

## UCSB Comm Dept Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The UCSB Communication Department is in the midst of celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a series of lectures and alumni events meant to reconnect the department with former students and faculty. The events, which began this past November and will go through October of next academic year, include academic conferences, discussions, alumni panels, and parties all designed to foster connections between current departmental members and former colleagues.

“I’ve surveyed some of my classes and many Communication students remark that they really want more connection with faculty and the department overall,” says

Assistant Professor Karen Myers, who is in charge of the planning and sponsorship for the events.

“Frankly, faculty want that too but there are so many students and alumni, and so few of us. that it’s hard to do that. This is our first step in that direction”

The department is particularly excited for its April 25<sup>th</sup> event, which will include several displays of current faculty research, presentations by alumni representing their current companies, and a cocktail party in celebration of the department’s 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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## Alums Reconnect in San Diego at NCA Event

Typically the National Communication Association’s annual conference showcases UCSB’s stellar communication research—not so this past November, when the national conference also served as a means for old communication students and faculty to reconnect with their former teachers and classmates in San Diego.

While it is common for UCSB’s doctoral graduates to be at the NCA conference promoting their own professorial research at schools such as Ohio State, University of Illinois, University of Connecticut, USC, and University of Texas-Austin, the department has not been able to keep in regular contact with undergraduate alumni.

“As we approach the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the department is making an effort to reach out to alums to see how they’re doing”, says Professor Linda Putnam, who was in charge of the NCA event.

“This was the first opportunity to bring people back to discuss and talk about how they can be part of giving back to the department.”

Current undergraduates belonging to the Communication Honors Society Lambda Pi Eta and the Student Communication Association worked with current department staff and faculty in a phonebank and mailing effort to contact alumni.

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### Special Interest Articles:

- ***Jim Bradac: The Man Behind the Lecture Series***
- ***UCSB Wins Multiple Awards at NCA Conference***

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## UCSB Comm Dept Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Cont.)

Local organizations, communication industries, and graduate schools have been invited to present employment and graduate program information to attending undergraduates.

Regarding the cocktail party presentations, Myers said, "Many of our students and alumni may not know it, but UCSB's Communication Department is one of the very best in the nation. However, the event won't just boast about our faculty accomplishments, we know we have many incredible alumni. We want to get to know them."

Current undergraduates have already

begun receiving information about the event in class via PowerPoint slide.

*For more information, contact Karen Myers at [myers@comm.ucsb.edu](mailto:myers@comm.ucsb.edu)*



*Undergrad alums catch up in San Diego*

## Alums Reconnect in San Diego at NCA Event (Cont.)

Altogether, the outreach committee reached over 300 undergraduate and 43 graduate alumni.

The actual event took place at Sally's Restaurant in downtown San Diego the evening of Friday, November 21. In addition to the 35 current faculty and graduate students who attended, 14 undergraduate and 23 graduate alumni were also present at the celebration.

Some of the attending undergraduates included: Katie Everhart, a Destination Relations Manager at PRA Los Angeles/Orange County; Anton Anderson, Director of Business

Development at Capital Consulting Company; Pam Lord, Senior Vice President for Proter Novelli Life Sciences; John Francis, Brand Titan, Inc.; Mike Gaulin, Director of Operations for ACE Parking Management; Melodie Tao, Digital Marketing Consultant for Interactive Managed Technology Solutions; and Marc Jaffe, Executive Director, Public Cable Television Authority.

Marc Jaffe and Pam Lord were the earliest graduates in attendance, graduating in 1986 and 1987, respectively.

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## Jim Bradac: The Man Behind the Lecture Series

One of the most anticipated events of the department's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is the annual lecture held in honor of late Professor Jim Bradac. Unfortunately, many current students within the program don't know the story of Professor Bradac's remarkable battle with ALS, or his contributions to the founding of the Communication Department.

SMCR recently sat down with Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement John Wiemann, who collaborated with Dr. Bradac on several academic projects

and was a lifelong friend, to discuss Dr. Bradac's history within the Communication Department.

Dr. Bradac played an integral part in the formation of the Communication Department as it is today. 25 years ago, the department was a part of the Speech and Hearing Sciences program. Dr. Bradac split the department from Speech and Hearing Sciences and served as the first chair, shortening the department's name from Communication Studies to Communication.

## Jim Bradac: The Man Behind the Lecture Series (cont)

According to Dr. Wiemann, Jim's largest contribution while chair and as a professor in the department was to "bring a huge intellect to the department which was important for everybody that came in contact with the new department."

Not only did he "challenge them in a very positive way", he also "set an example by his own conduct and brought everyone to a different level via his own personal characteristics", said Dr. Wiemann.

These personal characteristics included a magnetic personality, which drew people towards Dr. Bradac and made him a joy to work with. While "not overly outgoing initially, once you got to know him he was a lot of fun to be with". He was "laid back with a great sense of humor...very thoughtful and a great friend", said Dr. Wiemann.

An "intellectual giant", Dr. Bradac served as an inspiration for his vast range of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as other professors. In addition to a full schedule of teaching and research, he also served for many years as the editor of *Human Communication Research*, one of the leading journals in the field.

Fifteen years ago, Jim was diagnosed with ALS. The normal survival time for the disease is 3 years; Jim lived 10. He was so resilient that he never stopped working, and was at work the day he passed away. Despite being unable to speak the last several years, he continued teaching and researching—using a special computer and voice synthesizer through which he used blinking to type and speak.

His presence during this time in the department served as an inspiration to all. As Dr. Wiemann points out, "no student could say anything was too hard—he was still a big influence on everyone".

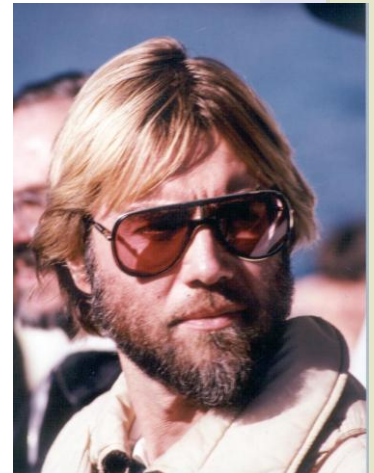
The annual lecture held in his honor was established as a tribute to Dr. Bradac's countless contributions to the department, as well as to serve as an acknowledgement of his resilience, friendship, and inspiration. This year, one of the Communication Department's first PhD students and now an established professor at the University of Arizona, Jake Harwood, will speak on his current research, which closely echoes the research of Dr. Bradac.

The lecture will be held on Friday October 9, 2009, with a reception held afterwards at the home of Emila Jaccard.

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Professor Bradac

## UCSB Receives Multiple Awards at NCA Conference

UCSB's Communication Department garnered international recognition at the NCA Conference in San Diego on November 21-25, 2008.

For the second year in a row, UCSB took the award for Best Article of the Year in Organizational Communication. Professor Linda Putnam received the award for her article, "Making Sense of Intractable Multiparty Conflict: A Study of Framing in Four Environmental Disputes" *Communication Monographs*, 75, 25-51.

Last year, the award was presented to UCSB Professors Cynthia Stohl and Michael Stohl.

Professor David Seibold earned the 2008 Gouran Research Award for best article of the past two years in Group Communication for "Group argument: A structuration perspective and research program." *Small Group Research*, 38(3), 312-336.

Professor Seibold also received the Robert J. Kibler Memorial Award for distinguished service to the field of

## UCSB Receives Multiple Awards at NCA Conference (cont)

*“The conference solidified UCSB as one of the most research intensive and highest standing universities in the country.”*



*Top Paper award winner Prof. Linda Putnam speaks with grad students at the NCA Conference.*

communication.

Professor Tamara Afifi received the Distinguished Article Award from the Family Communication Division for her 2003 article, “Stepfamily communication strengths: Understanding the ties that bind.” *Human Communication Research*, 29, 41-80.

The award honors articles five years or older that have had an established impact on the area of family communication.

The department’s graduate students also won several awards with the help of their mentors.

Grad students Beverly Bondad-Brown and Katie Pearce, with the aid of Professor Ronald Rice were awarded Top Competitive Paper for their work on “*Motivations and sources for traditional and internet television by US and Australian students.*”

Graduate student Charles Choi, faculty member Howard Giles and two alumni, Valerie Barker and Christopher Hajek, were awarded a top four paper in Applied Communication for their article

*“Reported compliance in police-civilian encounters: The roles of accommodation and trust in Zimbabwe and the United States.”*

Charles also received a second top paper award in Applied Communication for his work “*I think I can’t: Communication apprehension and imagined interactions.*”

Several UCSB PhD alumni also received recognition for their work at other universities.

The conference solidified UCSB’s reputation and standing as one of the most research intensive and highest standing universities in the country.

*Original Source:*

*<http://www.comm.ucsb.edu/news/documents/Awards%20at%20NCA.pdf>*

## Upcoming Events!

The department has several events in store for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. These include academic lectures, alumni receptions, and panels meant to educate undergraduates on career options. For full descriptions, please visit:

<http://www.comm.ucsb.edu/news/25th.php>

Events & Dates:

**Thursday, March 5, 2009:** *Rupe Conference: The Role of the Media in the Presidential Campaign and Election*

**Saturday, April 25, 2009:** *Gacho Reunion 2009 featuring Career Panels at Phelps Hall, Undergraduate-Alumni Networking Reception in Phelps Hall Courtyard, and Alumni Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Reception at the Mosher Alumni House.*

**Friday, October 09, 2009:** *Annual Bradac Memorial Lecture featuring Jake Harwood*

**Saturday, October 10, 2009:** *All day mini-conference featuring graduate alumni and faculty talking about professional lives, lives of communication scholars, and scholars review panel. A reception and dinner will follow the mini-conference.*