12. Faculty & Staff

Michael T. Ingram, Ph.D. and Professor of Communication Studies (1988). Ingram completed his Ph.D. in rhetoric and public address at Ohio University. He coached speakers and debaters on nationally ranked teams in the National Discussion Contest, American Forensics Association and National Parliamentary Debate Association at Whitworth until 1997. Ingram was the executive secretary for the National Parliamentary Debate Association for two years, and chaired the judging panel at the national tournament for three consecutive years. He worked in the tournament-control room at several national speech and debate tournaments. He served as the president of the Whitworth Faculty Assembly for two years. He is a licensed Baptist minister and preaches at area churches. His research interests include argumentation, ethics and conflict management.


James McPherson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies (2001). McPherson completed his Ph.D. in journalism, history and political science at Washington State University. He studies media history and has written chapters in several books on that topic. He is the current editor of the American Journalism Historians Association and a former newspaper reporter, editor and public-relations professional. His research interests include mass media and society and 20th-century journalism history. He is advisor for The Whitworthian.

Alan C. Mikkelson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies (2005). Mikkelson completed his Ph.D. in human communication at Arizona State University. His research interests include family communication, relational communication, nonverbal communication, and religion and communication. He has published and/or presented work in each of these areas. His recent publications include Communication in the Adult Sibling Relationship (2006), a book chapter included in Widening the Family Circle: New Research on Family Communication, and The Biology of Human Communication (2007), a book co-authored with Kory Floyd and Colin Hesse.

Ronald K. Pyle, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Studies (1988). Pyle completed his Ph.D. at the University of Washington. He has two master’s degrees, one in speech communication and one in theology. He wrote the national training manual for Young Life. His doctoral research, on the preaching of Charles Finney, reflects his research interests in public address, rhetoric and religious communication. Pyle preaches at area churches and recently served on the Core 250 team. During his 1999 sabbatical, he studied African-American preaching and the process of analyzing sermons rhetorically. Currently, he is training college faculty and staff to serve as effective mentors to students.

Virginia (Ginny) Whitehouse, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Department Chair (1996). Whitehouse completed her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. She worked for newspapers in the Southeast and as a religious wire-service correspondent in South Korea. Her research interests include media coverage of hate crimes and media ethics. She is active in the Inland Northwest
Chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists and is currently secretary of the Media Ethics Section of the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication. She is also a lecturer in the Washington Commission for the Humanities Inquiring Mind Lecture Series. Whitehouse currently serves as coordinator of internships in the department.

Kathy Fechter, Program Assistant for Communication Studies and Math/Computer Science (1990). Fechter provides support for the faculty and is a contact person for two departments. Students sign up for activities, collect assignments, gather scholarship information, and obtain important information from her office. Her office is upstairs in the Lindaman Center.