

# ComMuniTy

Department of Communication, Media & Theatre

I L L I N O I S U N I V E R S I T Y

Welcome to the revived publication of ComMuniTy, the annual newsletter of the Department of Communication, Media & Theatre (CMT) at NEIU. ComMuniTy serves three purposes: (1) to maintain contact with CMT alumni, (2) to inform alumni and current students about the CMT program, and (3) to celebrate our successes as students, alumni, faculty, and as a department.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

CMT recently ranked as one of the top 10 majors at NEIU. This is the highest the department has ever ranked.

The department now has a state-of-the-art media lab, equipped with digital video and audio capabilities. Such access to technology allows students to gain valuable, hand-on media production experience.

Since 2003, CMT has doubled in majors, growing from 113 to 294 (2009).

To keep up with industry trends, student demand, and academic requirements, CMT has added new courses to the curriculum. These include *Introduction to Audio Production*, *Digital Video Editing*, *Integrating the Arts Across the Disciplines: Art as a Tool for Teaching and Training*, and the graduate *Seminar on Communication Research Methods*.

In 2010, the department received an "HSI [Hispanic Serving Institution] Grant" that helped fund three forums with professionals from CMT-related fields. The first forum focused on how media cover Chicago's Latino communities. The second addressed issues of, and ways to get involved with Hispanic Theatre. And the third forum highlighted issues tied to Latino/a Relationships.

## FACULTY/STAFF UPDATES

**Katrina Bell-Jordan** continued as Chair of the CMT Department, published with Edwin Mellen and University of Chicago Press, was endorsed to serve on the Board of Education in her local school district, and has spent the rest of her time keeping up with her third grade son.

**Edie Rubinowitz** produced a story for Chicago Public Radio on centenarians in a knitting club, taught a variety of media classes to great students, published in an online journal, and over Spring Break gave birth to Max Levi Foutz.

**Nanette Potee**, Graduate Director of the department, oversees about 30 graduate students, teaches class in organizational and intercultural communication, and continues to love being Danielle's mom.

**Wilfredo Alvarez** joined the department from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and looks forward to building many mutually enriching relationships with the CMT and NEIU community.

**Anna Antaramian** continues to serve as the Artistic/Managing Director of the Stage Center Theatre and Associate Chair for the department, in addition to teaching and directing shows and keeping track of her six wandering minstrels.

**Seung-Hwan Mun** had a very special year as his spouse, formerly residing in Pennsylvania, finally moved to Chicago last summer.

**Rodney Higginbotham** is studying the script of *Emma's Child*, and continues as the creator and webmaster of Theatre Ephemeria ([neiu.edu/~rghiggin/ephem/Ephemeria.html](http://neiu.edu/~rghiggin/ephem/Ephemeria.html)), a website devoted to photographs of actors and productions from nineteenth century American Theatre.

**Cyndi Moran** edited films about research in epilepsy, poverty and relief efforts in the U.S., and kids who love Latin, and she continues to help promote peaceful communication between the faculty union and the University administration-as if that were possible.

**Tony Adams** finished his book *Narrating the Closet: An Autoethnography of Same-Sex Attraction*, and eagerly awaits its publication in March 2011.

**Karol Bayley** continues her interest in Photoshop, web design, and graphic arts, enjoys reading and relaxing by the fireplace, and watching documentaries with her cats and Bill, her husband.

Since the last ComMuniTy, NEIU's "Science Building" was renamed "Bernard J. Brommel Hall" in honor of **Bernard J. Brommel**, Professor Emeritus in the department. **Maria Moriates** retired in June 2009 and received Professor Emeritus standing. **James Barushok**, Professor Emeritus, passed away May 5, 2007. He had been with us more than 30 years—chairing the CMT department for 15 years, helping develop the graduate program, and in his last years, serving as a member of the NEIU Board of Trustees. **Harold Hild**, Professor Emeritus, passed away on October 18, 2009. He founded and was the first coordinator of the English Language Program. He also served as President of the National Association for Developmental Education, chaired the CMT department from 1998 until 2008, and played a prominent role in NEIU's faculty governance, serving as chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs.

## STUDENT UPDATES

Since 2009, CMT undergraduates completed internships at Lyric Opera, Emerald City Theatre, Answers Media, WTTW, WGN, ABC, NBC, KBCTV, and *The Onion*. CMT graduate students have been active as well:

**Diane Madison** defended her thesis, "Self-efficacy Perception in College Students with Dyslexia: A Faculty Perspective."

**Alexis Waters** presented research on Second Life at the Popular Culture Association conference (February 2010), and research on cancer, social support, and self-disclosure at the National Communication Association (NCA) convention (November 2010).

**Julie Wight** also presented research on gender identity at NCA, and published the chapter "Coming Out in Everyday Interaction" in the book *Case Studies of Communication About Sex* (2010; co-authored with **Tony Adams**).

**Richard Reardon** defended his thesis, "Using Knowledge of Theatre History and Acting Styles to Create a Professional Three Dimensional Actor";

**Toby Williams** was featured in a Chicago Sun-Times article describing his journey to graduating and accomplishments at NEIU.

**Dagmara Lukasik** defended her thesis, "An Application of Self-Comparison Theory: The Impact of Viewing Advertisements from Popular Women's Magazines on Women's Self-Esteem."

**Karlie Sherman** defended her thesis, "The Role of Emotion in Acting: The Reality of Generating Authentic Feelings Onstage"

Emma's Child

February 17-19, 24-26, March 3-5 @ 7:30 PM

Bleacher Bums

April 14-16, 21-23, 28-30 @ 7:30 PM

As You Like It

June 9-11, 16-18, 23-25 @ 7:30 PM

You Can't Take It With You

July 21-23, 28-30, August 4-6 @ 7:30 PM

# Stage Center Theatre

## Spring/Summer 2011 Schedule

Reservations: (773) 442-4274

[www.neiu.edu/~stagectr](http://www.neiu.edu/~stagectr)

### STAGE CENTER THEATRE

The Stage Center Theatre continues to be an integral part of NEIU's liberal arts education. All productions use majors and minors from the CMT department as well as students from all of the departments at NEIU. We also now include guest actors from Chicago's professional theatre world.

Students continue to be involved in lighting, sound, set construction, costume, publicity, and the box office. Through this involvement, they develop skills in leadership, group problem solving, team building, planning, organizing, critical and creative thinking.

Fall 2010 productions in the Stage Center Theatre included *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Sarah Ruhl), *Around the World in 80 Days* (adapted by John Hildreth), *Kita Y Fernanda* (Tanya Saracho), and *The Wolf and Its Shadow* (Sandra Fenichel Asher). Approximately 2600 people attended these productions.

The plans for remodeling and expanding the Stage Center Theatre were completed in May 2008. These plans can be viewed in the lobby of the theatre. As planned, the new theatre would cost about 14 million dollars. In 2000, the state's Capital Development Board allocated more than 6 million dollars to renovate the theatre. Unfortunately, the university has made a choice not to proceed with the renovations at this time.

With the hope of a new theatre in the near future, an account has been established in the CMT Foundation account for donations. Our goal is to garner enough money to reposition the importance of the theatre in the view of administration. However, to continue everyday operations, small safety issues are being addressed: the seating bases are being restructured, the lighting grid reconfigured, and a bathroom added backstage. In light of this, any suggestions regarding new seating, carpeting, sound equipment, or sponsorships of new items would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like a Stage Center Theatre brochure sent to you or if you would like to contribute suggestions or sponsorships for the theatre, please email **Anna Antaramian** ([a-antaramian@neiu.edu](mailto:a-antaramian@neiu.edu)) or **Rodney Higginbotham** ([r-higginbotham1@neiu.edu](mailto:r-higginbotham1@neiu.edu)).

### STUDIO SERIES

Selecting Memory, by Tania Richard  
February 21-23, February 28-March 2 @ 7:30 p.m.  
Studio Theater, F 109

### CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The Love for Three Oranges, by Doreen B. Heard  
March - April, MWF @ 10:30 a.m.

### ALUMNI UPDATES

**Stephanie E. Clemons** (B.A., 2008) is working on her M.S. at DePaul in Digital Cinema. She also owns her own business, S.E.C. Visuals.

**Aaron Olbur** (B.A., 2009) is a Grassroots Marketing representative at Road Runner Sports in San Diego.

**Michelle Petty** (B.A., 2009) and **Carlos Rivera** (B.A., 2009) married on October 16, 2010. They met in 2006 in CMT's Foundations of Communication course. Carlos works as an Event Technology Specialist for PSAV and is stationed at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago.

**Stacy Brill** (B.A., 2008) is working on her M.A. in CMT. She has been a member of the McNair Scholar program since 2007, and continues to promote the well-being of students at NEIU and in Chicago Public Schools. In the future, Stacy would like to work as a motivational speaker, a higher ed consultant, or a lobbyist for education policy. She also aspires to complete a Ph.D. in a CMT-related field.

**Patrick Garone** (B.A., 2007) published the book *City of the Gods: The Return of Quetzalcoatl*. For more information, visit [www.patrickgarone.com](http://www.patrickgarone.com)

**Mark Clover** (B.A., 2009) is finishing his M.F.A. in the Creative Writing program at Roosevelt University.

**Dale Rivera** (B.A., 2009) and his wife Stefanie welcomed their second child, a son, into the world on November 8, 2010. Lorenzo Joseph Rivera weighed in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

**Kenneth Kirschnick** (B.A. 2008) is completing his M.F.A. at Hawaii Pacific University (HPI). He recently played the villain, Bastien Andre, in Mark Twain's "Is He Dead?" adapted by David Ives at HPI's Paul and Vi Loo Theatre in Kaneohe, HI. The show ran from November 12 thru December 5, 2010.

**Micah Roberson** (B.A., 2007) is a fashion designer.

**Colleen Newman** (B.A. 2009) married Mark Newman on June 27, 2010. Currently, she works in television spot sales at TeleRep.

**Jeffrey Tischauser** (M.A. 2008) published the book *Anti-Arab and Anti-Muslim Bias in American Newspapers* (Edwin Mellin, 2010; foreword by **Katrina Bell-Jordan**). This book stemmed from Tischauser's graduate thesis.

If you would like to appear in the next ComMuniTy newsletter, email **Tony Adams** ([a-adams3@neiu.edu](mailto:a-adams3@neiu.edu)) the following information:

Name  
Graduation Year  
Updates (career news, family news, awards, etc.)

Remember to visit the CMT website ([www.neiu.edu/~cmt](http://www.neiu.edu/~cmt)) and join the CMT Facebook page ("NEIU Department of Communication, Media & Theatre").