

**In this issue:**

New Faculty	1
• Alan Zemel	
• B. J. Fehr	
Department News	2
• CSEA	
• Conversation Analysis Workshop	
• Women's Health Project	
World Health Day	3
Student Spotlight	3
• Madyson Lubba	
Alumni Corner	4
How You Can Help	4

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**SUNY-Albany**  
**Communication Alumni**

Current Faculty

Rosemary Armao  
Annis Golden  
Senem Güney  
Teresa Harrison  
Matthew Matsaganis  
Anita Pomerantz  
Nancy L. Roberts  
Mihye Seo  
Tim Stephen  
Jennifer Stromer-Galley  
Michael Barberich  
Alan T. Belasen  
Barry Eisenberg  
B. J. Fehr  
William Husson

Staff

Debbie Bourassa  
Paige Koehler Bowles

## Department Welcomes New Faculty

Assistant Professor **Alan Zemel** comes to us from the Department of Culture & Communication at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the Department of Rhetoric and Communication at Temple University, having trained as a conversation analyst. He was then a post-doctoral researcher with Tim Koschmann on the Deixis Project at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine from 2002-2004. He also worked as a post-doc with Gerry Stahl on the Virtual Math Teams project at Drexel University from 2004 to 2006.



Professor Zemel's current research interests involve conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, computer mediated communication, health communication, and multimodal interaction. Specifically, he is interested in how learning and instruction are accomplished in medical settings, and how mutual understanding is managed and accomplished in computer mediated communication.

Professor Zemel has taught a variety of courses including Communication Theory, Qualitative Research Methods, Computer Mediated Communication, Conversation Analysis, Techniques of Speaking, Intercultural Communication, Technical Writing, Argumentation, and Grant Writing.

In addition to his academic interests, Dr. Zemel has been performing music from Russia, Greece, Macedonia, and Romania for almost forty years on authentic folk instruments, including the balalaika, domra, laouto, baglamas, and tambura.

Please join us in welcoming Professor Zemel to the Department of Communication and the University at Albany!



In the fall of 2010, **B. J. Fehr** becomes a full-time lecturer in the Communication Department in the concentration areas of interpersonal and intercultural communication.

Dr. Fehr's teaching interests include face-to-face interaction, nonverbal communication, and public speaking, as well as interpersonal and intercultural communication.

Her research interests focus on the social organization of naturally occurring interaction in everyday settings from the perspective of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. She has investigated the role of eye gaze in human interaction and is now exploring the interactional work that is accomplished in greetings.

This fall Dr. Fehr will be teaching COM 371: Theories of Intercultural Communication; COM 575: Interpersonal Communication; and COM 675: Face-to-Face Interaction.

She received her Ph.D. from the University of Delaware and was a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Oxford.

## Department News and Events

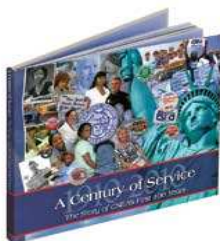
### A Century of Service: The Story of CSEA's First 100 Years

CSEA—New York's leading union—has unveiled a book that chronicles its history and the growth of New York decade by decade from the early 20th century to present day.

The coffee table-style book features thousands of photos and other images that complement the historical narrative. It also includes colorful firsthand comments, anecdotes, and other perspectives from New Yorkers of significance and scores of CSEA leaders and activists.

CSEA Director of Communications **Stephen A. Madarasz**, who earned a master's degree in political communication from UAlbany, oversaw the project and wrote most of the narrative. Madarasz has been an adjunct professor at UAlbany for about ten years and teaches a course in marketing communication for the Department of Communication.

The limited edition book can be ordered online through the CSEA e-store. Please follow the link from the home page of the CSEA website: [www.csealocal1000.org](http://www.csealocal1000.org)



### Workshop on Conversation Analysis and Clinical Encounters

O'Leary Professor **Anita Pomerantz** led a very successful five-day workshop in May 2010 on analyzing clinical encounters using the methods of conversation analysis. The workshop focused on two areas of study: exploring the provision of effective feedback to undergraduate medical students in England, and how therapists and patients deal with treatment recommendations in physiotherapy and occupational therapy in England.

The idea for the workshop originated in the summer of 2009 when Professor Pomerantz delivered a plenary talk and led a workshop at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting on Conversation Analysis and Clinical Encounters in Plymouth, England. The participants in the session were interested in further mentoring, so the organizer of the conference asked Professor Pomerantz if she would be willing to do a multiple session, follow-up workshop the following spring. Professor Pomerantz agreed, and the workshop took place in the Department of Communication at the University of Albany from May 25th-29th, 2010. Faculty and graduate students, both local and from abroad, attended the event.

### Women's Health Project Events

The Women's Health Project is a community-based initiative of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities at the University at Albany. It is funded by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health, and coordinated by project director **Annis Golden** and project co-director **Anita Pomerantz**. The Women's Health Project, along with its community partners, sponsors community events every other month on health and wellness for women. Each event includes a resource fair to bring together women who need health-related services with the community organizations that provide services, as well as an educational presentation by a local health expert.

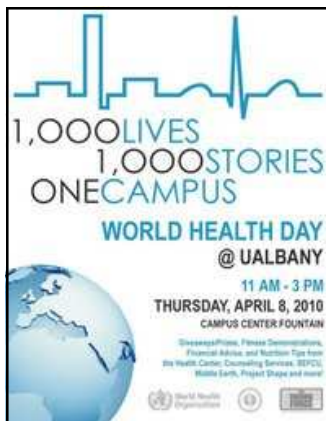
The next community event will focus on *Women's Health Needs Across the Lifespan*. Information will be provided about the health concerns and recommended medical care for women at each stage of life. This free event will take place Wednesday, August 18th in Hudson, NY. Dr. Christine Pluviose, vice president of patient services at Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, is the featured speaker.

The event kicks off with a health services resource fair at 6:00 pm, where attendees will be able to learn more about local organizations that provide health care services, sign up for services, and receive free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, as well as taxi vouchers for rides to and from women's health services.

For more information about the event or the Women's Health Project, visit their website at: <http://www.albany.edu/womenshealthproject/index.html>



## SUNY Albany's World Health Day



Students from Assistant Professor **Matthew Matsaganis'** Communication, Community, and Health course hosted a campus version of World Health Day on Thursday, April 8th at the fountain outside the Campus Center from 11 am to 3 pm. The event was held to draw attention to often overlooked campus health issues, particularly stress, and to showcase the resources available to help students cope.

As part of a term project for the course, a group of graduate students spear-headed the World Health Day initiative on the SUNY Albany campus. World Health Day, sponsored by the World Health Organization, is an international initiative that brings attention to the most pressing health concerns of the day. This year's theme, "1,000 Cities, 1,000 Lives" explored how large-scale urbanization negatively impacts health, from less time spent outdoors to an almost total reliance on cars for transportation. In addition to increasing obesity rates, heavy stress and even mental illness can result from the social isolation that is often a consequence of urbanization.

Professor Matsaganis values the unique contribution of this group. "This started out as a term project, but these ladies took it above and beyond. Their event was instrumental in drawing attention to a chronic health issue on our campus."

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## Student Spotlight

Senior Communication major **Madyson Lubba** has been selected to teach in the Teach for America program. This is a very competitive program with a multi-step written application process that takes into account grades, community involvement, and leadership. This is followed by a phone interview and then an all-day, in-person interview. The applicant must prepare and present a sample teaching lesson, then participate in group work to assess his or her ability to work with strangers, and finally have a one-on-one interview which lasts about an hour.

At the end of the application process, Madyson was one of only 3,700 people selected from an applicant pool of 24,718. This year was Teach For America's most competitive in its eighteen year history.

Madyson is currently taking part in the rigorous five-week training program that includes four weeks of teaching reading and math in the Mississippi Delta. The days begin very early and she is at school most of the day, while her evenings are spent doing lesson plans and other work. The purpose of the intensive training is to make all of the participants better teachers.

Madyson's goal is to help fulfill Teach For America's mission, that "one day all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education." Madyson reflects on her decision to apply to the Teach for America program: "Our country is facing a problem. Children are being passed through grade after grade without any investment. As I have discovered first hand, there are children in middle and high school who are reading on a second grade level, and their math skills are equally low. This is a very real problem in our country that I and my 3,699 colleagues are working to change."

Starting this fall, Madyson will be teaching 8th grade history at Livonia High School, located just outside of Baton Rouge, LA. To learn more about Teach For America please visit their website:

<http://www.teachforamerica.org/>



## ALUMNI CORNER

Many opportunities exist for alumni to help students. The programs below provide students the opportunity to gain valuable experience. For more information, please visit our website or contact Paige Koehler Bowles at [pkbowles@albany.edu](mailto:pkbowles@albany.edu).

- Alumni In the Classroom
- Externship Program
- Career Panelists
- Speakers Bureau
- Mentoring Program
- Giving Back

### Tell Us How You're Doing!

Each semester we will feature a department alum in our Hall of Fame who has gone on to do great things in the field of communication. Would you be a good candidate? Please visit our website at: [www.albany.edu/communication/alumni.htm](http://www.albany.edu/communication/alumni.htm) and submit your information to [pkbowles@albany.edu](mailto:pkbowles@albany.edu) now!



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