

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **FSU Communication Studies Major and Leadership Studies Minor Builds Communication Studies Community**

**Frostburg, MD, May 26, 2009**—Frostburg State University Senior Jennifer Hunt completed her Communication Studies Capstone experience in the form of a 3-credit practicum this Spring for the university's Communication Studies Department under the mentorship of Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies. Hunt, a Communication Studies major and Leadership Studies minor, is also a member of Delta Zeta National Sorority and the Order of Omega Honor Society. She is also a Sloop Leadership Institute and GOLD graduate. Hunt served as an influential leader while at FSU through philanthropic and fundraising activities for her sorority and other organizations. She is from Mechanicsville, MD, and is the daughter of Warren and Susan Hunt.

The Communication Studies Capstone is the culminating experience of the Communication Studies major and is either a 3-credit practicum or 12 or 15 credit internship experience within an approved organizational setting. In her Capstone experience, Hunt focused on improving the relations between Communication Studies students, alumni, and faculty of Frostburg State University. She encouraged the fostering of relationships through several networking initiatives, including development of the second volume of the department newsletter; direct correspondence with alumni; participation in a focus group discussion about the major; and co-coordination an end-of-semester colloquium to facilitate communication across the Department. She also created a manual and "job description" of this particular Capstone experience to guide future students in their experiences.

Hunt wrote several articles for the department's newsletter, *Communication Connection*, which required her to interview several individuals. The newsletter is an exciting culmination of several features; for example, it increases the spirit of its major and alumni readers through parallel interviews with a 1979 Speech Communication graduate and a graduating Communication Studies senior. Additionally, it features information on new faculty, a letter from the chair, an update on retired faculty, information on the past and upcoming National Communication Association conventions, and student awards and honors.

While working on the newsletter, Hunt commented, "I was able to demonstrate and enhance the communication skills I have learned from various classes." Dr. Brent Kice, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, stated, "The skills Jennifer acquired in the process of creating a department newsletter are skills that will set her apart in the workplace. These skills grant her that special 'thing' that will make her stand out, and increase her necessity to a specific organization."

Throughout the Capstone experience, Hunt was responsible for serving as a liaison between the Communication Studies Club and Capstone students as well as between

the Department and other offices and services on campus. Dr. Marc Routhier, Chair of Communication Studies, says, "In completing her Communication Studies Practicum, Jennifer Hunt has had to coordinate the efforts of numerous people and offices, create and rely upon a tremendous amount of organization, pursue tenaciously what was at times [a transitioning] end-product, and master many other necessary skills associated with document preparation, production, and distribution."

Under the mentoring of her advisor, Dr. Ruminski, Hunt was able to learn various lessons. Hunt states, "I am glad the Capstone requirement is a necessity to our curriculum because it enables a student to evaluate their preparedness for the real world." Further, Hunt states, "I have learned more from my Capstone experience than I can express. I was so lucky to have such a supportive site. I was able to ask questions and make the practicum 'my own.'" Ruminski says, "Jenn has become a respectful, accomplished woman who can assert her opinion in a way that negotiates the suggestions and considerations of others. I am very proud of her growth and grateful for her contributions to the Major this year." Hunt has been an asset to the Communication Studies Department and will be greatly missed.

For more information on the Communication Studies major at Frostburg State University, contact Ruminski, who will serve as interim chair of Communication Studies this summer, at 301-687-4480 or [elruminski@frostburg.edu](mailto:elruminski@frostburg.edu). The newsletter and information about the major can be found at the Department's website at <http://www.frostburg.edu/dept/cmst/>.

###