On April 20, Dr. Janie M. Harden Fritz was presented the Teacher of the Year Award by the Duquesne University's chapter of the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society for her exemplary teaching in the field of communication.

A scholar of organizational and interpersonal communication and the author of Professional Civility: Communicative Virtue at Work, Fritz prepares students for a reflective engagement with the professional and ethical challenges of the marketplace.

She has been with the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University since 1992, where she is both a professor and Director of the B.A. and M.A. Programs and Director of University Core Curriculum. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship and teaching.

Father Sean M. Hogan, C.S.Sp. and Executive Vice President for Student Life, commented on Dr. Fritz's career as "amazing in her commitment to teaching, research, writing, and service to the university."

Scholars Honored at 2015 Lambda Pi Eta Induction Ceremony

Duquesne University faculty members await to welcome the 2015 LPE inductees.
On April 17, Dr. William K. Rawlins of Ohio University addressed Duquesne University undergraduate and graduate communication scholars receiving honors for academic accomplishments at the Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) Induction Ceremony.

Founded in 1985, Lambda Pi Eta is the official honor society of the National Communication Association and has chapters at four-year colleges and universities around the world. The association recognizes academic achievement and encourages interest in the communication field through service activities, special events, and marketplace opportunities. Participation in Lambda Pi Eta is invitation-only and is based on academic performance.

This year, 39 students were inducted into LPE: Lauren A. Bayer, Kaitlyn N. Beauchamp, Julia Catherine Belechak, Kelsie Lyn Bianco, Nicholas Calesaric; Morgan Cavanaugh; Julia Rose Chabala; Alexandrea Dalton, Clara DelGrippo, Rebecca Donoso, Molly Fallon; Rosalie Marie Granato, Lindsay Renée Haslett, Elizabeth C. Jeffries, Kira Helena Johnson, Lauren Kelly, Kathleen M. Kerr, Bethany Majewski, Mackenzie Grace Martin; Megan Marie McCue, Emily Mendoza, Vanessa Ann Michetti, Abigail O’Connell, Brenna S. O’Neill, Melissa Portz, Sarah Quinn, Rachel Reynolds, Chandler Ariana Rossi, Kelly Rudzik, Morgan E. Rupert, Cayla Sebastian, Sofia Shanahan, Emily R. Watchek, Kimberly Watterson, Austin Whalen, Jason Todd Whitehead II, Catherine E. Wishnow, Margaret C. Zangara and Colleen Zyra.

In addition to the Lambda Pi Eta inductees, three graduate students received awards for exemplary scholarship, teaching, and service. Margaret Mullan received the Wilhelm S. Wurzer Scholarship Award, Matthew Corr received the Richard H. Thames Teaching Award, and Johan Bodaski received the Donald Clark Edwards Service Award.

Receiving the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies Communication Excellence and Ethics Education for the Mind, Heart, and Spirit Award, Dr. Rawlins gave a guest lecture titled "Stimulating Moments of Discovery: Rhythm, Will, Readiness, and Grace in Dedicated Research and Everyday Life." In his lecture, Rawlins argued that every moment of our lives holds potential for change, and he encouraged the students to see how new knowledge constantly emerges through the interconnection of rhythm, will and readiness.

Sarah Flinko, LPE Advisor and Director of Recruitment & Professional Development, said that Rawlins's address called the Lambda Pi Eta inductees to a lifetime of intellectual growth and service to others. "Lambda Pi Eta is a wonderful organization dedicated to service to the community-both Pittsburgh and Duquesne University-as well as undergraduate research and scholarship," she said. "Our LPE members work to give back to their communities while enriching their experiences at Duquesne through educational opportunities and research and professional development. Dr. Rawlins inspired them to continue this journey by beautifully illustrating the power for change in approaching life, community, and vocational living."
Undergraduates Participate in Spring Semester Public Speaking Contest

On April 10, the seven best speakers from the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies public speaking course showcased their skills in the Spring Semester Public Speaking Contest Finals.

Participating students gave exemplary ceremonial or informative speeches. The first place award went to Bryanna McDermott, a freshmen level journalism major, who spoke on sexism in sports.

Katie Miller, a sophomore physical therapy major, received second place with a speech that informed listeners about 3D-printed prosthetics. Derek Faix, a senior marketing and entrepreneurship major, placed third with a speech about the addition of a sales minor to Duquesne University.

As top-placing finishers, they received a classic work by Ernest Hemmingway, Abraham Lincoln or Charles Dickens as a prize.

Additional finalists included Kareen Ayuk, Taylor Coniglio, Annette Faith, and Johnson Hypolite.

The Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies holds a Public Speaking Contest every semester to demonstrate and further develop the speaking skills of adept students. Hannah Karolak and Susan Mancino are the public speaking course directors and coordinated the event.

"The contest displays the significance of public speaking as part of Duquesne University's core curriculum for all students in their chosen fields," Mancino said. "Congratulations to all participants and instructors on a successful event."
Students Learn about Successful Internships at Spring Internship Colloquium

On April 7, two current and one former Integrated Marketing Communication majors shared their internship experiences with students at the Spring Internship Colloquium sponsored by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies.

Brittany Naida, Carrie Barrow, and John Anderson discussed how their Duquesne University education prepared them for their internship and success after graduation. Naida and Barrow will be graduating in May 2015, and Anderson graduated in December 2014.

All three credited their internships with helping them enter the job market:

- Naida, who interned at Active Pittsburgh and Duquesne University, said her experiences helped her get her dream position at Dick's Sporting Goods. After graduation, she will be entering a 12-month Merchandising Trainee program and will work as a Merchandise Analyst or an Assistant Buyer.
- Barrow’s marketing internship at the Mario Lemieux Foundation turned into a full-time job as the organization's New Media Coordinator.
- Anderson interned at Beyond Spots and Dots, where he was offered a job after graduation as an Associate Digital Coordinator.

The Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies holds an Internship Colloquium each semester as part of its departmental internship program. Sarah Flinko, the department's Director of Recruitment and Professional Development, said that these events provide great opportunities for communication majors to learn about why internships are important and how to get them.

"Internships are vital for professional development," she said. "These events give students helpful tips, advice, and experiences that assist them in pursuing internships and marketplace opportunities."

For more information on available internship opportunities please email Flinko, Director of Recruitment and Professional Development.
2nd Undergraduate Research Colloquium

On Friday, March 20, 2015 Julia Lamar, Sofia Buxareo, and Taylor Coniglio presented scholarly papers at the 2nd Undergraduate Research Colloquium sponsored by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies. The Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies works with undergraduate students to develop engagement with scholarship, connecting ideas to the marketplace.

Lamar, Buxareo, and Coniglio will be graduating this May. Lamar is majoring in Corporate Communication and Political Science, Buxareo is majoring in Communication Studies, and Coniglio is majoring in Entrepreneurship and Communication Studies.

Scholars presented papers that were uniquely tied to their majors. In "Terror Through the Smartphone," Lamar considered ways in which terrorist organizations use social media, suggesting the construction of a "counter-narrative" to combat terrorist social media use. Buxareo's "Engagement of Reading Within Literate Culture" examined questions pertaining to the development of reading, how reading has affected our brains, and what it means to live in a literate-digital culture. Congilio, in "Defining Heroes and Villains in the Marketplace," discussed the importance of basing the marketplace on concerns beyond transactions and adding human consideration to marketplace interaction.

Dr. Janie M. Harden Fritz responded to the papers and commended the authors for their rich, articulate ideas, each of which contained implications for the public sphere, calling us to be "mindful of our responsibility to self, others, institutions, and communities."
Brian Peiritsch Honored for contributions to the Profession

On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Brian Peiritsch was presented the Anthony L. Bucci Excellence in Communication Ethics Award by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University to honor his ethical leadership in the field of communication.

Brian Peiritsch is a 1995 alumnus of Duquesne University, with a B.A. in Corporate Communication and English, and is currently employed as the Vice President of Ketchum Inc., one of the largest public relations agencies in the world. Peiritsch is the account lead for the Canned Food Alliance (CFA), which involves communicating promotions on the convenience and benefits of canned food to influencers and consumers.

During the award ceremony, Peiritsch spoke to current B.A. and M.A. communication students about the value of an education from Duquesne University, which provided him with both the work ethic and critical thinking skills necessary to excel in the marketplace. His degree from Duquesne University gave him an informed skill set for engaging in professional and ethical challenges, including work at the Eastman Kodak Group, Olympic Paint and Stain and involvement with crisis communication around the 2012 Sandusky Penn State case.

Dr. Ronald C. Arnett, Chair of the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies, spoke of Brian Peiritsch as "an exemplar of a professional communicator who thoughtfully assists businesses in navigating a confusing and, at times, contentious public environment. He situates business activity within a story that engages and clarifies corporate action."