

Professional Advancement

Tatyana Dumova, Ph.D., associate professor of digital media in the School of Communication, has been appointed editor of a new interdisciplinary scholarly journal, the *International Journal of Interactive Communication Systems and Technologies* (IJICST). This peer-reviewed journal focuses on a broad spectrum of existing and emerging Internet-based technologies, their applications, functions and services. The journal is an official publication of the Information Resources Management Association and is housed by IGI Global. IJICST seeks to explore multidimensional relationships between technology and contemporary society with the purpose of broadening the interdisciplinary body of knowledge pertaining to various aspects of interactive communication systems, platforms, components, devices, interfaces, tools, and techniques. Dumova's research concentrates on the social implications of information and communication technologies and the role of technology in teaching and learning. She recently lead-edited the two-volume *Handbook of Research on Social Interaction Technologies and Collaboration Software: Concepts and Trends*.

Archish Maharaja, Ph.D., and **Mohammed Sidky**, Ph.D., presented papers at the annual conference of the Northeastern Association of Business, Economics and Technology (NABET) in State College, Pa., last October. Maharaja presented a paper on the *Use of the Electronic Health Record in Private Medical Practices*. Sidky presented a paper titled *When the Center Fails: Perspectives on The End of Globalization as We Know It*. Maharaja, whose research activities are concentrated in health care administration and management and information technology (as it applies to health care), also made a presentation at the World Health Information Technology Conference in Arlington, Va. last November. The conference featured speeches by former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, as well as leaders in the health care industry.

Tim Hudson, Ph.D., dean of the School of Communication, addressed the Joint Regional Conference of the Broadcast Education Association in Cincinnati on Oct. 17. In his presentation *Not Necessarily the News*, Hudson dis-

cussed ways to instill and preserve traditional principles such as accuracy, investigation and objectivity in multimedia journalism classes, especially in context of the current online and cable news atmosphere. Other conference speakers addressed various changes in the media industries, often focusing on the uncertainties surrounding future business models. According to Hudson, newspaper, television, advertising and Web media executives spoke of "optimism, apprehension, excitement, dread, hyper-localism and confusion." Despite industry perplexity, Hudson was encouraged to note that, based on the various assessments and predictions, Point Park's School of Communication seems to be moving in the right direction, updating its highly regarded programs in Journalism, Broadcasting, Public Relations and Advertising with more opportunities to learn digital media production and interactive media techniques. "Our new major in Digital Media is a future-oriented degree program that also helps us infuse Point Park's traditional majors with innovative classes and ideas," said Hudson.

Dane S. Claussen, Ph.D., professor and director of graduate programs and faculty development in the School of Communication, has been named a visiting professor at IE University in Spain, where he presented three lectures last November. At the IE Business School campus in Madrid, he presented *How the United States Leads Corporate Communications Education Worldwide, and Why That's Still Not Good Enough* to DirCom, Spain's largest association of corporate communications and other public relations professionals. He also presented a lecture on *Mass Media: The 'Other' Most Mismanaged U.S. Industry (Besides Airlines & Autos)* to the faculties of the IE School of Communication and IE Business School. He presented a third lecture, *Storm und Drang: Myths and Realities of Today's U.S. News Media*, to undergraduate communication and business students at IE University's main campus in Segovia. While in Spain, Claussen consulted with the IE School of Communication dean and faculty about the school's curriculum; possible academic accreditations, student recruitment strategies, and potential faculty and/or student exchange programs between Point Park and IE University. A Fulbright Specialist, Claussen is editor of *Journalism &*

Mass Communication Educator, the international, refereed, quarterly journal published by the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication.

Andrew Conte, a reporter for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and founding director of the Point Park News Service, received the top investigative reporting award from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), with fellow Trib reporter **Luis Fabregas**, for a series of articles based on a four-month investigation examining liver transplant programs nationwide. The series "Transplanting Too Soon" detailed how hundreds of patients underwent transplants when they didn't need them. Published in March 2008, the three articles detailed the lack of federal regulation of the quality of livers used for transplants and the substantial fees hospitals collect when the procedures are performed in their facilities. According to the Tribune Review, the series prompted calls for a change in the allocation rules for transplants. "Wonderful works, such as yours, not only make us proud, but also do much to help fulfill our mission," the NAHJ said in announcing the award.



Steven M. Hallock, Ph.D.

Steven M. Hallock, Ph.D., assistant professor of journalism at Point Park, is the author of the recently published *Reporters Who Made History: Great American Journalists on the Issues and Crises of the Late 20th Century*. The book looks at a series of extraordinary chapters in the American story through the eyes of 10 giants of journalism: Helen Thomas, Anthony Lewis, Morley Safer, Earl Caldwell, Ben Bradlee, Georgie Anne Geyer, Ellen Goodman, Juan Williams, David Broder, and Judy Woodruff. Taking each of