working on national campaigns. He said that his background in communication studies really benefited him when working on campaigns and doing written work.



Our third and final speaker, Glen Fladeboe, graduated from Hamline in the spring of 1998 with a degree in communication studies. During his time in college he had an internship with WCCO. His family's business is auctioneering, and when he left Hamline one of the things he has done is hold fundraising auctions. He also

worked with the Minnesota State Legislation for four years, where he was in media relations. Currently, Fladeboe is consulting with Minnesota 2020, a “progressive, non-partisan think-tank, focused on... public policy debate on the issues that matter for Minnesota's future success.” When asked what he thought was one of the most beneficial aspects of having a degree in communication studies, Fladeboe stated that having the major is beneficial in marketing yourself. Employers like to hear that you have communication skills, and having those skills will enable you to sell yourself effectively to a possible employer.

Fladeboe's current career is focused around getting the news out efficiently and effectively, and as a consultant, his job is to find ways to get this done. He said that having a background in business helps when it comes to working with a non – profit.

To contact Fladeboe about opportunities with Minnesota 2020, he can be reached at

[fladeboe@earthlink.net](mailto:fladeboe@earthlink.net). The website for Minnesota 2020 is [www.mn2020.org](http://www.mn2020.org).

## UPCOMING COURSE OFFERINGS

### Summer 2009

**Introduction to Communication Studies** taught by Verna Corgan

**Public Speaking & Small Group Communication** taught by George Gaetano

**Argumentation and Advocacy & Special Topics: Communication Ethics** taught by Julie Woodbury

### Fall 2009

**Introduction to Communication Studies & Small Group Communication** taught by Verna Corgan

**Organization Communication & Special Topics: Leadership** taught by George Gaetano

**Mass Communication & Media in Global Perspective** taught by Suda Ishida

**Communication Research Methods & Western Rhetorical Theory** taught by Patricia Palmerton

**Argumentation and Advocacy, Strategic Communication & Essentials of Public Relations** taught by Julie Woodbury

**Public Speaking** taught by David Lapakko

### Winter 2010

**Gender, Communication and Knowledge** taught by Verna Corgan

**Public Speaking** taught by George Gaetano

**Argumentation and Advocacy** taught by David Lapakko

### Spring 2010

**Introduction to Communication Studies,**

**Small Group Communication & Senior Research Seminar** taught by Verna Corgan

**Family Communication, Intercultural Communication & Senior Research Seminar** taught by George Gaetano

**Introduction to Critical Media Studies & Media and Global Environmental Conflicts** taught by Suda Ishida

**Interpersonal Communication & Communication in Conflict Situations** taught by Patricia Palmerton

**Introduction to Communication Studies, Argumentation and Advocacy & Public Relations Cases and Campaigns** taught by Julie Woodbury

**Public Speaking** taught by David Lapakko

## KUETHER FROM PAGE 1

Hamline, Kuether has started considering her post-graduation options. According to Kuether, the idea of getting a “normal job” in order to start paying off student loans is not altogether unappealing, and she has hopes of utilizing her training in communication studies and journalism sooner rather than later.

Among her brainstorming, Kuether has considered the possibility of a career in the radio industry. Her work with the Saint Paul Neighborhood Net-

work—a local non-profit TV—network—has sparked her curiosity about other forms of mass media. Kuether’s collaboration with the network was arranged through the CIJ program as well.

Recently, Kuether had a conversation with a woman in the local radio business whose advice included purchasing some equipment, returning to South America, and producing shows free-lance.

And the ideas don’t stop there. Kuether has also entertained notions of going into public relations or beginning a career as an interpreter. For the latter, her experience abroad would inevitably prove to be quite valuable and applicable.

With endless possibilities available, one thing is a definite for Kuether: returning to Chile.

## ISHIDA’S SPRING SABBATICAL

### Shannon Eberhardt

You may have seen Professor Suda Ishida on campus this spring, as she was in and out of her office throughout the term, but she was not instructing any courses. Instead, Ishida took a sabbatical from teaching in order to catch up with two specific ongoing research projects, both of which will take her overseas.

The first project is a study in what Ishida terms “transnational identity.” Her research focuses on Thai children who live outside of the country.

Specifically, Ishida is exploring how these children use cyberspace to articulate their own identities. For example, there are many ways in which communicative and political factors play an influential role in the formation of identity, and the ways in which these children express those things in the online world is of particular interest to Ishida.

Ishida’s second project is an exploration of the international relations between Thailand and Cambodia. This past summer, the two countries were involved in a border fight that centered

around the cultural and political discrepancies between the nations.

On this topic, Ishida’s interest is in how these international relations are played out in the cyber-arena, and how the cultural politics of identity are am-



plified when a “cyber-war” is added to the mix.

Ishida’s research has taken her across the world this spring. She is especially interested in the use of blogging, online communication, and civic duties as they relate to high-school teachers.

Ishida speaks passionately about her desire to be available to her students and advisees during the spring semester, regardless of her sabbatical status. The Certificate in International Journalism program (CIJ) is one of Ishida’s main areas of responsibility here at Hamline, and she will keep up with the program over the coming months despite her travels abroad.

As the program director, Ishida feels connected to those students who choose to pursue this certificate. The program, according to Ishida, is not about journalism per se, but rather about how we as people use the mass media to communicate and collaborate.

The subject is more on the side of critical studies, and it examines how the mass media can be a communication tool. Specifically, Ishida likes to pass along to her students a feeling that the CIJ program is about global citizenship and having a mission as a citizen of the world.

## PROFESSORS NEW ADVENTURES FROM PAGE 2

consulting work.

Professor Palmerton had no experience with horses before beginning this recent work. After agreeing to work with the organization, she began working with local stables to get to know more about horses. She also took riding lessons, which she enjoyed and still continues to this day. Her research revealed many interesting findings. First, it showed that the children involved with vaulting developed empathy with the horse and with other children on their team. Second, the children's physical abilities were developed greatly. Finally, many psychological effects were noticed, including the children's ability to take direction, the ability to work with others, and the realization by the children that they are able to do things that many able bodied children never dream of doing.

In June of 2008, Professor Palmerton also traveled to Germany with a group from Hamline and presented her research on communication and domestic abuse at the University of Trier. She hopes to continue to extend this research as well.

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*Professor Verna Corgan* began teaching at Hamline University in 1989, and she was tenured in 1996. She attended the University of Minnesota for her undergraduate, masters, and Ph. D. degrees, all of which were in speech communication. She has taught nearly every course that Hamline has offered in the Communication Studies department. Dr. Corgan is an expert in rhetorical criticism, especially that related to judicial rhetoric and political rhetoric.

During this past summer, Dr. Corgan worked with a student in the department, Matthew Perushek, as a

part of the Summer Collaborative Research project. The research project was focused on media and candidate image. Although the summer research project allows the students some level of independence from their collaborator, Dr. Corgan used the project as a way to make connections between candidate image and Aristotle's ethos, pathos and logos appeals. Further, she attended to speeches, political advertisements and news coverage with a critical eye in an attempt to uncover any information that could be used in her Political Communication course.

Professor Corgan has also been conducting long-term research on rhetoric towards Cuba. She reports that she looks forward to continuing this research, especially since the regime change within Cuba.

## NEW ONLINE COURSE CRAFTED BY WOODBURY



**Shannon Eberhardt**

In addition to teaching the Communication Studies course Argumentation & Advocacy during the summer 2009 term, Professor Julie Woodbury is also undertaking a new project that has special interest for her—developing an online course in ethics. The class—Communication Ethics—will be eight weeks in length, and will use the internet to conduct discussions and activities.

Traditional ethics theories will be covered in Woodbury's course, such as the Judeo-Christian "Golden Rule," Aristotle's "Golden Mean," and Kant's "Categorical Imperative," to name a few. Woodbury, however, also plans to spend a substantial portion of her time discussing cyber-ethics, an area of specialization for her.

Some of the topics to be covered during the cyber-ethics segment of the class will include "privacy," cyber-stalking, "hate" online, cyber-sex and other types of online relationships, and kiddie porn.

Of course, the hope is that enough interest can be generated for it to be held as scheduled for the upcoming summer term. However, Woodbury will be developing a template for the online course either way, so that this very timely topic can be taught in the future.

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