Welcome to the inaugural edition of the new Communication Studies newsletter! The department, with the benefit of Meghan Knouse's inspired guidance, decided that now is the time to reconnect with our alumni and other department supporters. First, we miss you. It's true: every time a Gustie grad drops us a line about how things are going, we quickly share the news with one another, usually in the hallway outside of 323 and 327. Second, we hope you might like to know about your department and the exciting events and programs that mark our progress.

Some of you will remember when there were fewer than 100 Communication Studies majors (And, for some, it was a "Speech" major!) Others will recall when the department had two or three tenured professors. Others will look back to the days when Mark Braun was department chair (now, he's an associate dean), when I became the Pre-Law Program Director (still am), when Lea Rammells came to campus (she is now vice-chair of the Faculty Senate), when Patty English moved here from Montana (she is now a tenure-track professor), when Mariangelina Marques celebrated her 10th anniversary at Gustavus (last year). The list of accomplishments and changes goes on.

While we all call Gustavus home, you will find that our faculty are increasingly out-and-about with students. Lee and Patty have created a fantastic 3-term course in Fiji. Ellen Riordan, who teaches our media courses in Mark's absence, is piloting a course to Brazil in three months. Phil Voight is completing a sabbatical leave after teaching for a semester in India. In Phil's absence, Kris Kracht leads a tremendous Forensics program that marks our progress.

We hope you will find that this newsletter is a way for all of us to keep in touch no matter where we are. And we hope you—whether you graduated a year ago or ten or more (or perhaps you are one of the almost 200 Communication Studies majors here today)—may find in reading this newsletter a sense of pride for and ownership of the Communication Studies department that we all share.
Rosati admits that her schedule at WMAQ is often chaotic, but revels in the public eye. "I love being in the studio and getting up there to deliver the information." She anchors the 5 p.m. news and heads back to her desk to continue working on stories for the late news. "It's a wonderful job because you get to tell great stories for, as she said, 'getting up there to deliver the information.' She anchors the 5 p.m. news and, after a long but gratifying day, finally heads home. "

In addition to keeping busy at the station, Rosati also spends a considerable amount of time volunteering—a social imperative for her. "I do as much as I can. I have been so blessed and it's my way of giving back to the community." She volunteers at early grades, and you get to help inform people so that they can make decisions about their lives and important issues; you're changing lives because of the information." She anchors the 5 p.m. news and, after a long but gratifying day, finally heads home.

While Rosati relishes life in the public eye, the private side of her life brings her the most fulfillment. Rosati and her husband, a radiologist, are the proud parents of two children. "It's wonderful to be there for them and be a part of their lives as best I can." Rosati enjoys bringing her children to school each morning and says her schedule allows her to be very involved in their lives. In fact, she is the room parent for her daughter Kristen's classroom. "I love volunteering at school," she said. "It's important for me in knowing that my children know I love them, and that they have a sense of peace and goodness in their home." Rosati enjoys bringing her children to school each morning and says her schedule allows her to be very involved in their lives. In fact, she is the room parent for her daughter Kristen's classroom. "I love volunteering at school," she said. "It's important for me in knowing that my children know I love them, and that they have a sense of peace and goodness in their home." Rosati enjoy...
An Update from Home and Abroad

by Terry Morrow

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Warmest regards,
Terry

Anchoring news and so much more

Gustie alumna is breaking the news, serving the community, raising a family

by Rosemary Shult

Allison Rosati always knew what she wanted to do with her life. "This is an incredibly exciting career," she said. "And I know exactly what I want to do." The 6 and 10 p.m. anchor of Chicago's NBC-5 WMAQ graduated from Gustavus in 1985 not certain of the path she would take, but certain of the place she wanted to work. "I went into the Career Center and they told me to write down where I wanted to be in five years," she said. "I wrote down that I wanted to be anchoring a morning show in Chicago. And, sure enough, that's what I was doing five years later.

After graduating from Gustavus, it took her just three and a half years—Rosati headed to Rochester, Minnesota, and was immediately hired as a weekday reporter. While there, she learned how to produce a newscast and was promoted to anchor of the 6 and 10 p.m. news. After six months, she was flown to Chicago to audition for WMAQ, but turned down the position, feeling overwhelmed by the large city and the new market. Despite turning down the Chicago offer, Rosati accepted another offer in Buffalo, New York, and continued on next page

Drop us a note!

Want to reminisce about college life? Care to share feedback on this newsletter? Got an idea for an article in the next newsletter? Would you like to be a contributing writer for a newsletter? Want to set up an alumni social event? Is there something you simply must share? If so, let us know. And while you’re at it, tell us what you’re doing these days. We want to tell everyone about the exciting jobs our graduates have, so tell us about yours. Don’t be shy—send us a brief description of where you’re working and/or volunteering, and what that entails. This is your opportunity to shine!
Rosati admits that her schedule at WMAQ is often chaotic, but revels in the 6 p.m. news and heads back to her desk to continue working on stories for the late news. "It’s a wonderful job because you get to tell great stories and you get to help inform people so that they can make decisions about their lives and important issues; you’re changing lives because of the information," she said. She anchors the 10 p.m. news and, after a long but gratifying day, finally heads home.

In addition to keeping busy at the station, Rosati also spends a considerable amount of time volunteering—a social imperative for her. "I do as much as I can. I have been so blessed and it’s my way of going back to the viewers in the ways that I can," she said. As a public figure, Rosati participates in community events almost daily. "We get inundated with requests," she said. "And if my showing up means that the organization can feel like their event is going well and is going to be successful, I’m there. That’s the least I can do.

While Rosati relishes life in the public eye, the private side of her life brings her the most fulfillment. Rosati and her husband, a radiologist, are busy raising four children; for Rosati, a former foster child who was never adopted, this is her most important job. "My husband and my children are busy raising four children; for Rosati, a former foster child who was never adopted; this is her most important job. "My husband and my children are the 6 p.m. news and heads back to her desk to continue working on stories for the late news. "It’s a wonderful job because you get to tell great stories and you get to help inform people so that they can make decisions about their lives and important issues; you’re changing lives because of the information," she said. She anchors the 10 p.m. news and, after a long but gratifying day, finally heads home.

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If you received only a hard copy of this newsletter via hard mail in the past, please respond with your name and full e-mail address so that we may understand your interest. Perhaps you are one of the almost 200 Communication Studies graduates who have an interest in remaining in touch with the department and the alumni community.

We miss you. It’s true: every time a current Communication student mentions, "I could go back to Gustavus!" it’s a question I am routinely asked when I tell people I teach at my alma mater. Though my response is usually a polite, "I’m glad you like it here," the reality is that teaching alongside my former classmates is something I enjoy. There are many benefits to working on a campus with your former students; it’s easy to ask for feedback and it’s fun to see students who have an interest in the department. One of the things I like best about teaching at Gustavus is the faculty culture. It’s encouraging to see the enthusiasm and support that colleagues show for one another's work. I also love being part of the Communication Studies department here at Gustavus. It’s a place where we all share a sense of pride for and ownership of the Communication Studies programs that mark our progress.

And to carry out these objectives, a small student editorial staff and I intend for communication from our end to be sent out twice a year (unless, of course, your interest would necessitate more frequent communication). It is our hope that through this effort to link alumni, you will continue to develop your ties to the Communication Studies community. Your feedback on this newsletter is more than welcome, and might even provide input on the next newsletter.

In thinking about my time back at Gustavus, I feel especially privileged to have seen the department from the “other side.” With such warm regard for a group of cool colleagues, it’s truly a pleasure to share them with you again.

Warmest regards,
Terry