

COMMUNICATION NEWSLETTER

For Our Alumni & Friends

October 2018, Volume 2, Issue 1



Mike Allen

Letter from the Chair

Greetings!

Hope the summer was productive and restful as we start the new academic year.

The newsletter points out the happy addition of a new

child to the family of Megan Lambertz-Berndt, a book published by Malynnda Johnson dealing with HIV on TV, and a new job for Tom Salek in Chicago (his hometown).

The department officially welcomed two new faculty this fall – Sara VanderHaagen and Sarah Riforgiate. Sara VanderHaagen publishes using rhetorical methods and will serve as director of the graduate internship program.

Sarah Riforgiate publishes in the area of work/life balance and will be serving as the undergraduate internship director.

One special note goes to Riley Richards who is studying the interaction between robots and humans. The research papers listed attest to the success of this project which is a new interest of Riley's in the discipline of how humans interact with robots, taking what was science fiction and creating a reality program. But then we live in an era with "ghosting," "fake news," and "sexting," so perhaps things are changing.

Personals

Malynnda Johnson was voted to the position of executive director of Midwest Popular Culture Association.

Tom Salek will be starting as an Assistant Professor at Concordia University in Chicago this Fall.

Megan and Kristen Lambertz-Berndt welcomed the birth of their child, Louis Lambertz-Berndt, on April 29th in Grover Beach, California. Both the child and mothers are doing well in the state of California. A summer trip to Portland, Mount Shasta, Redmond, Crater Lake, and Bend introduced the child to the world.

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Accomplishments



Bridgett Alecia Brzezinski was promoted to Champion Guide, a supervisory position at Una Health in Chicago, serving as liaison with company leadership and those involved in facilitating behavioral changes.



Malynnda Johnson is now director of Indiana State University's Research in Community Health (ReCoH) program connecting undergraduate students with community research opportunities

Research

Beattie, A. J. & Richards, R. (2018, May). Welcoming our robot confidants: Expectations of interactions with socially supportive robots. Manuscript presented at the 68th annual International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.

Dilbeck, K.E., Dominguez, A.S., Ruiz, J.D., & **Allen, M.** (2018). The vicarious and source credibility grid across cultures. *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*, 28(1), 83-106. doi:10.1075/japc.00005.dil

Harness, L. (2018, August). Who are they?: CBE academic coaches and their role on student success, Presentation at the Distance Teaching and Learning Conference. Madison, Wisc.

Johnson, M. (2018). *HIV on TV: Popular Culture's Epidemic*. Minneapolis: Rowman. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498547260/HIV-on-TV-Popular-Culture's-Epidemic>

Lawler M.M. (2018, June) Confusion in a Time of Chaos, Misinformation, and Fake News: Examining Nuances that Mark Confusion as a Rhetorical Tactic. Presentation at the biennial conference of the Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, Minn.

LeFebvre, L., & Allen, M. (2018, June). The medium impacts emotional suffering: Exploring the non-initiator's perspective as a target of ghosting. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Prague, Czech Republic.

Richards, R. (2018, July). Sexting as affectionate communication in romantic relationships. Presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Fort Collins, Colo.

Richards, R. & Beattie, A. J. (2018, May). The role of social presence in human-robot interaction research: A meta-analysis. Manuscript presented at the 68th annual International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.

Ruppel, E. K., Quinn, S. F., Cherney, M. R., & Richards, R. (2018, July). Effects of mediated communication on relational conflict behavior, subjective physiological arousal, and affect. Presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Fort Collins, Colo.

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