

### Faculty Research Biographies

(see also <http://college.up.edu/commstudies/default.aspx?cid=9822&pid=284&gd=yes>)

Courtney Vail Fletcher, Ph.D. (2009, University of New Mexico), Assistant Professor, joined the University in 2010 and currently teaches Interpersonal Communication, Research Methods, and Computer-Mediated Communication. Her research focuses on the intersections of culture, conflict, and identity with an emphasis on African-based phenomena. She is currently exploring the re-creation and disruption of identity in a post-genocidal Rwanda, while her dissertation explored cross-cultural differences in romantic conflict styles in Uganda and Ethiopia. Her most recent journal article was published in the *Western Journal of Communication*. She is a trained mediator and enjoys using a multimedia platform in her research and teaching.

Renee G. Heath, Ph.D. (2005, University of Colorado- Boulder), Associate Professor, teaches Organizational Communication, Persuasion and Leadership, Studying Organizations in Natural Settings (qualitative research), Small Group Communication, and Communication and Collaboration for Sustainability. Her research centers on community collaboration with an emphasis on democratic communication practices. She has published in *Management Communication Quarterly*, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and *Communication Yearbook*. Dr. Heath earned two teaching awards in her pre-UP career and has been nominated repeatedly for the University of Portland's highest teaching honor. She also consults with local organizations in her areas of expertise.

Jeff Kerksen-Griep, Ph.D. (1997, University of Washington), Professor and Department Chair, came to the University in 1998. He teaches Intercultural Communication, Communication Theory, Communication across Barriers, and Introduction to Communication Studies, as well as Interpersonal, Small Group, Public, Business & Professional, and Leadership Communication. His scholarship examines intercultural contact and explores how skilled facework helps unlock instructional communication's relational potentials. His research is published in *Communication Education*, *The Journal of Transformational Education*, *Western Journal of Communication*, and elsewhere; his pedagogical articles appear in *Communication Teacher*, *Portland Tomorrow's Professor*, and *The Teaching Professor*, among other venues. Recent honors include UP's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2004, the ASUP Faculty of the Year Award in 2006, the Western States Communication Association's 2006 "Master Teacher" designation, and the University's Outstanding Scholarship Award in 2010.

Bohn Lattin, Ph.D. (1992, University of Oregon), Associate Professor, joined the faculty in 1992. He teaches Public Speaking, Persuasion and Leadership, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Advanced Public Speaking, Business and Professional Communication, the Rhetoric of Social Justice, Rhetoric and Politics, and the Rhetoric of Sustainability. He founded and directs the award winning University of Portland Speech and Debate Union and is Director of the University of Portland Ethics Bowl Team, which won championship honors in 2009. His research examines how leaders in the public arena create messages to form and shape and motivate communities. He has published in the *Journal of Communication and Religion*, *Speech Teacher*, *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, and in the *Journal of the Northwest Communication Association*. The Associated Students of the University of Portland (ASUP) honored him with their 2003 Faculty Member of the Year Award. He works to foster the notion that all students have an obligation to use their talents to advocate and to speak out for those who are not able to speak for themselves. Bohn also currently serves as president of the Northwest Communication Association.

Jennette Lovejoy, Ph.D. (2010, Ohio University), Assistant Professor, joined the faculty in 2010. She teaches journalism courses such as Writing and Reporting, Media and Society, and the Journalism Practicum, along with special topics courses designed to reflect the converging worlds of journalism and technology. Her research interests span mass communication theory, online media, health communication, and discourses and beliefs about health and disease. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* and *Mass Communication and Society* and presented at several national and international

conferences. In 2009, she was awarded 'Most Promising Professor' by the Mass Communication and Society division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

Dann L Pierce, Ph.D. (1985, University of Iowa), Associate Professor, joined the faculty in 1987. His areas of study and teaching are visual persuasion, rhetorical criticism, media criticism, public speaking, and popular forms of public argument. His research discovers the persuasive power of narrative, comparisons, and visual messages. His work appears in the Journal of the Northwest Communication Association, Virginia Communication Journal, and the World Communication Journal. He is the author of *Rhetorical Criticism and Theory in Practice* (McGraw-Hill, 2003).

Elayne Shapiro, Ph.D. (University of Minnesota), Associate Professor and current Graduate Program Director for the Department of Communication Studies, came to the University of Portland in 1987 from North Dakota State University. She teaches Public Speaking, Leadership, Interpersonal Communication, Family Communication, Conflict and Organizational Communication courses. Her research interests include conflict, computer-mediated communication, family communication, pedagogy and health communication. Her research appears in several book chapters, the *Journal of the Northwest Communication Association*, the *Journal of American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, *The Journal of College Teaching*, and *The Journal of Religious Education*. Articles about teaching pedagogy have also appeared in *The Teaching Professor and Communication Teacher*. She is co-author of *Reading the Bible: Transforming Conflict* written with Dr. Carol Dempsey (Orbis, 2011). She is a certified mediator and mediates in Small Claims Court and with Resolutions Northwest.