Calendar of events

May 1–3, 7–10, Cahn Auditorium
Waa-Mu 2009: One for the Books

May 1–3, 8–9, Wallis Theater
Amai Zenzele
Wallis Works-in-Progress Series

May 2–3, Marshall Dance Center
David Parker and the Bang Group
Dance Program, New Movement Project

May 8, Block Museum of Art
Entertainment Panel
MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage Program

May 8–10, Steppenwolf Theatre’s
Yondorf Rehearsal Hall
New Plays/Screenplays Showcase
MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage with Remy Bumppo Theatre

May 15, Wallis Theatre
Career Q&A with
Lookingglass Theatre
EPICS Connections

May 20, McCormick Auditorium,
Norris University Center
Honors Convocation

May 21, Frances Searle Building
Judy Olson, University of California,
Irvine: “Distance Collaboration:
What Makes It Successful?”
Center for Technology and Social Behavior Speaker Series

May 21–23, Ballroom Studio
Theater, Marshall Dance Center
Senior Dance Concert

May 22–24, 28–31, Barber Theater
Ghetto by Joshua Sobol

May 29, Armadillo Room,
Norris University Center
Career Q&A with Starcom PR
EPICS Connections

May 29, Frances Searle Building
Heidi Feldman, Stanford University
Ann Taylor Speaker Series in Communication Sciences and Disorders

May 29–30, Wallis Theater
Angels in America, Part One:
Millennium Approaches
by Tony Kushner
MFA Collaboration Series

May 29–30, Annie May Swift Hall Studio
Milkweed by Misty O’Berry
Department of Performance Studies

June 5–6, Ballroom Studio
Theater, Marshall Dance Center
Stamina of Curiosity by
Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak

June 17–18, Frances Searle Building
Ana Sharma, University of Colorado at Boulder
Doctor of Audiology Visiting Scholars Series

June 20, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
Commencement Convocations

In this issue

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Alumni spotlight

Above left, at left: Rahm Emanuel (GC85),
now chief of staff for President Barack Obama (H06)
Above right, at right: David Schwimmer (C88) in Our Town, codirected by theatre faculty members Anna Shapiro and Jessica Thebus (GC91, GC97) at Chicago’s Lookingglass Theatre Company
On the cover: Corner facade of the newly renovated Annie May Swift Hall
The School of Communication is known for its successful integration of theory and practice. This issue of Dialogue showcases two programs — one very old and one brand new — that exemplify our distinctive blend of liberal arts education and practical action.

One of our two feature articles introduces you to Dan Fitzmier, our new director of forensics. An outstanding debate coach, he is enjoying unprecedented success in his first year with the program. But he is also an outstanding scholar in the area of classical rhetorical theory as well as a graduate of our doctoral program in communication studies. With Fitzmier leading the team, we are confident that Northwestern’s rich tradition in argumentation and debate is in good hands.

Debate was a popular student activity at Northwestern even before the School of Oratory was founded, but it soon became an important laboratory for students and faculty to test their ideas about argument and persuasion. At many of our peer institutions debate is little more than a club sport, with no tie to an academic program. But we led the way in integrating the debate program into our academic program, and we remain committed to a model in which debate enhances instruction in argumentation and vice versa.

The second feature reports on the development of career services for our students. Despite a longtime commitment to effective integration of theory and practice, the school was tardy in developing a career services program for its students — at least that is what I have heard from our alumni! Over the past eight years, we developed elements of an outstanding career services operation: a strong internship program; active networks of alumni who are eager to help students and fellow graduates; classes, lectures, panels, and workshops that introduce students to communication-related industries; and an advising program that works closely with students throughout their four years. Last year we brought these pieces together under the umbrella of the new Office of External Programs, Internships, and Career Services (EPICS). Headed by its director, alumna Kate Neal, the EPICS office is already helping our students achieve their goals and dreams.

You may notice that even more than usual, this issue of Dialogue features the ideas, energy, gifts, and other contributions of our alumni. Our alumni leaders have been centrally involved in designing and implementing the programs in EPICS, and our National Advisory Council recommended creating a unified EPICS office and helped design its operations. Our alumni volunteer to speak with students, provide them with internships, mentor them, and advise them about careers. EPICS is funded primarily by generous alumni gifts. And we think it is also significant that the two programs we feature this spring are both headed by School of Communication alumni, some of the best of our new generation.

I am continually impressed by the way our faculty and alumni, principled but practical, hold on tight to our best traditions while taking on bold new initiatives that are required for new times. It may be the most important attribute of our community, and it is one we should all cherish and celebrate.

Barbara J. O’Keefe
Dean, School of Communication
Start a dialogue: dialogue@northwestern.edu
It’s been a triumphant inaugural year for EPICS — a handy acronym for the School of Communication’s new Office of External Programs, Internships, and Career Services. Created to help undergraduates tap into the unlimited potential offered by a Northwestern communication degree, this newly created office supports students’ career development every step of the way, beginning at the start of their freshman year.

EPICS began in fall 2008 as an extension of the school’s already highly regarded national internship program, which helps place students in enviable communication-related positions, primarily in New York, Los Angeles, and the Chicago area. Advisers now serve as students’ main points of contact to connect them with companies seeking interns for a variety of challenging yet rewarding opportunities. Not only do the advisers help facilitate students’ efforts to seek out, apply for, and obtain an internship, they also offer guidance on day-to-day functioning, networking, and relationship building once students have been placed in the field.

As EPICS director Kate Neal explains, “EPICS grew in part from feedback and excitement from the alumni community, which expressed interest in helping our students transition into the working world, and in part from the interest we saw on campus for such an initiative.” This led to combining some of the school’s other assets under one umbrella. The “External Programs” component makes it possible for students to regularly engage with alumni and friends of the school via professional panels, a guest speaker Q&A series, and many off-campus outings; “Career Services” provides ongoing assistance through résumé workshops, career fairs and seminars, company visits to campus, and job-hunting advice. The resulting EPICS office is now ideally and uniquely situated to help catapult students into the careers of their dreams.

A coast-to-coast internship approach

In fall 2008 the “Internships” part of EPICS shot out of the gate with a lively Internship Information Session that attracted nearly 100 students. Associate professor emeritus David Downs (left), Los Angeles internship instructor, and alumna Carey Graeber (C75), the instructor for New York City, spoke to students about all the exciting possibilities on their respective coasts. A panel of students who had already participated in the New York or LA programs (or both) also shared their experiences.

One of those students was senior radio/television/film major Ben Friedmann, who has completed five different Los Angeles internships. He credits the EPICS office with providing “a lot of support during the internship process, including making sure you get the necessary credits, whether during the summer or the school year.” He adds that Northwestern students continue to leave lasting impressions at their internships, making it easier for the next Northwestern student to build further on that reputation.

Friedmann explains that many of his internships have led to securing his next one, as he’s constantly meeting and networking with new people in the industry. His first opportunity was in June 2006, the summer after his freshman year, when he worked at Beacon Pictures and Focus Features. He learned a great deal about the film business, especially about agencies and representation, and got a “feel for being out in Los Angeles.”

In his sophomore year Friedmann interned at both NBC’s casting office and the Gersh Agency, in addition to meeting with Creative Artists Agency to set up his next internship for the following summer. Next came The Firm — of which Jeff Kwatinetz (C87) was the CEO — and most recently Endeavor, an LA talent agency. All of his winter-quarter internships involved taking an accompanying full-credit class taught by David Downs, while the summer internships offered partial credit.

“These were all great opportunities to learn about a particular company,” Friedmann says, “as well as the business in general. An internship can help you gain a better understanding of that company’s individual perspective and role within the
very complex and interconnected entertainment industry."

Staying in touch with many of his former coworkers has provided Friedmann with an impressive network, which should benefit him as he begins his search for full-time opportunities beyond Northwestern. “After I graduate I plan on moving out to LA to work at a talent agency,” he says. “Hopefully some of the places where I’ve interned will be interested in having me back.”

Careers in bloom

The EPICS fall Internship Information Session was quickly followed by the school’s 25th annual Career Night, attended by more than 150 students. Three groups of panelists (radio, television, and film; advertising, marketing, and public relations; and nonprofit organizations), many of them School of Communication alumni, shared professional advice.

“The panelists had a lot of experience in their fields,” says Andy Ertell, a senior radio/television/film and economics major who attended, “and they were able to give us an idea of what it’s like in those jobs and careers. They talked about what it takes to get there — not only the experience it requires, but also the passion.”

Sarah Pazar (C07) (above right) was one of the speakers on the nonprofit panel. As a senior communication studies and psychology major in the fall of 2006, she landed an outreach internship for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Chicago, where she is now a full-time employee. Pazar took the accompanying for-credit internship class taught by communication studies professor Paul Arntson. “I really appreciated that, from the very beginning of the internship, I was given projects I could take ownership of,” she says.

The event-planning aspect of her internship made Pazar want to “see the event through,” so after it ended she continued to volunteer one day a week for the organization. During that time Avon Walk’s operations manager asked if she was interested in applying for a paid position following graduation. Soon after, Pazar started working as a contracted recruitment specialist — a position that eventually became full-time.

“Internships and our internship course are a part of the experiential education process that we provide at Northwestern,” says Jen Baker, an undergraduate adviser at the school. “When students are in an internship, they’re able to observe and reflect on the experience and then use these experiences to enhance their educational experience.”

The event-planning aspect of her internship made Pazar want to “see the event through,” so after it ended she continued to volunteer one day a week for the organization. During that time Avon Walk’s operations manager asked if she was interested in applying for a paid position following graduation. Soon after, Pazar started working as a contracted recruitment specialist — a position that eventually became full-time.

Alumnus Zach Braff applauds grant winners

Celebrated actor, director, writer, producer, and Grammy winner Zach Braff (Garden State, TV’s Scrubs) returned to campus in March to congratulate the five winners of the Zach Braff Film Grant and host a packed-house screening of their completed films as moderated by radio/television/film department chair David Tolchinsky. The five winners were senior Dan Millstein, alumnus Paul Kruse (C08), and MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage students Erik Gernand, Jennifer Hagel, and Ben Viccellio. In the discussion that followed, Braff (C97) offered guidance to all budding filmmakers in attendance. “Embrace the luxury of being here at Northwestern with all this great equipment and great teachers,” he said. “It’s important to come away from the school with a couple of short films under your belt, no matter whether you’re a writer or a director or whatever. So if you know you want to be a filmmaker, make movies. Get an HD flip camera for two hundred dollars. Make a movie on it. Make a short. Edit it in Final Cut Pro. Just do it.”

Braff also stopped by the Theatre and Interpretation Center for an uproarious and insightful Q&A with theatre and radio/television/film students. Asked about his inspirations, Braff replied, “Woody Allen was a religion in my family. I grew up on Jewish East Coast humor, of which he was the master.” He also revealed that the only play he ever acted in at Northwestern was Tom Stoppard’s Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, and that after graduating he worked as a production assistant on music videos, including one for the Spice Girls. Showing his comic side, he joked that “only in Hollywood can you go see a movie and then be waited on by the lead actor at dinner.” But he also imparted serious advice to students: “Wherever you go after graduation, find a community at your same level and submerge yourself in it. It’s all about helping each other out. Have a buddy. Work on his project and he’ll work on yours. You can’t be afraid to hustle and work hard and pick up that proverbial broom. I’m still hustling. It never stops.”
new concepts along with their academic knowledge to further define both their professional and personal goals.

“Quite often,” adds Baker, “if a student is happy with the internship experience, they’ve been able to set up a network of professionals that will help them find a job after graduation.”

Network, network, network

The power of networking cannot be overstated, so the School of Communication cherishes its close relationships with many former students who have gone on to successful enterprises. The school has always welcomed visits by celebrated alumni and noted scholars and artists who can give students invaluable insight into their chosen discipline or explore the industry’s less-familiar facets. “Gaining exposure to successful alumni allows our students to learn about potential career options and receive advice on how to get started in the industry,” says Neal.

The new Q&A series EPICS Connections has been created specifically to offer students career-launching advice through small-group interactions with these professionals — ranging from how to set yourself apart in the field to tricks of the trade and do’s and don’ts. Students who have attended are already realizing that these sessions are a great way to get a foot in the door, trade business cards, and even secure a mentor for future pursuits. EPICS Connections will continue to line up these networking opportunities with individuals at the top of their craft — ranging from actors, directors, writers, producers, and arts administrators to journalists, entrepreneurs, and advertising executives to speech pathologists and audiology professionals. (See sidebars below and on page 5 for recent guests.)

Another significant way for students to hear from successful alumni is the annual Entertainment Panel, which the EPICS office plans in collaboration with the school’s MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage program. Featuring alumni who are now thriving in the entertainment industry, the panel in past years has welcomed such notables as Greg Berlanti (C94), creator of Everwood; Marg Helgenberger (C82), star of CSI; Richard Lewis (C83), producer of CSI; and Justin Spitzer (C99), a writer for The Office.

This year’s panel on May 8 welcomed television writer Jonathan Collier, best known for his work on Monk, The Simpsons, and King of the Hill; Steve Conrad (WCAS91), writer of The Pursuit of Happyness (starring Will Smith) and The Weatherman (starring Nicolas Cage); Kevin Crotty (WCAS92), cohead of the television literary department at International Creative Management; actor Zach Gilford (C04) from NBC-TV’s Friday Night Lights; and Robin Shorr (C98), writer for ABC’s Samantha Who?

Furthermore, students can witness firsthand the creative talents of faculty, students, and alumni working in Chicago’s dynamic performing arts community. Entrepreneurs Panel: David Miller (KSM00), founder of SnapHawk, and Erica Bethe Levin (C05), cofounder of CheekyChicago.com

EPICS Connections

These are just a few of the guest artists, scholars, professionals, and returning alumni we’ve hosted this academic year. There are plenty more to come!

John Scheinfeld (C78)
Emmy- and Grammy-nominated documentary filmmaker (We Believe: Chicago and Its Cubs, The U.S. vs. John Lennon)

Mollie Alexander Speer
Director of development, marketing, events, and public relations, About Face Theatre

Entrepreneurs Panel: David Miller (KSM00), founder of SnapHawk, and Erica Bethe Levin (C05), cofounder of CheekyChicago.com

Sonja Nordahl
Former news anchor and business analyst, Canada’s CTV

Catherine Gottfred
(GC73, GC79)
2008 president, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; founder, Leap Learning Systems

Betsy Steinberg
Managing director, Illinois Film Office

Brian Dickie
General director, Chicago Opera Theater

Julie Kahn (GC96)
Speech language pathologist, Caryn Sachs Burstein and Associates

Deloitte Human Capital: Marissa Bieschke (SESP07), organization and change practitioner, and Claire Gilbert (C08), human capital analyst

Andrew Damer
Marketing director, Broadway in Chicago

Adviser Jen Baker consulting with a student about internships
scene through the EPICS office’s popular Arts in the City program. For a nominal fee — currently $10 per show for both ticket and transportation — students can see multiple productions throughout the year. The EPICS office also frequently coordinates postperformance discussions, allowing students to get up close and personal with the cast and creative teams. Highlights this academic year have included Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s Macbeth, directed by founding artistic director Barbara Gaines (C68); Steppenwolf Theatre’s The Tempest, featuring Steppenwolf ensemble member and performance studies professor emeritus Frank Galati (C65, GC67, GC71) as Prospero; Lookingglass Theatre Company’s Our Town, featuring David Schwimmer (C88) and codirected by faculty members Anna Shapiro and Jessica Thebus (GC91, GC97); and Northlight Theatre’s Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, also directed by Thebus and featuring faculty member Cindy Gold.

Thebus enjoyed sharing the Northlight show with students in a postperformance talkback. She notes that “the questions were really sharp and interesting, and having the opportunity to articulate some of what Cindy and I worked on in the rehearsal room was wonderful.”

Finally, every year, students with an interest in media, news, and international communication can spend spring break in Paris as participants in the annual International Media Seminar, now administered by EPICS. Sponsored by the School of Communication in cooperation with Paris’s Center for the Study of International Communications and the American University of Paris, this program allows students to combine a springtime week in one of the world’s most beautiful cities with a unique chance to learn from prominent international media figures.

The program — started by Northwestern alumnus and former professor Lee Huebner and professor James Ettema — blends seminars, discussions, and media visits with free time for relaxing and optional excursions. All seminars are conducted in English, and Northwestern students at any grade level are welcome to participate. The trip is partially funded by the school, which allows students to make the most of their experience at a reasonable cost. They’re housed in a quaint Parisian hotel at a significantly reduced rate, and the only program cost is a small enrollment fee. Over the years, enrollment has ranged from about 25 to 60 students — small enough so that participants get to know one another well and thus gain even more value and enjoyment from the trip.

Full speed ahead

“Our first year has been very inspiring and shows great promise,” says Neal. “We hope to continue the momentum and strengthen connections between students and alumni so that our collective creative community can grow and succeed together.”

www.communication.northwestern.edu/epics

Alumni up close

John Cameron Mitchell (C85)
Actor, producer, writer, director, and Golden Globe nominee John Cameron Mitchell (Hedwig and the Angry Inch, The Secret Garden, Shortbus) returned to campus in November to lead a fascinating workshop on how to direct actors for the camera, using a student cast and crew with student-written scripts. Mitchell (left) also brunched with students in the MFA Writing for the Screen and Stage program as moderated by radio/television/film assistant chair Bill Bleich and shared career advice with radio/television/film and theatre undergraduates in a session moderated by theatre professor Dominic Missimi.

Adam Kantor (C08)
One of the stars in the final Broadway cast of Rent, Adam Kantor (right) returned to campus in March to host a special cinematic screening of the show’s last performance on Broadway. Following the film, he took questions from the audience in a session moderated by theatre department chair Rives Collins.
Annie May Swift Hall restored

Last fall the School of Communication completed its three-year project to restore Annie May Swift Hall, one of the oldest buildings on the Evanston campus, and welcomed back the temporarily displaced radio/television/film and performance studies departments. Now with a state-of-the-art auditorium, a black-box performance space, and new offices, the building also boasts painstakingly restored historic detail both inside and out. If you haven’t already seen Annie May Swift Hall in all its classic glory, now is the perfect time to return to campus and experience it for yourself.

www.communication.northwestern.edu/ams-photos
Faculty profile videos

Get to know our faculty through short video interviews on our web site. For example, in the communication studies department, Noshir Contractor explains his research on multidimensional networks and how the school continues to be a leader in the communication field. Eszter Hargittai highlights her courses on social and policy implications of information technologies as well as on integrating digital media into the curriculum. And new faculty member Jessica Greenberg, a sociocultural anthropologist, explores alternative communication forms related to her research in post-revolutionary Serbia.

In the theatre department, Theatre and Interpretation Center artistic director Henry Godinez discusses the school’s vibrant acting program and drama productions, while Amanda Dehnert talks about working with students on musical theatre techniques and providing them with tools they need for a life in the profession. In performance studies, D. Soyini Madison highlights her field work in Ghana, where she is exploring how human rights activists use performance to pursue social justice.

In coming weeks, look for radio/television/film department chair David Tolchinsky’s discussion of the increased focus on writing across his department’s many programs, and watch for Cynthia Thompson, of the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, speaking about her research in aphasia.

Notable alumni

View a select lineup of our school’s successful and celebrated alumni. The list keeps growing!

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Get involved! The Northwestern Alumni Association is dedicated to fostering a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship between the University and its more than 160,000 alumni. NAA sponsors alumni clubs, travel, career networking, continuing education, and more.

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Financial contributions — of any amount — are always welcome and help us continue our many worthwhile projects.

Research labs and clinics

SONIC Lab
(Science of Networks in Communities)
Noshir Contractor, director
sonic.northwestern.edu

Center for Technology and Social Behavior
Justine Cassell, director
ctsb.northwestern.edu

Center for Global Culture and Communication
Dilip Gaonkar, director
www.communication.northwestern.edu/global_communication

Communication Sciences and Disorders Labs
Auditory neuroscience, speech physiology, early learning, and more
www.communication.northwestern.edu/csd/research

Communication Sciences and Disorders Clinics
Listening and learning, speech and language pathology, and more
www.communication.northwestern.edu/clinics

Hugh Knowles Center for Clinical and Basic Science in Hearing and Its Disorders
Nina Kraus, Hugh Knowles Chair in Audiology; Mario Ruggiero, Hugh Knowles Chair in Hearing Sciences
www.communication.northwestern.edu/hughknowlescenter

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Financial contributions — of any amount — are always welcome and help us continue our many worthwhile projects.

www.development.northwestern.edu/opportunities/communication.php

www.communication.northwestern.edu/faculty-videos
Dance Program welcomes international scholars

Saana Ojala and Mirva Vaananen, undergraduate scholars from the Arts Academy at Turku University of Applied Sciences in Finland, participated in a variety of Dance Program events over winter quarter, courtesy of a 2007 agreement between Northwestern provost Daniel Linzer and Turku University director Risto Hypponen. The agreement, which pledges “cooperative relations between the two universities and mutual enrichment of their teaching programs,” was the result of several years of Jump Rhythm Technique teaching at Turku University by Siegenfeld.

High-tech SONIC lab opens

In February the Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) research lab opened in the Frances Searle Building. “The SONIC lab is one of the most sophisticated end-to-end network research laboratories in the world,” says communication studies professor and lab director Noshir Contractor. The space will serve as an interdisciplinary exploratorium for the collection, analysis, and visualization of multidimensional networks, allowing his team to tele- and video-connect remotely with groups around the world using high-definition video conferencing, a mobile media cart, and an observation room with camera controls to monitor experimental activities.

Van Zelst Lecture explores online communities

Robert Kraut (above), professor of human-computer interaction at Carnegie Mellon University, delivered the 26th annual Van Zelst Lecture in Communication in April. Using the successes of Wikipedia, MySpace, Facebook, and the Apache Server project as a starting point, his talk — “Designing Online Communities from Theory” — focused on ways to build these types of networks based on concepts of social identity and interpersonal bonds. Social science theories, he explained, can inform choices about how to get a community started, integrate newcomers, encourage commitment, regulate behavior, and motivate contributions.
Thompson delivers annual Pepper Lecture

In April Cynthia Thompson, professor of communication sciences and disorders and of neurology, delivered the fourth annual Pepper Lecture. The series was created to celebrate the cutting-edge research that continues in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Thompson’s presentation, “Recovery of Morphosyntactic Deficits in Stroke-Induced Aphasia: Behavioral and Brain Patterns,” highlighted studies examining language recovery in patients with agrammatic aphasia resulting from stroke. Thompson concluded that these studies ultimately provide blueprints for clinical protocols.

“Classes without Quizzes” tickle the brain

Over Homecoming and reunion Weekend, as part of Northwestern’s popular one-day series of short classes for returning alumni, communication sciences and disorders associate professor Patrick Wong (below) asked, “Does culture influence the brain, or does the brain shape culture?” Wong spoke about the various interdependencies between culture and the human brain, focusing on music and language and how people live in communities that can be characterized by specific patterns of behaviors.

New short film collaborations unite students

The radio/television/film department has launched a new initiative to integrate its writing, directing, editing, and cinematography curricula. Scripts written by students in the MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage program as well as by undergraduates — including those in the Creative Writing for the Media Program — now serve as the textual foundation for select production classes. This past winter quarter, students in a “horror genre” topics course and high-definition class were each given the chance to blindly select the student script they wanted to direct. “The initiative allows the director to concentrate on directing and the writer to concentrate on writing,” says department chair David Tolchinsky. “At the same time, everyone is collaborating, being forced to negotiate one’s initial vision with the visions of others.”

Audiology alumni return

The school’s Doctor of Audiology Visiting Scholars Series has welcomed its share of fascinating speakers this academic year — from the director of a center for childhood deafness to a neurology and otolaryngology professor. One special visitor in February was Robert Sweetow (C77) (right) of the University of California, San Francisco. In collaboration with the Hugh Knowles Center, he spoke about clinical management of tinnitus. Another alumni visitor closes out the series in June: University of Colorado faculty member Anu Sharma (GC89, GC94), whose research examines brain development in children with cochlear implants.

www.communication.northwestern.edu/news
Stepping into the head coaching position of Northwestern’s storied debate team is no small feat. The legendary team, which dates back to 1855 and has won 13 National Debate Tournament team titles — more than second- and third-place universities Harvard and Dartmouth combined — is a cornerstone of the School of Communication.

When Scott Deatherage, the winningest coach not only at Northwestern but also in the history of U.S. collegiate debate, moved on from the head coaching job after the 2007–08 season, he left some big shoes to fill. Enter Dan Fitzmier. Take one look at his résumé, and it’s easy to see why the 2008–09 season was such a smashing success. The new coach earned his doctoral degree in communication studies from Northwestern in 2006 and, as a graduate student, served as assistant debate coach under Deatherage.

“I’ve tried to keep the best elements of what preceded me,” Fitzmier says, “and to build where I could.” His tactics have obviously paid off. After an indisputably impressive season (see “Key Tournaments and Northwestern Results” on page 15), three Northwestern teams qualified to compete in the National Debate Tournament in March — a huge honor given that only the top 72 teams in the country qualify each year. The three teams are senior John Warden and sophomore Matt Fisher; sophomore Stephanie Spies and senior Robert Mulholand; and sophomore Mary Gregg and junior Greg Friend.

At the NDT Fisher and Warden won the Copeland Award, a distinguished honor awarded to the top-ranked team entering the tournament. “The voting was unanimous, which is rare in the 30-year history of the award,” says Fitzmier.

The NDT Board of Trustees also created a new honor for the coach of the Copeland team. Fitzmier was named the first winner of the Unger Award, named for James Unger, the highly successful Georgetown University debate coach who passed away in 2008.

“I am honored and humbled to be named the first recipient of the Unger Award,” says Fitzmier. “James Unger was a legendary debate coach whose long list of accomplishments included coaching seven of the first ten Copeland Award winners.”

At the 2009 NDT, Northwestern was the only university to have two pairs make it into the top eight. Fisher and Warden finished in the semifinal round, while Mulholand and Spies made it to the quarterfinal round.

“We eagerly anticipate the coming 2009–10 season,” says Fitzmier. “Current sophomores Stephanie Spies and Matt Fisher will return to lead the team in our continuing quest to return the National Debate Championship to Northwestern. Stephanie finished this season by debating her way into the quarterfinals of the NDT, defeating the NDT Top Speaker and a number of other excellent teams along the way. Matt returns with the goal of surpassing his Copeland-winning 88-14 record in 2008–09.”

A fall to remember

The 2008–09 season got off to an impressive start this past fall at the University of Kentucky’s annual Henry Clay Debates. Under the new leadership of Fitzmier, program coordinator Luke Hill, assistant debate coach Jeff Buntin, and graduate students Randall Bush and Caitlin Bruce, Northwestern’s team of Warden and Fisher took

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A changing of the guard

BY EMILY HISER LOBDELL (WCAS97, GJ01)

Left: John Warden and Matt Fisher preparing arguments at the 2009 National Debate Tournament
Right: The team of Mary Gregg and Greg Friend between NDT debates

BY THE NUMBERS


- Most NDT championships (13)
- Most NDT top speakers (10)
- Most preliminary-round wins (557)
- Most elimination-round wins (111)
- Most total wins (668)
first place, while Jordan Blumenthal and Ryan Beiermeister were named the best freshman pair.

It’s fairly typical for Northwestern’s college debaters to arrive on campus with at least a few years of competitive debate experience, but Warden and Fisher — the duo largely responsible for the team’s top wins this season — have a combined 14 years under their belts. Fisher, who graduated from Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook, Illinois, says he stumbled onto debate somewhat randomly. When he realized he didn’t enjoy a broadcasting course his high school freshman year, he decided to give debate a try. “I never really looked back,” says Fisher, explaining that he now spends more time on debate than any other curricular or extracurricular activity.

“It’s like debate and sleep are battling it out for number 1 and 2,” he jokes.

Warden, who participated in debate for four years at Chattahoochee High School outside Atlanta, says that spending more time on debate than the rest of his collegiate endeavors combined actually helps him better budget his time. “But if you lose a real big debate, not because you weren’t prepared or they had a better argument, but because you make a tactical or boneheaded mistake — those are the ones that really kill me,” he says. “I’ll dream about them; it’s pretty embarrassing, honestly.” Warden goes on to explain that when he was younger, debate was a “competitive outlet that was also academic,” which appealed to him not only because he did so well at it but also because it was fun.

Strategic synergy

Bringing two talented debaters together on a team is only half the battle in creating a winning pair. Both Warden and Fisher agree that the chemistry needs to be right; luckily, this pair is perfectly matched. “We need to be on the same page about arguments, interact, and talk things through,” Warden says. “There will always be parts we miss, so we need to communicate well.” He has observed talented debaters at the national level who don’t do as well as they could because they haven’t made synergy a top priority.

Not only are Warden and Fisher a tight duo, but the larger Northwestern debate team is a cohesive unit, with all members spending many hours together both on the road at tournaments and hanging out at the team’s Hardy House — preparing, researching, and working in close quarters on school assignments.

“The bonding on the team and the amount of camaraderie are amazing,” says Fisher, who finds the level of intensity and closeness comparable to that of a sports team. “Because you have to work so hard and closely with each other in these arguments, it builds very lasting, intense friendships. I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Fitzmier is quick to compliment his close-knit team. “We have people debating for us now who are among the smartest folks I’ve ever coached,” he says. “They’re sharp, quick thinkers.

Great Moments in Recent Northwestern Debate History

1994
• Two sophomores win the NDT, the first time a sophomore team had won since 1959.
• Four freshmen close out the National Novice Tournament.
1995
• Two juniors repeat as NDT champions.
1996
• By a unanimous vote, two seniors receive the Copeland Award, signifying the best national record for the entire season.
• Northwestern debater named NDT top speaker.
1997
• Northwestern becomes the first school to win the Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament and NDT in the same year.
1998
• Two underclassmen win the NDT. The 20-0 finish on elimination day is a record.
• Northwestern debater named NDT top speaker.
1999
• Two underclassmen repeat as NDT champions. This 10th NDT championship makes Northwestern the tournament’s winningest school.
2000
• A committee of 40 college coaches chooses Northwestern as team and program of the decade, 1990–1999.
• Scott Deatherage is named coach of the decade.
• Northwestern sets a record of three consecutive NDT top speakers.
2002
• Northwestern wins the NDT for the 11th time.
2003
• Northwestern wins the NDT for the 12th time, the fourth time Northwestern has won back-to-back championships.
• A sophomore and senior win the Copeland Award.
2005
• Northwestern wins its 13th NDT, marking the first time the same student has won with different partners.
2009
• By a unanimous vote, a senior and a sophomore receive the Copeland Award honoring the best national record for the entire season.
• Northwestern’s new debate coach, Dan Fitzmier, wins the first annual Unger Award, given to the coach of the Copeland winners.
Combine that with a drive and energy, and there's an atmosphere this year."

So what have these debaters spent all their time researching over the past year? The American Forensic Association annually issues each academic year's college debate topic. For 2008–09 the topic was "Resolved: that the U.S. Federal Government should substantially reduce its agricultural support, at least eliminating nearly all of the domestic subsidies, for biofuels, concentrated animal feeding operations, corn, cotton, dairy, fisheries, rice, soybeans, sugar, and/or wheat."

Debate team members research this dynamic topic throughout the year, constantly learning from new current events. They must be able to argue both in the affirmative and the negative — both sides of the debate. Debaters become so well versed in the topic that they could easily lecture for hours on what they've learned from their research. Fisher acknowledges that while he has become extraordinarily knowledgeable about agricultural subsidies, he is "definitely not going to be an agricultural economist" after graduation.

**Stepping into the ring**

The debates are judged by coaches of participating teams in each tournament, with the final rounds decided by a panel of three judges.

"At the end of the day," Fitzmier says, "it's a clash of competing arguments, and the best debaters are the ones who can best advance an argument through the best academic sources that are out there and persuade a panel of judges that they are on the right side of the debate. Even as esoteric as it is, you can't win without having that excellent delivery, being able to anticipate what judges are thinking about, and being able to outmaneuver your opponents."

Thanks to a recent generous donation from a former debate team member, Judge Richard M. Markus (WCAS51), and his wife, Carol Slater Markus (SESP51), the team has been able to stay ahead of the competition technologically with new laptops, a new scanner, and a digital archive of all the team's debates so that future debaters can learn from the current generation. The Hardy House even got a bit of a facelift with some new furniture. But one thing that's remained is a storage room full of old-fashioned cardboard banana boxes that the team uses to store paper files. During actual debates, two banana boxes are stacked on top of each other, serving as a makeshift podium for the speaker. Other teams use Rubbermaid buckets or crates, but Northwestern proudly adheres to its banana box tradition.

For those who have never attended a collegiate debate, it's hard to envision without experiencing it firsthand. To say that the competitors speak quickly is an understatement; someone who is not accustomed to hearing a debate might not even realize the competitors are speaking English, let alone understand a word they are saying. Because time limits are imposed on the various structured arguments, a speaker often has to orate at warp speed to squeeze in all the facts justifying his or her argument. The speaker often stands...
2008–09 KEY TOURNAMENTS AND NORTHWESTERN RESULTS

University of Kentucky Henry Clay Debates
(October 4–6): Warden/Fisher, 1st place

Motor City Classic at Detroit’s Wayne State University
(October 25–27): Gregg/Friend, 1st place; Blough/Zhou, quarterfinalists; Friend, top speaker; Gregg, 2nd speaker; Blough, 5th speaker

Harvard Invitational
(October 31): Warden/Fisher, finalists; Spies/Mulholand, quarterfinalists

Franklin R. Shirley Classic at Wake Forest University
(November 15–17): All 3 invited teams make elimination rounds; Warden/Fisher, 1st place; Warden, 4th speaker; Fisher, 5th speaker

USC Trojan Debates
(January 3–6): Warden/Fisher, semifinalists; Spies/Mulholand, double octofinalists; Warden, 3rd speaker; Fisher, 9th speaker

Cal State Fullerton Debates
(January 8–10): Warden/Fisher, quarterfinalists; Spies/Mulholand, double octofinalists; Warden, 5th speaker

West Georgia State College
(January 17–19): Spies/Mulholand, quarterfinalists; Mulholand, 5th speaker; Spies, 10th speaker

Dartmouth Round Robin
(January 27–28): Warden/Fisher, 1st place

Augustana Viking Debates
(February 1): Gregg/Friend, 1st place; Friend, 2nd speaker; Gregg, 3rd speaker

National Debate Tournament
(March 26–30): Warden/Fisher, Copeland Award and semifinalists; Spies/Mulholand, quarterfinalists; Fitzmier, Unger Award

At season’s conclusion, after more than 100 debates, Warden/Fisher finished with an overall record of 88-14.

with one foot forward, fists clenched, arms flailing; it’s an intense, full-body experience. Papers filled with research are scattered about the room, and sometimes the tension is palpable, especially for a heated debate between top rival teams.

Each team can expect to debate anywhere from six to thirteen times over the course of a three-day tournament, and each debate lasts about 90 minutes. “It’s a very grueling, exhausting schedule,” Fitzmier says. “It requires a level of concentration and the ability to put everything aside and just focus on the task at hand. It’s hard to describe; it’s impressive to watch it in action.”

Seeing it from both sides

In February Northwestern hosted the Owen L. Coon Memorial Debate, the largest intercollegiate tournament in the nation — a good opportunity for alumni to return to campus to see debaters in action. The Coon Foundation continues to provide resources for producing the event as well as for traveling to tournaments throughout the season. “We would not be able to travel without the support of the Coon Foundation,” Fitzmier says, “and the rest of the alumni who have given a lot of money over the years and a lot of support to the team.”

With the preparation, research, and skills required of a Northwestern debater, these students are well equipped for the worlds of law, public policy, and research after graduation, to name just a few possible career paths. As for Warden, he has accepted an internship at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. He will also be helping coach the Northwestern debate team on a part-time basis.

Fisher has two more years before he has to worry about what lies beyond Northwestern, but he already appreciates the skills he has acquired through his debate experience. “Debate has taught me most over the years about how to think quickly and come up with arguments,” he says. “Almost everything has two sides — it almost comes naturally now.”

What is certain is that the future of this talented young debate team — with its excellent leadership — is bright, and the School of Communication looks forward to keeping up with its incredible successes.

www.debate.northwestern.edu
Mellon grant funds “Global Encounters” initiative

An $818,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is helping the Departments of Performance Studies and Theatre increase the diversity of Northwestern arts programming and strengthen outreach to Chicago’s black and Latino communities. The grant will allow Northwestern University Press to document and digitally archive performances, scripts, and conversations around three projects: “Solo/Black/Woman,” curated by coprincipal investigator and performance studies chair E. Patrick Johnson and assistant professor Ramon Rivera-Servera; “Festival Latino” by Rivera-Servera and associate professor Henry Godinez; and “Black Theatre Is Black Life” by professor Susan Manning and assistant professor Harvey Young. In October performance artist Robbie McCauley (above) kicked off “Solo/Black/Woman” with her one-woman show Sager.

Online gaming breaks new ground

Justine Cassell (right), director of Northwestern’s Center for Technology and Social Behavior and professor of communication studies and of electrical engineering and computer science, was part of an international team of researchers that released the first online game partnering human players with artificial intelligence software. The 3-D game, called “GIVE: Generating Instructions in Virtual Environments,” is designed to help computers use language more like humans do. “By collecting information from everyday computer users from around the world, we’ll be able to improve language processing for different kinds of intelligent agents,” says Cassell.

ASHA conference honors two faculty members

In November communication sciences and disorders professor and department chair Charles Larson delivered the prestigious Willard Zemlin Lecture at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s annual conference. His lecture covered the past decade’s research agenda on how speakers use auditory feedback for the control of voice pitch and intensity. Additionally, professor Cynthia Thompson (below) won ASHA’s 2008 Editor’s Award for her coauthored article “Complexity in Treatment of Syntactic Deficits,” based on research funded by the National Institutes of Health.

New book heats up exploration of Cold War media

Communication studies associate professor James Schwoch’s recently published book Global TV: New Media and the Cold War, 1946–69 (University of Illinois Press) examines the relationship of global television, diplomacy, and new electronic communications from the Allied occupation of Germany to the Apollo 11 moon landing. Says Schwoch, “It’s a narrative that contributes to the history of global media across, and even beyond, the habitable limits of Planet Earth.”

AMTP wins NEA grant

The American Music Theatre Project was awarded a $15,000 “Access to Artistic Excellence” grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in response to a proposal drafted by theatre associate professor and project director David Bell, Theatre and Interpretation Center managing director Barbara Butts, and the Office of Sponsored Research. The grant supports the development of the summer 2009 musical Girls vs. Boys, AMTP’s collaboration with Chicago’s House Theatre. “We’re thrilled by this recognition from the national theatre community,” says theatre professor and AMTP executive director Dominic Missimi (below).
Voices from Qatar

In March various School of Communication faculty, staff, and students were among nearly 80 travelers to Doha for the official opening of Northwestern University in Qatar. A joint venture of the School of Communication and Medill School of Journalism, NU-Q began classes last fall. Representatives from the Qatar Foundation — including Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Misned — attended the inauguration ceremony, which featured remarks by Dean O’Keefe as well as a musical revue performed by six students from the Evanston campus. The journey also included tours of many local landmarks, culminating in faculty presentations and spirited interactions with Qatar students on the Education City campus. Below, two freshmen in the program share their experiences thus far.

Jassim Al Romaihi
I’m a typical Qatari young man, coming from a family of 10 members — which, I have to say, is normal in our society. Just like many others here, I like to hunt with my falcons and cruise in the sandy deserts of Doha. Of course, there is always soccer, and I’m a big fan of the Spanish club FC Barcelona.

Studying media to me was like a dark tunnel that I wasn’t sure where it led. Doha’s media industry isn’t as big as in the United States, so I was always in doubt of my future. It wasn’t until Northwestern opened up here that I finally found what I wanted to study. I’m really enjoying myself. One of the best things about NU-Q is its international global community. Although we do have classes as small as 12 students, you can always count five nationalities around you. I believe that this difference in cultures is what’s made my experience so far so good. I honestly do feel like a Wildcat. I’d love to take classes on the Evanston campus and learn what it’s like studying abroad. I’m sure I’d miss my family and falcons, but it would be interesting being the “outsider” seeking out knowledge rather than the insider gaining it. I plan to finish the program and then work at the Al Jazeera channel. Or who knows — maybe I’ll consider opening up my own station.

Sara Al Saadi
I am very interested in media, the power of media, and their impact on our world. This has led me to pursue a major in communication, which will help me build an understanding of the media industry and also be a part of it.

My classes have been very interesting. In one of them, we started to work on production, and now we are in the middle of creating a three-minute video with still photos. I’ve gained much more appreciation for all the work that goes on behind the camera.

I’m also the president of the student government and the vice president of the health and wellness club. I’m really enjoying both groups.

With the student government, I like organizing events that bring the whole student body together. For the health and wellness group, currently we’re organizing a health fair, which will hopefully benefit and educate the students and faculty.

I feel that we are building a good atmosphere here for us, and we’re all very enthusiastic about this new experience.

www.communication.northwestern.edu/qatar-photos
Imagine the excitement of the student body when we found out that for the first time in three years, Northwestern would be going to a bowl game. Now, imagine that excitement magnified for all of Northwestern’s seniors, who remembered our trip to a bowl game our freshman year and who were now getting the chance to bleed purple once again in our final year. And, as if that much excitement wasn’t enough, add the overwhelming thrill of being one of six students invited by theatre department chair Rives Collins (above right) and Music Theatre Program director Dominic Missimi to perform at the bowl celebrations. Victor Mazzone (Mus09), Ben Hoffman (C11), Kaitlin Fine (C09), Sally Eidman (Mus10), Julia Beck (C09), and I (above left) didn’t waste a second before giving an enthusiastic “yes.”

The day of our performance — the day before the bowl game — we spent the morning running through the show with our musical director and wonderful percussionist, Ian Weinberger (Mus09). Halfway into the rehearsal we were joined by Broadway stars Kate Shindle (C98) and Adam Kantor (C08) (above). What an awesome experience to get to perform with those two powerhouse voices!

That evening we arrived at the ballroom, men in tuxedos and women in beautiful peach gowns. The show was amazing. The audience loved every minute of it, and we had a blast. Our tribute to President Bienen (a parody version of “Just You Wait, Henry Higgins” from My Fair Lady entitled “Thanks to You, Henry Bienen”) was one of the show’s highlights, as was “Purple Coast,” a 2008 Waa-Mu number by Daniel Green that listed a plethora of famous Northwestern alumni. At the end the entire ballroom was brought to its feet by director of bands Mallory Thompson conducting the Wildcat Marching Band in the Alma Mater and fight song before we left for the evening.

The start of the next day was quite relaxing, but in all honesty, recounting the game is still a little painful. I’ll just say that the Wildcats played their hearts out, and, for the record, we were ahead for the vast majority of the game. The next day, we all left on our separate flights to wherever we were spending the rest of winter break. As I headed to the airport, I knew it was an experience I wouldn’t soon forget. I’d made new friends, reconnected with old ones, and represented my university in a unique and incredibly memorable way. I hope Northwestern gets to attend many more bowl games and that maybe I get the chance to be invited to celebrate with them again.
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 either by mail or by e-mail at dialogue@northwestern.edu.

1940s

Cloris Leachman (C48) (below) served as the grand marshal of this year’s Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

Paul K. Taff (GC48) was honored by the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network at its Founders Celebration last May, when he was named president emeritus. Also president emeritus of the Connecticut Broadcasters Association, Taff expanded CPTV and masterminded the birth of Connecticut Public Radio. He also brought Fred Rogers to national public television while head of children’s programming at the National Educational Television network in New York City.

1950s

Nathaniel S. “Nat” Eek (C50, GC54) and Ann M. Shaw (C52, GC55), both of Santa Fe, New Mexico, cowrote Discovering a New Audience for Theatre (The History of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People, Vol. I, 1964–75). The book details the association’s first decade, during which Eek became honorary president. The second volume, now in process, deals with Shaw’s involvement as first vice president. The association has more than 80 centers on six continents.

Dewayne S. Woodring (C54) was named one of the “Leaders Who Shaped Our Industry” by Convention South Magazine in recognition of his more than 25 years as executive director and CEO of the Religious Conference Management Association.

1960s

Gilbert R. Herer (GC64), an internationally noted pediatric audiologist, received the 2008 Honors of the Association from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. A professor of pediatrics at George Washington University for 32 years, he also serves as founder and senior global adviser for the Special Olympics Healthy Hearing initiative, which operates in 46 U.S. states and 58 countries worldwide. Herer became director emeritus of the Children’s Hearing and Speech Center in Washington, D.C., in 2002 after 37 years as its director.

Terry W. Rose (C64), an attorney with Rose & Rose, was elected chair of the board of administrative oversight of the lawyer regulation system for the state of Wisconsin.

1970s

Timothy Lawler (C72), designated learning officer and director of psychology training at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, was elected the 2008–09 president of Psychologists in Public Service.

Jeff Ravitz (C72) was the television lighting designer for the annual Macy’s Passport show, a fashion extravaganza that raises millions for AIDS/HIV awareness and research. The show was broadcast October 11 in high definition by NBC-TV as the “Macy’s Celebrity Catwalk Challenge” and screened in movie theatres nationwide on October 23.

Richard Block (C73) was named interim head of the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University in July. Previously active as a freelancer in New York City, he has served on the Carnegie Mellon faculty for 17 years. Wadsworth Publishing recently released the ninth edition of his book Scene Design and Stage Lighting.

William R. Clayton (C75), a principal shareholder at Greenburg Traurig, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was selected a “Most Effective Lawyers 2008” Complex Business Litigation Finalist by the South Florida Daily Business Review.

Gloria Clunie (C75, GC92) wrote Living Green, a play produced this winter at Chicago’s Victory Gardens Theater. The cast included her daughter, Aurelia Clunie (C08).

Jeffery L. Segal (C75) is co-producer and coauthor of the book, music, and lyrics for I Come for Love, a new musical presented last fall at the New York Musical Theatre Festival. It’s the story of an alien girl in search of romance who crashes her flying saucer at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1949 and falls for a reporter.

Henry “Hank” Dittmar (C76) of London, chief executive of the Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment, received the Seaside Prize in January for his contribution to better urbanism worldwide. He leads a team of architects, designers, and educators in contributing to the design of the built environment at practical and policy levels in the United Kingdom and internationally.

Karen E. Kline (C76), professor and chair of the communications department at Lock Haven University, was selected as a faculty fellow for the 2008–09 Journalism and Mass Communication Leadership for Diversity program, sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. In August she was elected head of AEJMC’s Cultural and Critical Studies Division at its national convention.
**Dialogue**

him to Florida’s 15th Circuit judicial
governor Charlie Crist appointed
Dispute resolution Center. Florida
at the Supreme Court of Florida’s
association decision making and
Institute concerning community
invited to speak at the Chautauqua
Florida Bar Journal.

Not a Nursery rhyme, but Scary
an
this spring.

We Believe — Chicago's
filmmaker, has created the docu­
Emmy­ and Grammy­nominated

Peter O'Neill (GC80) was named
Man of the Year by the Gay and
Lesbian Community Center of
Southern Nevada.

Daniel J. Hurtado (GC81, L93),
a partner with the law firm of
Jenner & Block, was honored
by the Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund in
June at its 28th Annual Chicago
Awards Gala. He received the Legal
Services Award for his work to
advance the legal rights of Latinos.
Hurtado served as lead counsel in
a lawsuit against the city of Valley
Park, Missouri, challenging the
constitutionality of the city’s illegal­
immigration ordinance.

Michelle Nicastro-Stark (C82)
cofounded Truly Mom, a company
specializing in stylish planners and
fine stationery. She has appeared on
the CBS Morning Show to promote
the company.

Jill Lauren (C83, GC84) wrote
Succeeding with LD, which was
republished in a third edition by
Star Bright Books.

Bob Vorwold (C84, KSM95)
above, a longtime executive
sports producer for WGN-TV,
produced the two-hour television
documentary Cubs Forever:
Celebrating 60 Years of WGN-TV
and the Cubs. The companion book
of the same name, published by
Triumph Books in 2008, includes
a DVD of the television special.

Lauran R. Hartley (C85), Tibetan
studies librarian at the C. V. Starr
East Asian Library at Columbia
University, coedited Modern Tibetan
Literature and Social Change, the
first systematic and detailed over­
view of modern Tibetan literature.

Bill Brooks (C86, KSM90) was
hired as managing director by
TBWA/Chiat/Day.

Dorianne Brown (C87) founded
the theatre program “A Dramatic
Approach” in an effort to help
autistic children develop social skills
and self-esteem.

Adrienne Alitowski (C88) founded
blankyclip, a company that produces
and sells plush, animal-shaped clips
to secure baby blankets onto strollers.

J. Scott Maberry (C88) of
Washington, D.C., a partner
with the law firm of Fullbright &
Jaworski, was named to
Washington’s list of Super
Lawyers for 2008. He heads the
firm’s international trade practice
and represents clients in compliance
matters and government and
internal investigations.

Spencer Kayden (aka Deborah G. Shapiro) (C90), a Tony-nominated
actress, appeared last November
in the new comedy Don’t Dress for Dinner at Chicago’s Royal George
Theatre.

George R. Brant (C91) recently
earned a master of fine arts degree in
writing from the Michener Center
for Writers in Austin, Texas. His
thesis play, Elephants Graveyard,
won the Kennedy Center’s David
Mark Cohen National Playwriting
Award and the Keene Prize for
Literature and was named Best New
Play by the Austin Critics’ Table.

John Thornton Caldwell (GC91),
professor and chair of cinema
and media studies at UCLA,
produced the two-hour television
feature film. It received rave reviews
from Publishers Weekly and Midwest
Book Review; among others.

Vanessa Dennen (C92) was
awarded tenure and promoted to
associate professor of educational
psychology and learning systems at
Florida State University.

John O’Connell (C89), a writer
for adaptation into a
motion picture. It received rave reviews
from Publishers Weekly and Midwest
Book Review; among others.

Lauren Stamile (C89) (above),
a cast member of television’s Grey’s
Anatomy, will be starring with Jerry
O’Connell and Faye Dunaway
in the Lifetime original movie
Midnight Bayou.

Heather Lylis (C90) was chosen to
lead Sunshine, Sachs—Marketing,
a new division of New York–based
Sunshine, Sachs, and Associates.
David Grant (C00), a series producer for MTV’s MADE, received a 2008 Daytime Entertainment Emmy Award for outstanding special class series in June at Lincoln Center in New York.

Jonathan Hollingsworth (C00) released his second book of photography, Everybody I Ever Met in L.A. Released in November, the book is a satire of LA culture and was shot entirely on Polaroid.

Nina Auslander Meehan (C00) is executive director of Active Arts Theatre in Oakland, California. Under Meehan’s leadership, the five-year-old theatre company produces three to four productions each year, mostly based on children’s books.

Heather Simms (C00) was named one of Chicago’s best young comedians by Chicago magazine.

Joseph Abram Doane (GC01) of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, was elected to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification last July.

David Lefkowitz (C01) was stage director for Mozart’s Don Giovanni with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival last summer. In August he will return to Ravinia as stage director of Stravinsky’s L’Histoire du Soldat.

Erica Schwartz (C03) made her Broadway debut as coproducer of Neil LaBute’s Reasons to Be Pretty.

James Troupis (C03) is the founding principal of Gary Comer College Prep, a high school that is part of the Noble Network of Charter Schools. Located on Chicago’s South Side, it opened in August with its first class of freshmen.

Daniel Osit (C04) and Adam Sachs (C05) founded Ignighter, a group-to-group online dating site targeted at 20-somethings. The site has more than 25,000 users. Based in Union Square, New York, the company recently secured its Series A funding. Sachs also founded the NU Startup Society of New York City, a group of 20 alumni who get together to network and discuss entrepreneurship.

Ryan Pollyea (C06) won a Midwest Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement for his online series “Tales from the Tower,” produced for WMAQ NBC-5 Chicago.

Matt Grevers (C07), three-time medalist at the 2008 Olympic Games, was nominated for a Breakout Performer of the Year Golden Goggle Award by the U.S.A. Swimming Foundation.

Andrew Ledet (C07) accepted a position as a creative services junior with eMedia in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Jennifer Dobbs (GCC8), an MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage graduate, wrote the play Tester, which premiered at Chicago’s Viaduct Theatre last fall.

Correction: The fall 2008 issue mistakenly identified alumna Lilly Ann Boruszkowski as a dean at Southern Illinois University. She is an associate professor. We apologize for the error.

Northwestern University Entertainment Alliance

NUEA-East

So far, we’ve celebrated 2009 with NU works, NU Yorkers, and NU giving. As part of the NU works series — an effort to provide workshop opportunities to aspiring alumni playwrights — we presented Nodding Off by Emily Weiss (C06) at the Atlantic Theatre Company and 10,000 Books by Beth Adler (L86, KSM86) at Shetler Studios. Our annual holiday party was held at the Black Door in Chelsea; this year featured a collection for Toys for Tots.

Members also celebrated the holidays by joining Matt Sax (C06) for Clay, his one-man hip-hop musical that inaugurated Lincoln Center Theatre’s emerging artist series. Following the show, Sax chatted with alumni (below) about its journey from Northwestern’s Shanley Pavilion to New York City’s 42nd Street. This spring we also welcomed the 2009 senior showcase students with an off-Broadway reception and continuation of our senior mentorship program, pairing students with alumni in the acting community.

— Kenneth Ferrone and Erica Schwartz, copresidents

www.nueva.org

NUEA-West

We concluded 2008 with several well-received events, including an LA Careers Panel with alumni Tim Good (C97), Karl Muelle (C00), Jordan Cerf (C05), Christal Karge (C03), Hank Chilton (WCAS91), Heath Corson (WCAS95), and Damona Resnick-Hoffman (C00), moderated by Josh Goldenberg (C04). We also presented a successful holiday mixer with Columbia College Chicago, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and the University of Virginia at the Landmark Wine Bar in LA.

December marked our first documentary filmmaking panel, moderated by alumna Tamara Krinsky (C94). Panelists included professionals from the Sundance Institute and Current TV as well as the producer of such documentaries as The King of Kong and New York Doll. We also continued our Short Film Night series with a night of short features, music videos, webisodes, and animated films by talented alumni.

— April Wright and Scott Wheels, copresidents

www.nueawest.org
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.

Alumni

Thekla S. Hoefer (C28), February 9, age 104, Lincoln, Illinois
Marjorie Hoffman Hagan (C34), October 31, 2008, age 96, Raleigh, North Carolina
Dorris C. St. John (C35), November 1, 2008, age 95, Green Valley, Arizona
Kathleen S. Hart (C36), November 16, 2008, age 93, Athens, Ohio
Wanda B. Mitchell (GC39), September 29, 2008, age 97, Parkersburg, West Virginia
Mary Louise Farrar (C44), December 3, 2008, age 86, Newport News, Virginia
Martha Warner Metrailer (C46), November 7, 2008, age 83, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Kathryn A. Sullivan (C46), August 7, 2008, age 83, Issaquah, California
Hall D. Diteman (C47), January 16, age 83, Billings, Montana
Dorothy M. Doane (C48), January 9, age 81, East Lansing, Michigan
Frederick K. Miller (GC49), November 16, 2008, age 91, Billings, Montana
Richard D. Johnson (C50, GC52), November 28, 2008, age 83, Weatherford, Oklahoma
Lydia H. Lund (C50), December 29, 2008, Evanston, Illinois
Charles G. Wren (C51, L53), August 6, 2008, age 78, Long Island, New York
Kenneth R. Dorst (C52, GC53), August 17, 2008, age 80, San Jose, California
Ronald W. Cook (C55), January 3, age 76, Dove Canyon, California
Janet Johnston (C55), November 1, 2008, age 75, Dallas
Darlene R. Seligman (C56, GC59), September 16, 2008, age 73, San Marino, California
James E. Ingram (C58), November 29, 2008, age 72, Lake Orion, Michigan
Lucille P. Tanner (C60), November 2, 2008, age 70, Akron, Ohio
Eileen G. Boevers (C61, GC67), January 11, age 68, Highland Park, Illinois
Mildred A. Huff (SESP54, GC64), November 1, 2008, age 91, Naples, Florida
Veronica C. Nowak (GC68), August 16, 2008, age 66, Williamsburg, Virginia
Anita Kaye Hillin (GC83), December 6, 2008, age 55, Chicago
Doyle John Borchers (C88), August 7, 2008, age 41, Lake Tahoe, Nevada
Jason Coffee (C97), December 30, 2008, age 33, Atlanta
Robyn Rubinstein (C97), August 15, 2008, age 33, San Francisco
Molly Lynn Vollmer (GC97), August 29, 2008, age 35, Louisville, Kentucky

Faculty

Hilda B. Fisher died on October 22, 2008, at the age of 93 after a prolonged illness. As the first female PhD communication sciences and disorders faculty member, she was a pioneer in speech-language pathology through her groundbreaking efforts in voice production and voice and articulation disorders. Fisher will long be remembered for her extraordinary intellect and remarkable contributions to both her profession and the University.

Gerald (Jerry) Canter died February 7 at the age of 76 after a yearlong illness. He began work on his PhD at Northwestern in 1956 but was soon called to serve in the U.S. Army, teaching English to Puerto Rican recruits. He returned and completed his PhD in 1961 and the following year began teaching in the communication sciences and disorders department, where he remained until retiring as a professor emeritus in 1992. Renowned for his diagnostic and clinical skills, he published numerous articles on aphasia and other neurological disorders, directed 30 PhD dissertations, and in 1991 received the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s highest honor, the Honors of the Association. Canter will be remembered as an outstanding teacher and mentor who made learning come alive with his many stories and examples.

David Rutherford died February 12 at the age of 77. He received his PhD in speech pathology from Northwestern in 1958 and was offered a faculty appointment that same year, eventually serving as communication sciences and disorders department chair from 1966 to 1978. During his tenure he directed 20 PhD dissertations, served on more than 60 PhD dissertation committees, and directed the Early Intervention Program. Rutherford was known as an exceptional and compassionate clinician who helped provide an integrated pilot program for young children and their families and was instrumental in the construction of the Frances Stare Building. Also a member of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disorders, he was a longtime member and designated honorary fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
From the unfortunate passing of a very special alumna comes a very special gift to the School of Communication.

Last October 31, Marjorie Hoffman Hagan (C34) passed away at the age of 96 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Soon after, her estate announced that it was preparing to establish the Marjorie Hoffman Hagan, Class of 1934, Chair in the Department of Theatre at Northwestern University. Hagan had made plans for this generous posthumous donation more than a decade ago.

Hagan's daughter Nancy Klein says her mother had a great fondness for Northwestern, specifically the School of Communication, where she had been a speech major more than 75 years ago. Hagan particularly enjoyed performing in theatrical productions as an undergraduate and continued to be involved in productions in Madison, Wisconsin, after graduating.

While at Northwestern, Hagan became a member of Zeta Phi Eta, the national speech sorority. She was also a president of Sigma Alpha Iota, the national music sorority. Klein says that after moving to Green Bay, Wisconsin, her mother “took a lot of what she learned at Northwestern” and put it to use in both public speaking and teaching speech to students ranging from first to tenth graders. She also conducted speech workshops for senior citizens at the Madison Rehabilitation & Convalescent Center, among other places.

Later in life, Hagan served as board member and secretary of the Northwestern Alumni Club of Naples in Florida, on the Campaign Northwestern of Naples campaign event committee, and on her reunion committee. She was also a phonathon volunteer. In addition to her contributions to Northwestern, she chaired numerous civic events and served on the boards of many volunteer organizations in both the Madison and Naples communities. Throughout her lifetime she also gave generously to the Communication Annual Fund.

“Education was very important to my mother,” Klein says. “Any way she could continue to support education, that’s what she wanted to do.” In addition to Klein and her two siblings, Hagan had five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The School of Communication now looks forward to receiving Marjorie Hoffman Hagan's wonderful gift, which will establish the theatre department’s very first named chair in her memory and will help extend the department’s national prestige and visibility for generations to come.

Reunions and Homecoming Weekend 2009

Start making plans now! The classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004 are invited to enjoy special events over Reunion Weekend, October 23–25. That same weekend, all alumni are invited to return to campus for Homecoming activities — and you’re also welcome to visit the School of Communication to say hello to old friends and new faces. For more information and to register, visit www.alumni.northwestern.edu.

2009 Summer Music Theatre Festival

Subscriptions on sale at 847/491-7282 or www.tic.northwestern.edu

A Celebration of Johnny Mercer

June 24, Louis Theater
Master Teacher Cabaret
With Craig Carnelia (Sweet Smell of Success), Lin-Manuel Miranda (In the Heights), and Grammy-winning songwriter Lari White

June 26, Louis Theater
Songwriters Showcase
Original music and lyrics by nationally emerging songwriters

June 27, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
Johnny Mercer Celebration Concert
One night only, featuring Broadway sensations Liz Callaway and Capathia Jenkins

Girls vs. Boys

The American Music Theatre Project and the House Theatre of Chicago present an audacious world-premiere musical — a full-on war of the sexes. Enter at your own risk!

Bye Bye Birdie

This Tony-winning musical smash is set in the world of soda fountains, Elvis, and The Ed Sullivan Show.

Diva! Diva! Divas!

Don’t miss Chicago music theatre stars Hollis Resnik, Alene Robertson, and Paula Scrofano.