



Violent video games desensitize players

A new study shows that playing violent video games actually changes brain function and desensitizes chronic players to real-life violence.

"It's already well known that playing violent video games increases aggressive behavior and decreases helping behavior," said Brad Bushman, professor of communication studies and psychology at the University of Michigan. "But

this study is the first to link exposure to violent video games with a diminished reaction to violent images."

The study was conducted by Bushman, Bruce Bartholow, assistant professor of psychology, University of Missouri - Columbia, and Marc Sestir, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and will be published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.



"...this study is the first to link exposure to violent video games with a diminished reaction to violent images."

Brad Bushman

"Most of us naturally have a strong aversion to the sight of blood and gore," Bartholow said. "Surgeons and soldiers may need to overcome these reactions in order to perform their duties. But for most people, a diminished reaction to the effects of violence is not adaptive. It can reduce inhibitions against aggressive behavior and increase the possibility of inflicting violence on others."

The researchers asked 39 male undergraduates how often they played their five favorite video games, and how violent the games were. They also assessed participants' irritability and aggressiveness, asking them how much

(Continued on page 3)

Cell phone survey shows love-hate relationship

The adoption of cellular technology has exploded in the last decade. While in the mid-1990's the mobile telephone was the province of executives and other high flyers, it is now a common artifact in our daily lives. It is not possible to walk down the street, go to the mall or seemingly go anywhere without seeing someone talking on their cell phone. It has woven its way into the fabric of our lives.

According to a recent study directed by Michael Traugott, Professor of Communication Studies and Senior Research Professor at the UM Institute for Social Research, more than 80 percent of cell phone users say the device has made their lives easier. But 60 percent say that public use of cell phones has disturbed or irritated them.



Preliminary findings from the survey, one of the first comprehensive studies to explore social attitudes toward cell phones and other information technology devices, were released in March at the annual meeting of the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association in New Orleans. The survey report is intended to address the lack of a broader perspective on the cellular phenomenon in the U.S. It represents one of the first noncommercial surveys of cellular ownership and use. It also examines attitudes towards the use of cell phones by both users and non-users.

Forty-two percent of the nationally representative sample of 752 Americans age 18 and older said that there should be a law that prohibits people from talking on cell phones in public spaces such as museums, movies or restaurants.

The survey also found that:

- More than 80 percent agree that cell phones are a major safety hazard when used while driving and almost 90 percent said a police officer should indicate on accident reports whether drivers were using cell phones at the time of the crash.
- Eighty-three percent of people who have cell phones say the devices have made their lives easier. By comparison, 59 percent of e-mail

(Continued on page 11)

The study was funded by a grant from the Constance F. and Arnold C. Pohns Endowment at the University of Michigan, and is the first of an annual series of studies designed to explore public attitudes toward information technology in the U.S. Arnold Pohns ('48) is a wireless communication pioneer who helped found CommNet Cellular, a company later purchased by Verizon.



Message from Susan J. Douglas, Chair

Welcome to the Department of Communication Studies. We have had a terrific year, and we are grateful for the strong, enthusiastic support the college and our donors have provided as we reaffirm the department's standing as one of the top Communication Studies programs in the nation. We hired four outstanding new colleagues this year: **Robin Means Coleman**, author of *African American Viewers and the Black Situation Comedy: Situating Racial Humor* and *Say It Loud!: African-American Audiences, Media, and Identity*; **Scott Campbell**, the Constance F. and Arnold C. Pohs Fellow in Telecommunications who works on the impact of cell phones and mobile technology on society; **Amanda Lotz**, author of the forthcoming book *Redesigning Women: Television After the Network Era*; and **Sean Jacobs**, co-editor of *Shifting Selves: Post-Apartheid Essays on Mass Media, Culture and Identity* and *Thabo Mbeki's World: The Politics and Ideology of the South African President*. Our new colleagues add to the department's strengths in gender and the media, race and the media, television studies and the study of new communications technology, and they are all superb teachers as well.

In the fall of 2004 we also established a new annual workshop, **The Alumni Connection**, which brings Communication Studies alums back to the department to talk to current undergraduates about networking, job hunting, and how they applied their degrees to work in a variety of fields. The Alumni Connection was such a success among our students, and a terrific way for us to build a strong network between alums and current undergraduates, that this will now be an annual fall event. In the fall of 2005, we added the **Entertainment Media Career Forum** to the line-up of workshops for our undergraduates that also build ties between U-M alums and current students.

The department remains enormously grateful to the Marsh family, which supports the **Howard R. Marsh Endowment for the Study of Journalistic Performance**. The endowment sponsored a series of talks by eminent journalists in 2004 and 2005, and is also funding a variety of research projects on the role and performance of the news media. In the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina**, a group of faculty and students got together to organize a series of inter-related studies, currently underway, on the news coverage of the disaster, and how that coverage framed questions about governmental responsibility and about race and poverty.

The generous support of **Arnold and Constance Pohs** allowed the department to conduct one of the first comprehensive surveys on cell phone use in the United States, the findings of which are featured on the first page.

The results received widespread media attention on NPR, CNN and elsewhere, and garnered over 150 media hits. Our colleague **Michael Traugott**, one of the nation's top authorities on public opinion, coordinated the survey.

As some of you may know, President Coleman and the Regents determined that the Frieze Building, built in 1907, needs to be replaced by a state-of-the-art living and learning center that will house residential space for students and academic departments. We are very excited that we will be in the new building—currently labeled North Quad—with our colleagues in Screen Arts and Cultures, the School of Information, the Sweetland Writing center and the Language Resource Center. All of us worked closely with the architects and are delighted that the new building will feature a very high-tech infrastructure and an emphasis on expanding students' global horizons.

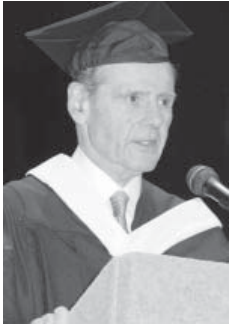
In 2004, the Department also became one of the founding departments of **COMPASS**, Consortium for Media Policy Studies, a new national alliance of Communication Studies Departments and Schools, along with the Annenberg Schools at the University of Pennsylvania and University of Southern California, the University of Illinois and others, to promote the academic study of and influence on media policy in the United States.

Our Ph.D. program continues to thrive as we attract a highly competitive and impressive pool of applicants, and our Ph.D. candidates continue to win paper prizes and highly prestigious fellowships and to present their work at the top conferences in the field.

The undergraduate concentration in Communication Studies remains highly sought after and rigorous, and our graduates this year found jobs in a range of fields, from advertising and journalism to public relations and market research. Our department continues to emphasize four crucial reasons for studying the mass media: their centrality to every day life and public policy, their enormous influence on our culture and those around the world, their role in shaping our individual and collective identities (including our attitudes toward others), and their relationship to democracy. We are dedicated to cultivating a thorough-going media literacy among our students so that they can become more sophisticated consumers and producers of media fare.

Thanks again to all our students, alums, donors and friends. You have helped make this a very energizing and successful year for our department. Onward!

Spring 2005 Commencement



The Department was honored to have 203 undergraduate student concentrators complete their bachelor's degrees in 2005. On April 29th a commencement program and reception attended by 132 graduates and over 800 family members and friends was held at the historic Michigan Theater. Graduating student speakers included MACS President Gabrielle Syzmanski and MACS Executive Board Member Ashley Keating.

We were privileged to have Arnold C. Pohs deliver the keynote address. Arnold and his wife, Constance, both U-M alumni, have endowed the Constance F. and Arnold C. Pohs Professorship in Telecommunications in the Department. Their gift represents their commitment to current and future generations of Michigan students.

Arnold pursued a highly successful career on Wall Street before "retiring"

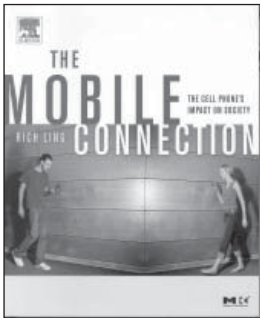
to the mountains of Colorado. Then, in 1984, he became involved with Colorado-based CommNet Cellular, serving as chairman, president and CEO. In 2000, CommNet was sold to AirTouch Communications, which was purchased by Verizon.

Arnold credits his Michigan education as preparation for a life that encouraged him to make connections and to see applications and opportunities in emerging technologies. In making his gift to the University, he said "I see Michigan as being on the cutting edge of research and teaching young people about the ways this technology will change the world."

"The entire world's population would like to communicate with each other, and wireless technology is providing that opportunity," he said.

Arnold urged the graduating seniors to be willing to take risks and look for opportunities which others might have ignored or dismissed. After his talk, Arnold was surrounded by students and parents, some of whom had been his classmates at Michigan.

Researcher From Norwegian Telecom Firm is Pohs Visiting Professor



Rich Ling is this year's Pohs Visiting Professor of Communication Studies. For the past ten years, Ling has been a sociologist at Telenor's R & D in Oslo, Norway, where he has researched issues associated with new information communication technology and society, with a particular focus on mobile telephony. He has led projects in Norway and participated in projects at the European level.

Ling is the author of the recently published

book on the social consequences of mobile telephony entitled *The Mobile Connection: The Cell Phone's Impact on Society* and co-editor with Per E. Pedersen of the book *Mobile Communications: Renegotiation of the Social Sphere*.

He is an associate editor for *The Information Society*, and his analysis has appeared in Norwegian newspapers and on Norwegian TV, as well as in periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *Der Spiegel*, *Newsweek Epoca* (Brazil) and *The Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Ling is a graduate of the University of Colorado and received outstanding scholar recognition from Rutgers University. He has held teaching posts at universities in both Europe and the United States.

Video Violence *(continued from Page 1)*

they identified with statements like "I easily fly off the handle with those who don't listen or understand" and "If somebody hits me, I hit back."

They then outfitted the participants with electrode caps to obtain EEG data, including the average amplitude of a particular type of brainwave, known as P300, which is believed to be an indicator of how people evaluate a stimulus, such as a photograph. After doing so, they showed participants a series of images containing content that was emotionally neutral (a mushroom, a man riding a bicycle), violent (a man holding a gun to another man's head) or negative but nonviolent (a dead dog). While participants viewed the images, their brain waves were recorded.

Participants were then told they were competing in a reaction time task with another person to see who could press a button faster following a tone. The slower person would supposedly receive a blast of noise through a pair of headphones, with the intensity and duration of the blast determined before each round by the previous round's winner. In reality, there was no partner,

but participants' tendency to administer long, loud blasts of noise is a widely used, reliable measure of aggression.

What the researcher found was that participants who routinely played violent video games responded less to violent images, as measured by a diminished amplitude of their P300 brainwaves. But this was not true of their response to other, equally negative, nonviolent images. The researchers also found that the smaller the brainwave reaction to violent images, the more likely participants were to behave aggressively in the reaction time task by blasting their "partner" with loud, unpleasant noise.

Along with other recent research, the findings suggest that chronic exposure to violent video games has lasting harmful effects on brain function and behavior.

L. Rowell Huesmann Named Collegiate Professor

In September 2005, the Regents of the University of Michigan named Professor L. Rowell Huesmann the Amos N. Tversky Collegiate Professor of Communication Studies and Psychology. The title of Collegiate Professor is the highest faculty honor given by the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, and Dr. Huesmann's achievement was celebrated at a public lecture and reception on November 15th.

Professor Huesmann received his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in 1969, and, before coming to Michigan, taught at Yale University and the University of Illinois. His research has focused on the psychological foundations of aggressive and antisocial behavior, and he has over 135 publications to his credit; his 1986 book, *Television and the Aggressive Child*, is considered a milestone in the field. Professor Huesmann is widely recognized for raising awareness that media violence desensitizes people to real life violence and has earned the respect of his peers for his dedication to the field and for the quality and impact of his research. Considered to be one of the foremost authorities in the world on the relationship between violent media and human aggression, he is routinely asked to present at scientific and academic meetings around the globe, has testi-

fied before Congress, and in 2000-2001 chaired the Surgeon General's Committee on Media Violence. He is a past President of the International Society for Research on Aggression and received the American Psychological Association's 2005 Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Media Psychology. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, *Aggressive Behavior*.



In the Department of Communication Studies, Professor Huesmann teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level, where his eminent standing in his field is recognized by his students. He has served on the Department's Executive Committee, run the Honors Program, and served as Director of the Ph.D. Program as well as on numerous search committees. He has also served on numerous boards and committees for the college.

Department Welcomes New Faculty



Scott W. Campbell, Assistant Professor and Pohns Fellow of Telecommunications (Ph.D., University of Kansas)

Professor Campbell's research explores the social implications of new media, with an emphasis on mobile communication practices. His recent studies have investigated cross-cultural trends, uses of the technology in social networks, and use in public settings. His research appears in *Communication Monographs*, *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, *New Media & Society*, *Communication Research Reports*, *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, and other scholarly venues.



Sean Jacobs, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and Afroamerican and African Studies (Ph.D., University of London)

Professor Jacobs' research focuses on the relation between political power, the public sphere and mass media in Southern Africa. He has held fellowships at the Shorenstein Center for the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University, the New School for Social Research, and at the International Center for Advanced Studies at New York University. He is the co-editor of *Shifting Selves: Post-Apartheid Essays on Mass Media, Culture and Identity* and *Thabo Mbeki's World: The Politics and Ideology of the South African President*.



Amanda D. Lotz, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin)

Prior to arriving at Michigan, Professor Lotz completed a two-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Television Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, and taught for three years at Denison University. She recently completed a book, *Redesigning Women: Female-Centered Television After the Network Era* (University of Illinois, 2005), that explores the rise of female-centered dramas and cable networks targeted toward women in the late 1990's as they related to change in the U.S. television industry.

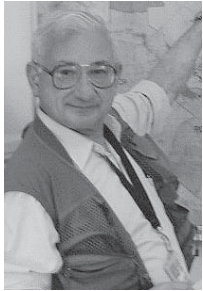


Robin R. Means Coleman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Afroamerican and African Studies (Ph.D., Bowling Green State University)

Professor Coleman teaches and publishes in media studies, African American studies, popular culture, and identity formation/performance. Her recent major publications are *Say It Loud! African American Audiences, Media and Identity* (2002) and *African-American Viewers and the Black Situation Comedy: Situating Racial Humor* (2000). She is on the editorial board of *Popular Communication*. Professor Coleman holds life memberships in the National Communication Association, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the NAACP, and the Eastern Communication Association.

Marsh Speaker Series

On April 4th the Department hosted the lecture of the 2004 - 2005 Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor in Journalism, Charles Krohn. His talk, "The War in Iraq: Fact or Friction," outlined what he argued was the failure of the Bush administration



to establish a communications infrastructure in Iraq after the U.S. invasion that would have explained U.S. hopes and goals for Iraq to the Iraqi people.

Mr. Krohn has authored many speeches, congressional testimony and articles for diverse defense publications, describing his experiences with the media in Baghdad, where he supported the infrastructure

reconstruction program. His columns have appeared in the *New York Daily News*, the *Washington Times* and *Slate Magazine*.

During his year in the Department he taught courses on "Public Affairs and Media Relations," which explored how public affairs differs from public relations in communicating messages to target audiences. He also taught on "War Reporting," which challenged the coverage of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, breaking new ground in light of modern technology and public expectations.

The Howard R. Marsh Center for the Study of Journalistic Performance was established in 1974 through an endowment from LSA alumnus Howard R. Marsh (AB '15) to study long-range barriers affecting the ability of news media to function in a democratic society. Each year the department sponsors the Howard R. Marsh Lecture Series, including a lecture by the Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor in Journalism. One of the great advantages of being part of a world-class university is the opportunity we have to experience intellectual treasures. Nearly every day, important scholars, policy makers, activists and journalists visit campus to share with us their unique knowledge. Every day, nationally ranked faculty members deliver thought-provoking insights into richly diverse academic scholarship through classroom and public lectures. Every day, undergraduate students are introduced to the joy of discovery through their participation in research programs conducted by some of the foremost investigators in their fields. We are privileged to be able to bring some of these scholars to the University, and remain enormously grateful to the Marsh family for their generosity.



On March 10th Amy Goodman, host of the radio program *Democracy Now!*, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd on "Independent Media in a Time of War and Elections." Amy is the co-author with her brother David Goodman of *The Exception to the Rule: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers and the Media That Love Them*.

Prize-winning author and journalist James Fallows of the *Atlantic Monthly* spoke on March 15th on *Iraq: How Did It Happen?* His books include *Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy*, *Looking at the Sun, More Like Us* and *National Defense*, which won the American Book Award for non-fiction. His article about the consequences of victory in Iraq, *The Fifty First State?*, won the 2003 National Magazine Award.



Pulitzer Journalist is 2005-2006 Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism

This year's Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism, **Mark McDonald**, has been Knight Ridder's Moscow bureau chief since 2002. In addition to covering Russia, the former Soviet republics and Central Asia, he has reported extensively from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, on such issues as politics, terrorism and human rights.

Professor McDonald is a four-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, and was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 as part of a team reporting for the series "Violence Against Women." He is a member of both the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Sans Frontieres.

During his tenure in the department, Professor McDonald is teaching courses on "Terrorism News Coverage" and "The Future of Daily Newspapers."

Previously, Professor McDonald served as the Southeast Asia bureau chief for the *San Jose Mercury News*. He has also worked for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Boston Globe*. Professor McDonald received the Knight Fellowship in International Business as a Michigan journalism Fellow and is the co-author of *Pain and Grace: A Journey Through Vietnam*.

Our Alumni Connect

Each year the Department hosts a series of events that connect alumni with current undergraduate students, with the goal of introducing students to a range of careers available to them in the fields of communications and the mass media. If you are an alumnus and are interested in being part of one of these events in the future, please contact the Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Cheryl Erdmann (cerdmann@umich.edu).

The University of Michigan
The Department of Communication Studies &
the Michigan Association of Communication Studies

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK PUBLISHING WEEKEND WORKSHOP A Certificate Program

Friday, February 4-
Sunday, February 6, 2005



Book Publishing Workshop

From February 4 - 6, 2005, the Department held its fourth annual **Introduction to Book Publishing Workshop**. This event is led by alumni **Esther Margolis**, founder, President and Publisher of Newmarket Press, and **Kay Radtke**, Executive Vice President and Associate Publisher of Applause Theatre and Cinema Books, both located in New York City.

Over the course of the weekend, students from across a number of campus departments participate in lectures and hands-on assignments on the various elements of the book publishing industry, such as editing, production, marketing and sales. They are also introduced to the

management side of the business, including author/agent relationships.

This year's keynote speaker was Glenn D'Agnes, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Office of HarperCollins Publishers. Workshop sessions were led by representatives from DK Publishing, The Penguin Group USA, The Gale Group, Edwards Brothers, Border's Group, The University of Michigan Press, Emmis Books, McGraw-Hill, and HarperCollins.

This year's Workshop is scheduled for March 10 - 12, 2006.

Alumni Support Our Undergraduate Students



I look forward to helping a student get a start in the business I love!

Kara Sundlun ('97)

An important aspect of a student's education in the Department of Communication studies is the opportunity for hands-on experience through internships. Students are able to build impressive portfolios through their internship experiences in broadcast and print media, public relations, marketing and advertising. Many are offered full-time positions at their internship organizations upon graduation.

Remembering the value of an internship in her own undergraduate career, Kara Sundlun ('97), one of the panelists for the 2005 Alumni Connection, recently established the Kara Sundlun House Scholarship, to be given to qualified undergraduate students participating in an unpaid internship in television news.

Kara is a broadcast news reporter and anchor for WFSB-TV, a CBS affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut. As a Michigan undergraduate, she received the J. Evans Campbell scholarship that allowed her to accept an unpaid summer internship, an

experience which proved valuable in establishing her career path.

"I look forward to helping a student get a start in the business I love!" said Kara.

Summer journalism internships with the Mackinac Island Town Crier are funded through the Helen F. Weber endowment. Students who are recipients of these scholarships spend 17 weeks writing news stories for this small island community in northern Michigan.

In recent years, Communication Studies students have received internship opportunities from ABC Networks, Madison Square Garden, the Detroit Pistons, Universal Music, Campbell-Ewack, Scout Productions, MTV Networks, Portland Beavers Baseball, Lifetime Television, BrandEdge, Entertainment Tonight, Tim Inc., Ignition Advertising and a variety of local radio, television and newspaper affiliates.

Entertainment Media Career Forum

In conjunction with the Michigan Association for Communication Studies (MACS), as well as student organizations from the Law School and the Business School, the Department sponsored the **Entertainment Media Career Forum**, to introduce undergraduate students to career opportunities in entertainment media.

This one-day event featured U-M graduates and others who shared experiences from their own careers and offered advice on searching for a job, interviewing, and taking advantage of networking opportunities in the entertainment industry. The morning session was devoted to advertising and marketing, and the afternoon session to the production side of entertainment media.

The keynote address was given by Dominic Cianciolo ('94, Law School), a director and producer, and President of the University of Michigan Entertainment Coalition - Los Angeles (UMEC LA), who spoke about the

Coalition and its main goal, that of mentoring and supporting Michigan graduates who are trying to break into the entertainment business.

Other panelists were:

- Stephanie Atlas ('98, Business), Marketing Manager, Warner Brothers, Los Angeles



Dan Abrams

- Dan Abrams ('95, Psychology), UMEC LA Vice President, Reality Producer/Freelance Writer, Los Angeles

- Emily Agress ('00, Psychology/Musical Theatre), Advertising Account

Supervisor, The Gate Worldwide, New York

- Andrew Bohn (Northwestern University alumnus), Vice President of Development, Morgan Creek Productions, Los Angeles

- Adina Friedman ('04, Organizational Studies), Jr. Media Planner/Buyer, Warner Music Group, New York

- Marc Kamler ('00 Theater Arts), Agent, Alternative/Reality Television, The Broder Webb Chervin Silberman Agency, Beverly Hills

- Steve Yanovsky ('85, Economics), Principle/Chief Innovation Officer, BrandAlchemie, New York

- Jody Simone Kay ('00, English Literature), Literary Manager, Kaplan/Peroron Entertainment, Los Angeles

This event was a much needed wonderful resource. The speakers were diverse, knowledgeable, established, and approachable.

Student Comment

Alumni Connection

I think events such as this one, that bring in professionals or graduates with unique perspectives on their fields, are wonderful!

Student Comment

It's a huge step from Michigan student to career professional, and undergraduate students are often at a loss regarding the avenues open to them. To introduce them to at least some of the possibilities, the Department created the **Alumni Connection**, which brings former students back for a panel discussion on their various careers in the media and communication fields. Over the course of this one-day event, panelists share their career preparation ideas, offer tips on job searching and interviews, and spend informal one-on-one time with students over breakfast and lunch.

The first Alumni Connection, held in October 2004, featured the following alumni:

- Val Boreland ('93), Vice President of Programming, Lifetime Entertainment, now at Comedy Central

- Jodi Cohen ('98), Metro Reporter, *Chicago Tribune*

- Emily Hebert ('02), Editorial/Art Assistant, *Baby Talk Magazine*

-- Dan Lehv ('01), Broadcaster & Media Relations, Charleston River Dogs Baseball Club

- Kristina Matvias ('03), Consumer &



Market Knowledge Associate Manager, Procter & Gamble

- Joe Violi ('01), law student, Brooklyn Law School

The keynote speaker for the second Alumni Connection, held in September 2005, was Ellen S. Agress ('68), Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, News Corporation, who shared her background experiences and

career progression, the challenges she faced along the way and the rewards she found at every level of her career. Other panelists for the 2005 event were:

- Amy Andrews ('05), Media Associate, StarLink Worldwide, Chicago

- Erin Block ('05), Marketing Specialist, University of Michigan Health System

- Nick Bunkley ('02), Business Reporter, *The Detroit News*

- Morgan Kuntze ('04), Associate Editor, *Figure Magazine*, New York

- Katie Preston ('04), Assistant Insight Manager, Unilever HPC, Chicago

- Kara Sundlun ('97), Broadcast News Anchor/Reporter, WFSB-TV (CBS), Hartford, CT

- David Taub ('00), Assignment Editor, KCOY (CBS)/KKFX (FOX), Santa Maria/San Luis, CA

Faculty News

The 2005 Erikson Award for Early Career Research Achievement, sponsored by the International Society of



Nick Valentino

Political Psychology, has been given to **Nick Valentino**. He is also the co-author of a paper entitled *Cracking the White 'Solid South' with the Nexus of Race and Religion: The 1960s as Transition*, which won the Best Paper Award for the State Politics and Policy Section of the APSA.

Larry Pintak, last year's Marsh Visiting Professor, is now Director of the Adhman Center for Television Journalism at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Pintak also received a \$50,000 grant

from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation for his ongoing research on the press, Islam and the Middle East.

Derek Vaillant was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study abroad for the 2005 - 2006 academic year. He is studying the history of Franco-American broadcasting, concentrating on the period prior to World War II, and the aftermath of the war in the late 1940's and '50s, while visiting the Institute of Human Sciences of Aquitaine in Bordeaux, France.

In addition to receiving broad coverage of his seminal survey on cell phone use (see the article on page 1), **Michael Traugott** has been listed by the National Research Commission on Elections and Voting as one of the country's top scholars on elections and voting. He was widely quoted in the media for his views on elections and election polling during and after the 2004 elections.

Professor Traugott recently took office as Vice President and President-elect of the World Association of Public Opinion Research.

Brad Bushman has been appointed a Visiting Full Professor at the Free University in Amsterdam, where he will conduct research and collaborate with colleagues in the summer months.

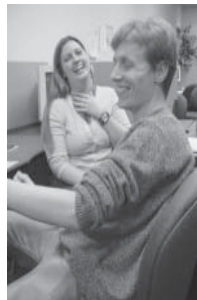
Russell Neuman led a workshop on "The Dynamics of Affective Intelligence" in October 2004. Sponsored by the Evans Media Technology Fund and the Howard R. Marsh Center, the conference brought together 29 scholars from 17 universities for a discussion of the conditions, policies and best practices that sustain deliberative citizenship, including a discussion of real-world practicalities of political campaign management, led by Republican media advisor Dan Schnur.

Ph.D.Spotlight Media Coverage of Scandal in the Business Press

As citizens invest more of their savings directly in the financial markets, and in light of the recent spate of corporate scandals, it becomes increasingly important that the news media empower investors and the general public to make prudent decisions regarding their financial well-being. How that news is produced, presented and consumed is the focus of research by **Roei Davidson**, a fifth year student in the Department's Ph.D. Program in Mass Communication.

Davidson's project compares how the news industries in the United States and France explain (and sometimes explain away) sources of corruption in times of crisis, as

well as the public's understanding of corruption and its coverage by the media. It takes a Franco-



Emily Chivers Yocum
& Roei Davidson

American perspective to identify the role of the media, political economy and historical heritage in socially constructing corruption alternatively as a result of individualistic transgressions or systemic failure in modern capitalism.

To gather data, he has conducted interviews with American MBA students and graduates of French

business schools, asking them what they thought were the key reasons for the occurrence of corporate scandals; asked similar questions of members of the French and American middle and working classes; conducted interviews with journalists from both countries; and scrutinized the media coverage of the scandals on both sides of the ocean.

Davidson hopes that his research will provide a deeper understanding of how business news is produced and how it is related to the audience's understanding of the economy, and how media organizations might go about redesigning business news to meet the public's needs.

NOT FROM CONCENTRATE? Media Regulation at the Turn of the Millenium

From March 18 - 19, 2005, the Department of Communication Studies and the U-M Law School co-sponsored a symposium that looked at recent developments in media ownership regulation. The keynote address, sponsored by the Department, was given by best-selling author Eric Alterman, media critic for *The Nation*, who talked about media bias. Alterman is considered to be one of the country's leading experts on this topic.

Panel discussions included:

- Debate over the necessity and legality of recent FCC regulatory decisions, the resulting litigation and political strife, and the

future of media concentration;

- The repercussions of media and its (de)regulation upon democracy, especially the role of the First Amendment in media regulation;
- The effect of (de)regulation and localism on the historically marginalized, e.g., women and minorities, and the ability of a free market to protect diversity of viewpoints.

The closing address was given by Jonathan S. Adelstein, a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

The Department routinely reserves time on Thursday afternoons for Colloquium presentations, which are sometimes given by our own faculty or graduate students regarding their research, faculty from other departments, or speakers from outside the University.

Communication Studies Colloquium



Kevin G. Barnhurst, from the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke in Fall 2004 on "News Ideology in the Twentieth Century, or, Forget Everything You Think You Know About Journalism." His most recent book, *The Form of News: Visual Culture & Newspapers in*

U.S. History, written with John Nerone, won the Covert Award (2001) for best book on the history of the media.

In January, Chris Hunter, from the University of Pennsylvania, spoke on "Corporate Influences on 'Grassroots' Politics." Hunter is a lobbyist and grassroots/grasstops political organizer with Trion Communication of Providence, Rhode Island, and he credits grassroots mobilization as one of the major deciding factors in the 2004 presidential election.

Ester Hargittai's talk, "To Google or Not To Google? The Role of Skill in People's Web Use," reviewed the differences in people's online



abilities and the social factors involved in Internet usage. She is a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University.

The results of one of the first longitudinal studies of the effects of the mass media on adolescents' sexual intentions and behavior was presented by **Jane Brown**, the James L. Knight Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Her NIN-funded research shows a powerful correlation among teenagers between consuming sexually suggestive fare and becoming sexually active at an early age.

The 2005 - 2006 Colloquium series started with a talk by **Klaus Jensen** from the University of Copenhagen. Titled "Who do you think we are?" Jensen provided a content analysis of government and political websites to show which ones were most highly correlated with political participation and activism.

In October, **Matt Jackson**, Head of the Department of Telecommunication at Pennsylvania State University, discussed his research on how law and technology influence cultural production. According to Jackson, societies have used cultural texts as a primary means of maintaining a set of

social norms and developing a worldview over time, and today's digital technology is shifting the balance of power between authors and audiences over who controls the reception of a text.

"Children and Television Violence: 50 Years of Research" was the topic of University of Kansas Professor **John Murray** when he visited in November 2005. Professor Murray first served on the U.S. Surgeon General's Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior at NIMH in 1969. His current research centers on brainmapping and video violence.

Kevin Robins, Visiting Professor at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke in early December on "Transnational Communication and Transcultural Studies." He discussed the role that satellite communications plays in the maintenance of immigrant communities in England and the importance of this new phenomenon of global media flows of programming and information.

Graduate Student News

Megan Biddinger was awarded a Community of Scholars Fellowship from the Institute for Research on Women and Gender for her project *Gender, Pleasure and Resistance: Audience Responses to Contemporary Television Shows Featuring Witches and Magic*. Megan is also President of the Graduate Employees Organization for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Lauren Guggenheim and Xiaoru Wang are co-authors, with Professor Nojin Kwak, of a paper entitled *Laughing All the Way: The Relationship Between Television Entertainment Talk Show Viewing and Political Engagement Among Young Adults*. The paper received Top Three Faculty Paper recognition at the 2004 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference.

At the 2005 AEJMC Conference **Marko Skoric** and **Yong Jin Park** received the top student paper award in the Communication Technol-

ogy & Policy division for their paper entitled *Communication Technologies and Political Development: Cultures Matter, Vertical Media Don't*. Marko has joined the faculty of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



Yong Jin Park

The 2005 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research went to **Kamille Gentles** for her proposal entitled *West Indian Women, Body Image, and Television*.

One of NCA's Miller Dissertation Awards went this year to **Dmitri Williams**, who is now on the faculty at the University



Dmitri Williams

of Illinois. Dmitri is also the recipient of ICA's Herbert S. Dordick Biennial Dissertation Award.

Debra Burns Melican received a Junior Fellowship from UM's Sweetland Writing Center.

TaKeshia Brooks was awarded a Graduate Student Research Award from the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at UM.

Washington Times reporter Antonio Regalado interviewed and quoted **Christine Brittle** for an article on global warming that appeared on May 17, 2005.

Laramie Taylor has joined the faculty at the University of California - Davis.

Megan Biddinger and **Emily Chivers Yocum** received a Top Student Paper award in the Mass Communications Division of ICA for their study entitled *'It kind of gives you that vintage feel': Vinyl records and the trope of death*.

Thank you, alumni and friends, for your generous donations.

Your support enables the department to conduct cutting edge research, to provide workshops and internships for our undergraduates, and to recruit the very best faculty and graduate students to our program.

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If you work with undergraduate or graduate students whom you believe would be a good fit for our Ph.D. Program in Mass Communication, please let us know.

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Cell phone survey shows love-hate relationship

Continued from page 1

Traugott also found that cell phone owners had a relatively low level of expertise in using their phones.

- users and 53 percent of those with personal digital assistants say the same.
- Close to 90 percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the most important reason for having a cell phone was for emergency situations or to let others know when they were running late.
- Forty-three percent said that cell phones were most important for staying in touch with friends, and 53 percent said cell phones were most useful for coordinating work activities, with slightly fewer -- 40 percent -- saying the main use was for coordinating family activities.
- Sixty-four percent of those surveyed were somewhat or very concerned that using a cell phone made them vulnerable to the theft of Social Security, bank account and other personal identification numbers. By comparison, 80 percent of those surveyed were equally concerned about such identity theft over the Internet.

While 30 percent of those surveyed said that technological advances such as cell phones, computers, and the Internet gave people more free time, 36 percent said people using them had less free time.

The survey also traced patterns of technology ownership and access in the U.S., including cell phones, computers, PDAs, VCRs, digital video players and recorders, and Internet access at home. One in nine Americans (11 percent of those surveyed) said they had none of the devices or access, while one in five (19 percent) had four or five. One in eight (11 percent) of those surveyed said they felt overloaded, compared with 56 percent who said they liked

having so much information available and 32 percent who said it didn't make any difference to them. Those with high levels of high tech ownership were most likely to say they like having all of today's information available (70 percent), while those who owned the least technology were least likely to feel this way (39 percent).

Traugott also found that cell phone owners had a relatively low level of expertise in using their phones. Slightly more than half said they knew how to send and receive text messages (59 percent) and to download a logo or personalized ring tone (54 percent), while 38 percent said they knew how to set up their cell phone to send and receive e-mail. But only 22 percent knew how to set up their cell phone for multimedia messaging systems (MMS) or a wireless application protocol (WAP). And 22 percent knew how to send an MMS message with sound.

Interviews for the survey were conducted over the telephone between March 3 and 10, 2005. The sampling error for the survey is plus-minus 3 percentage points at 95 percent confidence level.



Michael Traugott

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Democracy and the Media

November 9, 2005

Anne Garrels, Foreign Correspondent, National Public Radio

Naked in Baghdad: An Evening with Anne Garrels

7:30 p.m., Alumni Center

November 29, 2005

Tom Fenton, retired CBS correspondent

The Decline of Reporting, the Business of News, and the Danger to Us All

7:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre

February 8, 2006

Robert W. McChesney, founder of Free Press & John Nichols, correspondent for The Nation

**Tragedy & Farce: How the American Media Sell Wars, Spin Elections and Destroy
Democracy**

7:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre

March 20, 2006

Frank Rich, NY Time Op-Ed columnist

Art, Culture and Politics: An Evening with Frank Rich

7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium