

The Department of

JOURNALISM & TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

Fall 2007

From the Department Chair



After trading jobs and offices with Garrett O'Keefe, I'm ready for my stint as department chair. With new paint and carpet, the office looks new, but I frequently hear echoes from the past.

When I signed on to the faculty in 1988, Lois Hunziker sat in

the very spot where my chair now sits. As the spunky office manager known to virtually every JTC student for 30 years, she told me how it was going to go and took care of the paperwork.

The same thing happened in the same spot in 1976. I decided to switch to news-editorial journalism after Shakespeare, Wadsworth, and Homer chased me out of English. Lois told me how it was going to go and took care of the paperwork.

Lois retired in the mid-1990s to raise sheep. Then the online communication revolution helped to set fire to the department's already-hot enrollment.

We're still growing, with the equivalent of three and a half staff members, 18 permanent, full-time faculty, 10 adjunct instructors, and several full-time research associates. Five undergraduate concentrations serve 500 majors. Another 300 students are waiting to get into the program.

The department added an M.S. degree in the 1980s, took the program to Denver in the 1990s, and will launch a Ph.D. program in 2008.

We claim four fully equipped computer labs, six video editing suites, numerous funded research projects, and thousands of alumni who work in every conceivable communication venue.

As an outstanding complement to our program, the Student Media department employs hundreds of our majors who win scores of awards each year working for the *Rocky*

Mountain Collegian, KCSU-FM, Campus Television, and *College Avenue* magazine.

It's a little more complicated around here than it used to be. Although I'm sitting where Lois sat for 30 years, I wondered if I can figure out how it's going to go and whether I can stand the paperwork.

So I called Lois. She said I'd do just fine. I guess my chair's in the right place.

Greg Luft
Department Chair

Garrett O'Keefe Transitions to New Role

After chairing the department for six years, **Garrett O'Keefe** decided to step out of full-time administration. O'Keefe enjoyed chairing the department but thought it was time to get back to a more active teaching and research program.

"I thank our faculty, the college and University administration, and alumni and friends for their terrific support in advancement of the department during my term as chair. All that we have accomplished was very much a team effort, with hard work by all. I'm proud to continue working with such splendid colleagues. I especially applaud the selection of Greg Luft as our new chair."

O'Keefe isn't stepping out of administration entirely, however, as he will serve as associate chair, essentially trading places with Luft to ensure a smooth transition.



JTC to Offer New Ph.D. Degree Program

Beginning fall 2008, the department will enter a new phase with the establishment of a Ph.D. program in public communication and technology.

The degree focuses on two important concerns: the role of information in the public's understanding of contemporary issues and the impact of new communications technologies in all people's lives. It will include course work in new communication technologies, communication theory, social science research methods, and instructional methods, culminating in a comprehensive examination and dissertation. The program will prepare graduates for research and teaching positions in academia, as well as research and development careers in private industry, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Assistant Professor Patrick Plaisance is coordinating startup of the program, with graduate program coordinator Cindy Christen also playing a major role in preparations.

Applications will be accepted beginning in September 2007, with the program set to launch in fall 2008. For more information, please e-mail patrick.plaisance@colostate.edu, cindy.christen@colostate.edu, or sarah.falcon@colostate.edu or call (970) 491-6310.

New Faculty and Staff

Associate Professor **Craig Trumbo** comes from the University of Vermont. His professional background is in photojournalism, and his research focuses on health, risk, and the environment. **Kim Spencer** assumes a full-time instructor position in the news-editorial concentration after teaching part-time for the department for several years. **Rebecca (Gumtow) Allen** (2003) is the new undergraduate administrator after working as a writer and editor at Sierra Trading Post in Cheyenne, Wyo. **Sarah Falcon** joins the department as graduate program administrator, moving from Mesa State College in Grand Junction.

Colorado State University

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Faculty News

Jangyul Kim begins his second year on the faculty. Kim was a founder and CEO of a leading public relations agency based in Seoul before completing his Ph.D. at the University of Florida. He presented several academic papers at the International Communication Association convention in San Francisco and was the first Korean awarded the professional designation of Accredited in Public Relations awarded by the Public Relations Society of America.

Cindy Christen's latest research appears in *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. She's also been invited to present at the Global Public Relations Forum in Seoul, South Korea, and coordinates the JTC master's program.

Kirk Hallahan was promoted to professor and is co-editor of the new *International Journal of Strategic Communication*.

Kris Kodrich spent the year on sabbatical and was a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad de Concepcion in Chile, where he taught and continued research on Latin American news media. He also visited several journalism organizations in Chile and the Czech Republic for the U.S. State Department.

Marilee Long was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She also began work on a National Science Foundation grant to study the effects of how the media portray scientists.

Rosa Mikeal Martey published an article on social norms in online games in the journal *Games and Culture*. She continues her work on gender and online job seeking with a paper presented in Paris this summer at an international communication research conference.

Pete Seel continued his work in Guatemala on a television documentary focusing on education in that country, in addition to his research on the digital television transition.

Jamie Switzer earned first place for a Broadcast Education Association Convention paper in Las Vegas on the impact of blogging on media and education.

Don Zimmerman received the Jay R. Gould award for teaching excellence presented by the Society for Technical Communication and continues his research on computer usability issues in online public health programs.

Patrick Plaisance completed several academic papers and journal articles. He is working on a media ethics text and will coordinate startup of the department's Ph.D. program.

2007-2008 JTC Scholarship Winners

Clyde E. Moffitt Memorial Scholarships: *Melanie Huntrods, Elden Holldorf, Tudar Puakpaibool, Katie Schmooker, Jennifer Workman.*

Cecil B. Neth Memorial Scholarship: *Margaret Canty*

Rowene Danbom Memorial Scholarship: *Tara Flanagan*

Bob Peck Memorial Scholarship: *Kristen Deahl*

Clark/Eynon Scholarship: *Anne Farrell*

Coloradoan Diversity Scholarship: *Anica Wong*

Robert A. Schenkein Scholarship: *Jacob Blumberg*

Charles J. Perk Memorial Scholarship: *Heather Hawkins*

JTC Faculty Scholarships: *James McSwane, Carrie Wilbanks.*

Alfred R. Westfall Memorial Scholarships: *Anica Wong and Heather Hawkins*

Liberal Arts Alumni Scholarship: *Margaret Canty*

College of Liberal Arts First Year Scholarship: *Nicole Lorraine Speake*

Colorado Broadcasters Association Scholarships: *Carrie Wilbanks and Todd Valentine*

Denver Press Club Damon Runyon Scholarship: *Ian Chamberlain*

Alumni News

Matt Ruggles (1995) is a video production specialist for Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Thornton.

Jason Unruh (2002) is a video producer for Poudre School District in Fort Collins.

Elizabeth (Kerrigan) Koller (2004) is an associate producer for Home and Garden TV's "What You Get for the Money," produced by High Noon Entertainment in Centennial.

Shoshanna Tirk (2006) is a researcher for Home and Garden TV's "New Spaces" and is post-production coordinator for The Food Network's "Unwrapped," both produced by High Noon Entertainment in Centennial.

Jillian Oppgard (2006) is a video editor for KCNC-TV in Denver.

David Rickles (2006) is creative director in the marketing department for the Phoenix Coyotes of the National Hockey League.

Roger Lipker (1969), former *Collegian* editor (1968), public relations practitioner, newspaper owner, and JTC faculty member, recently started a consulting venture in Boulder after managing Wasserman Media Group's consulting division in Los Angeles and New York the past five years.

Larry Steward (1973), former *Collegian* editor (1972) and former director of CSU's Student Media (1987-2005), is chief operating officer and co-owner of The Management Professional consulting firm in Fort Collins.

Dave Althouse (2004) was named employee of the year at WPEC-TV in Palm Beach, Florida, in 2005 and recently moved to KWGN-TV in Denver, where he is a photojournalist and recent winner of two awards from the National Press Photographer's Association.

Allison Sherry (2000), former *Collegian* editor (2000), is an award-winning education writer for the *Denver Post*.

David Hachigian (M.S. 2001) is communication manager for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Computational and Information Sciences Directorate in Richland, Washington, and reports that he is still a liberal.

Cari Merrill (2007) is a business reporter for the *Fort Collins Coloradoan*.

Kelly Ronan (2001) is finishing an M.F.A. at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

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