Greetings from Dr. Sinekopova

Hello and welcome to the Spring issue of our newsletter! This new issue of our newsletter is, as usual, filled with new contents. More students have joined our program. We have now students from Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, US, and, of course, we welcome them all! More students have defended their theses and taken their comprehensive exams, and we congratulate them all on their achievement! More students have become Graduate Assistants, and we thank them all for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm with our undergraduates. Please read the profiles of our new GSAs: What a delightful group of people! New courses have been created and offered, and we are happy to recommend them all to you. Included in this newsletter is the list of classes the MSC students can take this spring. You are encouraged to expand your horizons and take classes outside the CMST department.

The MSC students were working really hard on writing and submitting their papers to the upcoming NWCA conference to be held this April. Now we are waiting for the outcomes of their submissions. Please check the information about the conference in this newsletter and keep your fingers crossed for us!

We are pleased to introduce Hannah Seagrave as our new Peer Advisor. Hannah will help you to choose the right classes and plan your future in the program. She can be reached at hseagrave18@ewu.edu or (509) 359-6414. Please stop by the GSA office (Communications Building, Room 204): Hannah and all our GSAs are always ready to help you. Please feel free to contact us with your suggestions, ideas, and questions. We will be happy to hear from you.

Finally, please remember: professors are not educating you—we are helping you to educate yourselves. Be proactive! Stay curious! Explore!

Dr. Galina Sinekopova
MSC Director
Department Choir

Suggested Classes for Spring

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Heather Chandler

Heather Chandler joined the MSC program after receiving her B.A. in Communication Studies and Leadership from EWU in spring 2013. During her first quarter she has already begun working on her culturally focused thesis. She is strongly interested in understanding how our culture is making it more acceptable for women to become consumers in female strip clubs. How are females treated as customers in these establishments? While getting to know Heather many other interesting topics became apparent including true crime and Native Americans. She is fascinated with the human mind and psychological patterns of those who have committed terrible acts of violence. In addition, she is very passionate in regards to the way Native Americans have been represented and treated.

Determined, but easy-going, Heather has met several interesting folks while working full time at Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Hotel Reservations and with Group Coordinating since August 2011. It was a hard decision for Heather to quit her job and continue with her Masters. “I must say that I am so glad that I did! I am enjoying teaching and getting to know the other GSAs, and couldn’t be happier!” and we are lucky to have her as a member of our staff.

As an energetic and down-to-earth GSA instructor for the Communication Department, I asked about her unique teaching method. Heather said “I would have to say I am more laid back, but I first ‘lay down the law’. I want the classroom to be a place where my students are able to express themselves in ways that not only benefit the entire class, but helps them grow as an individual.” She is a good facilitator and encourages engaging discussions with her students. Dialogue usually helps them solve problems as well as providing ideas for their speeches. In the classroom, Heather asks questions throughout her lectures to gain feedback and clarify any material her students may not have fully understood. She genuinely desires for all of her students to succeed academically and within their community as well.

Greta Underhill

Full of Eagle pride, Greta Underhill joins the MSC program to continue her education in Communication Studies here at EWU. Spring 2013, Greta received her B.A. in Communication Studies, with an emphasis on Public Relations. Not wanting to lose her momentum, she began her MSC program this fall quarter. Greta has not solidified the topic for her thesis, as she is highly interested in areas of Communication and Leadership, Conflict Resolution, as well as Autism Spectrum Disorders.

As a new instructor, Greta enjoys getting to know her students while helping them overcome speaker anxiety. Greta is a fun and inspiring instructor and applies pop culture references to the classroom material. She genuinely desires to see personal growth in her students throughout the quarter. “I really like getting feedback from students in class discussions mostly because they all have their own stories and backgrounds. I try to be approachable and open with my students and I always end up learning new things from them as a result.” With a passion for teaching and a heart for others, Greta is spunky and ready to handle current speech topics.

When she is not researching or preparing for lectures, Greta can be found watching new movies with her friends and family, Smash Book-ing, baking scrumptious desserts, or catching up on sleep. She also enjoys playing with kittens, eating delectable chocolates, and enthusiastically creates time for about anything related with Doctor Who.

As an energetic and down-to-earth GSA instructor for the Communication Department, I asked about her unique teaching method. Heather said “I would have to say I am more laid back, but I first ‘lay down the law’. I want the classroom to be a place where my students are able to express themselves in ways that not only benefit the entire class, but helps them grow as an individual.” She is a good facilitator and encourages engaging discussions with her students. Dialogue usually helps them solve problems as well as providing ideas for their speeches. In the classroom, Heather asks questions throughout her lectures to gain feedback and clarify any material her students may not have fully understood. She genuinely desires for all of her students to succeed academically and within their community as well.
In order to get to know Stephanie you have to know a little about her interesting journey through her TV broadcasting career. She has worked since 1997, in the production aspect and master control areas of TV networking. The most memorable event was watching the events of 9/11 live. “It was terrible watching it live.” She has many more interesting stories but first; let’s meet her as a recent GSA speech instructor for the Communication Department. She is enjoying her Master’s experience as she explores a variety of concepts germane to the course she is teaching or taking. That is, it is very satisfying to share ideas and think them through in hopes of connecting some of the communication concepts. Her best instructional method is storytelling which fits her informal style of teaching. You might say her method of sharing lessons is a bit like those found in “The Dead Poet’s Society”. She adds a lively vitality, relevance and accepting interaction to the classroom experience.

Her personal research interests are centered on internalization of shame from a transgender viewpoint. What does our culture require to be “acceptable?” Stephanie is planning to begin her field research this summer by interviewing a wide variety of the population our society, asking them to comment on this social science question. What is correctly “fitting into our culturally accepted box” may be her major summer question yet for now, as a musician, Stephanie enjoys playing the drums and talking to her WWII veteran, Cheney landlord. Obviously, Stephanie appreciates learning while adding a new perspective to our GSA team.

Desalyn Graybeal

Highly experienced, Desalyn Graybeal joined the MSC program in Winter Quarter, 2012. Her intense interest in the way people interact began in college through managing the marketing for a self-defense company in 2007. During 2008, she received her B.A. in Communication Studies, directed her own casting company working with actors for TV commercials and met Michael, USN. They were married in August 2009, exactly one year after beginning their fateful relationship, on a sugar sand beach in Gulf Breeze, Florida. The very next week they moved to Corpus Christy, Texas where Desalyn volunteered at an aquarium, helping with bird rehabilitation. Over the course of the next two years she helped save many ducks, seagulls, baby owls, hawks, and even some sea turtles. Moving again in 2010, they traveled from Texas to Washington where, for the next 3 years, Desalyn worked at ITT as an Admissions Mentor. Now, we are privileged to have her as an instructor in the Communication Department here at EWU.

When asked what her personal teaching method is, Desalyn replied, “I am strict, but fair.” She enjoys working with her students, helping them learn to gain confidence and flourish as speech communication is a subject that causes much appreciation. Desalyn has an “open door” policy and students are encouraged to email and call her with any questions or concerns. She also adds her creative and warm-personality to her classroom schedule by allowing speech dress reversals and including “warm and fuzzy days,” in which the students are encouraged to review material in a positive, “circle time” fashion.

When she is not teaching, Desalyn gathers information for her thesis in which she is examining the ratio of male to female presidents within the National Communication Association (NCA). This topic has created many opportunities as Desalyn presented at the Northwest Communication Association (NWCA) and will be attending the NCA and International Communication Association (ICA) conferences. Desalyn has also connected with some former female presidents of the NCA, such as Dr. Anita Trent. “She is such an amazing figure in our field!”

For fun, Desalyn enjoys doing seasonal things, especially relating to Christmas. On “Christmas Tree Day,” she can be found decorating her 7 beautiful trees in preparation for the holidays. A pet chicken owner in the past, she now cares for her two puppies, CocoLala and Roo Roo. This fall, Desalyn combined her passion for chickens and knack for quantitative analysis and is currently presenting a study pertaining to the sub-culture of pet chicken owners and their interspecies communication practices. Over a period of three weeks, she received documentation through an online survey from 60 people, from 20 different states and 3 different countries. She is now reviewing these impressive results and preparing for the next stage of her research adventure.
Hannah Seagrave

As the peer advisor for the MSC program, Hannah Seagrave is a great asset to this year’s GSA team. Hannah graduated in 2013, with a B.A. in Communications, supported by a minor in Spanish and visual communication design (VCD) from right here, EWU. She started her master’s coursework this year following a successful summer working for a local trade show design company, Skyline INW, as a project manager.

Hannah has a passion for teaching and enjoys applying the course material to present day situations and providing her class with pop culture references in music and movies. “It is such a joy to interact with the students and gain new perspectives and examples of some foundational aspects of communication.” She understands the emotional stress involved in presenting ideas or even telling a good story to a large group and so her teaching method centers on creating a energetic, entertaining, enjoyable and teamwork-based atmosphere in which her students feel comfortable speaking. “Public speaking is among the top fears for many people, so I try to create a learning environment in which the students feel more at ease when presenting in front of the 50+ eyes staring at them.”

Group work days, in-class activities, audience feedback, and plenty of encouragement allow students to be supportive of each other.

Hannah has not yet begun working on her thesis; however, she is fascinated with the way computer-mediated communication has influenced this culture. In particular, she is interested in the way North American values are changing through the increased use of text messaging. Hannah is also intrigued by the linguistic components of text messages and how they are linked to specific psychosocial effects within the “Net generation.”

When Hannah is not reading or working on homework, she is quite involved with her family activities. She goes fishing and hunting with her parents and grandparents, watches and discusses movies with her little sister, and plants colorful flowers for special elderly friends. She mentions, “of course, I also keep up with my older brother, a USN Lieutenant, as his submarine assignments are full of great stories.” Since she has always lived in Spokane, finding great places to walk, camp, watch sunsets, or set up photo shoots also fills most of her spare time.

Melissa Doty

Melissa Doty is beginning her second year as a GSA team member and plans to graduate this spring. Teaching for two consecutive years has led her to a few insights regarding students and the learning process. Melissa understands that everyone is going through their own personal battles, and teaching has provided a means for her to reach out and aid some of the students in need. “Teaching is a constant reminder that humankind is beautiful and ugly, strong and weak, resilient and struggling. Teaching is embracing dialectical tension in a classroom of minds and souls. Teaching is learning.”

Melissa continues to enjoy the “student as teacher” appointment and maintains her focus of respect as the classroom environmental goal. In order to convey this message, she emphasizes dialogue as every student has a valuable life lesson to share. “When our classroom has an atmosphere of teamwork and respect, relating to the students isn’t a challenge.”

As this is her last quarter, Melissa is also in the finishing stages of her thesis. Her research pertains to NGO imperialism in Latin America and emphasizes both postcolonialism and neoliberalism.

When she is not in the middle of teaching or organizing research, Melissa enjoys traveling to Spanish speaking countries, sipping fair-trade coffee blends, reading, or gathering the basic ingredients with which to make her own laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaners, and even toothpaste.