

# S A S

## Speaking Across the Curriculum

Issue #17, May 1998

Robert O. Weiss, Editor

### **BUTLER UNIVERSITY**

1997-98 marks the middle of a three-year phase-in of Communication-across-the-curriculum at Butler University. The program is administered through the Department of Communication Studies. The phase-in is supported by part of a large three-year grant to Butler from the Lilly Foundation for developing programs to encourage Indiana students to persist to graduation.

During the first year the department established a half-time faculty position as Director of the Speakers' Lab and Coordinator for the student tutors. They also acquired the space and equipment for setting up the Speakers' Lab and recruited and trained four student tutors. Lab Director Paul Sandin reported that the tutors "performed well beyond our highest expectations, showing a remarkable commitment to the program and exhibiting a positive sense of 'ownership' and interest."

This year four more adjunct faculty members were hired to work specifically with outreach for the program, taking communication activities to faculty and departments outside of Communication Studies. The purpose is to consult with these faculty to show them how to develop speaking-intensive assignments, teach to those assignments, and evaluate student performance.

Communication across the curriculum fits the curricular emphasis of Butler University as the university increasingly emphasizes a "Learning Initiative," constituting a shift toward examining student outcomes and away from institutional inputs (credit hours of instruction, for example). Integrating oral communication activities and skill development throughout the curriculum is within the spirit of this emphasis.

You are invited to send news for the next (September) issue to the editor:

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### **IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS**

#### *Hamilton College*

Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, has appointed Dr. Tamara L. Burk as the "Emerson Visiting Distinguished Scholar for Faculty Development" for 1998-1999, a position supported by a grant from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation.

Dr. Burk's mandate includes assisting the faculty in developing sound pedagogical strategies in some or all of the following: designing appropriate classroom speaking exercises, managing classroom discussion, enlarging students' understanding of various kinds of oral communication, evaluating students' oral and listening skills, and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

She will be on a leave of absence from the College of William and Mary.

#### *Eckerd College*

Eckerd College has received an endowment establishing the appointment of a Farris and Victoria Rahall Professor of Communication, according to George Meese, Professor of Rhetoric at the St. Petersburg, FL, institution.

Appointed to the position after a national search was Dr. Ginger Clark, who will initiate a program including oral communication across the curriculum, media studies, and media ethics.

## CXC LISTSERVE AT THE NCA

The National Communication Association has established an e-mail discussion list on the topic of Speaking/Communication Across the Curriculum — [cxc@natcom.org](mailto:cxc@natcom.org).

The NCA office continues to receive questions about CXC. Presently, NCA's Associate Director, Sherry Morreale, provides information in response to those questions. Some of the questions also deserve on-line discussion and comment. Here's a recent question/inquiry: "The administration at our four-year school is considering down-sizing the communication department and establishing a CXC program across the entire curriculum. What should be done about that?"

If the CXC listserv were enriched with your participation, it would be an additional resource for replying to this and other questions. Please consider sending your e-mail address with a request to be added to [cxc@natcom.org](mailto:cxc@natcom.org). Send the request to [mvogl@natcom.org](mailto:mvogl@natcom.org).

## SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, is focusing on assessment features in early stages of planning a speaking across the curriculum program. Tom Harte is Speech Communication & Theatre chair.

In March, Karin Ahlm, DePauw University Associate Coordinator of Faculty Development, and Bob Weiss, Editor of the *Speaking Across the Curriculum* newsletter, were invited to the campus to confer with administrators and faculty members at SE Missouri.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Colleen Garside's graduate research area is communication across the curriculum, and she seeks information on discipline-specific differences in "effective" communication practices. Contact her at:

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or

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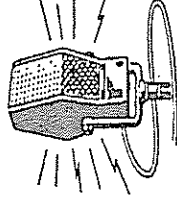
## PALMERTON AT HAMLINE

Patricia R. Palmerton has resigned as Director of Oral Communication at Hamline University, St. Paul, MN, after 13 productive years in the position.

In announcing her resignation, Dr. Palmerton commented: "I have worked closely with Hamline faculty as we have attempted to address many problems associated with implementing a Speaking Across the Curriculum Program in a sound fashion, and we have worked hard to maintain the integrity of the program.

"The Hamline faculty have responded with commitment, creativity, and skill to create courses and procedures that fulfill the requirements of a sound program: by providing students with the means by which to learn about their communication; by explicitly discussing oral communication principles within the context of the individual disciplines, by helping students reflect upon their communication behaviors, by providing students with responses about their oral communication efforts so that students can enact communication behaviors more competently."

Dr. Palmerton continues as chair of Hamline's Theatre Arts and Communication Studies Department.



## ORAL COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE GRADUATE CURRICULUM

Lisa Skow reports: The Oral Communication Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is exploring ways to provide oral communication education to graduate students throughout the campus. We discovered an untapped need of graduate students to prepare them for professional speaking at conferences.

The Graduate School has now recommended to all departments, schools, and colleges on the UNC-CH campus that they provide some kind of professional communication preparation for their graduate students. The Oral Communication program will be responsible for providing assistance to units as they develop workshops and integrate oral communication into their graduate curricula.