

THE ROAR

Communication Studies at TCNJ: A National Leader in Student-Faculty Engagement

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TCNJ Wins National “Program of Excellence” Award for Best Undergraduate Communication Studies Department in the US

TCNJ News Release

On Friday, November 22, 2013, TCNJ won the national Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award for best undergraduate communication studies department in the US. The award was given to TCNJ professor John C. Pollock by professor Armeda Reitzel, vice chair of the Undergraduate College and University Section (UCUS) of the National Communication Association (NCA) at that organization’s annual conference held November 20-24 in Washington DC. Professor Pollock, former chair of the TCNJ Department of Communication Studies, had written the winning award application.

Dr. Reitzel announced that “The College of New Jersey merits the Award because it demonstrated pronounced ‘markers of department excellence’ highlighting curriculum, faculty-student engagement, student academic and professional success, and faculty commitment.” Professor Reitzel expressed admiration for the extraordinary achievements of what is currently a seven-faculty program that counts among its students 272 majors, nine secondary majors, thirty-seven first minors and 3 second minors, for a total of 321 total communication studies students. According to Professor Reitzel, the following represent key

‘markers’ of department excellence.

“The department has a very clear statement of goals and mission (fostering a ‘culture of commitment to student-faculty engagement’), provided evidence about how they understood and implemented their plans and had *extensive* evidence to support those claims.

“The program emphasizes (both) theory and application in a variety of settings for human and mediated communication. Three noteworthy specializations are offered: Public/Mass

and Corporate/Organizational Communication, along with an interdisciplinary concentration in Health Communication. The department has strong professional and graduate school placement records.



Dr. John Pollock accepting the Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award presented by Dr. Armeda Reitzel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rex Mix Award.....	1-2
ICA Shanghai.....	3
Sarnoff Collection.....	4-6
NCA Conference.....	7
Dr. Woodward.....	8
S.A. Internship.....	9-11
Dr. Tomaselli.....	12
Tomaselli’s Master Class.....	13
Student Testimonials.....	14-15
LPH Inductions.....	16
Dean’s List.....	17

More inside!

pg. 2

Continuation...

“The department ...work(s) toward including cutting-edge topics such as urban dislocation, health communication, and media coverage of AIDS in Africa. The Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience (MUSE) summer program (collaborative student-faculty undergraduate research) for students is an excellent characteristic that further emphasizes the research culture in this department, which also funds documentary media production to foster outreach and community empowerment.

“The existence of a public health communication club is a rare inclusion in undergraduate departments and stands out. The South African health communication internship is a solid start in internationalizing the program.

“This is a rich, high-quality department. It is clear from the submission that the department has high standards for teaching.

“The depth of student-faculty collaboration is apparent through course work activities, state and national research, student outreach and mentoring, and the establishment of personal relationships during these endeavors. It is clear that the institution is selective, and there is a developed culture of student-faculty research threaded throughout the program.

“The degree of self-examination and coaching-in-teams structure is cutting-edge and also reflects the work culture that many students are entering. This structure is valuable preparation for graduate school or professional careers.”

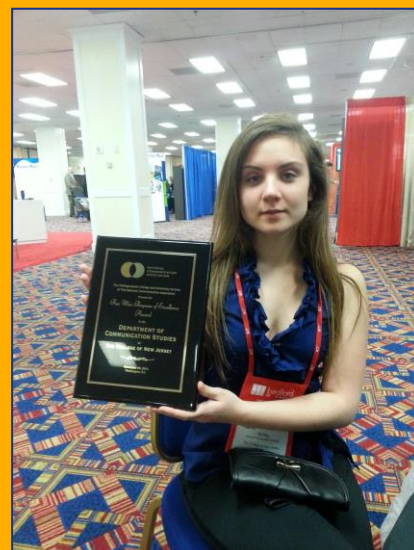
“The College of New Jersey is a deserving recipient of the Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award. Congratulations!”

Receiving the Rex Mix Award, Professor Pollock said: “I am grateful to the Undergraduate College and University Section of NCA, and I appreciate colleagues in the TCNJ Department of Communication Studies who together have helped our department become a ‘national leader in student-faculty engagement’”. Commenting on the Award, Professor Lorna Johnson, department chair, said: “We are delighted that our commitment to student-faculty engagement and the empowering results of that commitment have been recognized at the national level. We are grateful for the encouragement offered by this award.”



*LEFT:
TCNJ's
Department of
Communication
Studies Faculty
and Staff*

*RIGHT: Student
Ashley Reed
holding Rex Mix
Award*



TCNJ STUDENT PAPER ON COVERAGE OF CHILD LABOR IS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH: ONLY UNDERGRADUATE PAPER IN THE WORLD PRESENTED AT COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN SHANGHAI

TCNJ Press Release

On November 9, 2013, Jordan Kohn, a senior communication studies major, presented a paper on “Comparing Coverage of Child Labor and

National Characteristics: A Cross-National Exploration” at a conference in Shanghai sponsored by the most prestigious scholarly communication studies organization in the world, the International Communication Association (ICA). Only after her paper, originally written for professor John Pollock’s international communication class, was accepted for the November 8-10 conference did Jordan realize that it was the only conference paper written by an undergraduate.

Jordan’s achievement is consistent with a long-standing pattern of superior national presentations and recognition won by students in the TCNJ communication studies department. In 2011, the National Communication Association, the largest scholarly association of communication studies scholars in the US, wrote the department a letter confirming that TCNJ students have long held the national record for winning the annual “Stephen A. Smith Award” for best student paper in the US (five awards), along with the national record for the largest number of students elected to the national presidency of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication student honor society (nine presidencies). In short, TCNJ communication studies students are widely considered among the best in the US, and their acceptance at leading graduate and professional schools offers further confirmation of a culture of scholarly commitment.



Student Jordan Kohn at the Great Wall

In her paper comparing newspaper coverage of child labor in 21 major newspapers in as many countries worldwide, Jordan found that higher levels of “privilege” (for example, higher GDP/capita, literacy rates, life expectancy) corresponded with coverage de-emphasizing domestic government responsibility for child labor conditions, instead giving greater emphasis to “societal”

responsibility (charities, Non-governmental Organizations – NGOs, and other “outside” organizations such as foreign governments – e.g., US Agency for International Development, and the United Nations). In Shanghai, Jordan found herself on the same panel with the chair of the communications studies department at Indiana University and a panel

respondent, one of the most distinguished scholars in the world, from the University of Texas. After Jordan learned of her paper’s acceptance, her advisor professor John Pollock added additional analysis and editing to generate a student-faculty co-authored paper. Pollock explained: “It is unheard of for undergraduates to have refereed papers accepted for conferences of the ICA. Jordan’s presentation represents a major breakthrough for undergraduates everywhere. Our department could not be more proud of her accomplishment”. Jordan’s parents accompanied her to Shanghai.

Jordan is delighted she transferred from another institution to TCNJ. In her own words: “I recommend TCNJ to any prospective freshman or transfer student. I still find it unbelievable that this school and Communication Studies Department has made it possible for a transfer student like myself (who had even switched majors) to not only graduate on time, but also to feel accomplished. I don’t believe I would have had the same encouragement and opportunities had I decided to study communication studies anywhere else.”

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES INITIATED TRANSFER OF SARNOFF INVENTIONS TO TCNJ

Contributed by Matt Hutson of *the Signal*



He grew up in a Russian shtetl and planned to become a rabbi, but moved to America instead. As a young telegrapher, he was among the operators who received the Titanic's original SOS message. During World War II, he earned the rank of general as a communications advisor for Eisenhower.

On October 2, 2013, the Sarnoff Collection, a gift from Rosita Sarnoff and her family, was officially opened at TCNJ. Below is a summary of the story behind that gift and the significance of its contribution, originally written in 2010.

As the head of Radio Corporation of America, he oversaw the development of the transistor, color television, electron microscope, LCD and music synthesizer, and conceived of mass media as we understand it today.

David Sarnoff had something like a real-life Forrest Gump experience, and soon his life story will be on display in Roscoe West Hall.

In 2009, the College and the Sarnoff family negotiated the transportation of part of the David Sarnoff Library from its home at the former RCA headquarters in West Windsor — from which Sarnoff Corp., which manages the space, has decided to evict it — to the second floor of the College's old library. John Pollock, chair of communication studies, said the collection was slated to open soon and described the acquisition as a great opportunity for the College.



This electron microscope — the first, according to John Laughton — will appear as part of the David Sarnoff collection in the old library. (Photo courtesy of John

Continuation...

“Before there was a Silicon Valley, there was a New Jersey,” he said. “New Jersey was an incubator for all kinds of technological innovation from the mid-19th century on. Sarnoff is a major part of that story. He’s basically the Henry Ford of the whole radio industry in America.”

The collection includes an array of technologies developed by Sarnoff’s RCA in addition to biographical photos and memorabilia. According to Pollock, the arrangement stemmed from a casual conversation with a Swarthmore College classmate — Rosita Sarnoff, the entrepreneur’s granddaughter.

When she learned of Pollock’s position and asked if the College might host the museum, he said, “I tried to wait a nanosecond (before responding yes).”

The interest soon became department-wide and a number of communication studies professors traveled to see the collection... [Pollock] decided to write directly to Carol Bresnahan, provost and executive vice president, and then-Vice President for Advancement John Marcy about the proposal.

“I was bowled over,” Bresnahan said of her first visit to the Library. “I had no idea there was this incredibly rich collection in the history of technology so closely tied to New Jersey and just up the road.”

The Sarnoff museum was divided into two parts: the College’s collection includes early liquid crystal displays, radios and television, an electron microscope and signed photographs from Thomas Edison and U.S. presidents, among other artifacts, while the bulk of the Library’s papers and development plans will be kept by the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Del.

The Sarnoff family chose the College over such interested institutions as the Smithsonian and the Henry Ford museum, Pollock said, largely because of the College’s capacity to show items year-round and to a wide range of visitors, including children.

“We were able to say to the family, not only can you keep the collection in N.J., where it belongs, but we can create a space, with your help, that allows us to keep the collection more or less on full display,” said Bresnahan. “A busy institution like the Smithsonian would not have had the space to show the collection intact and on a regular basis.”

Those involved said the museum will provide opportunities for learning across disciplinary boundaries. With seminal devices like RCA’s electron microscope and its first color televisions, they said, the collection has historical links to fields as diverse as science, engineering, marketing, sociology and journalism.

John Laughton, who joined the College as dean of the school of Arts and Communication after discussions with the Sarnoffs had begun, defined the collection’s cultural significance to the state.



A new David Sarnoff museum, scheduled to open April 1, will include a variety of RCA prototypes and memorabilia, like this vintage telephone. (Photo courtesy of John Laughton)

Continuation...



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Pollock, Rosita Sarnoff, and family “patriarch” Arthur Sarnoff

“New Jersey doesn’t have the best name when it comes to publicity,” he said. “People talk about New Jersey, they talk about ‘Jersey Shore,’ but there are so many other things that have to do with the contributions that this state has made in the developing technologies of the world and this is a good example of it.”

According to Laughton, it has been “estimated at being a collection worth millions of dollars but really, it’s hard to put a number on what the value is ... clearly, its value is in the fact that it’s the only intact collection of the history of

radio and television that you’ll find in one place.”

The College will be working accordingly to accommodate the collection.

“A project that ends up being this big is going to entail some additional fundraising and additional support,” Laughton said.

With the help of the Sarnoff family, who donated the collection’s contents and contributed to the space development, the College is almost finished its initial refurbishing of Roscoe West Hall’s 1968 wing, where the collection will be housed. The College had previously allotted \$400,000 for renovations to the vacant library wing, and “Sarnoff-specific” improvements — including item display, storage and security — will cost about \$35,000, said Matthew Golden, vice president for College Relations and Advancement. The Sarnoffs raised about \$70,000 for the effort, he said, “but we are not yet sure whether that will fund part of the renovation or be used to create an endowment that supports future needs as they arise.”

Since no funding for the museum will come from the state, Laughton said, its organizers are currently forming a fundraising committee to further develop the presentation.

Alex Magoun, who curated the Sarnoff museum in West Windsor, is serving as a consultant and will join the College as an adjunct next semester.

Laughton said a “town meeting,” open to students, staff and faculty, is being planned and will allow members of all the College’s schools to contribute their ideas for the collection’s overall vision.

“In many ways, it kind of links the sciences, the engineering, the humanities and the arts,” he said. “All of them have some piece of this collection.”

The Sarnoff Collection opened on Oct. 2

ALUMNA PRESENTED HEALTH COMMUNICATION PAPER COAUTHORED WITH COMM. STUDIES STUDENTS AT NCA CONFERENCE

By Jordan Gauthier Kohn

On Nov. 22/23, The College of New Jersey's Communication Studies Department was once again proudly represented at the National Communication Association (NCA) conference held in DC. TCNJ juniors Jims Etheridge and Christina Santiago presented their poster with paper co-author/TCNJ Alumna and Adjunct, Kristen Kernicki, during the Health Communication Poster Session. The group presented on the misuse of over-the-counter (OTC) medications due to the lack of regulated medication labeling, via the comparison of both the external and internal packaging of two OTC medications, Bayer's Aleve and Vick's Dayquil. Their poster presentation poignantly posed their research question of "how the US government regulates OTC medication labeling in a health literacy context when federal agencies fail to agree on a set of best practices."

Presenting research on this particular issue during the Health Communication Session was especially significant as it explored the health risks and concerns related to a medicinal product class that so many nationwide do not know enough about when it comes to

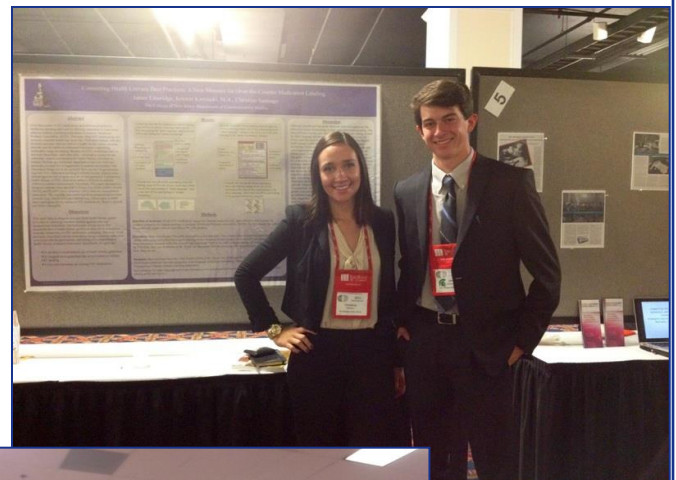
appropriate usage and dosage. The title "over-the-counter" immediately misinforms the public with the connotation that the medication can do little harm. While the nature of OTC medications can be dangerous in and of itself, unregulated labeling practices only exacerbate health concerns.

When asked about his experience presenting his research at the national conference, James Etheridge responded, "NCA was not only an extremely enjoyable experience, it also opened my eyes to the world of academia, a world that I can see myself becoming a part of in upcoming years."

"This unique experience in academia allowed me the opportunity to apply what I have learned in class to the real world. It was an honor to share my work at NCA." – Junior Comm. Studies student, Christina Santiago.



Students: Christina Santiago and James Etheridge



ABOVE:
Santiago and Etheridge presenting at NCA poster session



LEFT:
Santiago holding the Rex Mix Award

TCNJ Professor Gary Woodward Creates Blog Focusing on Communication in the Digital Age

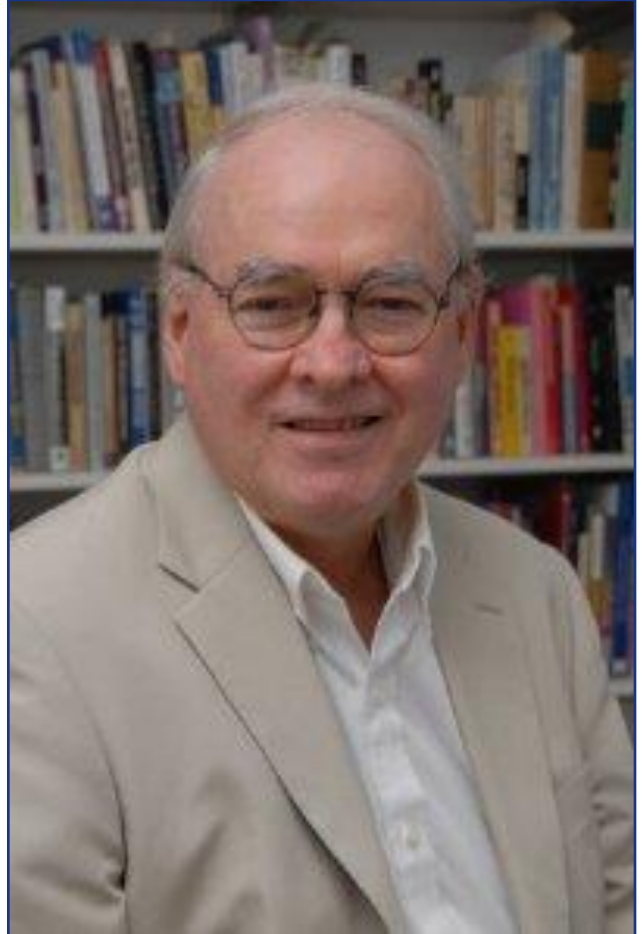
TCNJ Press Release

Dr. Gary Woodward is a Professor, rhetorician, and former Chairperson of the Department of Communication Studies at The College of New Jersey. He has degrees in communication and rhetorical theory from California State University at Sacramento and the University of Pittsburgh (Ph.D. 1972), and regularly teaches courses in Persuasion Theory, Argumentation, and Philosophy of Communication.

Woodward recently completed a semester-long sabbatical in which he was able to create a new blog focusing on communication in the digital age. From his blog, he writes:

“Physicists describe superconductivity as the point at which metals essentially let electric current pass through unimpeded. At cold temperatures electrons move with ease through even the densest material. The transfer of energy is nearly total. There is almost no resistance.

The challenge for us is likewise to find ways around the reticence of others that keeps us from being fully engaged. We live in a challenging time when our words must be heard over a nearly constant din. What counts as eloquence in the digital age? And are there communication forms or dispositions well suited to our times? This site is dedicated to these questions.”



Professor Gary C. Woodward

TCNJ HEALTH COMMUNICATION SUMMER INTERNSHIP – IN SOUTH AFRICA



TCNJ Press Release

*Group takes photograph on their way up the
Sani Pass*

In the opening of his classic work on apartheid, “Cry, the Beloved Country”, the great South African novelist Alan Paton wrote about the province of KwaZulu-Natal: “There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills are grass-covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it.” For three weeks in August, 2013, ten students (eight from TCNJ) and Communication Studies Professor John Pollock visited Durban’s University of KwaZulu-Natal to explore the way South Africans use “Entertainment Education” (TV, radio, song, dance, drama) to attack gender-based violence and fight AIDS. The faculty-led student internship mixed adventure with teaching university students, scenery and animal safari tours with field work, visiting high schools where peer counselors were trained to help young men respect young women and promote self-respect among young women themselves.

The TCNJ Department of Communication Studies has earned a reputation as a “national leader in student-faculty engagement”, and Dr. Pollock created the South African health communication internship determined to reinforce that reputation. Initially meeting South Africa’s leading expert on “Entertainment Education” to fight AIDS, Dr. Keyan Tomaselli, in Mexico City in 1999, Pollock laid the groundwork for a student visit to Tomaselli’s University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) during another international conference in July, 2012, in Durban, located on the Indian Ocean. He designed an internship program to maximize several kinds of engagement.



*Group photograph with Ekwazini School
students*

Continuation...

Advance preparation at TCNJ: Special Course: Pollock created a spring, 2013, advanced student-faculty research course on “Entertainment Education”, using existing entertainment channels, whether “mediated” (TV, radio) or “public” – directly experienced (song, dance, drama) to convince audiences to adopt less risky behavior. A major success story in South Africa is the ongoing TV drama “Intersexions”, portraying young professionals in Johannesburg negotiating safe sex in a world of serial partners. Funded by Johns Hopkins, USAID, and the (US) President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), “Intersexions” became the most popular TV drama in all South Africa, winning a Peabody Award for excellence. “Entertainment education” assumes that audiences will pay more attention to messages embedded in ongoing popular forms of entertainment than to short-term public service announcements or ads.



Health Communication billboard on cheating

Distinguished Speaker: Dr. Arvind Singhal, the leading entertainment education scholar in the US, came to TCNJ in spring, 2013, to discuss re-scripting popular TV and radio programs worldwide to insert narratives advancing the rights of women, reducing gender violence, and promoting less risky behavior in fighting AIDS.

In South Africa: Student and Faculty Presentations: Two of TCNJ’s experienced students (Jordan Kohn and Kelsey Zinck) and Dr. Pollock made separate quantitative methods presentations to honors and graduate

student communication seminars led by Drs. Keyan and Ruth Tomaselli at UKZN, where local students bestowed affectionate,

astonishingly accurate Zulu names on TCNJ students, a warm, playful courtesy. Pollock lectured to another class on cross-national health communication, and we attended a master’s presentation on government efforts to restore tourist guesthouses along the province’s Ivory Trail.

Field Work: Through the good offices of two US-funded groups based at UKZN, the visiting students engaged in unforgettable fieldwork. Through Info4Africa, which updates information for the public on local services available nearby on rape counseling, family violence, abortion and condom availability, etc., information downloadable on cell phones, TCNJ students visited an AIDS hospice, which also served as a daily food distribution center for the surrounding community.

Through DramAidE, which promotes “participatory communication” (unlike the one-way communication of TV or radio) the US students visited three (segregated under apartheid) township high schools accompanied by expert facilitators. We expected to be “observers”, but the facilitators insisted we join young student “peer counselors” to engage in role playing regarding such situations as boyfriends using violence to force sex, teachers engaging in inappropriate touching, or violence within the home. At Ekwazini HS in Umlazi township, we were struck by the wisdom, intelligence and pain of the young people, and when photographs were taken afterward, the visitors were swarmed by dozens of students who threw their arms around the newcomers cherishing the visit. What came next was surprising. The students led the US students to a “song and dance” practice for an upcoming competition. The a cappella music was multi-harmonic and polyrhythmic, with entrancing repetitive drone tones; bass runs, and one or more performers calling out melodies. Sung in Zulu, the rolling, pulsating, soaring harmonies filled listeners with wonder. It was later learned that the local students had won their regional song and dance competitions.

Continuation...



Dr. Pollock and Kelsey Zinck pose with elephant at Bayete Zulu

Adventures: Learning activities aside, TCNJ students pursued memorable adventures. Their guide showed them Durban itself, where monkeys are as ubiquitous as squirrels. They journeyed to the Valley of One Thousand Hills, where students ate crocodile burgers in a crocodile pit, then handled pythons. They visited the Dragon Mountains, trekking through verdant hillsides to ancient cave paintings at Giant's Castle. The visitors transferred to 4X4 vehicles to climb steep, unpaved switchbacks up to the Sani Pass, among the highest passes in Africa, into the tiny kingdom of Lesotho, visiting a family in a traditional hut. Several students engaged in surfing lessons, bungee jumping in the modern soccer stadium, confronting sharks in a shark cage, crossing a perilous, swaying suspension bridge, and zip-lining from a high bluff down several stations (and over a variety of animals) to Lake Eland.

The most exciting expedition, however, was a two-night tour to a lodge in the Hluhluwe game reserve, Bayete Zulu, where rangers drove students on safaris in specially designed Land Rovers. They saw impala, zebra, ostriches, wildebeests, giraffes, hippos, and wart hogs, as well as three of the “Big Five” animals: rhinoceroses, lions, and elephants (the other two are Cape buffalo and leopard). The

setting was as much a part of the experience as the animals. The game lodge offered tile floors everywhere and an infinity pool overlooking

To summarize their experiences, student teams fashioned four topics related to reducing AIDS, writing extended, highly structured essays on: child brides, gender disparities/violence, mother-child transmission of AIDS, and medical male circumcision. Dr. Tomaselli returned the TCNJ visit, lecturing at TCNJ the first week of November, 2013, and Dr. Pollock is scheduling another South African internship for next July/August, 2014. Like the rolling hills of KwaZulu-Natal, the experiences of TCNJ students in South Africa were lovely beyond any singing of it.



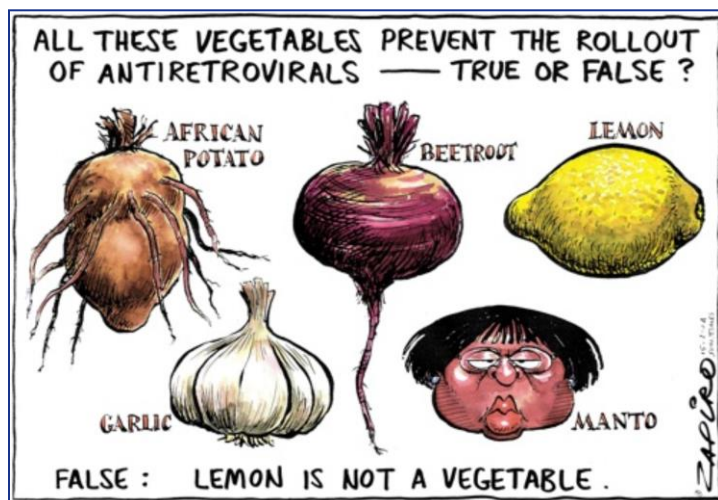
Students: Kelsey Zinck, Jordan Kohn, & Christina Santiago at Giant's Castle, SA

DR. KEYAN TOMASELLI; FIGHTING AIDS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA: THE SUCCESS OF “ENTERTAINMENT-EDUCATION”

By Jim Etheridge

On Thursday, November 7th the college was fortunate to have Dr. Keyan Tomaselli, South Africa's leading expert on utilizing entertainment to combat HIV/AIDS, give a brief talk in the library auditorium. The talk drew students and administrators from various departments on campus, and created a diversified audience. Tomaselli began his talk discussing the difficulty of bridging the “discursive discontinuity that exists between the northern and southern hemispheres.” Specifically, Tomaselli was describing the communication gap that exists between South Africa and those lending aid from north of the equator.

He claimed that this discursive “discontinuity” was interfering with effective implementation of various health campaigns to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and control gender violence. He elaborated by describing the cultural differences that existed between the societies providing aid to South Africa and South Africa itself, focusing on the differences regarding gender equality, prosecution of rapists, and stigmas of HIV/AIDS. Particularly interesting was his anecdote regarding South Africa's stigma towards western intervention in the HIV/AIDS pandemic; he described a variety of false preventative measures and cures proposed by the South African government. This included a myth that sleeping with a virgin would cure you of AIDS, and the “African Cure”, a concoction consisting of lemon juice, beetroot, African potato, and garlic proposed by Dr. Manto, South Africa's Minister of Health at the time (see cartoon).

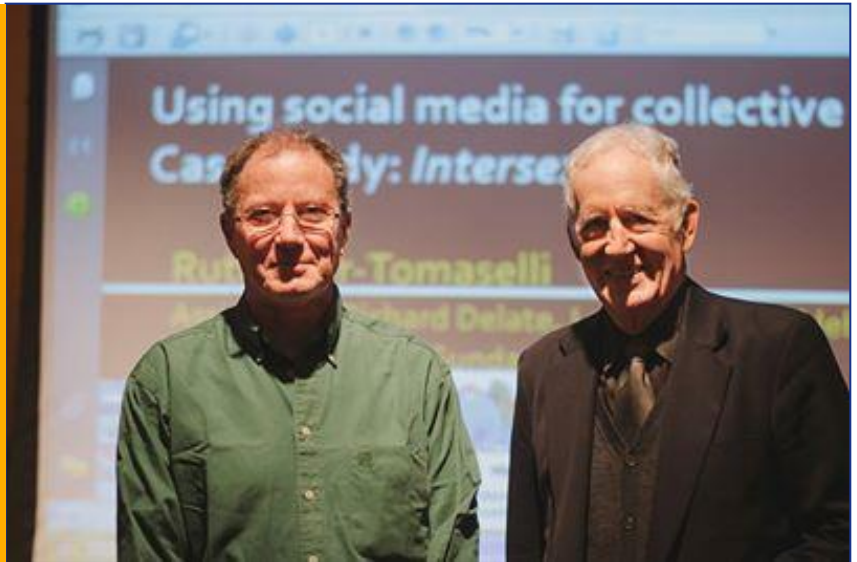


These various cultural differences and eye opening examples all culminated in a concept that Tomaselli highlights in his book, *Development and Public Health Communication*, called cultural context. He describes that when developing various health communication campaigns, it is crucial that cultural differences be taken into consideration; that messages be developed with cultural context in mind. He further describes one of the best methods to tackling the cultural context barrier: working with the target audience to develop the messages, ensuring efficacy.

He then added a few examples of campaigns that had failed to take into consideration cultural context, and how, as a result, they were ill perceived by the public and thus ineffective. On the other hand, he also highlighted a few campaigns that were successful because of their consideration of culture context. Afterwards, he opened up the discussion to the floor for questions, and concluded his presentation.

TOMASELLI LEADS MASTER CLASS, IMPARTS KNOWLEDGE

By Kelsey Zinck



Dr. Tomaselli and Dr. Pollock

Students from Dr. Pollock's International Communication class received a special treat when Dr. Keyan Tomaselli came to the College to teach a master class. The world-famous South African professor from the University of Kwazulu-Natal spoke on subjects ranging from his latest book to African cinema to the differences between South African and American societies.

"This caught my eye; it can only be American," Dr. Tomaselli started off the discussion, referring to a bottle of "Expo White Board Care" solution. Accompanying him was a laptop from 2007, decorated with the large USAID sticker to denote who bought it. USAID is a United States federal agency that provides foreign aid to civilians overseas.

Dr. Tomaselli wasted no time in his master class, almost immediately launching into an academic speech about his book and its "contestation of paradigms." In *Development and Public Health Communication*, the struggle between interpretivist scholars and numbers scholars is discussed.

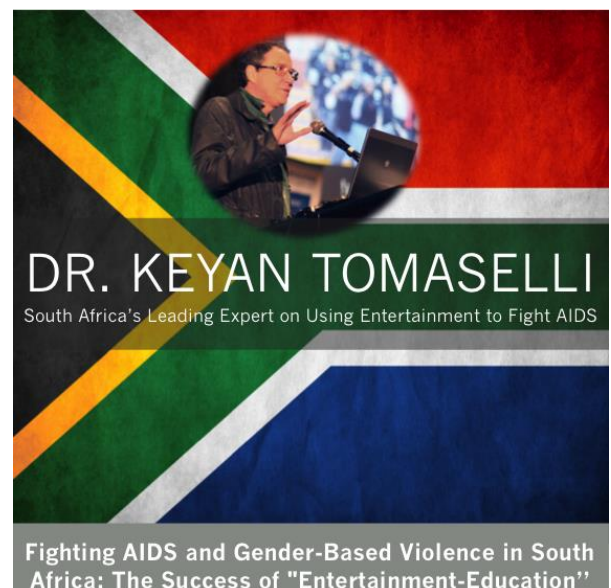
"[It] creates a dialogue between statistics and culture," Dr. Tomaselli said.

Speaking about African cinema, another of his fields of study, Dr. Tomaselli compared differences between American and South African societies.

"In America, the individual is IN the community while in the Third World, the individual is in the Community," he said.

Presenting differences between an individualistic approach and a community approach, Dr. Tomaselli pushed students to think about "the asymmetric relationship between powerful corporations in the global North and victims in the global South, which leads to a construct about health topics in African nations."

By the time the class ended, Dr. Tomaselli painted the "third world country" of South Africa as a place that is not as disparate and destitute as the media portrays. No matter if the students visited South Africa this past summer or not, Dr. Tomaselli provided them with educational lessons about the country and a better understanding of differences in societies.



WHY MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES?



“At the end of the fall semester of my freshman year at a different institution I knew I wanted to transfer to TCNJ, not merely because of its overall academic prestige, but also because its Communication Studies students had been officially recognized as the best in the nation. Like any student, I wanted infallible proof that my academic commitment (in whichever school I ended up graduating) would allow me to earn more than simply a degree testifying that I completed all the required courses, but also professional and scholarly recognition beyond the classroom or even campus community. I ultimately joined TCNJ’s Communication Studies family because I believed it provided its students the skills and motivation to set the standard for other undergraduate and even graduate communication studies students in the nation. During my junior year, one fellow TCNJ Communication Studies classmate and myself were the only undergraduate students in the nation whose co-authored research papers were accepted for presentation at the D.C. Health Conference. Last spring, there were more students from TCNJ than any other school who were accepted to present papers at the New Jersey Communication Association Conference. Now as a senior, I will be representing TCNJ as the only undergraduate student in the world accepted to present a paper at the International Communication Association conference in Shanghai that I co-authored with one of my professors.

I would and do recommend TCNJ to any prospective freshman or transfer student. I still find it unbelievable that this school and Communications Department has made it possible for a transfer student like myself (who had even switched majors) to not only graduate on time, but also to feel accomplished. Through my major, I’ve had the opportunity to travel to Shanghai, China and study in Durban, South Africa. My experiences transcended my dreams. I don’t believe I would have had the same encouragement and opportunities had I decided to study communication studies anywhere else.
-Jordan Gauthier Kohn, Class of 2014, Public/Mass track

**COUNTER-
CLOCKWISE:** Giant’s
Castle in SA, Bayete
Zulu lodge, Buddhist
Shrine in Shanghai,
Valley of 1000 Hills
near Durban.



WHY MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES?

“As an out-of-state resident of Virginia, and after carefully comparing the quality of student achievement and faculty mentoring with that offered by colleges and universities closer to home, I chose to enroll in communication studies at The College of New Jersey. During my journey in the Communication Studies department, I was not only presented with challenging work but also afforded irreplaceable opportunities. Pushing myself in the classroom, I was able to study multiple facets of communication from an extremely knowledgeable faculty.

Kelsey and students from Ekwazini High School. near Durban



Additionally, I completed papers that were presented not only at the New Jersey Communication Association annual conference, but also at a university abroad. Most of all, I was presented with the once in a lifetime opportunity to complete a health communication internship in Durban, South Africa at the invitation of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I learned from other students and world-class scholars as well as programs designed to educate about HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence issues, and I participated in cultural experiences that could not be replicated. From bungee jumping to surfing, shark diving to eating in a pit of crocodiles, feeding elephants to spotting three of the big five animals on safaris, I also enjoyed the unusual experience of meeting students from three high schools in KwaZulu-Natal province. We role-played ways to reduce gender violence and risky behavior, and I was exposed to some of the most beautiful, multiharmonic, a cappella music I have ever heard. This department not only encouraged me to be a better student, but also a more worldly person as well.”

- Kelsey Zinck, Class of 2014, Public/Mass track and Health Communication concentration

LPH WELCOMES NEW INDUCTEES



By Jordan Gauthier Kohn

On Sunday, Nov. 17, TCNJ's LPH Alpha Xi chapter held its fall induction ceremony for the National Communication Studies Honors Society in the library auditorium. LPH President, James Rettig, welcomed inductees and guests before introducing LPH advisor, Dr. John Pollock, who gave the opening remarks. Pollock highlighted the communication studies department's recent academic achievements from national and international conference presentations to students attending graduate and professional schools at some of the best schools in the country. Pollock then introduced the faculty speaker, Jacob Farbman, whose speech personally addressed many of the new inductees and his confidence in their capabilities. LPH board members proceeded to the candle lighting ceremony where the qualifications for being an LPH member were recited. Finally, family, friends, and faculty celebrated the scholastic integrity of new inductees,

Stephanie Agresti, Angelica Anas, Jenna Bjellquist, Tyra Bonner, Maidel de la Cruz, James Etheridge, Nicole Ferrito, Daniel Fitzgerald, Lauren Giles, Olivia Hannis, Jacqueline Ilkowitz, Nehha Jain, Michelle Lee, Jonathan Machlin, Rene Moore, Nicole Ostrowski, Samantha Parker, Hope Peraria, Christina Santiago, Kathryn Silhan, Molly Sorensen, Stephanie Van Heest, Sydnee Weinbaum, and Regina Yorkgitis, as they each received their membership certificates. Before the ceremony was concluded, the new members gathered together to recite the LPH oath and take group photos.

When sophomore student and new inductee, Hope Peraria, was asked what she hoped to gain from her membership, she responded, "As a sophomore, I hope that this opportunity will serve as a catalyst in my career and in my major. I applied to LPH because I am passionate about my major and I knew that it would open me up to opportunities in networking, internships, and jobs, connecting with fellow students." Ultimately, Hope is confident that her LPH membership will allow her to become more involved with the communication studies department.

THE ROAR CONGRATULATES THE 128 MAJORS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES ON THE FALL DEAN'S LIST!!!

Stephanie Agresti	Kaitlyn Allen	Ashley Attinello
Folake Ayiloge	Kelsey Baier	Michael Barborino
Kyle Bauer	Maryssa Beale	Colin Beirne
Andrea Berger	Jenna Bjellquist	Monica Blumenstein
Jasmine Boddie	Ceili Boles	Patrick Boyle
Mariagrazia Buttitta	Adam Cabot	Katharine Callaham
Lindsey Cappetta	Lauren Cascio	Rebecca Celestina
Jacob Chang	Rachel Chlebowski	Meghan Coppinger
Tara Criscuolo	Kailyn Dawson	Jonathan Day
Leah DeGraw	Maidel De La Cruz	Le DePalo
Sloan Depiero	Nicole DeStefano	Harrison Duhr
Colleen Duncan	Megan Durelli	James Etheridge
Casey Facas	Elizabeth Farrell	Kimberly Feeney
Nicole Ferrito	Joshua Fidler	Jenna Fleck
Amanda Francis	Alexis Ganz	Jaclyn Gates
Lauren Giles	Maria Gottfried	Kyle Greco
Olivia Hannis	Jaqueline Ilkowitz	Nehha Jain
April Jenkins	Justine Karl	Mallory Korz
Jeffrey Kranz	Dylan Kret	Nicholas Landolfi
Caleigh Lans	Michelle Lee	Lauren Longo
Christina Luchkiw	Jonathan Machlin	Reid Maglione
Brandon Magown	Hanna Makhdomi	Emily Marr
Michael Meagher	Emily Melendez	Amanda Meling
Gabrielle Messinger	Marie Michel	Sally Milnes
Anne Montero	Rene Moore	Thomas Moore
Madison Moran	Megan Muessen	Juliet Muldoon
Kristen Musolino	Ashley Natera	Bradley Newman
Matthew Newman	Christina Nielsen	Michelle Nitti
Lucy Obozintsev	Kevin O'Brien	Brandon O'Dell
Shaylyn O'Sullivan	Megan Palumbo	Noelle Paredes
Kelsea Pearce	Hope Peraria	Colleen Phelan
Lauren Piccarelli	Ashley Reed	Christine Rehm
James Rettig	Brianna Rojas	Morgan Roussos
Matthew Salvatore	Alexandra Samuelsson	Brittany Sangastiano
Jillian Santacroce	Christina Santiago	Angelo Scaramella
Dylan Short	Kathryn Silham	Allison Smith
Theresa Soya	Dasia Stewart	Megan Strucko
Jennifer Teets	Kevin Teta	Stephanie Urso
Jonathan Van Halem	Stephanie Van Heest	Joseph Vasile
Theodore Von Bradsky	Sarah Wallin	Alyson Wardell
Sydnee Weinbaum	Elizabeth Weiner	Allsion Wentling
Alesha Wilson	William Wychoff	Regina Yorkgitis
Megan Young	Kelsey Zinck	