Peter Laufer, Janet Wasko and Michael Huntsberger (Ph.D., 2007) are making final plans for the What Is Radio? Conference (the first academic conference ever with its own jingle package) and Johnston Lecture, April 25-27, at the Turnbull Center in Portland. Bryce Peake and Charles Dietz are providing conference organizing assistance and numerous SOJC faculty and graduate students will be participating.

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Kati Tusinski Berg (Ph.D., 2006), with Sarah Feldner (Marquette University), have been selected as 2013 Page Legacy Scholars for their project titled, "Communicating the Social Impact of CSR Programs: Analyzing Corporate Discourses of Social Impact."

Erica Ciszek will present her paper, “Reconceptualizing Activism through Dyssymmetry: An Exploration of the Corporate Religious Right & LGBT Activists,” on a panel entitled, “Causing Crises and Navigating Political Struggle(s): Activists’ Dilemmas between Symmetry and Asymmetry,” at the IAMCR conference in Dublin, Ireland, June 25-29.

Sally Garner, Rachel Allen, and Miranda Atkinson are making presentations at the Region 8 Annual NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) conference in Anchorage, April 29-30.

Jher’s paper, “Contingency and Cybernetics: A View Through the Lenses of Users and Administrators” has been accepted by the Mediated Communication, Public Opinion and Society Section for the IAMCR conference in Dublin.

Peter Laufer is teaching cross-cultural interview techniques to a cohort of SOJC students and Austrian journalists at the Forum Journalismus und Medien in Vienna this term. With Scott Maier, Laufer is co-project director of the European Journalism Observatory's North American bureau at the UO. Peter, Scott, and Thomas Frank made presentations at the EJO's annual meeting at the University of Belgrade in Serbia. Peter’s book, The Elusive State of Jefferson: A Personal Journey through the 51st State, is in production; the launch date is October 1st. A tip of the green eyeshade to doctoral student, Charles Deitz, for research assistance.

Jon Palfreman spoke at the Association of Healthcare Journalists in Boston on March 16 about the challenges television journalists faced in finding engaging ways to tell health-related stories. On April 15, he participated on a panel at MIT entitled, "Broader Impacts: How to Talk About Your Work with the Media,” aimed at helping scientists become better communicators. From April 18-19, Jon gave a master class to staff from NOS, the national television service, and a keynote talk at the Third Dutch Conference on Narrative Journalism, “Learn from the Best,” in Amsterdam.

Kim Sheehan’s article, “What’s Cruel about Cruelty-Free: An Exploration of Consumers, Moral Heuristics, and Public Policy,” has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Animal Ethics*. The journal is affiliated with the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. The co-author of the paper was Joonghwa Lee, an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University. As an undergraduate, Joonghwa was an exchange student at the University of Oregon.

Francesco Somaini has been awarded one of three 2013-2014 Graduate Summer Research Awards by the Center on Diversity and Community (CoDaC) for his dissertation project. Francesco’s research aims to address representations of immigrants in borderlands across continents (focusing on Arizona and Italian newspapers) and, in relation to them, how news coverage and readers’ response influence each other. The CoDaC award includes a $1,500 stipend to support the research project and $250 for Somaini’s adviser, Scott Maier.

Carol Stabile delivered the keynote presentation at the Media and Civil Rights History conference at the University of South Carolina on March 23. She also participated in the “Feminist Infrastructures and Technocultures: Cross-Disciplinary Legacies and Futures” assembly held at the University of California, San Diego, April 18-20.

Janet Wasko, Teddy Workneh and Kris Wright are working on an update of *Dazzled by Disney? The Global Disney Audiences Project*. The study was originally published in 2001, with data gathered from audiences around the world through surveys, interviews and analysis that assesses the impact of Disney across cultures.

Moving on...

Hillary Lake (Ph.D., 2008) has accepted a position as a reporter at KATU-TV, the ABC affiliate in Portland, beginning April 15. She spent the past three years as an investigative reporter and fill-in anchor at WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Jessalynn Strauss (Ph.D., 2010) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Strategic Communication at Elon University's School of Communications. She will start at Elon in the fall and is excited about moving back to North Carolina and being close to her beloved Duke Blue Devils.

Celebration!

Justin Fransese (MS, 2005) and his wife Doyle Canning welcomed their first child into the world -- Almina Jane Francese was born on April 22nd at 6pm in Boston and weighed 8lbs, 1oz.