



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

*Department of Communication*

# NEWS & NOTES

February, 2009

## Letter from the Editor

I'm excited to present this first edition of the newly re-stored News and Notes for the Department of Communication. I hope you'll be pleased with what I've compiled.

The main purpose of the News and Notes is to keep the department informed about events that occur among us that we might remember and celebrate them together. We plan to publish a new edition of the newsletter monthly; in order for this tradition to continue, I'll need your help.

Based on suggestions by faculty and graduate students, and in addition to our main events and student/faculty news, I envision future sections of the newsletter dedicated to content such as:

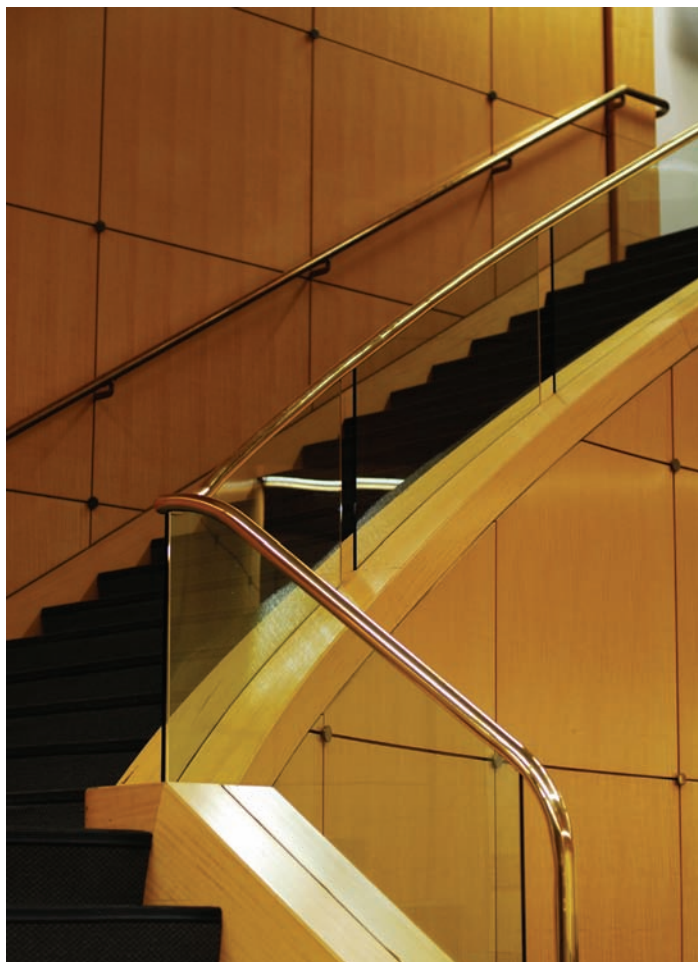
- announcements of research publications and presentations
- recent graduate student hires
- profiles of alumni
- pedagogical tips
- student organization news and events.

When publications, hires, awards, or events approach, let me know so that we might properly appreciate your awards and contributions to the scholarly community and include them in future editions of the Notes.

The deadline for submissions will be on the **third Friday of each month** so that I can craft the following month's news in a timely manner. Submissions are best done through email.

Thank you for your help. If you have comments, questions, or contributions, please contact me at [rebecca.yost@utah.edu](mailto:rebecca.yost@utah.edu).

-Rebecca



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## Memory and the Media Series

Join us at the Salt Lake City Public Library for Memory and the Media - the series features award-winning authors who have written books exploring how the media both create and erase public memory of issues and events.

In the first lecture, Christopher Benson, coauthor of the powerful book, *Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America*, was joined by Dr. Kevin DeLuca of the Communication Department, Christopher Crowe, a professor of English at BYU, and Devery Anderson, a U alumnus who has studied the brutal murder of Emmett Till for more than a decade. The panelists discussed the murder, Mamie Till-Mobley's courageous decision to have an open casket at her son's funeral, the media's role in creating, erasing, and resurrecting public memory of Emmett Till, and why the event is considered the catalyst for the modern civil rights movement.

In the second lecture of the series, Hank Klibanoff, who shared the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2007, will discuss his book, *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*, in the Main Library Auditorium on February 20th, at 7:00 pm.

The Race Beat has been called "an extraordinary account of one of the most calamitous periods in our nation's history, as told by those who covered it." But it took time for that story to be told: Although the African American press "was at the center of a developing Negro protest in the United States," the white press largely ignored civil rights issues in the South during the 1950s and 1960s.

Discover which Southern editors dared to speak out and learn what finally made the northern press take note of the unfolding civil rights story.

Then, on March 5th, Laurel Leff will present the final Memory and the Media lecture. The New York Times' failure to cover the Holocaust and the fate of millions of European Jews from 1939 to 1945 effectively kept the worsening tragedy from readers in New York and across the United States. Laurel Leff and two panelists will explore this issue and discuss how the media manages crises, and thus the public memory of them. Leff's book, *Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*, was acknowledged as the Best Media History Book in 2006 by the American Journalism Historians Association.



Hank Klibanoff,  
Author of *The Race Beat*



Laurel Leff, Author of  
*Buried by the Times*

As in the first lecture, a book signing will follow each free event, which is cosponsored by KCPW Radio, The City Library, and the Department of Communication.

The event will be simulcast on KCPW Radio 88.3 and 105.3 FM, and will be podcasted on the Monday after the event at [kcpw.org](http://kcpw.org). For more information, contact Professor Kimberley Mangun at [kim.mangun@utah.edu](mailto:kim.mangun@utah.edu).

## Poem of the Month

**In February** by Alice Meynell

Rich meanings of the prophet-Spring adorn,  
Unseen, this colourless sky of folded showers,  
And folded winds; no blossom in the bowers;  
A poet's face asleep in this grey morn.  
Now in the midst of the old world forlorn  
A mystic child is set in these still hours.  
I keep this time, even before the flowers,  
Sacred to all the young and the unborn.

To all the miles and miles of unsprung wheat, And to  
the Spring wating beyond the portal,  
And to the future of my own young art,  
And, among all these things, to you, my sweet,  
My friend, to your calm face and the immortal  
Child tarrying all your life-time in your heart.

## Recent Graduate Student Hires

Recently, **Rebecca Gill** has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M beginning in Fall 2009. The following graduate students also accepted teaching positions: Craig Rich at Loyola Marymount, Spring 2009; Matt Baker at Northern Kentucky University, Fall 2008; Anne Bialowas at Weber State College, Fall 2008; James Hedges at Westminster College, Fall 2008; Xinkai Huang at Southwest Jiatong University in Chengdu, China, Fall 2008; Wei (Kitty) Luo at Indiana University, Fall 2008; and Ru Wood at Westminster College, Fall 2008. Congratulations!

## Faculty and Student News

**Daren Brabham** recently had an article related to his dissertation research, "Crowdsourcing the Public Participation Process for Planning Projects," accepted for publication. It will appear in Volume 8, Issue 3 of *Planning Theory*, due out in November of 2009.

**Dr. James Anderson** has been doing quite a lot recently: he received a grant from Sage Publications to assist in the publication of a book on research methods, he delivered a white paper on community-engaged scholarship to the Academic Senate, and he is currently conducting an in-service training on interpretive research methods for all panels of the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) this month. His research on computer monitors was noted in an article in the Business section of the January 15th edition of the New York Times. Additionally, he has established a community-based research site at the Salt Lake Center for Science Education, working with middle school students in a community bike shop. The work intends to develop a training arc leading to advanced technical or engineering education for the participants.

Professors **Planalp**, **Shugart**, **Corbett**, and **Bergstrom** received a Group Teaching Grant from the University Teaching Committee to invite two distinguished guests give presentations and lead discussions in a new course on health communication. The course will be offered Fall 2009 (Comm 5000/6000-Special Topics: Health Communication) and will be open to undergraduate Communication majors and non-majors and to graduate students. The course responds to interest and demand for increased awareness of health communication: that is, the study of how information about health is transmitted, received, constructed, and circulated in various contexts. This course engages the key contemporary issues in health communication, including provider-patient interaction; social support; risk communication; health promotion campaigns; access and diversity; organized health care; media dissemination; and health literacy.

**Dr. Sean Lawson** is this semester's Simmons Fellow in History and New Media this spring semester - he is in charge of organizing this year's Frontiers of New Media Symposium. More information will be forthcoming about the Symposium, which will be held in September of this year.

**Dr. Sally Planalp** is collaborating on a grant with Barbara Crouch, Director of the Utah Poison Control Center, Lee Ellington, and Erin Rothwell, both from the College of Nursing to develop a Communication Training Program for Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs). SPIs are the people who answer the phone if you call the Poison Control Center. The first phase of the project has been to gather information from SPIs and Poison Control Center Directors about the communication challenges for which training would be useful. Among the most important challenges are gathering essential information efficiently, communicating recommendations clearly to callers, dealing with distressed or emotional callers, redirecting and taking control of a call, and dealing with periods of high call volume. The next phase of the project is to gather further input about preferred methods of training and to begin to design web-based training modules.

**Dr. George Cheney** addressed the employees of the Mondragón Cooperative Cooperation, of the Basque Country, Spain, on November 27, 2008, in an annual event in honor of their founder. The title of George's talk, delivered in Spanish, was: "Cooperatives in the Face of the Economic Crisis: Responsibilities and Opportunities in the Global Market of the Future." George followed the co-ops, now forming the 8th largest private firm in Spain, throughout the 1990s as they internally formulated issues of market globalization while responding to external market pressures. His book *Values at Work* (Cornell, 1999, 2002) chronicles and interprets this process.

## Thesis/Dissertation Defenses

**Liz Leckie**, Friday, March 6 in the Garff Room, 3pm-5pm.

Liz's dissertation is entitled *Deflection and Alignment: A Qualitative Study of Discourses of White Womanhood in the College Classroom*.



## Calendar of Events

Friday, February 6:

Last day for students to withdraw from class

Friday, February 6:

Faculty meeting

Tuesday, February 10:

Anne Bialowas - Dissertation defense,  
12pm - 3pm, Glasmann Room

Friday, February 13:

Communication scholarship applications due

Friday, February 13 - Tuesday, February 17:

Western States Communication Association conference

Monday, February 16:

Presidents' Day holiday

Friday, February 20:

Memory and the Media with Hank Klibanoff

Friday, March 6:

Faculty meeting

Friday, March 6:

Memory and the Media with Laurel Leff

Friday, March 6:

Liz Leckie - Dissertation defense,  
3pm - 5pm, Garff Room



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