

THE BARKING DOG

Department of Rhetoric & Media Studies



“The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on.”

Welcome back to campus all! We look forward to a great year. So a little bit of news for you.

New Guys in Town

This fall we welcome two new excellent fellows, Kundai Chirindo and Joe Gantt. Kundai is our new hire in the area of rhetorical studies; Joe will be heading up LC's legendary Forensics program and teaching rhetoric courses in the department.

Kundai Chirindo will find himself a very long way from Zimbabwe, where he was born. But don't worry; he has had plenty of preparation for the Pacific Northwest. He endured eight frigid winters in Minnesota (where he earned both his Bachelors and Masters degrees), followed by four sweltering summers in the heat of Kansas finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. Having seen extreme cold and heat, he hopes Portland will be somewhere in the middle. (We assure him that Oregon is way better than Minnesota and Kansas, and in many ways!)

Kundai Chirindo (cont.)

At KU, Kundai specialized in rhetorical theory and criticism. His current work focuses on the ways that language affects perceptions of Africa and Africans. Kundai will teach courses in rhetorical criticism and public discourse this fall. Beyond his academic interests, Kundai is a passionate fan of KU basketball. He also enjoys listening to jazz, playing golf, camping, and cooking. He has been known to consume copious amounts of both tea and coffee, but not at once.

Joseph (Joe) Gantt is the new Director of Forensics at Lewis & Clark College. Joe comes to LC from Texas Tech University where he has held the same title for the last six years. He has coached two national championship teams in parliamentary debate as well as one national champion in persuasive speaking. His teaching and research interests include argumentation theory and political rhetoric. Joe is married to wife Amy and has two sons.

Who's In Town?

Over the next couple years no fewer than three of our faculty will be on (well-deserved) sabbatical leaves. Not only that, but Mitch—poor thing—is leading the LC trip to Italy this Spring. So here's the rundown:

Peter: off campus this Fall, back in Spring.

Bryan: off campus in Spring.

Mitch: off campus Italy Spring 2013, on sabbatical 2012-2013.

RHMS Colloquium Series

Heads up for our upcoming research colloquia. This fall is not set yet, but we'll keep you informed when things fall into place.

One of our two Spring colloquia featured Professor Robert Terrill, University of Indiana. Terrill gave a talk on April 17, 2012 entitled, "Barack Obama and the Civil Rights Movement: A Bridge Too Far?" Here's his abstract:

Throughout Barack Obama's historic presidential campaign, he invited his audience to remember a particular version of the civil rights movement. Specifically, he invited his audiences to imagine the movement as continuing into the present, and his presidential campaign as an extension of it. This was a bold move, a powerful association for many of his constituents, and surely an important factor contributing to Obama's electoral success. But in asking his audience to recall a movement that would culminate with his election, Obama may have been setting up an anti-climactic post-election narrative that not only had little chance of recapturing the magic of the campaign but also reinforced a more traditional recollection of the civil rights movement.

Also last Spring filmmaker Berndt Mader screened his independent feature drama *Five Time Champion* as part of the Rhetoric and Media Studies Colloquium Series. Speaking to a packed house, Mader participated in a wide-ranging Q & A with Professor Sebok following the screening. Among the topics discussed were the representation of gender and sexuality in the film and connections between characterization and thematic content.

Mind Your Capstone

As you majors know, our Senior Seminar has been replaced by a “capstone” requirement—basically a requirement that each major take a 400-level thesis course. Professor Sebok's fall capstone, American Cinema Studies (RHMS 425) will be the ONLY capstone offered this fall. Note that there will not be another opportunity to take this course until fall 2013. Juniors and seniors interested in film studies should consider enrolling for the course, which provides theoretical and methodological engagement with film studies through American film history. In spring 2013 two capstones will be offered: Peter Christenson's Popular Culture and Socialization and Daena Goldsmith's Health Narratives.

Faculty Self-Aggrandizement

Peter Christenson is spending the summer working on projects around the house. He just rebuilt the back fence. He'll use his Fall sabbatical to hone his golfing skills and to produce a couple more journal articles based on his data on themes and images in American pop music 1960-present. News flash: looks like there's more sex in the songs now than there used to be!

Bryan Sebok attended the Cannes Film Festival, working as a faculty mentor for the American Pavilion. Upon his return, he has worked to develop the internship and education program. He proposes to facilitate LC student participation at future festivals via sponsored internships. Sebok is also developing his documentary project and is writing two articles on contemporary Hollywood business practices.

Daena Goldsmith has been busy writing this summer. She and L&C alum Kelsey Domann-Scholz explored how patients who have had a recent heart attack or bypass surgery communicate with their spouse or partner. This paper is currently under review for publication. In another project, Daena and L&C alum Greg Miller studied open communication among couples coping with cancer. They recently learned that one of their papers on this subject will be published in the journal *Health Communication*. A final project with recent grad Emily Baraff examined the blogs of mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder. Daena and Emily are examining the potential for blogs to enable mothers to perform the role of "good mother" through the narratives they share, the comments they receive, and the community that emerges from links among blogs.

Mitch Reyes and Zoe Hovland ('13) collaborated on a summer research project focused on public remembrance and the Gay Liberation Movement. The paper will be sent to a national journal for publication at the end of the summer. Professor Reyes just completed his annual Scholarly Writing Retreat Conference, where scholars come from around the nation to discuss the latest practices in

Mitch Reyes (cont.)

scholarly writing. With the remainder of his summer Professor Reyes will continue to work on his book on the rhetoric of mathematics, focusing specifically on the role of argument in mathematical innovation.

Where Are They Now?

Here's some news about RHMS (formerly Communication) majors.

Lisa Steelman '08 left this note on Peter's door: "This is a former Comm-rade just stopping by to say hi! I'm still in Texas going to grad school in Health Care Administration but still managing to watch some good slasher movies in my spare time. Onward and upward!" (Note: Lisa wrote her thesis on slasher films—she even made Peter watch "Chainsaw 2"!)

Mike Hanada '03 is a detective in the Beaverton Police Department. Better stay out of trouble in Washington County.

Maggie Hennessey '11 is University Coordinator at Sephora in the SF Bay area. How do we know this? She sat two rows in front of Peter at the A's-Giants game in early July!

Rainier Goulbault '10 continues to thrive as an advertising guru at Weiden and Kennedy in Portland. Liz Holliday has finished her master's in International Journalism at City University in London and has just landed a job as a reporter for KOAM-TV in Joplin MO.

Liz Holliday '10 has finished her master's in International Journalism at City University in London and has just landed a job as a reporter for KOAM-TV in Joplin MO.

Tim Howe '12 is heading into the Teach for America program. He'll start this summer in North Carolina.

Erika Harris '11 now teaches English in Prague.

Aukeem Ballard '11 has finished his MAT at LC and will be teaching middle school in PDX beginning this fall.

Kemi Coutinho '12 starts graduate study in theater performance this fall in San Francisco.

Chloe Hansen '07 is working on her PhD. in Communication at the University of Pittsburgh.

Jesse Beason '03 is now Executive Director of Proud Ground, a Portland nonprofit dedicated to making first-time homeownership possible for Portland citizens of modest means.

Schearon Stewart '94 is LTC Neuroscience Area Manager at Avanir Pharmaceuticals in Sherwood OR.