Department of Communication
University of Maryland

Graduate Students Publish, Receive Awards

U M Department of Communication graduate students continue to publish their research and to receive awards for their teaching and research.

Ph.D. student Rowena Briones is the author of a study that appears in a recent issue of PRism, an international journal devoted to the study of public relations. Entitled “The Targeted Speak: Exploring Young Women’s Perceptions of Sexual Assault Using the Situational Theory of Publics,” Briones’s article appeared in a special issue of the journal devoted to gender issues in public relations. Her essay is available at www.prismjournal.org.

Ph.D. student Steven D. Cohen is the author of a public speaking text published by Cognella Academic Publishing. The text (released in two versions—one for university and college teaching and one for professional development) is entitled Public Speaking: The Path to Success. Cohen’s work as a public speaking expert and instructor was recently featured on the Web site of the Harvard University Extension School.

Cohen was also recently selected as an International Teaching Fellow Mentor by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). Ph.D. student Terri Donofrio was also honored by CTE when she was selected as a Graduate Teaching Fellow for 2010-2011. The CTE-Lilly Graduate Fellowship is a venue to develop and sustain a cross-disciplinary learning community of graduate students as future faculty.

Three Ph.D. students in the Department of Communication have received the department’s first “Course Release” fellowships, made possible by support from the College of Arts & Humanities. The Course Release Fellowship is designed to provide students with a release from a portion of their semester teaching obligations in order to devote more time to research and degree completion. The students who received these first fellowships are Tim Barney, Ioana Cionea, and Ben Krueger.

Cionea also received one of four Dissertation Research Support Awards given by the department. Funds from this award will assist graduate students striving to complete their doctoral dissertation research. The other students receiving these awards are Lucinda Austin, Alyssa Samek, and Jill Underhill.

Publication News


 COMM IN THE NEWS

As the culmination of a multi-year process of self-study, external review, and administrative consultation, the Department of Communication approved and released its 5-year strategic plan at the end of 2010. It is available on the department’s Web site.

Entitled “Coming Together, Envisioning the Future,” the strategic plan examines the strengths, constraints, and opportunities of the department and articulates specific strategies designed to achieve a series of strategic goals:

• Enhanced support for the research conducted by faculty and graduate students in the department;
• Enhanced support of the department’s research centers;
• Re-envisioning of the graduate program and enhanced support for graduate students seeking to complete their degrees;
• Re-envisioning of the undergraduate program and greater involvement with the University’s general education program;
• A commitment to building a collegial community through dialogue and positive interaction between administration, faculty members, students, and staff.

Since its founding in 1901, the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland has sustained a commitment to research and teaching in the history, processes, and effects of communication through speech and its extensions.