

CommDev E-Newsletter

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1. New CommDev Initiative

The Scripps College of Communication and the Communication & Development Studies program at OU have teamed up with the Center for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana to launch a \$300,000 project to upgrade mass communication and journalism education and training in Guyana. Funded by USAID, the 3-year project is designed to help the center at the University of Guyana revise its curriculum, upgrade faculty skills, provide training for journalists in Guyana and encourage research activities.

According to the project's schedule, the first faculty member from the Center for Communication Studies, University of Guyana will come to OU in Fall, 2009 and become a CommDev student, and one graduate student from OU will meanwhile go to the University of Guyana as exchange. Dr. Vibert Cambridge from the School of Media Arts and Studies is the Principal Investigator/Project Manager. Professors Mary Rogus and Sandra Haggerty of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism are the other members of the project team.

2. Message from CommDev Alumnus

Rakdaow Pritchard, one of the CommDev alumni, sent us a message following our last newsletter, sharing his current working experience with the Population Services International ([www.psi.org](http://www.psi.org)), the leading nonprofit social marketing organization in the world. Based in Washington D.C., PSI harnesses the vitality of the private sector to address the health problems of low-income and vulnerable populations in more than 60 developing countries. Rakdaow, who was in Class 95 of the CommDev program, now resides in Kunming of Southwest China's Yunnan Province. If anyone needs the PSI Annual Report 08 that Rakdaow shared, please contact Leon Yu Liang at [yl139506@ohio.edu](mailto:yl139506@ohio.edu).

### 3. CommDever to Address the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar

First-year CommDev student Idrissa Fane is to present a paper at the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, which will run from Feb. 11 to 15 in Washington D.C.. With a theme of “Global Challenges, Local Solutions: Fostering Change through Social Entrepreneurship”, the event will consist of discussions with leading social entrepreneurs, community outreach programs and student-led activities designed to display how social entrepreneurship can impact communities in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Idrissa’s paper “Initiating an employee loan fund: Opportunities and challenges” will be about the social innovation he initiated in his home country of Mali.

The seminar is an annual event organized by the U.S. Department of State colleagues and Institute of International Education. There will be altogether nine seminars for first-year foreign Fulbright Students taking place between the months of February and April, 2009. Each seminar selects 12 Fulbrighters to give a presentation on a social innovation project they are involved in.

### 4. CommDever to Present at the African Literature Association Conference

First-year CommDever Jean Claude Kwitonda has had a paper accepted by the 35th annual conference of the African Literature Association. To be held from April 15-19 at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont, the conference gathers scholars and teachers from countries to present on Modern African Literature and visual art. Jean Claude’s paper is about perspectives of liberation in African literature expressed through symbolic representation.

Jean Claude had a teaching experience of African literature and communication skills in Rwanda at Kigali Institute of Education where he did a bachelor’s degree in literature with education. He said, as part of his regional focus, he is particularly interested in African Literature and Cinema.

### 5. Call for Abstracts for 2009 Health Communication, Marketing & Media Conference

Call for abstracts for the third Annual National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media is now open. To be held August 11-13, 2009 at the Omni Hotel, Atlanta, GA, the conference planning committee now invites abstracts for both oral and poster presentations in the following submission types -- Research and Evaluation, Theoretical and Practice/Program -- based in one of four program tracks:

- \* Health Marketing: Nuts, Bolts and Beyond
- \* Social Determinants of Health
- \* New Frontiers - Trends and Technology
- \* Partnerships/Collaborations - Synergistic Relationships

Deadline for submission is March 16, 2009. The event is sponsored by the National Center for Health Marketing, the Office of Enterprise Communication, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Cancer Institute and the National Public Health Information Coalition. For more information about the about the conference and abstract submission, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthmarketing/NCHCMM2009/>

#### 6. 2009 OU Student Research and Creative Activity Expo

CommDevers, get ready to share your research, scholarship or creative activity at the 9th Annual Ohio University Student Research and Creative Activity Expo on Thursday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Convocation Center.

Creative posters, exhibits, performances, film screenings and other presentation formats are welcome. Awards will be given for the best presentations in each category: \$300 (1st prize) and \$100 (2nd prize). Categories are limited to no more than 12 presentations and assigned by discipline. Free food and door prizes for all presenters! For more information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.ohio.edu/research/students>. Registration is open from Monday, Feb. 2, to Friday, March 20.

The 2008 event featured more than 500 students in 45 individual categories, with projects ranging from dancing puppets to a prototype for a flying car. More than 1,000 students, faculty, staff, community members and local middle and high school students attended the event.

#### 7. Call for Online Journal of Space Communication Winter Issue

The Online Journal of Space Communication now opens call for papers for its winter issue. The issue will be devoted to the role of satellites in health services delivery, disease prevention, and health education and communication. The deadline for submissions is February 27.

The journal is sponsored by the Society of Satellite Professionals International ([www.sspi.org](http://www.sspi.org)) and hosted at Ohio University under the editorial management of the Communications and Development Program ([www.ohio.edu/commdev](http://www.ohio.edu/commdev)). Its goal is to

continue to serve as a record and repository for developments of public significance in satellite and space communication, and to promote critical analysis of those developments. As a cross disciplinary publication distributed electronically, the journal provides case studies in historical perspective intended to inform users, stimulate discussion and help to set future agendas. For more information, please visit: [www.spacejournal.org](http://www.spacejournal.org). For journal submission guidelines please visit: <http://satjournal.tcom.ohiou.edu/guidelines.html>.