LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

An important component of building our intellectual community is to be aware of our colleague's research activities and accomplishments. To help us meet this goal, I am pleased to launch, "COMM-unity," a monthly summary of our faculty's accomplishments and recognitions. Our hope is to use this information to help us build our intellectual community and also facilitate keeping our website current regarding faculty activities. A big thank you to Nathan Crick for helping design COMM-unity and collect our data!

My hope is that we will use this as an opportunity to become better acquainted with our colleagues and celebrate our work. I encourage you to submit information when the monthly call comes out.

Dr. Kevin Barge

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


"Where convergence was the orienting issue for communication policy-makers in the second half of the 20th century, in the 21st it is resilience in the face of instability, whether from human or natural causes, that has come to the fore."


"Flow, the exchange of information, is essential to the existence of systems."


"At this moment in which the cloud is becoming our computing infrastructure, the convergence of technologies has paradoxically created a situation in which everything is coming apart. The overarching policy problem of what is still an early stage in the development of a ubiquitously intelligent and networked environment is how to put it all back together again."


“Rhetorical pedagogy seeks to arouse, channel, and finally compose the impulses of students through the activity of intelligence in such a way that reflects and advocates for students’ interests within a democratic ethic of advocacy, criticism, and deliberation.”


“The current study uses a between-participants experiment (N = 168) to examine how exposure to positive versus negative news frames of Obama have differential effects on White participants' symbolic racist beliefs....Using path analysis, the present study builds a causal chain of relationships that reveals that exposure to negative news frames of Obama as compared to positive ones activates readers' anti-Black affect, which in turn increases their symbolic racist beliefs.”


“Through collaborative, community-based, transmedia storytelling initiatives, racial minority groups are fostering new critical media literacies and active digital citizenship. This article focuses on two such initiatives: a fictional Web-based drama series (East Los High) and a transmedia participatory art initiative (Question Bridge).”


“Two studies examined the effects of reliance on direct and media-based contact for information about Muslims on Americans' stereotypic beliefs of and negative emotions toward Muslims and support for public policies harming Muslims domestically and internationally. Results revealed that reliance on media for information about Muslims was positively associated with stereotypic beliefs, negative emotions, and support for harmful policies.”


“This study used a mixed methods approach combining qualitative journaling with a pre-test post-test experiment to understand how a mindfulness-based communication course improves everyday resilience for first-year college students. Preliminary findings suggest that participants exposed to mindfulness communication training experience more positive emotions and report lesser perceived stress.”


“In this essay, we bring together academics and activists from around the world in a “conversation café” to share their perspectives on the past, present, and future of children and media with specific emphasis on building meaningful cross-sector partnerships. Key change-agents from academe, nonprofits, and for-profit organizations committed to youth and media literacy from the USA, the UK, Singapore, the Netherlands, Australia, and India participated in this discussion.”

“Through the stories of our participants, we show that life events affect health care choices and motivations for integrating various healing modalities. Understanding the impact of these life stories on how people integrate differing healing modalities can be important for CAM (complementary and alternative medicine) and conventional practitioners.”


“Results from a between-participants experiment (N=88) show that exposure to news stories about counter-stereotypic African American media personalities as compared to stereotypical ones reduces stereotypical perceptions and symbolic racist beliefs of White Americans about African Americans. Furthermore, these favorable attitudes translate into an increased willingness to support affirmative action policies.”


“This article provides a review of the research record on the potential for media literacy education to intervene in the media’s influence on racial and ethnic stereotypes, and explores the theoretical concepts that underlie these efforts. It situates media literacy theory and practice within particular emphases in the field and synthesizes qualitative and quantitative studies.”


“A 2 × 2 × 2 factorial experiment was conducted to explore how Latino participants’ (N = 150) racial/ethnic identification level (high/low) and comedians’ race/ethnicity (Latino/White) influence evaluations of a target alleged offender (Latino/White) in subsequent scenarios. Findings revealed that participants rated the comedy more favorably when the comedian was Latino compared to when the comedian was White.”


“In this chapter, I examine the key ideas and life events that shaped my work, as well as those that shaped Allport’s, to highlight the sociocultural and historical contexts that play a significant role in shaping the media literacy discipline. In other words, I examine how scholarship on media literacy is socially constructed and embedded in the ideological values of the historical contexts in which it is situated.”

“By discussing the cultural narratives that circulated through the use of public interactive experiences and how these narratives gestured to future geo-political relationships, we add to understandings of the concept of soft power and the role of technology in the praxis of public diplomacy” (p. 34).


GUEST LECTURES


Braman, Sandra. "Cybersecurity and the Limits of the Informational State." Presented to the invitation-only workshop, Political Space and Cyberspace, Atlanta, Georgia, May 19, 2016.


Braman, Sandra. "Data Activism amid Opening Fields" Keynote presented to Dataactive Conference Amsterdam, October 15, 2016


Sherry Holladay and Timothy Coombs delivered keynotes at the *Communicare Conference* in Sundsvall, Sweden, May 2016.

Timothy Coombs gave a lecture of crisis communication to the faculty and PhD students at the University of Amsterdam as part of their Research Priority Area Communication, October 2016.

Rauscher, E.A. Families pass on more than genes: Incorporating existing family communication styles into genetic counseling. (May 2016). Presented at the National Human Genome Research Institute for their “Applications of Genomics to Public Health Challenges” seminar.


Ramasubramanian, Srividya. “Role of student leaders in addressing bias and improving campus climate.” MSC Unity Dinner, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, April 2016


Ramasubramanian, Srividya. “Media stereotypes, positive storytelling and critical media literacy.” NCA Institute for Faculty Development, Hope College, July 2015


**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

**Barge, Kevin.** Gerald R. Phillips Award for Distinguished Communication Scholarship, National Communication Association.

**Campbell, H.,** Glasscock Internal Faculty Fellow (Spring 2016)


**Brannon, Grace Ellen.** *Leadership Training for Diversity Fellowship.* Center on Disability and Development, October 14, 2016.


**Katie Hodgdon** won 2nd place, top student paper prize, Global Fusion 2016.
**Randy Kluver** (PI) along with co-PI’s Greg Gause (Bush School), Wendi Kaspar (Libraries) and Stephen Balfour (Liberal Arts) received a $300,000 award from the Tier One Projects competition from Texas A&M University. The three year award is for the “Global Media Analysis Research Clusters” project, to focus training of undergraduate and graduate students in open source and media analysis.

**Randy Kluver** (PI) along with co-PI Bob Shandley (INTS), received a grant for $350,000 for Project GO for 2015-2016. The project, funded by the Institute of International Education, provides scholarships for ROTC cadets studying critical languages.

**Randy Kluver** (PI) received a one year, $90,000 contract to conduct media analysis of Gray zone conflict from the Department of Defense.

**Randall Sumpter** has been awarded a Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research internal fellowship for the fall 2016 semester. He presented his current research findings on the origins of newspaper rules and routines on Nov. 1 at the Glasscock Center. His work at the center completes research for a book project, *The Craft of Journalism: Writing the Rule Book in the Gilded Age*, that is under contract with the University of Missouri Press.

Hammond, Tracy (PI) and **Wallis, Cara** (Co-PI). “Exploring Children’s Use of Online Social Networks Using the KidGab Network.” National Science Foundation. IIS 1649126, EAGER: July 1, 2016-June 20, 2017, $175, 545.

**Wallis, Cara**. In August 2016 I was selected as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow, China Policy Institute (CPI), University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

**Braman, Sandra**. "Facebook Use of Humans in Editing Process." Interview on *Live at Four*, KBTX TV, May 12, 2016.

**Timothy Coombs** did a Communication on the Spot live one-on-one interview about corporate communication in front of a live audience, October 2016

**Dunaway, Johanna**. *AirTalk Interview*, SPCC LA, NPR Affiliate, September 13, 2016.


Kluver, Randy, Robert Hinck, And Skye Cooley. “How Media Outlets From Around The World Are Reacting To The Presidential Campaign.” The Conversation, October 21, 2016. Also Published In Salon.Com, Alternet, And Other Online Outlets.


Ramasubramanian, Srivi The Battalion, “Mandatory racism awareness class awaits university funding.” September 2016;

Ramasubramanian, Srivi Futurity, “To offset media bias against Muslims, make friends.” August 2016.


Ramasubramanian, Srivi The Battalion, “Discussion-driven event focuses on race relations.” March 2016;

Ramasubramanian, Srivi National Public Radio (NPR) for “How shows like Will & Grace” and “Black-ish Can Change Your Brain.” August 2015;

Wallis, Cara. “Hukou Reform and China’s Migrant Workers.” China Policy Institute: Analysis, October 10, 2016,

Award-winning Communication faculty members: Drs. Matthew May, Richard Street, and Jennifer Mercieca, featured here with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Pam Matthews, who hosted a reception in October 2016 to honor the winners of major fellowships and awards won this year.
Dr. Srivi Ramasubramanian representing Texas A&M University at the International Communication conference in Fukuoka, Japan in Children, Adolescents, and Media division’s panel titled, “JOCAM Next: A forward-looking agenda for children, adolescents, and media.”

Dr. Srivi Ramasubramanian giving a keynote speech on “Respect as a core Aggie value” at grad camp 2016 attended by new graduate and professional students joining Texas A&M University.