

Successful Alumni:

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO MY CAREER...

Hey, that friendly-looking guy on the outfield grass at Yankee Stadium can't be a Comm Department alum. Wait a minute, that's **Dave Goldstein**, BA, 1988, and this is part of his sketch on NBC Television's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*! Actually, Dave is more-or-less a "regular" guest on *Late Night*, with a dozen appearances so far – including one as a naked traffic cop in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

So how did Dave Goldstein get from Pearson Hall in Newark DE to Yankee Stadium and national exposure at Rockefeller Center? Very methodically, it turns out.

"When I graduated UD, I knew I could write with a goal in mind ... and communicate that goal," he reflected recently. The UD Communication Department was truly the first place where I learned to develop an idea, craft a message, and see if I was able to communicate my point." Evidently he was able to communicate his point with thousands of live audience members and network television viewers. A *New York Post* entertainment reporter singled out Dave as the one member of a Gotham Improv cast who could pull off "a funny bit" interacting with the live audience.

"The hard part is finding what's common

to people even if they don't realize it, and then using the shared experience to make people laugh ... my time at the University of Delaware taught me that I had the talent or the gift to do something in entertainment. Whether it was writing and shooting video shorts, discussions in class, public speaking classes, or performing on and off campus, I learned that I could do it ... I wasn't just another funny guy in my apartment with my friends."



Dave Goldstein

Dave Goldstein, B.A. 1988, has established himself as a comedic talent and guest performer on network television and other venues since graduating from UD

His advice to today's Communication Majors is simple and straightforward. "Do the work. Whether it's writing, shooting and editing video, or designing an ad campaign.

You'll learn the fundamentals at UD, but you've got to develop the skills you'll need in your field. It's the same thing I tell younger comedians ... *write!* There's no substitute for working. ... And, most importantly, if you come to one of my shows – **no heckling!**"

If you'd like to enjoy more of Dave Goldstein's wit and wisdom, we suggest that you take in one of his upcoming comedy appearances ... or learn more about him and DJ New Orleans Slick on his Website www.davegoldstein.com. Plus, Dave won't mind if you send him an adulatory email at comicgold@prodigy.net

COMMUNICATION STUDENTS GET OUT OF TOWN

Plenty of learning takes place daily on the Newark campus. But sometimes it benefits our Communication students to gain a really fresh perspective in another locale.

Example one is the remarkable Winter Session 2004 Study Abroad in Antarctica trip organized and led by professor Ralph Begleiter and professor Jonathon Cox. This unprecedented Study Abroad opportunity offered a limited number of undergraduates six academic credits over the three week trek way down under. Students learned about the continent's wildlife, political significance, and explored an ice ship manned by a Russian crew – as well as spending a week taking classes in Argentina.

Photo images of the trip are available online at www.udel.edu/studyabroad and preparation is already underway for a Winter Session 2005 Antarctica Study Abroad reprise.

Example two is the Public Relations Student Society of America National Conference. A contingent of 15 Blue Hen representatives attended the New York City Conference at the end of October, giving these students a wonderful personal development and national networking opportunity. We thank the PRSA Delaware Chapter for helping with Conference registration fees for our students. Senior Communications major Elizabeth-Shaheen-Demke has served as the PRSA Chapter President this year, and described the sessions as "a great learning and socializing experience." Elizabeth also interns in the Public Affairs department of leading drug maker, AstraZeneca in Wilmington.

In October 2005, the PRSA Conference will take place in Miami, and we are hoping to be well-represented at next year's national Conference.



Two Blue Hen Communication Department partisans pose together at the annual Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) International Conference in New York in late October. Grace Thompson Leong, APR, B.A. '88 and Phil Wescott, APR and Fellow PRSA, a current Department faculty member are leaders in the PR profession. Leong is the principal in Hunter PR, a Manhattan-based agency that serves a roster of major national and international clients, and also chaired the PRSA Conference. Wescott chaired the Conference in 1999.



A handsome representation of the 15 Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSA) Chapter members who attended the annual PRSA National Conference in New York smiles about the learning and networking opportunities they experienced at the Conference. The PRSA-Delaware Chapter, consisting of some 80 professional practitioners, defrayed the students' Conference attendance with a generous stipend.