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competition. “The Public Speaking Competition is a great way for students to practice their public speaking skills, voice their opinions, and inform others on a topic of their choice.” A wide variety of topics was discussed in this year’s competition, ranging from, marijuana, to race relations in America. The first place speech in the informative category went to Teresa McCarthy for her speech about being a student tour guide on campus. The runner-up in the informative category went to Dallas Green for her speech on how to prepare for studying abroad. First place winner of the persuasive category was Kaeleigh Champlin for her speech on, believe it or not, public speaking. The runner-up was Susan Threadgill for her speech on why more people should adopt rescued animals. The popular vote winners were Nicholas Gunner, in the informative category, for his speech on his Website Atmotag.com, and Chris Schilling for his persuasive speech challenging whether senior citizens should be allowed to drive

on the road if they are not fit to do so.

The first place winners in both categories each received a \$200 cash prize and the second place winners in both categories each received a \$100 cash prize. The winners of the audience popular vote in each category won Fredonia gift baskets, consisting of various SUNY Fredonia merchandise.



Senior Teresa McCarthy giving her winning speech

# Communication Department Students Excel with Internships

By Kelley Smith

As landing a job becomes more difficult to do with today’s economy, communication department students are finding that internships are putting them one step ahead of the game. Although internships are not required by the communication curriculum, students choose to do them so that upon graduation they are more marketable, have more hands-on experience, and can be able to tell future employers, “Yes, I’ve done that before, not a problem.”

Linda Brigance, associate professor of communication, is the faculty advisor to students choosing to do an internship within the communication department. Upon the retirement of professor emeritus Joe Chilberg, Brigance volunteered to take over as the internship supervisor. She feels that it is an opportunity to interact with and learn more from her students. Brigance reports that all of the evaluations she receives back from site supervisors are glowing. Organizations with communication interns speak very highly of SUNY Fredonia students.

One student in particular who is excelling in

his internship and experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is Brent McConnell. McConnell is a senior audio/radio production major with a TV/film minor. He is currently spending his last semester interning with MTV Radio in Los Angeles. His experience involves working side-by-side with the representatives in the department interviewing celebrities, editing interviews for sound bites, and writing stories around the sound bites. One of his accomplishments so far in L.A. has been going backstage prior to the GRAMMY® Awards and interviewing around 30 famous artists, including The All-American Rejects, Jason Derulo, Katherine McPhee, and Lifehouse. He has also attended screenings and press conferences for the films “The Last Song,” “How to Train Your Dragon,” and “The Back-up Plan,” all of which he covered completely on his own.

McConnell credits the trust that his supervisor gives him to cover these events on his own to his involvement at Fredonia.

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While at Fredonia, he was involved with the Fredonia Radio Systems doing everything from being a DJ and a journalist, to holding the position of assistant chief engineer.

“The internship has allowed me to apply my experience and education I gained from the campus radio station to a network that is a staple in the entertainment industry,” says McConnell. “I feel that the transition from college to the ‘real world’ will be much smoother because I am allowed to make mistakes and staff members are more willing to work with interns on issues.” While he says only good things about the radio station and the communication department curriculum, he admits that he could have never experienced all of the things he has in the small town of Fredonia.

Students like McConnell are finding out more and more what they actually want to do in their career by doing internships. While the programs that the six majors in the communication department are teaching are extremely helpful with preparation and hands-on learning, students feel more confident job searching when they have taken part in an internship.



Brent McConnell and Jared Leto backstage at the GRAMMYs®

# Fredonia Turkish Film Project Comes to a Close with Great Success

By Brooke Salvatore

It has been more than a year since Fredonia communication professors Dr. Ted Schwalbe and Nefin Dinç began an extensive project to teach Turkish students how to create films. Dinç traveled throughout various cities in Turkey to educate 72 selected students who had little or no knowledge in film production. The students were taught in three sessions, lasting 21 days, which covered the topic of using film to create discussion of important social issues, types of fiction and nonfiction films, writing scripts, camera techniques, sound recording, lighting, and editing.

In September 2009, 18 of the 72 students were selected to travel to the United States and come to Fre-

donia to complete their films. Here, they had access to film equipment not available to them in Turkey.

“It was the most intense two weeks,” said Schwalbe who worked closely on this project. “The students worked nonstop and pulled all-nighters to complete their films, as there were many technical difficulties faced along the way.”

Of the 18 students, only one was English speaking and all films had to have English subtitles added to them. Adding subtitles was a very difficult process that took a long time to complete. All of the students were able to show their films in a screening on Fredonia’s campus by the end of their stay.

The films lasted between 5 to 10 minutes,

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