Calendar of events

Spinning into Butter
by Rebecca Gilman
DIRECTED BY DERRICK SANDERS
Josephine Louis Theater
January 28–February 6

Peribanez
by Lope De Vega
DIRECTED BY HENRY GODINEZ
Ethel M. Barber Theater
February 11–20

Danceworks
Artistic direction by Annie Beserra
Josephine Louis Theater
February 25–March 6

Own Your Own Voice:
The Regina Taylor Project
Directed and curated by Regina Taylor
Ethel M. Barber Theater
March 4–6

Jungalbook
by Edward Mast
DIRECTED BY ELIZABETH QUINN
Ethel M. Barber Theater
April 8–17

Brighton Beach Memoirs
by Neil Simon
DIRECTED BY MARY POOLE
Josephine Louis Theater
May 6–15

For more information on school events, see www.communication.northwestern.edu/news

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Alumni spotlight

The prestigious Toronto Film Festival burst with purple pride this year. The September festival presented films directed by three School of Communication alumni: Richard Lewis (C83) (top left) directed Paul Giamatti and Dustin Hoffman (top right) in Barney's Version; David Schwimmer (C88) directed Liana Liberato (bottom left), Clive Owen, and Catherine Keener in Trust; and John Cameron Mitchell (C85) directed Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart (bottom right) in Rabbit Hole.

On the cover: When Brian and Brandon Robertson, 7 and 5, respectively, needed help with speech delays, a partnership between the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Evanston day care centers gave them individualized attention to help them thrive.
The alumni and friends of the School of Communication are well aware of the dramatic changes in our faculty and programs that have emerged over the past decade. Most of these developments have been very well received, and the faculty and I are so appreciative of the many encouraging messages from our community as new initiatives have become realities.

One of the most exciting changes has been the rebuilding of the Department of Radio/Television/Film. Under the superb leadership of its three most recent chairs — Professors Mimi White, Lynn Spigel, and David Tolchinsky — this department has become one of Northwestern’s crown jewels. White and Spigel reconceived the department’s doctoral program as an exciting new interdisciplinary program focused on screen cultures. Tolchinsky has strengthened the undergraduate program in creative writing for the media and has built a groundbreaking new MFA program in writing for the screen and stage.

The department has attracted a large cadre of outstanding new faculty — diverse, international, and interdisciplinary — who are rethinking the curriculum and how we can best nurture outstanding media artists and expert historians and analysts of the media. You will see many of them featured in this issue of Dialogue, where one of our two feature stories provides an update on the many exciting changes in radio/television/film.

Through all these changes, however, the department has continued to value and build on its competitive advantage: its success in educating students who are broadly informed, agile in adapting to new technologies, able to collaborate effectively, and above all, potential leaders in their work. I think you will be proud to see how the department is honoring its traditions while developing state-of-the-art programs for the 21st century.

Across the school, our faculty have also been inspired by our new president’s call to make Northwestern not simply a great university but also a great neighbor. A new initiative in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders perfectly exemplifies the role that a great university can play in improving the lives of the community it serves. The department’s faculty, students, and clinicians have organized a special outreach program to area day care centers to provide speech and language therapy in areas that have great unmet needs. This issue’s second feature article covers this important new initiative.

Our faculty are working on many other exciting new ventures — more than we can possibly cover in our two issues of Dialogue each year. So I hope you will take the time to visit our website, www.communication.northwestern.edu. It provides ongoing updates on new programs and initiatives as well as media-rich features on the work of our faculty and students.

Your support and feedback can and do make a difference as we seek to advance the school, so I hope you will continue to stay engaged and share your ideas and perspectives.

Barbara J. O’Keefe
Dean, School of Communication
Start a dialogue: dialogue@northwestern.edu
New American Music Theatre Project production sets sail

The American Music Theatre Project musical *Not Wanted on the Voyage* (above), the latest work by award-winning Broadway writers Neil Bartram and Brian Hill, brought a virtual deluge to the Barber Theater this summer. A modern reimagining of the Great Flood, *Not Wanted on the Voyage* was adapted from Timothy Findley’s novel of the same title.

“Not Wanted on the Voyage is an incredibly ambitious project,” Dehnert said. “It’s everything musical theatre should be: theatrically exciting, thought provoking, funny, sad, and ultimately incredibly moving.”

Under the direction of award-winning director and assistant theatre professor Amanda Dehnert, the production featured rain, fire, magic, and an eclectic score. The show was led by Broadway veterans David Holcenberg (music director, *Bye Bye Birdie, Mamma Mia!, Seussical, Titanic*), Maija Garcia (choreographer, *Fela!*), and Eugene Lee (scenic designer, *Wicked, Sweeney Todd*, the Goodman Theatre’s *The Long Red Road*) as well as lighting designer Lee Fiskness, sound designer (and theatre lecturer) Joshua Horvath, and costume designer Melissa Torchia.

Wright’s 2010 Pepper Lecture explores auditory learning

The annual Pepper Lecture, hosted by the Roselyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, featured Beverly Wright. Wright is a professor of communication sciences and disorders at Northwestern and director of the University’s Hugh Knowles Center for Clinical and Basic Science in Hearing and Its Disorders. The audience included Roxelyn Pepper (C53) and Richard Pepper (McC53), whose support for the department and school funds the annual lecture, among other projects.

Wright’s talk, “Auditory Perceptual Learning across the Lifespan,” focused on the factors that drive and prevent perceptual learning of auditory skills, including how those factors change with age and are affected by sensory and cognitive disorders. Knowledge of these issues will lead to more effective training strategies to help restore auditory abilities in people with hearing disorders as well as to enhance those skills in individuals with normal hearing.

“We can learn how to become more sensitive to differences between sounds,” Wright explained. “We’re trying to figure out the circumstances that allow those changes to occur — or prevent them from occurring.”

AMTP’s incubator model has already paid dividends for past shows. The House Theatre in Chicago recently premiered last year’s AMTP production *Girls vs. Boys*, and in January the 2008 AMTP musical *Dangerous Beauty* will receive its professional premiere at California’s Pasadena Playhouse.

“Death of geography” argued in 27th Van Zelst Lecture

The School of Communication hosted the 27th Annual Van Zelst Lecture in Communication, “The Geography of the New,” featuring David Morley, professor of communication in the Department of Media and Communications at Goldsmiths College, University of London. The lecture is funded through a generous gift from Louann Van Zelst (C49) and the late Theodore Van Zelst (McC45).

Morley spoke on April 13 before a crowd that included graduate students in the Department of Radio/Television/Film, faculty, and the Van Zelst family. His research spans micropractices of media consumption and macro questions such as the role of media technologies in reconstituting electronic landscapes.
Creative alumni take awards at Tony and Emmy ceremonies

Red, a play by John Logan (C83), took home the Tony Award for best play in June.

Fellow Northwestern alumni and friends were among those applauding. In fact, Logan shared the stage with two: Red producers Ruth Hendel (GC75) and Barbara Whitman, a friend of the school.

Other alumni and friends celebrating that night included Ken and Marleen Alhadeff, friends of the University, for their roles as producers of Memphis, which won four Tony Awards, including best musical; Kate Baldwin (C97), nominated for best performance by a leading actress in a musical for Finian’s Rainbow; and Ana Gasteyer (C89) and Tony Roberts (C61) for their starring roles in The Royal Family, nominated for best revival of a play. Producer Hendel and her husband, Stephen Hendel, also celebrated the success of their play Felaf!, winner of three Tony Awards.

The Emmy Awards in August were equally rewarding for School of Communication alumni. Among the big winners were Emily Gerson-Saines (C86), executive producer of Temple Grandin, outstanding made-for-television movie; Jason Winer (C94), coexecutive producer and director of Modern Family, outstanding comedy series; Stephen Colbert (C86), executive producer, host, and writer of The Colbert Report, and his cowriter Peter Grosz (C96), outstanding writing for a variety, music, or comedy series; and Ann-Margret, outstanding guest actress in a drama series for a guest role on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

Hargittai named ICA Outstanding Young Scholar

The International Communication Association, an esteemed academic association for scholars of human and mediated communication, has presented its Outstanding Young Scholar Award to Eszter Hargittai, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies.

The award honors one scholar each year whose career is no more than seven years past the PhD. The selection is based on the strength of published work (including its conceptual foundation and argumentative clarity), the scholar’s productivity at a given career stage, the rigor of the research produced so far, and the promise of its serving as a springboard for continuing scholarship.

Hargittai received her PhD in sociology from Princeton University in 2003. Her broad areas of interest include the social and policy implications of information technologies and, in particular, how digital media may contribute to or alleviate social inequalities. Hargittai’s work has previously been recognized by the MacArthur Foundation and the National Science Foundation, among others.
Entertainment professionals gather for Festival of Writing

Expert alumni and guests from the entertainment industry shared their time and talents with School of Communication students in April.

The panel included Peter Gallagher (below), star of Broadway, television, and the films American Beauty, The Player, Short Cuts, and sex, lies and videotape; Emmy-nominated writer Lauren Gussis (C00), supervising producer for Showtime’s Dexter; Jeff Jacobs (C85, GJ87), an agent with Creative Artists Agency; Ira Ungerleider (C00), executive producer for the CBS sitcom Gary Unmarried and Emmy-nominated producer-writer for Friends; and Stephen Willems, literary manager for MCC Theater and script analysis instructor for the New School for Drama and Acting in New York.

Dance program celebrates 30th anniversary

In celebration of the dance program’s 30th anniversary, faculty and alumni joined students in presenting an eclectic mix of styles during a special performance of the annual Danceworks concert March 2. Susan A. Lee, director of the dance program, served as the artistic director of the show, which highlights the skills of the program’s students — but she also donned a costume and danced alongside them. Also on stage were guest artist Archana Kumar and faculty members Billy Siegenfeld, Jeff Hancock, Molly Shanahan, Joel Valentin-Martinez, Meghan Wilkinson, and Brandi Coleman.

“Danceworks is always an inspiring event,” said Lee. “The dance faculty create work that brings the best of their lives as working artists to our community to be performed by students drawn from across campus, not only dance majors and minors.” The program — a mix of Jump Rhythm Jazz, classic jazz, modern, and contemporary dance — attracted alumni from New York and around the country.

An overriding theme of the panel was for students to sustain the “fire inside,” as Gallagher called it, by “staying hungry and showing up every day.” He said, “The biggest thrill is getting to create something with like-minded individuals out of nothing.”

Gussis agreed, noting that she’s learned to “check her ego” and simply “be somebody people want to be around” as key components to succeeding in the collaborative entertainment industry. “Find out the reason you are awesome, and be that person,” she said.

“Storytelling brings us together,” added Gallagher. “It establishes a community and reassures us we are not alone. It’s a noble, important thing.”

Northwestern’s North Beach was the scene of the first annual School of Communication Beach Party, a September event welcoming new members to the school family and welcoming back students and faculty returning from summer break. Some 500 students, faculty, and staff members attended.
Speaking up for community needs

CLINIC PARTNERSHIP WITH DAY CARES BENEFITS STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, KIDS

It’s the beginning of the day at Reba Early Learning Center in Evanston. Four-year-old Tymek Wodek sits obediently in a child-size chair at a child-size table in a room off the day care center’s main play area. He’s busy playing with a plastic Toy Story “Bullseye” horse, but he pauses for a moment when the dark-haired woman seated next to him holds up a flashcard with a picture of an autumn leaf on it.

“I’m going to say ‘red,’” says Alicia Katz, a Northwestern graduate student in communication sciences and disorders. “You’re going to say…”

“Leaf,” Tymek says, deliberate. “Red leaf!”

“Good job!” says Katz.

As a reward for his effort, Tymek receives a plastic hat to put on the horse’s head. He bursts into a big smile.

Katz moves on to the next flashcard.

“Bright…”


But his L sounds are a little soft.

“I want to hear the lah, lah, lah sounds,” Katz says, holding up the next flashcard.

“Tough…”

“Tough lock,” Tymek replies, nailing the L sound this time.

Tymek is one of four day care students at Reba Early Learning Center currently receiving discounted speech therapy from faculty-supervised Northwestern student clinicians through the Northwestern Day Care Partnership Program. Offered at three locations in Evanston and one in Chicago, the program was created in 2009 after a program that provided speech services, social work, and occupational therapy to Evanston day cares lost its funding.

Tracy Cafferty, speech-language pathologist, faculty lecturer, and clinical supervisor in the communication sciences and disorders department, worked with the University and the school to offer the services through the day care centers at an even further reduced cost. At the same time, clinicians-in-training in the School of Communication’s programs in speech and language pathology — who need to perform 400 hours of clinical work to

by licensed and certified faculty members, has served the area for more than 75 years, offering evaluation and treatment at reduced costs for children and adults with speech and language disorders such as stuttering, articulation problems, and swallowing disorders.

The clinic was well situated to address the needs resulting from the loss of the previous program. Tracy Cafferty, speech-language pathologist, faculty lecturer, and clinical supervisor in the communication sciences and disorders department, worked with the University and the school to offer the services through the day care centers at an even further reduced cost. At the same time, clinicians-in-training in the School of Communication’s programs in speech and language pathology — who need to perform 400 hours of clinical work to

Brian (left) and Brandon Robertson benefited from working with Northwestern University speech and language pathology students. A partnership between the program and Evanston day care centers keeps speech therapy programs available at low cost.
Out and about

School of Communication students and faculty share their talents (and hone their skills and research) out in the community in lots of ways. Just a few examples:

Sharing the power of theatre
Students in theatre faculty member Betsy Quinn’s tutorial class have an ongoing role at Evanston’s Haven Middle School. For the last two years they have coached acting and dialect, led creative drama activities, and assistant directed student musicals (in addition to designing makeup, below). This year they’ll guide Haven students in creating an original piece on the past, present, and future of their school.

Tweeting the issues
When the Chicago mayoral race heats up, junior communication studies and political science major Derrick Clifton hopes to be all thumbs — texting the issues, that is, for one of the candidates. He’s already served as a social media expert while interning for a Cook County commissioner, and last year he helped get the tweets out for another campaign. Interns take up-to-the-minute knowledge out into the community, but of course they also learn on the job. Clifton said, “The internship exposed me to a lot of different ways to use social media.”

Creating math and science stars
Funded by a $2.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation, graduate students in a number of Northwestern disciplines — including the media, technology, and society doctoral program in the Department of Communication Studies — can take their research into the classrooms of Chicago-area middle and high schools as “resident scientists.” Darren Gergle, assistant professor of communication studies, serves as the project’s principal investigator.

Studying art made behind bars
Lisa Biggs, a PhD student in the Department of Performance Studies, researches how writing, theatre production, and other arts practices transform incarcerated women. She’s participated in works and workshops at correctional institutions in Illinois as well as the Middle Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions and last year helped with a full-length theatrical production at Johannesburg Correctional Centre (known as “Sun City”) in South Africa (below). “Prison isn’t actually rehabilitative,” she said, “but art can be.”

For speech and language problems, early intervention is key. In Illinois, children between the ages of 3 and 21 enrolled in public school can receive speech therapy services funded by the state. Children under the age of 3 can receive a free early intervention global assessment sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services. If the screening determines that there is 30 percent speech delay, the child may qualify for state-funded early intervention therapy. “If there’s a 15 percent delay or even a 29 percent delay, speech therapy may be extremely beneficial,” Cafferty said. “But it won’t be provided by the state.”

That obliges parents to find private therapy. But for students at Reba Early Learning, the therapy comes to them. “It’s a nice benefit for the community,” said Cafferty. Approximately 35 children have gone through the program this past year.

A nother program benefit is that day care teachers and employees are given suggestions on how speech goals can be practiced in the classroom.

“It’s an in-service program for us as well,” said Marsha Ettema, Reba Early Learning Center director. “As they’re reading the comprehensive evaluations that are done, [Reba staff] are able to increase their understanding of speech and language development, which can be transferred to working with all of the children in the class.”

The “teach the teacher” model is effective, said Cafferty, because the day care staff can continue to work with the children throughout the week after speech therapy is over.

“Working with day care clients is very rewarding because the kids at day care are always really excited to work on their speech,” said Katz. “It is also rewarding
understandably, the parents of the day care clients are big fans of the program. “They’re very appreciative,” said Etema. “It’s not only the economic aspect of it. If you’re a full-time working parent, being able to set aside additional time is difficult.”

Rogers Park resident and working mother Sonia Robertson has two sons: Brian, age 7, and Brandon, 5. Both have benefited from the program, Brian at Baby Toddler Nursery and more recently Brandon at Total Child Preschool & Childcare, both in Evanston.

“I loved the program,” Robertson said. “It’s wonderful. I appreciate them working with Brandon and always telling me helpful hints to take home, too.”

After working on his speech with Cafferty and her students, Brandon was given an individualized education program, which outlines the speech and occupational therapy he should receive as part of his public school education. In kindergarten this year, Brandon will get 30 minutes of speech therapy and 30 minutes of occupational therapy each week. Outside school, both Brian (a second grader in an autism instructional program at Chicago’s New Field Elementary School) and Brandon attend supplemental speech and occupational therapy at Belle Center of Chicago.

“Brandon had a hard time communicating his needs and wants verbally when we first met him,” said Cafferty. After working with the Northwestern Day Care Partnership Program, he’s made “significant gains” in speech and language skills. “He’s done really well,” said Cafferty. “This program is a great experience for our students and a real benefit to the community. We are looking forward to another busy year ahead.”

— Emily Hiser Lobdell (WCAS97, GJ01)
When Marcy Capron (C09) decided that her new creative media services company, Poly-
martic Media, should add video production to its suite of offerings, she knew exactly where to look.

The interdepartmental studies and radio/television/film graduate blasted an e-mail to Northwestern’s RTVF listserv. She quickly received a response from Ryan Gallagher (C10) of Lutraphobe, a production company made up entirely of Northwestern radio/television/film graduates. While she had never met Gallagher, Capron knew others at Lutraphobe, so a level of trust was already in place. After all, they were all part of Northwestern’s Department of Radio/
Television/Film community.

“I’d rather work with a crew of kids who already know how to work together,” said Capron. “There is no learning curve of having to toss freelancers in a pile.”

Lutraphobe’s staff of directors, cinematographers, editors, and production designers had met and worked together both in and outside the classroom at Northwestern. It seemed only logical and natural that they would extend their community beyond graduation in a professional capacity.

“We were able to use our classes and curricula to find and connect with each other, and when we did, Lutraphobe took off,” said Alex Kirschenbaum (C09), who co-
founded the group with Chris Amos (C10) and current senior Travis LaBella. Other Lutraphobe staffers include Gallagher, Jason Chiu (C09), Nick Perron-Siegel (C10), Katie Isaacson (C09), and junior Jacqueline Reyno.

“Everyone is an essential component of our team,” said Kirschenbaum, “and it’s been great to stay united as we move to various film and video hotbeds around the country.”

On- and off-campus community

Students coming into the School of Communication’s radio/television/film department expect to learn storytelling techniques, gain technical skills in cinematography and editing, and develop a critical eye toward media’s role in society, but they get much more — a community of peers to support their creative endeavors long after their Northwestern classes are done.

The radio/television/film curriculum involves students depending on each other to create projects, making the department collaborative at its core.

“It’s difficult to make a film by yourself, so you depend on your classmates to crew your projects, and you crew theirs,” said David Tolchinsky, associate professor and department chair as well as director of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Writing for the Screen and Stage and the undergraduate Creative Writing for the Media Program. “We do a lot of work connecting classes together.”

The department hosts visits and panels by alumni in the industry, a practice that often leads to those alumni hiring students for projects.

Collaboration is also key within extracurricular groups. Studio 22, radio station WNUR, Northwestern Sketch Television, Niteskool Productions, Northwestern University Women Filmmakers Alliance, and Inspire Media are all groups where students, many of them from the School of Communication, work together on their creative projects.

The MFA community

The MFA Program in Writing for the Screen and Stage, now in its fourth year, is a collaborative community within the greater radio/television/film community. The courses are small and become tightly knit as students share their projects.

“I tell the MFAs, ‘Look around the table at your 11 colleagues,’” said Tolchinsky. “These people will be your writing partners, some will be agents, some will be producers,
Directly above: During a take on the set of Skin Deep, a short film directed by junior Joel Ness, sophomore cameraman Ted Pacult assists freshman Declan Fox, director of photography. The film featured sophomores Marek Ranbom and Dan Selinger and was produced by sophomore Stacy Moon. Top, from left: Ryan Gallagher (C10) of Lutraphobe with Marcy Capron (C09) and Christopher Adamson (J10) of Polymathic Media; Niteskool students filming a music video; recent regional student Emmy Award nominee Prison Boat, a film written, directed, and executive produced by radio/television/film students Farhan Arshad (C10) and Alvaro Saar Rois (C10) with senior Travis LaBella as director of photography, junior Byron Austen Ashley as producer, and Christopher Amos (C10) as editor; three School of Communication students (sophomore Alex Nee, junior Alex Goldklang, and senior Jesse Greenwald) in The Triple, a web comedy series created by junior Greg Porper and produced for NU Channel 1 and North by Northwestern; Niteskool participants filming a music video for singer Rotimi Akinosho (C10), directed by senior Travis LaBella and produced by Christopher Amos (C10) and Olivia Mascheroni (C10) with Nick Perron-Siegel (C10) as director of photography, junior Jacqueline Reyno as production designer, and senior Eric Kirchner as editor (watch the video at http://vimeo.com/13588339).
you'll form companies together, and as much as you can, you'll depend on one another for creative feedback. We've designed the program so students are tracking together to create this bonding experience.

The program has already enjoyed big successes. Carrie Barrett (GC09) was invited to participate in the prestigious 2010 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference with her play The Burden of Not Having a Tail. True to the community-oriented spirit of her program, Barrett credits one of her fellow MFA graduates, Sara Accuardi (GC09), with suggesting that she submit the play.

"I am embarrassed to say I initially brushed her suggestion aside, but after she encouraged me the second time, I decided to submit. She was the first person I called when I found out."

More good news: a play by Sarah Gubbins (C97, GC08) was included in Steppenwolf Theatre's First Look Series; Matthew Smith (GC08) joined New York's MCC Playwrights Coalition; Meridith Friedman (GC10) was awarded one of three National New Play Network grants to serve as the playwright-in-residence with Denver's Curious Theatre Company; Positive Comment, a short film by Jennifer Hagel (GC09), premiered on the Logo Network as part of The Click List: Best in Short Film; and Caitlin Kunkel (GC09), Austin Presley (GC09), and Erik Gernand (GC09), who teaches production in the department, collaborated with Hagel on the web series The Feminist Rapper.

**The CWMP community**
The MFA program isn't the only community-within-community in town. The school's selective Creative Writing for the Media Program invites radio/television/film, theatre, communication studies, and performance studies majors to spend six quarters immersed in an intensive study of dramatic writing.

Radio/television/film graduate Ryan Crist (C08) calls the program one of the best things about his Northwestern experience. "It's incredibly energizing to find a group of your peers who want to read your work, offer feedback, and collaborate with you," said Crist. "We all developed a thorough understanding of each other's styles and our strengths and weaknesses, so that when it came time to workshop our scripts, we would receive in-depth, invaluably personalized feedback."

CWMP participants work under the guidance of veteran screenwriter (and program associate director) Bill Bleich, Pulitzer-nominated playwright Rebecca Gilman, Chicago playwright Mia McCollough, and David Kukoff, whose expertise in the television world made him a "terrific mentor" for Crist, now a script coordinator for the ABC show Brothers & Sisters.

Crist said that he and fellow members of his CWMP group still exchange scripts and offer each other guidance and feedback. "Having a network of people available to look at your writing, people that you’ve worked with for so long and whose opinions and perspectives you trust and respect, is such an asset."

**Community essential for growth**
"You can’t do anything alone in this field," said Toby Herman (C98, GC09), a graduate of both the radio/television/film and MFA programs. "Why not work with people you know and trust or people who come recommended because they went through Northwestern as well?"

A promo producer for TBS’s Lopez Tonight, Herman is paying that community forward. She recently organized a social outing for a group of first-year MFA students visiting Los Angeles. As a member of the MFA program’s first class — when it had no alumni — she knows that it’s up to the first classes to get the community going. "It’s such a small program," she said, "and we want it to do well."

The safe and supportive Northwestern radio/television/film community is fertile ground for success beyond the classroom and beyond graduation, setting up young artists with great potential to reach their goals and experiment artistically at the highest levels. And the program is growing: in the past two years, the department has hired five new tenure-track faculty members.

"We have great new faculty in screen cultures, writing, and production. We’re buying more equipment, supporting more courses, and encouraging more productions within the curriculum," said Tolchinsky. "It’s one of the best times for our department I’ve seen."

— Emily Hiser Lobdell (WCA97, GJ01)
Documenting the everyday
History is made of everyday moments, too. That's the premise of associate professor Jacqueline Stewart’s South Side Movie Project, an effort to collect and preserve the 16 mm, 8 mm, and Super-8 films (example below) gathering dust in Chicago attics. A Hyde Park native, Stewart was inspired by the home movies made by Japanese internment camp residents during World War II. In addition to preserving the films and making them available to researchers, Stewart sees the project as an inquiry into film history through the lenses of amateur filmmakers.

Understanding scandal
Media can make community, and it can also make a community takedown so much faster. A new book by professor Laura Kipnis, How to Be a Scandal: Adventures in Bad Behavior, looks at the role of the audience in public disgrace. “The necessary element in a scandal is us in the audience,” Kipnis told the Chicago Tribune. “We’re the ones who are fascinated by these stories and addicted to them. We get to punish the transgressors. We get to be the villagers throwing the stones. We take a perverse pleasure in that.”

Inspiring change
Inspire Media, a student-run campus organization, produces socially conscious media on topics of local, national, and international importance. The group funds student films that engage with social change through annual grants. Recent projects have looked at racial divisions in Chicago, drug abuse, and the status of political and cultural issues on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Writing transformation
A fall quarter course taught by senior lecturer Bill Bleich has students engaged with the wider world. In Writing the Inspirational/Transformational Film, students watch and comment on films that entertain but also have the potential to change audience members’ perceptions about issues and their power to enact change. “There seems to be a zeitgeist that has attracted socially conscious faculty and students to Northwestern,” said Bleich. “This generation is very committed socially. They are extremely interested in social change because they’ve grown up with concepts of social change.”
Teaching award winners lead in the classroom and beyond

Every year School of Communication students nominate instructors for the school’s teaching awards. The Galbut Outstanding Faculty Award, supported by gifts from the Galbut family, honors a faculty member who has been outstanding in teaching and in efforts to engage students both inside and outside the classroom. The Clarence Simon Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring recognize up to three faculty members across the school. The award honors Clarence Simon, who served the school as professor and administrator for more than four decades.

The 2010 Galbut Outstanding Faculty Award recipient is **Daniel O’Keefe,** Owen L. Coon Professor of Argumentation and Debate in the Department of Communication Studies. He holds a PhD in speech communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For O’Keefe the challenge of piecing together a puzzle from many sources of knowledge has been a continuous source of motivation in both his teaching and research. O’Keefe has a particular interest in persuasion synthesis through meta-analysis. When he notices that a number of studies on a particular topic have accumulated, he finds the task of collecting all applicable research, analyzing it, and collectively reporting what they all show both engaging and appealing.

Most interesting to O’Keefe is how persuasion imbues everyday life and how it lacks a strict formula and recipe. Persuasion “is a ubiquitous function; people pursue it one-on-one each day,” said O’Keefe. “Each day there’s new research, which opens up a new idea, provides a new example, or elaborates a point that previously seemed simple.”

Much of O’Keefe’s inspiration comes from his teaching and from the energy he draws daily from his students. “When students get the idea, a world opens to them,” he said. “[And once] you become immersed in a family of concepts, it naturally informs how you see and how you think. I have the best job in the world.”

—Theresa Shih, communication studies senior

The 2010 Clarence Simon Award recipients are **Daniel Cantor,** **Debra Tolchinsky,** and **Steven Zecker.**

**Daniel Cantor** is assistant professor of theatre. In addition to teaching at Northwestern, he is an ever-working film, television, and stage actor. “Teaching makes me a better and more knowledgeable actor,” said Cantor. “And working as an actor keeps me sharp and current as a teacher.” He has taught acting at Wesleyan University, Pace University, and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and has taught master classes at Princeton and Stanford. “As an acting teacher, I’m part teacher, part artist, part rabbi, part philosopher, part motivational speaker,” he said. It is this connection between being a student of acting and a student of life that Cantor values most.

Always having taught with a liberal arts mindset, Cantor works well with students in liberal arts programs. Student evaluations suggest that he has “a commitment to the class and [students’] personal development” and “this strange sort of wisdom about not just acting but the world.”

“If you act for the sake of acting for the sake of acting, then your work becomes like an inbred dog — it’s anemic,” he said. “It’s about maintaining a sense of curiosity and wonder. After all, we live on a giant, furiously spinning rock that is rotating around a mammoth fireball, suspended in space. It’s flat-out incredible.”

—Jingyang Cheng, radio/television/film senior

**Steven Zecker,** associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, holds a PhD in psychology from Wayne State University. In nominating him for the award, his students had much to say.

Senior Abigail Curry characterized Zecker as “a person who will be eager to continue learning throughout his life. Whenever I come to him with new perspectives, I feel as though he too is excited to be learning something new. He has so much to teach, but that doesn’t mean he doesn’t want to learn from his students as well.”

“Professor Zecker teaches with passion, helping students to discover and develop their interests,” said senior Theodore Chou. “He not only excels in teaching large groups of students in the classroom but also aids individual students in personal research pursuits.”

Senior Courtney Coburn said, “What makes Professor Zecker so distinguished is not just his work inside the classroom; he has also been an extremely helpful mentor to me outside the classroom. He has taken his personal time to guide me in designing, planning, and implementing [my honors thesis]. He listens to my ideas, questions, and thoughts and helps me come up with answers through discussion, rather than hand-feeding me solutions or leaving me on my own.”

(Compiled from student nominations)
Communication faculty members take top teaching honors

Two School of Communication faculty members have been honored with Northwestern’s highest honor for teaching excellence. **Mary M. Poole** (PhD, Northwestern University), senior lecturer in theatre, was named a Charles Deering McCormick University Distinguished Lecturer. **Angela G. Ray** (PhD, University of Minnesota), associate professor of communication studies, was named a Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence.

The honor recognizes faculty who have consistently demonstrated outstanding performance in classroom teaching or who have developed significant innovations that have influenced the teaching effectiveness of others. Designated as fellows of Northwestern’s Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, the McCormick honorees were celebrated at a ceremony in May.

**David H. Bell** (MA, University of Virginia), Donald G. Robertson Director of Music Theatre, took his Jeff Award–nominated show *The Bouvy Boys to the National Alliance for Musical Theatre’s 22nd Annual Festival of New Musicals*, a premier music theatre industry event, in October. With book and lyrics by Bell and directed by **Dominic Missimi**, professor emeritus in service of theatre, *The Bouvy Boys* was developed by the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire and went through a three-week workshop as part of Northwestern’s American Music Theatre Project in 2008.

**Amanda Dehnert** (BFA, Illinois Wesleyan), assistant professor of theatre, took her adaptation of J. M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan* to the Lookingglass Theatre Company this fall (see page 4). It premiered at Northwestern two years ago.

**Kat Falls** (MFA, Northwestern), adjunct professor of radio/television/film, was featured at the 2010 Chicago Humanities Festival, highlighting *No Caption Needed*, a blog on the role of photojournalism and other visual practices in a vital democratic society.

**E. Patrick Johnson** (PhD, Louisiana State), professor and chair of performance studies, was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. He also received the Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance from the National Communication Association, the Pride Index Esteem Award for Outstanding Service to the Black LGBT Community, and the Bert Williams Award for best solo performance from the Black Theatre Alliance. His solo play *Sweet Tea* premiered at Chicago’s Viaduct Theatre in May.

**Weiko Lin** (MFA, UCLA), lecturer in radio/television/film, wrote, directed, and performed in a staged reading of the new play *100 Days* at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and Chicago’s Silk Road Theatre Project. He presented a five-day lecture series for Taiwanese producers on movie pitching and producing for the international market, hosted by Taipei National University of the Arts and the Taiwan Information Office Film Division. Lin also received the outstanding faculty award at Northwestern’s Greek Awards.

**Viorica Marian** (PhD, Cornell University), associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been awarded a $1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study bilingualism.

**Spencer Parsons** (MFA, University of Texas at Austin), assistant professor of radio/television/film, directed the feature film *I’ll Come Running*, released on DVD and VOD by IFC Films in October. Screened on the Sundance Channel this summer, the film was also seen at Block Cinema, Columbia College Chicago, and the Ozark Foothills Film Festival. His newest short film, *Chainsaw Found Jesus*, premiered in August at Rooftop Films in Brooklyn and enjoyed a weeklong engagement in September at Brooklyn’s reRun Gastropub.

**Michael Rohd** (MFA, Virginia Tech), assistant professor of theatre, received two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts: one for his company, Sojourn Theatre in Portland, Oregon, and the second for a new work to premiere next year at the Oregon...
Welcome to new faculty

Zayd Dohrn
Assistant professor, radio/television/film
Zayd Dohrn is a playwright and screenwriter. His plays, including *Sick, Magic Forest Farm, Reborn*, and *Outside People*, have been produced and developed across the country, including at Manhattan Theatre Club, Berkshire Theatre Festival, MCC, Marin Theatre Company, The Public (SPF), Naked Angels, South Coast Rep, The Vineyard, Southern Rep, Kitchen Dog, The Lark, and New York Theatre Workshop. He earned his MFA from New York University and was a Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow at Juilliard. His honors include Lincoln Center’s Lecomte du Nouy Prize, Theatre Masters’ Visionary Playwrights Award, the Kennedy Center’s Jean Kennedy Smith Award, and the Sky Cooper New American Play Prize as well as residencies and/or commissions from Ars Nova, Alchemical Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, the Stella Adler Studio, and the Royal Court Theatre of London. He is currently writing screenplays for American Film Company and Vox3 Films as well as adapting Rachel DeWoskin’s memoir *Foreign Babes in Beijing* for HBO with DeWoskin (his wife and writing partner) and screenwriter Jennifer Salt (*Eat Pray Love*).

Kyle Henry
Assistant professor, radio/television/film
Kyle Henry’s feature narrative directing debut, *Room*, premiered at both the Sundance and Cannes film festivals in 2005 and was nominated for two FIND Independent Spirit Awards. His feature documentaries *University Inc.*, about the corporatization of higher education, and *American Cowboy*, about a gay rodeo champ, received wide festival play, with the former touring colleges and universities throughout the country as part of Michael Moore and Richard Linklater’s The McCollege Tour. Henry is also the editor of the Sundance/TrIBECA/SXSW award-winning feature narrative *Manto* and seven documentary features, including *Audience of One, Light from the East*, the PBS/ITVS-funded *Troop 1500*, and *Letters from the Other Side*. He is currently editing the second PBS/ITVS documentary by Northwestern alumna Heather Courtney (*I89*, *Where Soldiers Come From*), slated for release in 2011. Also slated for 2011 is the documentary *Fourplay*, executive produced by Michael Stipe and Jim McKay. In addition, Henry has created content and worked as a consultant for numerous corporate partners and nonprofits and has lectured in the radio-TV-film department at the University of Texas at Austin.

Molly Losh
Assistant professor, communication sciences and disorders
Molly Losh comes to Northwestern from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a fellow of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at UNC after receiving her PhD in developmental psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2004. Losh also holds a degree in psychology from San Diego State University. Her research focuses on delineating the nature and basis of language impairment in

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**James Schwoch** (PhD, Northwestern), professor of communication studies, has been appointed senior associate dean for the School of Communication program at Northwestern University in Qatar. A founding faculty member at NU-Q, he has taught nearly every student there at one time or another and played a central role in developing the Doha campus’s library collections. “Jim brings to his leadership of the communication program not only an intimate familiarity with NU-Q and its students but also a distinguished record as a scholar and teacher,” said John Margolis, NU-Q dean and chief executive officer.

**Ponzi** by **Elaine Romero** (MFA, University of California, Davis), lecturer in radio/television/film, has won a 2010 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award. Her play was commissioned by the Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas.

**Jeffrey Sconce** (PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison), associate professor of radio/television/film, writes the blog *Ludic Despair* (ludicdespair.blogspot.com), voted one of the best film criticism sites and hearing research. **Pamela Souza** (PhD, Syracuse), associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been named the associate editor of the *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*.

**Jessica Thebus** (PhD, Northwestern) will direct *Stage Kiss*, a new play by Sarah Ruhl, at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre in May.

**Mimi White** (PhD, University of Iowa), professor of radio/television/film, has returned to the Evanston campus after helping launch the communication program at Northwestern’s Qatar campus. **Harvey Young** (PhD, Cornell University), associate professor of theatre, performance studies, African American studies, and radio/television/film, was elected vice president for research and publications of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. He will deliver a keynote address at the first international symposium on Chicago theatre, to be held in Chicago in May. Young’s book *Embodying Black Experience* has been issued by the University of Michigan Press.

**Mary Zimmerman** (PhD, Northwestern), Jaharis Family Foundation Professor of Performance Studies, directed *Armida* last winter for New York’s Metropolitan Opera. In Chicago this fall Zimmerman adapted and directed a new production of *Candide* at the Goodman Theatre. Performance studies junior Darren Barrere assisted Zimmerman on the production, and the cast included Erik Loechfeld (C96), Tom Aulino (C77), Tempe Thomas (O03), Govind Kumar (C08), and Emma Rosenthal (C10). Mara Blumenfeld (C92) was the costume designer, and **Dan Ostling** (GC96), associate professor of theatre, was the scenic designer.

**Welcome to new faculty**

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Shakespeare Festival, its first-ever original production. He also led a performance piece at the American Alliance for Theatre and Education Conference, during which Sojourn artists worked with 45 volunteer performers. In Chicago Rohd received a non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for best new work for his play *Wilson Wants It All*.
autism, fragile X syndrome, and other neurogenetic disorders. Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Her articles have been published in such journals as the American Journal of Medical Genetics, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, and Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. She has contributed chapters to several books, including Autism Spectrum Disorders (forthcoming from Oxford University Press). Her honors include a Clinical Translation Science Award and the NIH LRP award.

Sazzad Nasir
Assistant professor, communication sciences and disorders

Sazzad Nasir joins the faculty in winter quarter. He comes to Northwestern from Montreal’s McGill University, where he was a research associate in the psychology department. Nasir completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, after two years as a fellow and lecturer at Sweden’s University of Uppsala and a year at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. He received his PhD in theoretical particle physics from the United Kingdom’s University of Cambridge and holds a degree from Bangladesh’s University of Dhaka. Nasir’s research focuses on how different sensory information — received through both auditory and somatosensory sources — is integrated during speaking. His articles have appeared in Nature Neuroscience, Current Biology, and Modern Physics Letters. He coauthored a chapter in Speech Motor Control: New Developments in Basic and Applied Research (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Emilee Rader
Assistant professor, communication studies

Emilee Rader recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Northwestern’s Center for Technology and Social Behavior. She holds a PhD from the University of Michigan’s School of Information, a master’s degree in human-computer interaction from Carnegie Mellon University, and a degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin. For five years Rader worked with an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Motorola Labs, designing and evaluating next-generation communication and information-sharing applications for mobile technologies. A best paper nominee for her 2009 Computer-Human Interaction Conference note, she received the highly competitive Computing Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from the Computing Research Association and the National Science Foundation. Her current research focuses on understanding social processes that affect contributions to social media systems.

Jacob Smith
Assistant professor, radio/television/film

After a career as a musician and producer, Jacob Smith earned his PhD at Indiana University. He joins the Northwestern faculty after teaching at the United Kingdom’s University of Nottingham. His research in media history is centered on questions of performance, technology, and sound. His book Vocal Tracks: Performance and Sound Media (University of California Press, 2008) examines vocal performance styles that developed in tandem with sound media technologies. A second book, Spoken Word:

PROMOTION AND TENURE

Pablo Boczkowski, communication studies, promoted to professor
James Schwwoch, communication studies, promoted to professor
Rebecca Gilman, radio/television/film, promoted to associate professor
Eric Patrick, radio/television/film, promoted to associate professor
Harvey Young, theatre, promoted to associate professor

Postwar American Phonograph Cultures (forthcoming from University of California Press), brings a range of spoken word phonograph records into dialogue with scholarly work on the history of the postwar entertainment industry and media consumption in the American home. Smith is currently completing a manuscript on the history of American stunt performance and the role that a cohort of popular stunt entertainers played in the construction of modern media spectacle and celebrity. His articles have appeared in Film Quarterly, Screen, Television and New Media, Velvet Light Trap, Film History, Celebrity Studies, and Journal of Popular Music Studies.

Elaine Romero
Lecturer, radio/television/film

Elaine Romero’s plays — Barrio Hollywood, Walk into the Sea, ¡Curandera! Serpents of the Clouds, Something Rare and Wonderful, Alicia, Undocumented, Secret Things, The Fat-Free Chicana and the Snow Cap Queen, Undercurrents, Day of Our Dead, If Susan Smith Could Talk — have been developed, produced, and commissioned by such organizations as the Goodman Theatre, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alley Theatre, Magic Theatre, and Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. Her honors include the TCG/Pew National Theatre Artists in Residency grant, the NEA/TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights, and residencies with Sundance Playwrights’ Retreat, Voice & Vision, and Orchard Project. Romero cochaired the National Association of Latino Independent Producers’ (Board) National Conference. A graduate of Linfield College, she earned an MFA from the University of California, Davis, and studied at the Los Angeles Film School, Latino Producers’ Academy, and Latino Writers’ Lab. Romero has a script in development with Back Fence Productions and is collaborating on a spec project.
Alumni achievements

Class notes are selected from alumni submissions to Northwestern magazine at www.northwestern.edu/magazine, stories of alumni featured in the media as identified by the University’s Office of Alumni Relations and Development, and updates sent to Dialogue by mail or by e-mail at dialogue@northwestern.edu.

Dennis Zacek (GC65, GC70) is retiring after 34 years as artistic director of Chicago’s Victory Gardens Theater.

Jeff Ravitz (C72) designed the studio lighting for the Bravo special *Dow Live Earth Run for Water*, which aired in April. He was honored with a Pacific Southwest Emmy Award for his lighting design of *A Salute to Teachers 2009*.

Catherine Huff Gottfred (GC73, GC79) was honored with the Northwestern Alumni Association’s Alumni Merit Award for high achievement in her profession.

Warren Spector (C77), creative director for Disney Interactive Studios’ Junction Point, delivered the keynote address “What Videogames Can Learn from Other Media . . . What We Can’t . . . and What We Shouldn’t” at the 2010 Game Developers Conference Europe in August.

Scott Sublett (C77) was executive producer of *All About Dad*, named one of the 10 best Asian American films of 2009 by Asia Pacific Arts. Sublett also wrote and directed the animated satire *Bye-Bye Bin Laden*, named best feature at the 2009 South Beach Animation Festival, and the live-action feature *Generic Thriller*, starring Shirley Jones. All three films were recently released on DVD.

John Scheinfeld (GC78) wrote and directed *We Believe*, a documentary celebrating the love affair between Chicago and the Chicago Cubs. Narrated by actor Gary Sinise, the DVD was released in April.

Michael Tick (GC78) was named dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Kentucky.

Dianne Earley (C79) was appointed to the area commission (governing board) of Technical College of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Craig M. Springer (C80, GC92) was appointed executive director of the Granada Theatre at the Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts.

David N. Kragseth (C81, GC86) was honored with Northwestern’s Alumni Service Award for outstanding service to the University.

Heather Winch (C82), founder and principal of WinchWorks Projects, was appointed to the area commission (governing board) of Technical College of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Robert Conrad (C55), president of WCLV, Cleveland’s classical music station, has been inducted into Ohio’s Senior Citizen Hall of Fame.

Tony Roberts (C61) starred on Broadway in *The Royal Family*, nominated for the Tony Award for best revival of a play.

Patricia Conway Thorpe (C63) was honored with Northwestern’s Alumni Service Award for outstanding service to the University.

John R. Stewart (GC64) retired this June as the University of Dubuque’s vice president and dean of academic affairs.

Carey Graeber (C75) (above) and her son, Nathaniel Kozinn (C05), produced the documentary *Through the Maze: Women and Pain*, which premiered on Capitol Hill at a briefing sponsored by the Women’s Political Caucus. Highlighting the importance of bringing attention to women’s chronic pain conditions, the film can be viewed at endwomenspain.org.

Ruth Hendel (GC75) and her husband, Stephen Hendel, were producers of *Fela!*, winner of three Tony Awards.

Brian C. Shea (C77), counsel in the real estate and financial services practices at Polsinelli Shughart, was named to the additional post of president at Chicago Farmers.

Martha Lavey (C79, GC94), artistic director of Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre Company, was awarded an honorary doctor of arts degree at Northwestern’s commencement ceremony in June.

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Broadway’s *Mary Poppins* is supercali . . . really good and features Northwestern talent both on stage and in the orchestra pit. From left: Mark Ledbetter (BSM00), Amber Owens (C02), alumna Catherine Brunell, musical director and conductor Brad Haak (BSM98), and associate conductor Dale Rieling (C83, GBSM84).

**NUEA-East**

NUEA-East celebrated fall in the city by welcoming a new executive board and a new class of NU Yorkers. In October NUEA-East hosted New Student Week New York, a week of city orientation and professional development events for alumni transitioning to their first year in New York. The board also looks forward to a season of NU Works, an opportunity for alumni playwrights to workshop new productions, as well as an exciting new initiative to group early-career alumni with seasoned industry leaders in themed cohorts.

**NUEA-West**

NUEA-West hosted two rounds of peer groups, pairing small groups of NUEA members with alumni who are leaders in the entertainment industry. Workshop topics included a wide range of subjects in television writing and programming, agent hunting, auditions, and branding techniques.

In May NUEA-West hosted the panel “From Concept to Realization: How to Turn Your Ideas into Actual Business and Get Them into the Right Hands.” The panelists included Josh Goldenberg (C04), vice president of Red Wagon Entertainment; Gabrielle Neiman (C00) of Strike Entertainment; Jeremy Latcham (C03), vice president of Marvel Studios; Aaron Kaplan (C97), founder of Kaplan Perrone Management; Justin Spitzer (C99), writer for *The Office*; and Kevin Crotty (WCAS92), ICM agent.

In June and August NUEA-West hosted two TV show-runner panels featuring alumni panelists Aaron Harberts (C95) and Gretchen Berg (C93), both of *Off the Map* and *Mercy*; Ira Ungerleider (C90) of *Friends with Benefits* and *Gary Unmarried*; and Betsy Thomas (C09) of *My Boys*. The first panel was moderated by Christiana Miller (C96) of *General Hospital: Night Shift* and *General Hospital*, the second by Harberts.

In September NUEA-West hosted its popular “Surviving L.A.” panel, designed to give advice to new graduates. Panelists included Yuson Charles (C96), producer and partner with Ne-Yo and Columbus Short; Louie Provost (WCAS03), studio executive at Disney; Mike Gagerman (C97), writer for *Road to Nardo*; Dana Wilson (C01), associate producer of *Desperate Housewives*; Blake Silver (C05), actor in *Thor*; and Matt Wells (C02), artistic director of Need Theatre. The panel was moderated by Goldenberg.

From left: Jackie Laine (C08), Dustin Pearlman (C04), Jen O’Leary (C09), Marquis Alexander (C80), and Hannah Macfarlane (C09) at an April NUEA-West get-together in Hollywood.
Heidi Kettenring (C95) starred in She Loves Me at Writers’ Theatre in Glencoe, Illinois.

Shawn Patrick Boyd (C96) stars in Into the Void, an independent feature film based on Jack London’s Sea Wolf. He also performed the original one-man play Exhausted Paint: The Death of Van Gogh at the Chicago Fringe Festival in September. Boyd lives in Minneapolis–St. Paul, where he just completed a three-month run playing Peter van Daan in The Diary of Anne Frank, which received a Critics Circle Award for best original one-man play. He also performed the Sea Wolf, a feature film based on Jack London’s novel in Spike Jonze’s adaptation.

Matthew Spangler (C96) received the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for best original script for his stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini’s novel The Kite Runner. The production by San Jose Repertory Theatre received four other Critics Circle Awards, including best overall production. Spangler’s play has also been produced by the Arizona Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Cleveland Playhouse. He teaches performance studies at San Jose State University, where he was awarded tenure this past spring.

David K. Waldman (C96), president and founder of Crescendo Communications, an investor relations firm based in New York City, was recently elected to the board of directors of QSGI.

Kate Baldwin (C97) was nominated for a Tony Award for best performance by a leading actress in a musical for Finian’s Rainbow.

Laurie Barnes (C97) joined the Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton as an associate.

Alan Schmuckler (C95) wrote the music and lyrics and David Holstein (C05) wrote the book for The Emperor’s New Clothes, commissioned by Chicago Shakespeare Theater and premiered there to rave reviews this past summer. Amber Makalou (CS03) was assistant director, Debbie Baer (C96) was the costume designer, and the cast featured Jarrod Zimmerman (C05) (third from right). Creative producer of Chicago Shakespeare Theater is Rick Boynton (C86).

Megan Mostyn-Brown (C99) wrote the play Other People’s Problems, which received a reading in April as part of the Irish Repertory Theatre’s New Works Reading Series in New York City.

Lyndal Hanna (GC01) has joined the commercial real estate firm Avison Young’s Chicago office.

Brian J. Safatty (C03) recently moved back to Chicago after working in New Zealand for four years (below) on the film Avatar, several programs for the Maori TV network, and a political campaign for the indigenous party.

Michael Sherman (C03) is in South Africa as a resource specialist with the Peace Corps. Sherman is assisting teachers, providing classroom instruction, and promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Peter Duchan (C05) cowrote Breaking Upwards, an IFC film that was released in New York and Los Angeles in April.

Zach Strief (C06), an NFL offensive tackle, has been re-signed by the New Orleans Saints.

Rachel Frankenthal (C07) joined the Broadway cast of Mamma Mia!

Alan Arrivée (GC08) is an assistant professor of film/theatre in the department of theatre arts at the University of Mississippi, where he will help start an interdisciplinary minor in film studies.

Sarah Gubbins (GC08) was awarded the Carl Djerassi Fellowship in playwriting. The fellowship is a one-year appointment in the creative writing department of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where Gubbins will teach playwriting.

Jacob Junutunen (C08) recently cofounded Chicago’s Mortar Theatre, where he is the managing director. His play Under America was produced by Mortar in September, and his play Saddam’s Lions was produced in June as part of the Source Theatre Festival in Washington, DC.

Tyler Roth (C08) was promoted from assistant colorist to colorist at Filmworkers, based in Chicago.

Meg Chambers Steedle (C08) appeared in the new comedy Fox on the Fairway at Virginia’s Signature Theatre this fall. She appeared in an episode of the new ABC series Body of Proof in October.

Carrie Barrett (GC09) participated in the 2010 Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference with her play The Burden of Not Having a Tail, written as part of her course work at Northwestern.

Jennifer Hagel (GC09) is the artistic director of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater Company in Denver for its 2010–11 season.

Alex Schwarm (C09) screened his film As Ever, Stan at more than 10 film festivals last spring, including the Black Hills Film Festival in South Dakota and the GI Film Festival in Washington, DC. The film was honored as the best Illinois short film at this year’s Route 66 Film Festival in Springfield.

Allie Silver (C09) works for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, where she coordinates the World Music Festival, the SummerDance program, music programs in Millennium Park, and other Chicago music programs.

Katrina Dowd (C10) was named to the 2010–11 US national senior women’s lacrosse team.

Meridith Friedman (GC10) was awarded one of three National New Play Network grants to serve as the playwright-in-residence at Curious Theatre Company in Denver for its 2010–11 season.
The following death notices were compiled by Northwestern’s Office of Alumni Relations and Development and from updates sent to Dialogue by staff or by alumni by mail or by e-mail at dialogue@northwestern.edu.

Mary Reiter (C33), July 5 at age 97 in Lacon, Illinois.

Alberta Friedland Mosler (C34), April 22 at age 97 in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Madge Murbach Wells (C35, GC39), July 23 at age 96 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mildred K. Thelen (C38), June 1 at age 93 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dorothy Spindle Wells (C40), May 27 at age 92 in Leesburg, Florida.

Lorna Shogren Werner (C40, GC43), April 2 at age 91 in Sarasota, Florida.

Helen I. Daws (C41), May 28 at age 91 in Lena, Illinois.

Jeanne Orr (C41), March 28 at age 91 in Cottonwood, Idaho.

Elizabeth J. Thompson (C44), February 14 at age 87 in Lowell, Michigan.

Carolyn A. Black (C47), February 19 at age 84 in Spring Lake, Michigan.

Robert W. T. Feindt (GC49), January 15 at age 82 in West Hollywood, California.

Robert B. Shipley (C49), May 18 at age 87 in York, Maine.

August (Tony) Chapp (GC50), July 3 at age 88 in Shawnee, Kansas.

Chermaine R. Davis (C50), May 12 at age 81 in Greenwich, Connecticut.

John S. Ettelson (C50), June 21 at age 82 in Portland, Oregon.

Irene Gallagher (C50), March 1 at age 81 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

James W. Holmes Sr. (C50), May 24 at age 83 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Don S. Kreger (C50), September 1 in Denver, Colorado.

Joyce Johnson La Pine (C50), May 3 at age 81 in Fearrington Village, North Carolina.

Phyllis J. Burlingame (C51), June 13 at age 81 in South Orleans, Massachusetts.

Helen Louise Petersen (C51), May 12 at age 81 in Naples, Florida.

Marilyn Skillman Gellerstedt (C52), March 26 at age 80 in Evanston, Illinois.

Marilyn M. Andrews (C53), July 12 at age 79 in Jasper, Georgia.

Margot K. Cohen (C53), in January in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Kathryn Louise Van Dyke Bailey (C54), July 19 at age 78 in Houston, Texas.

Virgil Mann Batza (GC54), April 19 at age 89 in Sunnyvale, California.

Sarah Lewis Marxsen (GC54), February 20 at age 83 in Tallahassee, Florida.

H. Claire Herzog (C55), May 21 at age 76 in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Donovan Cummings (C56), February 17 at age 75 in Stockton, California.

Harry Wappler (C58), April 21 at age 73 in Bellevue, Washington.

Martin M. Lepisto (GC60), August 5 at age 73 in Lincoln, California.

Fr. Robert St. Clair (GC61), May 12 at age 82 in Los Gatos, California.

John A. Ritter (C64), June 6 at age 67 in Miami, Florida.

Beverly Jean Acierno (C66), April 27 at age 66 in Pensacola, Florida.

James G. McDonald Jr. (GC68), July 24 at age 66 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Esther Mohler Ho (GC70), August 20 at age 79 in Hayward, California.

Sheila Ehmke Robb (C68), February 17 at age 63 in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Janice Gibert (GC69), April 5 at age 81 in Vancouver, Washington.

Randy Philip Partridge (GC82, GC91), May 13 at age 57 in Pretty Prairie, Kansas.

Jeffrey T. Bottoff (C85), August 5 at age 47 in Chicago, Illinois.

Oscar and Tony winner Patricia Neal
School of Communication alumna Patricia Neal (C47), longtime star of stage and screen, died of lung cancer August 8 at the age of 84. Winner of a Tony Award and an Oscar, Neal was known for her husky voice and stage presence — and for a personal life more tragic than any of her roles.

She was born Patsy Louise Neal in 1926 in Packard, Kentucky, at a mining camp where her father worked for a coal company. She grew up in Tennessee and eventually studied theatre at Northwestern, leaving for New York after two years. There she was cast in Lillian Hellman’s Another Part of the Forest, winning a Tony in 1946, the first year of Tony Award presentations.

Neal went on to star in films with John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, and Gary Cooper. In 1964 she won an Academy Award for Hud, costarring Paul Newman. She survived troubles in her marriage to author Roald Dahl (they divorced in 1983), an injury to her infant son, Theo, and the death of her young daughter, Olivia, as well as three strokes in 1965 that left her in a coma for several weeks. Neal fought her way back to talk, walk, and work again. In 1968 she was nominated for an Oscar for The Subject Was Roses.

Neal received an Alumni Merit Award from Northwestern in 1964 and an honorary degree in 1994.

She is survived by her children Tessa, Theo, Ophelia, and Lucy Dahl; her sister; her brother; 10 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.
Donor gifts light up Northwestern stages

A successful stage production is a collaboration — between actors and directors, between the playwright and the actors, between the front of the house and backstage. And as at most theaters, at Northwestern the curtain wouldn’t go up if not for the behind-the-scenes support of funding partners.

At Northwestern, support from alumni and friends comes in many forms, including support for student activities and performances.

Generosity gains momentum
In May a star-studded performance by school alumni and Chicago-area theater professionals helped launch a student resources fund. Starry Starry Night: A Celebration of Music Theatre and Dominic Missimi drew support from alumni and friends of the school to create the Dominic Missimi Fund for Music Theatre. The endowment will be used to support programming and needs particular to music theatre students at Northwestern, including a music theatre media library and visiting artist programming.

Major initial donors to the fund included Eleanor R. Baldwin, David Carlyon and Barbara Whitman, Sally and Thomas Hayward Jr., Whitney Kroenke, Robert and Charlene Shaw, and an anonymous donor. Hundreds of generous gifts from alumni and friends all over the country poured in, totaling $350,000 to start the fund.

In addition, the show couldn’t have happened without the donated time and talent provided by a long list of alumni, local, and student performers and production artists.

A starry starry night indeed: Kate Shindle (C98), Brian d’Arcy James (C90), and Heather Headley (C97) in “A Step Too Far” from Aida.
Giving together: the Alvina Krause Studio

A black box theater in Annie May Swift Hall was dedicated last year, thanks to gifts from a community of donors: former students and fans of Alvina Krause. Krause, who studied at Northwestern and then taught here for 30 years, is remembered more fondly by her former students than any wall plaque could convey.

A gift from Krause students Richard Benjamin (C60) and Paula Prentiss Benjamin (C59) led the campaign, and many contributed to dedicate the studio and create an endowment fund to support productions there.

The flexibility of the Krause Studio space has been a boon to the school, and it has hosted classes as well as staged productions. The space, perhaps, reflects some of what Krause taught.

“She encouraged the study of art, history, philosophy, music, religion, languages, astronomy and the sciences, literature and literary criticism,” said Frank Galati, Tony Award winner, professor emeritus of performance studies, and a former Krause student. “Her own study was wide-ranging and eclectic.”

Hardy Scholars Program celebrates 75 years

Owen L. Coon, who was a “purple debater” during his years at Northwestern (1913–15), felt that his time on the team and with his instructor and coach made him the successful man he was. In 1935 he established the Clarion DeVitt Hardy Scholarship in Forensics to honor his mentor, reward talented and hard-working debaters, and provide financial support for forensic team activities. This year marks the 75th year of the Hardy Scholarships, a fund still graciously supported by the Owen L. Coon Foundation and Coon’s family, including current foundation president and Coon grandson Richard Briggs. More than 300 students have received recognition from the Hardy Scholars program.

Wartella and Losh honored with new named professorships

Two School of Communication faculty members have received named professorships, one funded by the Qatar Foundation and the other by charitable gifts from an alumni family.

SHEIKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI CHAIR

The Qatar Foundation has provided funding for a new endowed School of Communication professorship named after the leader of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. This will be the fourth professorship funded by the Qatar Foundation.

Northwestern University and the Qatar Foundation have been partners since 2008, when Northwestern joined five other leading American universities that had established branch campuses at Education City, a rapidly developing community of educational and research institutions on the outskirts of Doha, Qatar.

Last year the University announced the first three Qatar Foundation–funded professorships, one of which is held by radio/television/film professor Hamid Naficy. The fourth professorship has been awarded to communication studies professor Ellen Wartella (left). A leading scholar in the role of media in children’s health and development, Wartella joined the Northwestern faculty in April. She serves on a number of national boards addressing the influence of media on children’s health and committees on obesity and nutritional information in food packaging.

JANE STEINER HOFFMAN AND MICHAEL HOFFMAN ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP

Jane Steiner Hoffman (C86) and Michael Hoffman (WCAS72, G73) are providing the funding for a new endowed professorship for junior faculty in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The inaugural Jane Steiner Hoffman and Michael Hoffman Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders is Molly Losh. Losh (see photo on page 16) joined the faculty in September. Her research focuses on delineating the nature and basis of language impairment in autism, fragile X syndrome, and other neurogenetic disorders.