

## HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS ↓

### A Fresh New Look!

2016 marks a fresh start for the Department of Communication; the main office has been renovated.

Work began on St. Joseph Hall, Room 121 during the week of fall finals. The large conference room, SJ 119, served as storage while the adjunct faculty office, SJ 117, served as the temporary main office.



Demolition began the following Monday, December 21. The wallpaper, which dated back to the rebuilding of St. Joseph Hall in 1989 after the fire, was the first to go. The wallpaper was replaced with a fresh coat of beige paint, complemented by a burnt orange accent wall. The office of Dr. Valenzano, chair, is beige with blue accent walls.



The carpet, which was updated in April 2006, was ready for an upgrade as well. Multicolored blue, beige and brown carpet tiles replaced the burgundy carpet that many remember.

Storage cabinets and countertops located in the back of the office were demolished to open space for a full-size desk, allowing enough room to add a student desk as you first enter the office and giving it a welcome, open feel.

Faculty have an enclosed work area on the opposite side of the office, which houses the copier, printer, fax machine, new faculty mailboxes and supply cabinets.

## INTERVIEW WITH STEVE BULPETT

By Enrique Austria '17



Left to right: Lecturer Laura Toomb, retired professor Larry Lain and Steve Bulpett

Last September, the Department of Communication invited Steve Bulpett, a University of Dayton graduate and current NBA beat writer covering the Boston Celtics for 31 seasons, to talk to communication students. For three days, he visited classrooms, had lunch with faculty and students, and had one-on-one conversations with students. He was gracious enough to allow me to sit down with him and discuss what it's like to be Steve Bulpett.

Several thoughts whirled around in my head, the first and foremost being: here is a well-respected journalist who has been covering the Celtics for three decades. As a junior communication major with a concentration in journalism and as an aspiring journalist, this is the career path I plan to pursue, and being as successful as Mr. Bulpett is something I desire to achieve.

Entering the interview, I was expecting something along the lines of a formal interview and initially was not certain what to expect. The meeting began with the typical formalities and introduction, but as the interview continued, the atmosphere seemed more laid back than I anticipated, almost like a casual conversation. We discussed topics such as sports news regarding certain players and teams, and even his previous

ambitions of playing basketball for the University of Dayton and becoming a lawyer. Then we discussed more serious matters like his experiences in the business and what the life of a journalist entails, the level of professionalism required, the need for accurate reporting, and the hard work and sleepless nights that come with the job.

Like a disciple learning from a sage, I listened intently and absorbed the information. But there is one piece of advice that he gave me that has stuck with me and is not something I can forget anytime soon. Bulpett said, "The world does not need more journalists. There are a ton of them. What we need are GOOD journalists. Now, those are rarer nowadays."

## THE VALLEY



**Middle, striped shirt: Casey Eason; right, magenta shirt: Sol Tsonis**

Senior Sol Tsonis and 2015 graduate Casey Eason partook in the Dayton reality TV show *The Valley* last summer. *The Valley* is the first and only reality show in the Miami Valley. It was originally created for teens coming out of high school, but in the second season, the producers decided to include 18- to 23-year-olds. The episodes were recorded from May to August 2015, documenting adventures and trips of all the cast. Each castmate had a unique story to tell.

The auditions for the show were held at the Dayton Mall. Tsonis said, "I remember just walking by and shopping and literally crashing into the sign. I texted my best friend, Casey, and said this is for us!" Tsonis and Eason auditioned together. After three rounds of elimination and a week of deliberation, they got the phone call asking them to be a part of the cast.

One of the trips the cast went on, and maybe one of the most memorable, was the trip to Lake Cumberland. For three days, the cast stayed on a houseboat. This was during the first week of shooting. No one knew each other very well (except Tsonis and Eason). Other adventures included the riverboat in Cincinnati, backyard barbecues and training for the circus. "I'll never forget the episode when I thought we were going horseback riding and I got conned into doing trick riding on a horse," said Tsonis.

Tsonis is a theatre major. She said, "I really got to see myself through a different glass and learn a lot about people and the industry. ... *The Valley* showed me clarity and energy to continue my dream and prosper."

## NEW THEATRE CURRICULUM A SUCCESS

The new curriculum in the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program provides a liberal arts tradition, creating performance with purpose through interdisciplinary discovery. We engage talent in the service of community, leading through the arts to problem-solve.

The revised program provides four theoretical and practical concentrations: acting, performance, technology, dance and applied theatre — all informed by a Marianist tradition of community engagement and social justice. With cocurricular, interdisciplinary and experiential learning at the heart of the curriculum, performers and technicians learn by doing, serving and creating. They develop their character, find their light and lead.

During the fall semester, the Theater, Dance and Performance Technology Program presented *Last Night in Harlem*, an immersive party play with legends from the Harlem Renaissance and music, dancing and food. The event was presented by guest artist Hope Road Youth & Community Theatre in October in the Black Box Theatre in Fitz Hall as a fundraiser for the nonprofit partner. Another fall semester highlight was the first collaboration between the music department and the theatre program to present an annual musical or opera. *Once Upon a Mattress* was performed in Boll Theatre this past November.

## OHIO COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**Conference attendees discussing theory at a panel**

In October 2015, the Ohio Communication Association (OCA) held their 79<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the University of Dayton. The theme of the conference was "Praxis of Communication." Eighty participants attended various

panels such as "The Politics of Television," "Sport, Fandom, Communication, and Progression in the Field" and "Changing Trends in the Field: Alternative Forms of Communication." The keynote speaker, Dr. Sandra Petronio, delivered a speech during the luncheon titled "Repairing Breakdowns in Managing Private Information."

During the conference, members of UD's PRSSA chapter volunteered, helping manage the social media and assisting attendees. "The conference was a success. It was a great day of learning, sharing knowledge and networking," said Heather Parsons, site coordinator for the event.

## STUDENTS TO COMPLETE DOCUMENTARY ON FOOD DESERTS

This spring semester, a group of media production seniors is teaming up with Media Specialist-in-Residence Greg Kennedy in an independent study to create a documentary about food deserts. Utilizing their skills in media and communication, these seniors thought it would be beneficial to showcase their talents before they step out into the competitive market of the business world. Along with showcasing their talents through creating a piece of media, the students recognized that this documentary could have a deeper significance with a long-lasting impression.

With food being a topic that most students enjoy talking about, this group is excited to bring awareness to the major concerns troubling the Dayton community just off campus — and across the nation: a developing problem with food deserts. Researching the growing issue with food distribution and its impact on the city of Dayton, the students had to decide on a message and story to tell, learn how the issue came to be a concern and explore if there is a way for people to help solve the increasing problem here in Dayton and across the country.

The students involved in the project include Joe Buffo, Rachel Keck, Kerri Marks, Rhiannon Matuszak and Greg Rotuno. Their ability to combine skills and information learned in media production courses, while maintaining a commitment to community, shows the excellent work and service that they experience while at UD and how their work here can lead to future opportunities. Their video will be presented April 20 at the Stander Symposium.

## FACULTY UPDATES ↓

### Jennifer Freitag



Jennifer Freitag published "Performing Risk, Catharsis, and Subversion in *At the Mercy of Ruin*." Text and Performance Quarterly 32.2-3 (2015): 259-61. Print.

Freitag also performed in *I Want My Jacket Back* at the Study of Communication, Language and Gender conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in October,

and at UD on April 7. She was invited to talk about the show and her research in this area for the Colloquium for Research on Women and Gender at UD on March 15; her presentation was called "I Want My Jacket Back: Dialogue about Gender Violence through Performance, Music, and Humor."

### Teri Thompson



Teri Thompson jetted off to hot, hazy, humid Singapore for a week in October 2015 to give several speeches and workshops at the National University of Singapore. She talked about the history of health communication work, health campaigns, new trends in health communication research, and communication relating to death and dying.

The following month she won an award for her work on communication and disability issues from the communication and disability group of the National Communication Association (NCA).

## CASSANDRA SECREASE TRAVELS TO CHINA

By **Dr. Cassandra Secrease**

Ní hǎo and xièxiè. That's it. That's all the Chinese I knew before boarding the United flight to Shanghai with my fellow Flyers heading to the University of Dayton China Institute. Truthfully, after six weeks in China, that's still all I know. While my language knowledge base failed to increase substantially, I can report that my teaching and culture knowledge base feels off the chart! China is a beautiful country and the China Institute offers an amazing opportunity for teaching communication courses in a rich learning community. Students are thrilled to be exploring another culture and seeing sites they only dreamed about previously. If you weren't already excited, you can't help but be inspired and motivated by their enthusiasm. Personally, I was marking things off my bucket list left and right so I was the poster child for excitement and yet my students STILL inspired me in ways I had not anticipated. For instance, the most humbling moment of our time together was when one of our Chinese students stated she felt she had spoken out loud more in the previous week than in an entire semester on UD's campus. In true UD community fashion, her classmates became extra-determined at that point to improve the state of international students on campus. Many spoke about the cultural differences in "host" behaviors. The non-Chinese students left China dedicated to being better hosts to their international colleagues and several have already spoken at campus events about the need to be a more inclusive community.

One last thing about the China Institute awesomeness: the staff of the institute are wonderful. They helped with every detail including assisting me in planning my solo excursion to see the Terracotta Warriors. I could fill this newsletter with stories from my trip so if you want to know about teaching at the China Institute or just want to laugh at my adventures, please don't hesitate to ask.



**Secrease, Confucius and Socrates — all the great thinkers**

## ALUMNI NEWS ↓

**Brittany Waag Everett '08, '10**



Brittany Waag Everett graduated from UD with a bachelor's degree in electronic media (2008), a bachelor's degree in adolescence to young adult education (2008) and a master's degree in communication (2010). While working toward her master's degree, she worked for the communication department as a teaching assistant for two years. This experience ultimately led her to her current position as a faculty member at Miami University in Oxford.

For the past five years, Everett has been teaching Introduction to Public Expression and Critical Inquiry for the Department of Media, Journalism, and Film. Over the past two years, she has earned a Faculty/Staff Commendation from the Center for Teaching Excellence for making a positive impact on students' learning and development. Along with her teaching position, she is the director of the COM/STC 135 Buddy Program (a tutoring program that helps students overcome public speaking anxiety) and faculty adviser for the Miami University Tough Mudder club team, and she was recently appointed to the advisory team for TEDxMiami University.

Off campus, Everett has spent the past three years as a speakers' coach for the TEDxDayton event, which brings area activists, artists and business/community leaders together to share ideas worth spreading. To date, she has worked with over 50 speakers and looks forward to serving as a speakers' coach and speakers' committee member again this year.

In her free time, Everett enjoys watching Flyers basketball with her husband, Justin '11, 6-month-old twins, Korben and Sawyer, and golden retriever, Lily.

**HaQuyen Pham '07, '08**

HaQuyen Pham moved to New York City after finishing her master's in communication and has been enjoying its professional and cultural offerings ever since. For more than seven years, she has worked for the Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center, a legal nonprofit that supports community organizations.

Pham started as a paralegal through the Mennonite Voluntary Service and then was hired to do

development and fundraising. From answering hotline calls and preparing housing court documents, her responsibilities shifted to event planning, writing and editing materials, and managing the CDP website. This work has enabled Pham to develop new skills as well as a fuller understanding of and commitment to social justice work. Not to mention the opportunity to put together a Lady Gaga song-and-dance number with her colleagues for the office talent show.

The city has also provided opportunities for Pham to continue creative pursuits as a cantor at St. Francis Xavier Church and performer with the band Holy Ghost Machine Gun. She has taken up cycling and improved her French, both thanks to her husband Antoine. They live in Brooklyn with Minou, their cat.



### John Popelar '04, '07 Theresa Lenzini Popelar '06, '08



Since completing the communication graduate program in 2007, John Popelar has worked for the Beavercreek-based construction management firm Greater Dayton Construction Ltd., where he serves as a member of the senior leadership team as the

director of special programs. As part of his responsibilities at GDC Ltd., Popelar manages the company's internship and new employee mentoring programs, a role that has afforded him the opportunity to work with several UD students and recent graduates over the years.

"I really appreciate the sustained relationship we've been able to develop with UD students from various majors over the last decade," Popelar said. "In addition to netting several great full-time employees, I enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate how students with communication backgrounds can leverage their skill sets to work in fields that might not seem like an exact fit at first blush."

In addition to his role at GDC Ltd., Popelar continues to work as a part-time instructor for UD's communication department, teaching the module course CMM 113 Interviewing, and is entering his

16<sup>th</sup> "season" as an independent contractor for various regional and national sports media production firms. Over that span, he has fulfilled numerous consulting and statistical support and analysis roles for organizations including CBS, ABC/ESPN, Fox Sports and Basketball Travelers Inc.

Theresa Lenzini Popelar graduated in 2006 and served as a graduate teaching assistant for the Department of Communication until 2008. Upon graduation, she remained in Dayton and began teaching in the communication department at Sinclair Community College, where she taught courses such as Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking and Small Group Communication.

She returned to the University of Dayton in 2013, where she currently holds the position of Midwest regional enrollment manager for the Office of Admission and Financial Aid.

"UD is an incredibly special place, and I'm honored to work here. I really enjoy helping prospective students and families learn more about UD, as well as the admission and financial aid process as a whole. I'm lucky to work with such wonderful colleagues who are genuinely invested in both the process and the students," Lenzini Popelar said.

John and Theresa met in graduate school at UD and were married on July 11, 2015, at St. Anthony Church in Dayton.

### Andy Wallace '08



**Andy and Bo**

Andy Wallace, son of Sam Wallace in the Department of Communication, accepted a job as a videographer at KING-TV in Seattle. Recently married, he and his wife, Alex, ventured out West this past November.

Prior to this position, Wallace worked at WBNS-TV in Columbus, as chief photographer for the Ohio News Network and at WHIO-TV in Dayton. He has covered the Democratic and Republican conventions and interviewed President Obama (and his dog, Bo) at the White House for WBNS-TV. Wallace has won seven Emmys, including Best Photographer.

Note: If alumni would like to be included in this newsletter, please contact Heather Parsons at [hparsons1@udayton.edu](mailto:hparsons1@udayton.edu).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ↓

Russ Berrie Institute National Sales Challenge 2015  
By **Caroline Crabtree '16**



**Caroline Crabtree accepting her first place Sales Challenge Award**

As a first-year student, entering the University of Dayton as a communication student was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Looking back, I knew I wanted to capitalize on my persuasion and communication skills in some way, but wasn't sure how until I took my first sales class in my junior year. Principles of Selling captivated me. After hearing marketing professor Tony Krystofik lecture, I knew I was exactly where I belonged. What I didn't know, however, was how my communication studies would better prepare me than most business students in future sales competitions.

After sales training in the spring of 2015 along with an intense summer internship with Henry Schein Dental, I

competed in the University of Dayton's intercollegiate sales competition called the Flyer Sales Challenge. Ranking second out of 24 at the University of Dayton, I chose to attend William Paterson University's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Russ Berrie Institute National Sales Challenge in November 2015. Training and preparation for the competition consisted of a two-week, four-hour-a-day frenzy of mock sales role plays. This vigorous schedule allowed me to achieve my goal of winning first place overall in a sales competition, a goal I never thought was feasible.

A total of 36 universities attended the RBI National Sales Challenge along with a multitude of corporate sponsors seeking young talent for full-time and internship positions. Evidently, I was nervous. What differentiated me from the other competitors, however, was my education. Through the University of Dayton sales program, my strategic consultative selling skills moved me to the final round in both the role play and speed sell competitions, something that no student has achieved before. My communication studies prepared me to use diction, tone and inflection, which allowed me to connect with buyers in all three rounds of sales call role plays.

My experience was something that is still completely humbling to me. I know that the support and education I've received from my teachers and peers at the University of Dayton helped instill a sense of confidence in me that will last into my future career with Henry Schein Dental. I'm excited to see what's next for the University of Dayton sales program as I prepare to compete in the National Collegiate Sales Competition in April 2016. I want to encourage communication students to immerse themselves in sales classes and see if a sales career is the right fit for them moving forward!

## RESULTS OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RUSS BERRIE INSTITUTE NATIONAL SALES CHALLENGE

First Place Award — University Sales Teams

Caroline Crabtree — First Place Award, Sales Challenge Champion; Third Place Award, Referral Role Play Competition; and Third Place Award, Speed Selling Competition.

Crabtree was recognized for being the only student in the nine-year history of the national event to place in the top four overall in both categories: Role Play Competition and Speed Selling Competition.

Members of this outstanding group of UD sales students include competitors Caroline Crabtree and Mitch Fowler and alternates Tim Coyne, Kyle Gulley, Allie Stewart and Joe Mancewicz. Tony Krystofik is the faculty sales coach.

Note: If anyone is interested in the UD Sales Club, please contact the School of Business Administration at [udayton.edu/business/index.php](http://udayton.edu/business/index.php).

Fellow classmate Nichole Rustad published a marketing column in Taylor & Francis Online titled **"Process Makes Perfect: Asking Your Target Audience What They Really Want to Know About You."**  
[tandfonline.com/eprint/5fqvynWaATb5FQ6aJUe7/full](http://tandfonline.com/eprint/5fqvynWaATb5FQ6aJUe7/full)

## THEATRE PROGRAM WINS BIG AT FESTIVAL



Festival participants enjoying lunch in Milwaukee

Theatre students travelled to Milwaukee January 5-9 to attend the 2016 Region III Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). While there, numerous UD students received awards:

Design Storm: Honorable Mention for Scenic Designer — Mary Lamperis.

The Games of the Technological Olympiad “Tech Olympics”: Individual Event Best Times for Lighting —

Travis Dwire and Brett Reese; Team Event Third Place — Mary Lamperis and Ben Jalowiec; Team Event First Place — Travis Dwire and Brett Reese.

Irene Ryan Scholarship: Preliminary Auditions — Chris Delanis and acting partner Alec Brown, Norb Wessels and acting partner Annie Scott, Kara Hancock and acting partner Josh Houston; Semifinal Auditions — Chris Delanis and acting partner Alec Brown.

National Playwriting “10-Minute Play” stage reading: Norb Wessels.

Music majors Alec Brown and Annie Scott were accepted to the Open Jar Institute as a result of their auditions in the Musical Theatre Intensive at KCACTF. This is a weeklong musical theater intensive program in New York City this summer.

***Congratulations to all participants and winners!***

## Fall 2015 CMM 100 Speech Contest



Fall 2015 Speech Contest winners

First Place **Bethany J. Driggers** – Revising the University’s Drinking Policy

Second Place **Elizabeth A. Goetz** – Considering Options with Adoption

Third Place **Margaret E. Maloney** – GMOs’ Effect on the Food Industry

Fourth Place **Faisal A. Alanazi** – Factors of Happiness

Fifth Place **Samuel T. Sustersic** – Drinking Tap Water Over Bottled Water

Sixth Place **Miranda M. Johnston** – Solitary Confinement

Seventh Place **Sarah A. Desmone** – The Harmful Effects of McDonald’s Fast Food

## HERE AND THERE ↓

### NEW HAMPSHIRE ADVENTURES



Maggie Sheehan and Governor Kasich

Senior Maggie Sheehan had a trip of a lifetime in February 2016. After interning with Governor John Kasich’s office last summer on the communication and special events team, Sheehan thought her work in politics was over — until late in January, when Kasich’s office contacted her and asked her to help

in the New Hampshire primary the first week in February. Sheehan worked for his campaign side — Kasich for America.

“Although I was in the state six days and there were two snow storms, it was an incredible experience,” Sheehan said.

While there, Sheehan spent days door knocking, making phone calls and attending town hall meetings to help Kasich make it all the way to becoming second in the state of New Hampshire.



Annual CMM Halloween party winners, left to right: lecturer **Laura Toomb** and husband **Rob**, media specialist **Greg Kennedy**, office administrator **Cathy Waag**

## THE DAY I MET THE POPE



By **Erin Frey '18**

My alarm went off at 3:30 a.m. I jumped out of the sterile white comforter and squealed. I got ready, grabbed my credentials and ran to the Capitol Building as quickly as I could while wearing black ballet flats.

The above passage is just a glimpse into my exciting two-day journey in Washington, D.C. this past September. I had the pleasure of being sent to live-tweet and report on Pope Francis' visit to D.C. through the Office of University Marketing and Communications. I was hired as the student social media specialist in May 2015 and have been in love with my position since my first day.

At the end of the summer, my boss asked all of the student workers if any of us would be interested in representing UD. By the grace of God alone, I was chosen. Being the youngest employee, I was shocked and truly flattered to have been given the opportunity.

While in D.C. I had media credentials to attend the canonization Mass of Junípero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I stood with media outlets like CNN, Time, Al Jazeera and Fox, and as they reported I live-tweeted the events of the day from @daymag! In addition to the Mass, Dr. Dan gave me a ticket to watch Pope Francis' joint address to Congress on the Capitol lawn (which I ran to at 4 o'clock in the morning).

As a Catholic, this experience was more than a work opportunity. In Pope Francis' blessing over the audience outside the Capitol, I felt like I had found my place in Catholicism that I had lost after a long period of questioning. Professionally however, I was reaffirmed that communication is my calling. Specifically, I discovered that talking to others, discovering their motivations to travel and hearing their stories is my passion.

This past semester in CMM 202 Foundations of Communication Theories and Research, I learned that "we cannot not communicate," and although this axiom pertains to the nonverbals we express, I have come to realize that whatever career path I choose, I need to be with and amongst others doing what I love most, communicating.