

Liz Karras Presents Research at International Conference: “New Media Use Among Deaf Persons”

Bruce A. Austin baagll@rit.edu

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Elizabeth (Liz) Karras, a Department of Communication double alumna (PTC 05, CMT 05), will present the results of her research at the International Communication Association’s annual conference in Chicago this May. Currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Buffalo, Liz’s research is entitled “Examining New Media Use and Interability Communication among Deaf Persons.”

Liz’s study examines how Deaf persons use electronic, broadcast and print media, the relationships between online and offline communication, and the factors affecting their Internet use. The paper also compares the Deaf with a hearing sample to contextually understand their new media use and interability communication. Study results show that Deaf persons communicate most via face-to-face communication and mobile devices. Deaf online and offline communicative behaviors were significantly related, suggesting that their Internet use facilitates existing proximate relationships. Several digital divides were identified and findings point to future research implications to better understand mediated communication of persons with hearing disabilities.