

**Annual Report: 2008-2009**  
**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Department of Communication**



*Jennifer Harris '06 MA '09 with Dr. Brian McGee*

### **I. Summary and Highlights of Departmental Accomplishments**

The Department of Communication (COMM) was created as an independent administrative unit in Fall 1999 and has completed its tenth year of operation. The department offers the largest undergraduate major in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the second largest major on campus, with 745 declared COMM majors at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. The department offers a Graduate Certificate in Organizational and Corporate Communication and a Master of Arts in Communication, with 35 students enrolled in the certificate program or the master's degree at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year.

For 2008-2009 the department employed 23 roster faculty and 26 adjunct faculty, with the combined faculty offering 177 regular course sections during the regular academic year (excluding summer). The department generated 4,635 enrollments during the regular academic year (excluding summer).

Major accomplishments in the past year include the continued growth and development of the Department of Communication Advisory Council; the seventh annual Distinguished Speaker Award and Lecture; the ninth annual Communication Seniors and Awards Banquet; the Communication Career Fair; the first use by students and faculty of the state-of-the-art digital media lab at 7 College Way; the fifth year of operation for the department's graduate program; recruitment of new tenure-track faculty for 2009-2010; the addition of Ms. Larissa Allison to the department's staff, with responsibilities for event coordination and alumni outreach; the promotion of Dr. Brian McGee to full professor; the department's first-ever competition for students in photojournalism and documentary photography; and the fourth year for the Speaking Laboratory in the Center for Student Learning.

Dr. Brian McGee completed his fifth year of service as chair of the department. Dr. Douglas Ferguson stepped down as Graduate Director in January 2009, after four-and-a-half years of service in the position. Dr. Kirk Stone completed his third year of service as Internship Director. Dr. Deborah Socha McGee completed her fourth year of service as Speaking Lab Director in the Center for Student Learning. Dr. Lynn Cherry completed her first year in a newly created position: Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Communication.



*Dr. Michael Lee*



*Dr. Leigh Moscovitz*

Drs. Michael Lee and Leigh Moscovitz joined the roster faculty as tenure-track Assistant Professors. Dr. David Moscovitz joined the roster faculty as Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication. Dr. David Moscovitz has accepted a tenure-track position in the department for 2009-2010.

Mr. Thomas R. Martin completed his second full year in the Department of Communication with a courtesy faculty appointment and continues his service as Executive-in-Residence (EIR) for the department.

A record five departmental faculty—Vince Benigni, Julie Davis, Doug Ferguson, Beth Goodier, and Robert Westerfelhaus--had sabbatical leaves during 2008-2009. Ms. Anne Fox announced that she would retire as Senior Instructor of Communication, effective August 2009.

The department serves communication students and the greater campus by advising the College of Charleston Forensics team and the College's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. Departmental faculty members also serve on the student media board.

Concerning research and professional activity, the department's faculty published five peer-reviewed journal articles, one book chapter, two encyclopedia articles, two book reviews, and two previously published articles reprinted as book chapters. The department's faculty presented 18 single- or co-authored papers at academic conferences.

The major departmental events for 2008-2009 are described below:

- *Fall and Spring Advisory Council Meetings:* Members of the Department of Communication Advisory Council met on the College of Charleston campus in September 2008 and March 2009. Council members hosted a discussion of new media during the fall meeting and a discussion of presidential campaign communication during the spring meeting. Advisory Council members also appeared in several COMM courses. New council members were Jeannie Bunton (International Center for Research on Women), David Campbell (Chernoff Newman), Andy Hilton (ITT), David Monfried (AIG), and Judy DeRango Wicks (Fiserv). Steve Cody (Peppercom) was named Chair-elect of the Advisory Council, with his term beginning in January 2010.
- *Distinguished Speaker Award and Lecture:* Christopher Buckley, the celebrated novelist and humorist, was the department's seventh annual Distinguished Speaker award winner during October 2008. He spoke before an audience of administrators, faculty, and students about presidential politics, American conservatism, and the writing process.
- *Executive Speakers Series:* The College of Charleston Department of Communication continued its Executive Speaker Series during 2008-2009 with appearances by Roger Bolton (APCO Worldwide), Pat Caddell (Caddell Associates), Peter Debrecey (formerly of Allstate Insurance), Hayes Roth (Landor), Angela Buonocore (ITT), and Ken Sternad (UPS Foundation).
- *Graduating Senior Banquet:* The department hosted a senior banquet for all graduating seniors, with local and statewide organizations providing financial support for this event honoring the accomplishments of COMM undergraduates. Graduate students and faculty in the department also were recognized, as were departmental scholarship and award winners.

Other notable accomplishments of 2008-2009 include the following:

- Nine students earned the Master of Arts in Communication during the 2008-2009 academic year. These students are the second graduating class for the master's program.
- For 2008-2009, 257 College of Charleston students earned the Bachelor of Arts in Communication. One of the graduates, Kristen Thompson of Murrells Inlet, SC, a communication major with a concentration in communication studies, was the winner of the 2009 Bishop Robert Smith Award, the highest award given by the College of Charleston. Ms. Thompson also was a political science major. Thompson joins three recent Department of Communication alumnae, Lacey Elgie '02, Rebecca McCarter '05, and Matthew McClellan '08 as winners of this award. Another graduate, Skylar Stetten, a communication major with a concentration in communication studies, served as Senior Class President for 2008-2009. Ms. Stetten also won the Student Government Association Legacy Award for 2009.

- Dr. Robert Westerfelhaus, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the College of Charleston, learned that he has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Lectureship for 2009-2010 at Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in Poland. Westerfelhaus will teach several courses at Maria Curie-Sklodowska University over nine months, beginning in September 2009. His courses will emphasize film, media, and American popular culture. Westerfelhaus expects to work with the university's Instytut Anglistyki, or English Institute.
- Dr. Tom Heeney received a Fellowship and was invited to attend a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on "The Rule of Law: Legal Studies in the Liberal Arts." This institute was held in Maine during June and July 2009.
- From mid-May to mid-June 2009, one graduate student and 17 undergraduate communication students traveled to Austria, Germany, and Italy as part of a Department of Communication study-abroad program. Dr. Celeste Lacroix and Dr. Robert Westerfelhaus, both associate professors, traveled with the students and provided instruction in intercultural communication and communication ethics. This is the fourth time Dr. Lacroix and Dr. Westerfelhaus have led this European program.
- Mr. Thomas Martin and Drs. Amanda Ruth-McSwain and Vince Benigni accompanied 25 students to Washington, DC, during February 2009. These students interacted with nine members of the Department of Communication Advisory Council and visited the offices of Ketchum and the Environmental Defense Fund. The students also spent time at the Washington offices of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham and at the National Press Club.
- Dr. Leigh Moscowitz won the 2009 Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award for the outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of mass communication research. This award is given by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Dr. Moscowitz received her doctoral degree from Indiana University.
- The College of Charleston's Bully Pulpit Series on Presidential Communication won a 2008 Mercury Award from the South Carolina chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The Mercury Awards recognize outstanding achievement in the creation and execution of public relations campaigns and tactics. The Bully Pulpit Series won the Mercury Award for the outstanding event of more than seven days. The Bully Pulpit Series was initiated in early 2007, when 12 presidential candidates from the two major political parties were invited to the College of Charleston campus to discuss the importance of presidential communication with the press and public. Four presidential candidates, including Senator John McCain and President Barack Obama, ultimately participated in the Bully Pulpit Series. The non-partisan Bully Pulpit Series was a joint effort of the College of Charleston's Department of Communication and the Department of Communication Advisory Council. The success of the series was made possible by the work of the College's Division of Marketing and Communications and the Center for the Documentary and through collaboration with Peppercom, a public relations agency with offices in New York, San Francisco, and London.

- Department of Communication students and faculty were honored at this year's Multicultural ExCEL Awards Program, held April 1, 2009, at the College of Charleston's Physicians Memorial Auditorium. Communication major Kelynn Giorno was named Student of the Year for the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. Communication major Elizabeth Rigstad won the Dr. Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award. Dr. Amanda Ruth-McSwain, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, won the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award for the Graduate School.
- Nathan Frandino, a junior communication major in the media studies concentration, won the Mundy Scholarship from the South Carolina Press Association Foundation. Mundy Scholars are reserved for the most promising of young journalists in South Carolina. Frandino was the unanimous choice for the award, according to his award letter. Frandino is the eighteenth student to be designated a Mundy Scholar. The scholarship is named for R. Frank Mundy, the late publisher of the Greenwood *Index-Journal* and the first president of the SCPA Foundation.
- A team of College of Charleston Department of Communication students won the Flint Award for Marketing Excellence at the collegiate level given by the Charleston American Marketing Association (AMA). Students Valarie Wright, Jill Youngblood, Patrice Richardson-Scott, Sarah Niklas, and Molly Maguth were recognized for their campaign produced on behalf of Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services. The team received the Flint Award for marketing excellence at the collegiate level after developing a public relations campaign for a local non-profit organization, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services. The students developed the campaign as part of a course curriculum designed to provide students with practical experience working with communication-related organizations.
- Department of Communication faculty and students earned awards at academic conventions. Dr. Merissa Ferrara and an undergraduate student, David Clare, had the outstanding paper in the Southern Forensics Association, a division of the Southern States Communication Association. They received their award at the 2009 SSCA annual convention. A College of Charleston master's student, Anna-Fiona Cooke, won first place in the 2008 Carolinas Communication Association's Mary E. Jarrard Graduate Paper Award competition.
- Dr. Leigh Moscovitz was named the department's Outstanding Communication Undergraduate Professor by the department's undergraduate students for 2008-2009. Dr. Amanda Ruth-McSwain was named the department's Outstanding Communication Graduate Professor by the department's graduate students for 2008-2009.
- The Department of Communication's administrative offices and almost all departmental faculty were moved during May 2008 to two historic buildings—7 College Way and 9 College Way—near the center of the College's campus. The 2008-2009 academic year was the first full academic year in these buildings, with approximately 14,000 square feet of office and administrative space available for in 7 and 9 College. In addition to Department of Communication offices, the buildings include a new digital media

laboratory, conference rooms for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the offices of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

- The Department of Communication announced a partnership with Chicora Elementary—now the Chicora School of Communications--a newly approved partial magnet school located in North Charleston. Faculty, staff and students in the Department of Communication are collaborating with Chicora to create communication programming for students in the K-5 school. Chicora students will publish a newspaper, host a TV news program, develop oral and written communication skills, and participate in project-based learning. The school will hire a lead teacher for its communication classes and a coordinator for its magnet program, which will be available to all of the school's students.

## **II. Programs**

### *A. Undergraduate Major*

The Department of Communication offers an undergraduate major in Communication, with concentrations in Communication Studies, Corporate and Organizational Communication, and Media Studies.

### *B. Undergraduate Minor*

The Department of Communication offers separate undergraduate minors in Communication Studies and Media Studies.

### *C. Graduate Program*

The Department of Communication offers a 12-hour Graduate Certificate Program in Organizational and Corporate Communication and a 33-hour Master of Arts in Communication. Dr. Douglas Ferguson served as Director of Graduate Studies for the department during the 2008 Semester. Dr. Vince Benigni served as Director of Graduate Studies during the 2009 Spring Semester. Dr. Benigni will serve as Director of Graduate Studies in 2009-2010.

### *D. Changes and Plans*

Continuing a multi-year review initiated in 2007, the department plans to complete the development of proposals for major revisions to the undergraduate major and minors during 2009-2010, with those proposals to be submitted for approval during 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

### **III. Instruction**

#### *A. Narrative*

##### 1. Trends in Enrollment and Course Offerings

The roster and adjunct faculty were responsible for offering 93 regular course sections in Fall 2008 and 84 regular sections in Spring 2009. The total student enrollment for the department was 2,309 in Fall 2008 and 2,326 in Spring 2009. Total enrollment productivity for the Department of Communication has remained relatively consistent for the five most recent fiscal years.

For Fall 2007 and Spring 2008, 118 internships, 32 independent studies, and six bachelor's essays were scheduled.

The 2008-2009 academic year was the fifth for the Graduate Certificate in Organizational and Corporate Communication and the third for the Master of Arts in Communication, with seven organized graduate courses offered at the College of Charleston North Campus in cooperation with the Lowcountry Graduate Center. The graduate program generated a total of 147 student credit hours for 2008-2009 (excluding summers).

##### 2. Curricular Changes

A new prerequisite structure for a required COMM course, COMM 301, took effect during 2008-2009. COMM 301 (Communication Research Methods) now requires a grade of C-minus or better in COMM 210 and a grade of C-minus in an introductory statistics course before enrolling in COMM 301 is permitted.

##### 3. Plans and Concerns

Demand for the communication major and minor remains stable. A modest decline in the number of COMM majors was observed in Spring 2009 and is likely a response to the new COMM 301 prerequisites described above. The department's reliance on adjunct faculty to cover over 30% of its course sections remains a continuing concern, as noted in previous annual reports.

#### *B. Instructional Data*

All course section data are available from the Office of Institutional Research, including enrollment (head count) data for each section.

## IV. Faculty

A partial list of faculty research activity appears below. Complete data for all faculty activities are available from the Faculty Activities System.

### Articles in Refereed Journals

#### Dr. Douglas A. Ferguson

Ferguson, D. A. (2009). Name-based cluster sampling, *Sociological Methods & Research* (Thousand Oaks, CA), 37, 590-598.

Ferguson, D. A. (2008). International Encyclopedia of Communication (Radio News) Wolfgang Donsbach, *International Encyclopedia of Communication* (Boston, MA: Blackwell).

Ferguson, D. A. (2008). International Encyclopedia of Communication (Radio) Wolfgang Donsbach, *International Encyclopedia of Communication* (Boston, MA: Blackwell).

Greer, C. F., Ferguson, D. A. (2008). Factors influencing the adoption of HD Radio by local radio station managers, *JMM: The International Journal on Media Management* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates), 10, 148-157.

#### Dr. David M. Moscovitz

Moscovitz, D. M. (2009). 'You Talkin' To Me?' Mediating Postmodern Blackface in La Haine, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 26, 1-18 (lead article).

Moscovitz, D. M. (2008). Confronting Whiteness: The Performance of Postassimilatory Jewish Heroism Claudia Alvares, *Representing Culture: Essays on Identity, Visuality and Technology* (Middlesex: Cambridge Scholars Pr Ltd), 53-75.

#### Dr. Robert G. Westerfelhaus

Brookey, R. A., Westerfelhaus, R. G. (2008). Hiding Homoeroticism in Plain View: The Fight Club DVD as Digital Closet J. Fujii, *Nyumon: Gendai Hollywood Eiga Kougi* (Kyoto: Jimbun Shoin), 177-223.

Westerfelhaus, R. G. (2008). Review of the books *Rhetorical Agendas: Political, Ethical/Spiritual; Critical Thinking about Sex, Love, and Romance in the Mass Media: Media Literacy Applications; Gender Communication Theories and Analyses: From Silence to Performance* Raymie McKerrow, *Review of Communication*, 8, 270-278.

### Other Articles, Chapters in Books, Publications of a Special Nature, including Book Reviews

#### Dr. Vince L. Benigni

##### *Study Guide*

Benigni, V. L., Ruth-McSwain, A. (2008). *Public Relations Strategies and Tactics* (9th ed.), (Allyn & Bacon).

**Dr. Celeste C. Lacroix**

Westerfelhaus, R. G., Lacroix, C. C. (2008). From the Closet to the Loft: Liminal License and Socio-Sexual Separation Sonja K. Foss, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy/Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration and Practice (4th ed.)* (Prospect Hgts, IL: Waveland Press), 246-252.

**Dr. Chris J. Lamb**

*Journal Article, Professional Journal*

Lamb, C. J. (2008). Editorial Cartooning: Tradition, Timidity, Transition, (Boston, MA: Nieman Reports). 62

**David M. Moscovitz**

Moscovitz, D. M. (2009). 'A Question of Transformation:' Michael Chabon's Postassimilatory Jewish Heroism Jeffrey W. Hunter, *Contemporary Literary Criticism (reprint of previously published journal article)* (Detroit, MI: Gale), 265, 71-80.

**Dr. Amanda Ruth-McSwain**

*Study Guide*

Benigni, V. L., Ruth-McSwain, A. (2008). Public Relations Strategies and Tactics (9th ed.), (Allyn & Bacon).

**Dr. Kirk S. Stone**

*Journal Article, Academic Journal*

Stone, K. S.. Review of the book, Newsrooms in Conflict: Journalism and the Democratization of Mexico, *International Communication Bulletin*.

**Dr. Robert G. Westerfelhaus**

Westerfelhaus, R. G., Lacroix, C. C. (2008). From the Closet to the Loft: Liminal License and Socio-Sexual Separation Sonja K. Foss, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy/Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration and Practice (4th ed.)* (Prospect Hgts, IL: Waveland Press), 246-252.

**Papers and Posters Presented at Conferences****Invited Lectures/Readings****Dr. Vince L. Benigni**

Vincent L. Benigni, International Communication Association Conference, "Handoff: A Multi-Method Examination of the Move from New Media of College Sports Reporters and Fans," ICA -- refereed, Chicago, IL. (May 2009).

Vincent L. Benigni, Scholarly Conference on College Sport, "Blitzing: Levels of Online Fandom and Aggression on College Football Message Boards," Chapel Hill, NC. (April 2009).

Vincent L. Benigni, Hitesman Lecturer, Louisiana State University/Manship School of Mass Communication, Baton Rouge, LA. (October 2008).

**Dr. Julie A. Davis**

Julie A. Davis, Robert G. Westerfelhaus, , Annual Conference, "Finding a Place for a Muslimah Heroine in the Post-9/11 Marvel Universe: Liminality, the American Monomyth, and the New X-Men's Dust," Midwest Popular Culture Association /American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH (aka, heaven). (October 2008).

**Ms. Anne H. Fox**

Anne H. Fox, Carolina Communication Association Conference, "Innovating the Future by Re(Visioning) the Past: On the (Inter)Disciplinary History of Communication Studies in the Carolinas," CCA, Columbia, SC. (October 2008).

**Dr. Celeste C. Lacroix**

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, Celeste C. Lacroix, , Annual Conference, "Challenging Genre Conventions and Monomythic Cultural Values: HBO's Deadwood as a Post-9/11 Ritual of Disquiet," Midwest Popular Culture Association /American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH (aka, heaven). (October 2008).

**Dr. Chris J. Lamb**

Christopher J. Lamb, Jackie Robinson's journey to spring training, Gaston College, Gastonia, NC. (March 2009).

Christopher J. Lamb, The craft of nonfiction writing, Gaston College, Gastonia, NC. (March 2009).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Kiawah retirement center, Kiawah Island. (January 2009).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Charleston Library Society Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC. (January 2009).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Shepherd's Center, James Island. (December 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Seabrook Island, Seabrook Island. (October 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Local chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals, North Charleston. (September 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, Center for Creative Retirement, Charleston. (September 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on opinion writing, George Street Observer, College of Charleston. (August 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, "I'll Be Sober in the Morning," Rotary club, Kettering, Ohio. (July 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, "I'll Be Sober in the Morning," 88 Club, Mount Pleasant. (June 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, "I'll Be Sober in the Morning," Governor's school, College of Charleston. (June 2008).

Christopher J. Lamb, Talk on humor and politics, "I'll Be Sober in the Morning," Shepherd's Center retirement center, Mount Pleasant. (May 2008).

**Dr. Michael J. Lee**

Michael J. Lee, National Communication Association, "A Theory of Political Language," National Communication Association, San Diego, CA. (November 2008).

Michael J. Lee, National Communication Association, "Between Amity and Enmity: The Style of Conservative Fusion," National Communication Association, San Diego, CA. (November 2008).

**Dr. Brian R. McGee**

Simerly, G., & McGee, B. R. (2008, November). Coaching and the philosophy of forensics. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, San Diego.

Socha McGee, D., & McGee, B. R. (2008, October). Discipline and tradition: Communication studies at the oldest university in the Carolinas. Paper presented at the meeting of the Carolinas Communication Association, Columbia, SC.

**Dr. Deborah Socha McGee**

Socha McGee, D., & McGee, B. R. (2008, October). Discipline and tradition: Communication studies at the oldest university in the Carolinas. Paper presented at the meeting of the Carolinas Communication Association, Columbia, SC.

**Dr. David M. Moscovitz**

David M. Moscovitz, National Communication Association annual meeting, "Vernacular Narcissism, Jewish Postassimilation, and the Comedy of Sarah Silverman," National Communication Association, San Diego, California. (November 2008).

David M. Moscovitz, National Communication Association annual meeting, "Vernacular Rhetorics: Agency, Epistemology, Resistance," National Communication Association, San Diego, California. (November 2008).

David M. Moscovitz, Sixth Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association (U.S.), "Cultural Studies and Institutional Change: The Story of the Collaborative for Critical Inquiry into Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality," Cultural Studies Association (U.S.), New York City, New York. (May 2008).

**Dr. Leigh M. Moscovitz**

Leigh M. Moscovitz, International Communication Association 2009 Conference, "Gay Marriage in Television News: Voice and Visual Representation in the Same-Sex Marriage Debate," International Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois. (May 2009).

Leigh M. Moscovitz, Third Thursdays, "Blogging: A Panel Discussion," College of Charleston Women & Gender Studies. (November 2008).

Leigh M. Moscovitz, South Asian Journalists Training Program, "'The Gay Plague:' The U.S. Media Discover AIDS," Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. (May 2008).

**Dr. Amanda Ruth-McSwain**

Amanda Ruth-McSwain, 2009 ACE International Meeting, "Agricultural Communication Research You Can Use," Association for Communication Excellence, DesMoines, IA. (June 2009).

Amanda Ruth-McSwain, 2009 ACE International Meeting, "Eating Green: The Role of Farmers Markets in the Locavore Movement," Association for Communication Excellence, DesMoines, IA. (June 2009).

Amanda Ruth-McSwain, Southern States Communication Association Convention, "Social marketing gain or guise: An analysis of the HPV/GARDASIL campaign," SSCA, Norfolk, VA. (April 2009).

Amanda Ruth-McSwain, ThinkTEC Forum, "Working Across Generations," Charleston Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, SC. (October 2008).

Amanda Ruth-McSwain, CofC Faculty/Staff Development Workshop, "Working Across Generations on the College Campus," College of Charleston, Human Resources, Charleston, SC. (July 2008).

**Dr. Robert G. Westerfelhaus**

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, Celeste C. Lacroix, , Annual Conference, "Challenging Genre Conventions and Monomythic Cultural Values: HBO's Deadwood as a Post-9/11 Ritual of Disquiet," Midwest Popular Culture Association /American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH (aka, heaven). (October 2008).

Julie A. Davis, Robert G. Westerfelhaus, , Annual Conference, "Finding a Place for a Muslimah Heroine in the Post-9/11 Marvel Universe: Liminality, the American Monomyth, and the New X-Men's Dust," Midwest Popular Culture Association /American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH (aka, heaven). (October 2008).

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, MUSC Political Fora, "Decision Healthcare '08: A Political Healthcare Debate," MUSC, MUSC -- Charleston, SC. (October 2008).

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, Governor's School of South Carolina, "Depictions of Gays in the Mainstream Media," Community Enrichment Program, College of Charleston. (July 2008).

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, Annual Conference, "Contemporary Applications of Burke: Analyses and Criticisms," Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA. (May 2008).

Robert G. Westerfelhaus, Annual Conference, "The Pope's Divisions: The Polarizing Discourse of Pope Benedict XVII," Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA. (May 2008).

### **Performances and Exhibitions**

#### **Mr. Gregory C. Schmitt**

Schmitt, Gregory C., Exhibition - Solo, "A State of Mind," Saul Alexander Gallery, Charleston, SC. (July 2008).

### **Honors and Awards**

#### **Dr. Tom E. Heeney**

Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, Teacher - Scholar, \$3,800.00. (June 2009).  
Attend NEH Institute on

#### **Dr. Amanda Ruth-McSwain**

Professor of the Year, Phi Eta Sigma, Teaching. (December 2008).  
Voted as a top five professor on College of Charleston campus by students. The winning five professors were invited to speak to the academic honors fraternity on their field and career progression.

## **V. Assessment**

The department completed its last required assessment report some time ago. We await the announcement of the new institutional assessment cycle and requirements. Internal assessment efforts of the department are ongoing.