

# COMM@Maryland

Department of Communication, University of Maryland  
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## Nan Receives NIH Grant.

Assistant professor Xiaoli Nan has received a \$150,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study health communication messages associated with the HPV vaccine.

Nan's 2-year project will develop communication interventions aimed at improving acceptance of adolescent HPV vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer among caregivers of African American girls aged 9-17. It will examine the relative efficacy of gain- vs. loss-framed messages in changing caregivers' attitudes and intentions toward vaccinating young girls in a community-based randomized trial. African American women, compared to non-Hispanic White women, are significantly more likely to get and die from cervical cancer. The proposed project will thus address an important area of health disparity by providing useful insights into the design of targeted messages to improve HPV vaccine uptake in African American communities.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Kristy Maddux**, "The Four-square Gospel of Aimee Semple McPherson," *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 14 (2011): 291-326.
- **Alyssa Samek & Karrin Vasby Anderson**, "The Day the Campaign Died: The Wellstone Memorial, Civic Piety, and Political Propriety," *Communication Quarterly* 59 (2011): 155-178.
- **M. Karen Walker**, "Resolving Rhetorical Tensions" in *The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism: Critical Essays*, edited by Jason A. Edwards and David Weiss (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, 2011).
- **Tiffany Lewis**, "Winning Woman Suffrage in the Masculine West: Abigail Scott Duniway's Frontier Myth," *Western Journal of Communication* 75 (2011): 127-147.



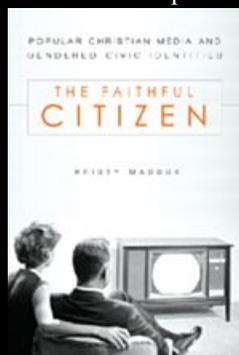
## Maddux Wins Book Award

Award given by the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender

Assistant professor Kristy Maddux is the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Book Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender.

The award is for *The Faithful Citizen: Popular Christian Media and Gendered Civic Identities* published by Baylor University Press.

In *The Faithful Citizen*, Maddux argues that popular Christian media not only communicate avenues for civic engagement but do so in profoundly gendered terms. Her detailed interrogation of popular Christian movies, books, and television shows exposes five competing models of how Christians



should behave in the civic sphere as their gendered selves.

The award committee noted that Maddux's book "was chosen as the most thought provoking and well written out of a competitive pool of submissions." The committee was especially impressed, they revealed, with how Maddux's book "pushes the field to explore rhetoric, religion, and gendered identities."

Maddux will receive her award at the convention of the OSCLG, October 13th-16th in Evanston, Illinois, where she will also present a discussion of her research.



## NEWS & NOTES

- ◆ Professor & chair, **Elizabeth Toth**, is the co-author of the 4th edition of *Public Relations: The Profession and the Practice*. The classic text is published by McGraw-Hill and is co-authored by Dan Lattimore, Otis Baskin, Suzette Heiman, and James Van Leuven.
- ◆ Ph.D. student **Steven Cohen** has been selected by UM's Honors Humanities program as a Doctoral Teaching Apprentice Fellow. Cohen also received a third place award in the 2011 Golden Key Education Achievement Award competition, a \$1,000 award that recognizes students who excel in the study of education.
- ◆ Associate professor **Dale Hample**, professor **James Klumpp**, and Ph.D. student **Ben Krueger** all presented papers in the bi-annual argumentation conference sponsored by the American Forensic Association, the National Communication Association and the University of Utah and held in Alta, Utah. Klumpp presented a tribute paper to Donn Parson entitled "The Parsonian Species: Is the Jayhawk a Mythical Bird?" Hample presented a paper that asked "How Many Examples is an Induction?" And Krueger offered a paper entitled "Toward a Culturally Materialist Theory of Argument Spheres."

## Liu & Janoske Join START Research Team

Funded through National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism



Assistant professor Brooke Liu and Ph.D. student Melissa Janoske join a two-year effort that will develop, deliver, and evaluate a program focused on training U.S. local leaders on effective risk communication practices related to homeland-security threats.

Funded by a \$542,556 contract from the Department of Homeland Security, the training curriculum will reflect the best scientific understanding of effective risk strategies and practices. Ultimately, the project will provide guidance to local leaders on how best to engage their communities to ensure that warning communications, when issued, will be understood and believed and that communications will prompt appropriate responses from the public.



**START** 

National Consortium for the  
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

# Meet Our Newest Terps!

## New Graduate Students, Faculty Join Department of Communication



With the start of the 2011-2012 academic year, the Department of Communication is pleased to welcome a new cohort of graduate students and new instructional faculty and to our program.

**Julio Bermejo** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication with a specialization in Public Relations. He received a M.S. in Public Relations (2008) from Stirling University in Britain and a B.A. in English (1994) from Stanford University.

**Amanda L. Irions** is pursuing a Ph.D. with an emphasis in persuasion and social influence. She is interested in how romantic partners use influence techniques during conflict and in the effect of these techniques on their relationships.

**Jessica Lu** received her B.A. in Communication, with a specialization in rhetorical studies and minors in English and Africana Studies, from Villanova University. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Communication with an emphasis on Rhetoric & Political Culture.

**Liang Ma** earned her M.A. degree in Communication Studies from New Mexico State University and her B.A. degree in English from Dalian University of Foreign Languages, China. She is pursuing her Ph.D. with an emphasis in Public Relations.

**Jade Olson** received her B.A. in Rhetoric and Media Studies with a minor in Philosophy from Willamette University in 2009 and her M.A. from the University of Maryland in 2011 and she is currently pursuing her Ph.D. with a specialty in Rhetoric and Public Culture.

**Mike Paquette** is pursuing his Ph.D. with a public relations focus. He has a diverse background in communications and he has a B.A. in Public Relations from Gonzaga University.

**Jenny Shi** earned her M.A. degree in Interpreting & Translating from the Newcastle University (United Kingdom) and her B.A. degree in English and Translation Studies from Xi'an International Studies University (China). She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. with an emphasis on Intercultural Communication.

**Yvonne Slosarski** received her B.A. in Communication and Culture, with a minor in Creative Writing, from DePaul University. She is pursuing her Ph.D. with an emphasis in Rhetoric & Political Culture.

**Ning Xie** received her B.A. from Hebei University (China) and she also received part of her undergraduate education in the U.S. and the U.K. Ning's interests include intercultural communication, politi-

cal communication and public relations.

**Bo Yang** received her M.A. in Strategic Public Relations from the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism at the University of Southern California and her B.A. in English from Beihang University in China. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Communication with an emphasis in persuasion and social influence.

**Eva Zhao** received her M.Phil degree in communication from Hong Kong Baptist University and her B.A. degree with the major of journalism from Fudan University, China. She is pursuing her Ph.D with an emphasis in media effects and social influence.

New instructional faculty members joining the department include:

**Jon Hoffman**, a rhetorical critic and theorist interested in political rhetoric, media criticism, and queer & feminist theory. He is currently completing his dissertation at the University of Minnesota which looks at three queer films and how different political ideologies can be differentiated on the basis of how they organize and deploy temporalities.

**Lois Lipman**, a documentary filmmaker who worked for twelve years internationally developing stories for CBS *60 Minutes* and for British television, including the BBC.

## Graduate Students, Alumni Accept New Faculty Positions

The following graduate students and graduate alumni have secured new faculty positions for 2011-2012:

- ◆ **Lucinda Austin**, Assistant Professor, *Elon University*
- ◆ **Timothy Barney**, Assistant Professor, *University of Richmond*
- ◆ **Abbe Depretis**, Lecturer, *Christopher Newport University*
- ◆ **Ben Krueger**, Instructor, *Winona State University*
- ◆ **Christine Skubisz**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Annenberg School of Communication, *University of Pennsylvania*
- ◆ **Belinda Stillion Southard**, Assistant Professor, *University of Georgia*
- ◆ **Bjørn Stillion Southard**, Lecturer, *University of Georgia*.



## In Memoriam: Nathaniel I. Córdova

The Department of Communication was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic accidental death of UM alumnus Nathaniel I. "Nacho" Córdova (Ph.D., 2002) on July 16, 2011.

Córdova was an associate professor in the Department of Rhetoric and Media Studies at



Willamette University. In the words of his advisor, James Klumpp, Córdova was a "creative scholar" and his research appeared in such outlets as the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, and *Communication Review*.

Córdova was also a "beloved" member of the Willamette University community who was known as an excellent teacher and mentor as well as a passionate advocate for issues of social justice. He was known as the "most humble professor you could know" and also as the "heart of social justice on the Willamette campus," according to Eduardo Angolo of the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality. Córdova was the victim of a motorcycle accident along the Oregon Coast. He was 46 years old.



## More News & Notes

### S. Parry-Giles Quoted in *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*.

Professor Shawn J. Parry-Giles was featured prominently in a *Washington Post* article about hate filled e-mails, and was quoted in a *CSM* article about racially charged language and the Obama presidency.

### Khamis Publishes Essay in *International Journal of Communication*.

Assistant professor Sahar Khamis authored an essay on the transformative media landscape in Egypt that appeared in the *International Journal of Communication*, Volume 5.

### Underhill Queries President Obama at Town Hall Meeting.

Ph.D. candidate and lecturer Stephen Underhill was one of few questioners called on by President Obama at a College Park town hall meeting, proudly proclaiming that he studies “political rhetoric.”

### T. Parry-Giles Leads Seminar at “Hope” Institute.

Professor Trevor Parry-Giles was one of six seminar leaders at the 25th anniversary of the National Communication Association’s “Hope” Institute for Faculty Development.

## Liu Among Campus Leaders on Blended Learning



Assistant professor **Meina Liu** has been named a Blended Learning Faculty Fellow, joining a select group of UM campus leaders who are spearheading curricular development in blended learning plat-

forms.

According to Senior Vice President and Provost, Ann Wylie, the blended learning “initiative ushers in a new paradigm of undergraduate education of the highest quality, at the same time providing a model for enhanced student-faculty interaction and more efficient use of institutional resources.”

Dr. Liu will revise COMM 382: Essentials of Intercultural Communication, a course designed to expand students’ understanding of the role of culture in shaping the ways in which we communicate with and relate to others.

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