

2014 COM Phonathon

Alumni should contact the department head for the department of their degree:

Communication (COM):

Shawn Wahl, 836-4423

SCRIPTING INFORMATION

What this year's gifts will support, and why support/funding for those things is important:

Communication

- Student scholarships
- Student travel to communication conferences and events; student travel support is essential because it helps undergraduate students compete for top jobs, apply to graduate/law schools, and build their resumes as engaged professionals ready to enter jobs across a variety of industries.
- Guest speakers and special student events: we have provided master classes, networking opportunities with alumni, and guest speakers.

Last year's Annual Fund gifts were used to...

Communication

- Last year's gifts contributed to almost 20 scholarships
- Approximately 15 undergraduate and graduate students presented research at the National Communication Association and Central States Communication Association Conventions
- COM sponsored several guests speakers in 13-14 including the President of the Central States Communication Association, Dr. Chad Edwards
- MSU Debate finished 2nd in the nation (Lincoln Douglas Debate National Championship)

Scholarships: How many scholarships were you able to award this year? What percent of your students rely on some kind of financial aid?

Communication: Last year's gifts contributed to almost 20 departmental scholarships

Study abroad/Study away: How many students are able to study abroad currently? Are there new countries or locations that are now accessible for study abroad? How many more places were students able to travel to (if study abroad program exists already)? How was your study abroad program enhanced?

Communication: Four Communication students studied abroad in Spain and South America. The School of Communication Studies established a partnership with Universidad de La

Sabana in Bogota, Colombia. COM Alumna, Adria Baebler, won Fulbright Scholarship and is now teaching in Uruguay.

Students: What student resources were you able to expand/continue recently? How do these resources enhance a student's education?

N/A

Equipment: How many new pieces of equipment, technology or resources were purchased for classrooms and labs? What is the significance of these upgrades?

N/A

Community outreach/programs: Have you been able to begin any new initiatives with community outreach? How many people do you affect with your existing programs? What is the goal of these programs? What do you hope these programs can accomplish for the future?

N/A

Attractions: Were you able to offer any guest speakers, visiting professors or exhibits to your students last year? How do those experiences impact your students?

Communication: sponsored several guest speakers for the MSU Public Affairs Conference. The department scholar to scholar speaker series featured nationally recognize gender communication scholar, Dr. Bren Ortega Murphy. In addition, Communication Week: (Celebrating Alumni Stories of Professional Excellence) featured four distinguished COM Alums and Dr. Chad Edwards, President of the Central States Communication Association.

How can the School/College/Department benefit from gifts at the following levels? (For example: \$50 buys a journal subscription for the library, or four gifts of \$250 add up to a scholarship for a student. Please provide as many examples as possible.)

Communication

- \$50 – Helps support student travel to national conferences
- \$100 – Helps support student scholarships
- \$250 – Helps support guest scholars/ speaker to the department and university
- \$500 – Helps support the annual COM Alumni Reception at the National Communication Association Annual Conference.
- \$25,000—Endows a student scholarship

2-3 themes/messages you would like included in your scripts (ideally these would be tied to the Annual Fund):

News from the last year:

Communication

- Department now offers a BS in Communication Online (especially helpful for transfer students). There is now an online track for the MA in Communication.
- Spicer Debate Forum finished 2nd in the nation (Lincoln Douglas Debate)
- Dr. Shawn Wahl was elected President of the Central States Communication Association
- Dr. Eric Morris served as President of CEDA (Cross Examination Debate Association)
- Departmental Growth: likely to surpass 400 undergraduate and graduate majors and has 150 minors
- Dr. Stephanie Norander was elected as a member of the National Communication Association Legislative Assembly
- Department was selected as 1 of 24 communication programs in the nation to participate in the National Communication Association Tuning Project (this project shapes student learning outcomes in communication for the future)

Points of pride/key talking points (also see above information):

Communication

- Award winning faculty in the areas of teaching, advising and research
- We have one of only a few centers for conflict and dispute resolution in the nation
- Debate team has won numerous national championships and is ranked in the top 25 in the nation
- Faculty have published numerous books and articles, faculty also hold regional and national leadership positions
- Undergraduate and graduate students present research at regional and national conferences

Major changes in the past 12 months i.e. prominent faculty or staff retired/departed, building renovations, programs eliminated, organizational changes:

Communication

- Dr. Stephanie Norander named Provost Fellow for Writing and promoted to Associate Professor of Communication.
- Dr. Kelly Wood named Provost Fellow for Student Success and promoted to Professor of Communication
- Dr. Elizabeth Dudash named 2015-16 Provost Fellow for Public Affairs and promoted to Associate Professor of Communication
- Allison Coltharp promoted to Senior Instructor of Communication.

Upcoming alumni events:

Communication: COM Alumni Reception at National Communication Association Conference (November 2014), Chicago, Illinois.

COM Week (February 2015),

COM Alumni Reception at Central States Communication Association Conference (April 2015),
Madison, Wisconsin.