

# MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT: RENTNER BECOMES FIRST WOMAN IN JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT TO BE NAMED FULL PROFESSOR

**T**erry Rentner has achieved the highest rank in higher education at BGSU, being named full professor. She admitted she felt a sense of relief when she received the promotion letter from the dean and provost. With this achievement, she is the first woman to be promoted to full professor in the journalism department. Along with this status, she hopes to use this position to mentor women to become successful in higher education.

"It is a shame that it is 2012 and so few women reach the full professor status," Rentner said. "There is a lack of mentoring since there is a majority of males."

According to the evaluation documents, to be named professor one must have an established reputation within the discipline as evidenced by a record of productive scholarship, significant research, or the equivalent in the creative or performing arts.

Rentner is passionate about her research interests on theoretical and applied models of health communication with an emphasis on social norms programming and public relations methods.

Rentner's main goal is to turn research into practice among faculty and students.

Additionally, she enjoys studying the role of theory in developing effective public relations health campaigns on BGSU's campus. She partners with the BGSU Health Center and other organizations on

campus by researching healthier choices for college students.

Her main research focuses on college students consuming less alcohol by educational programming geared toward BGSU students.

One of her collaborators for the past 20 years, Barbara Hoffman, associate director of clinical and educational services of the Student Health Service, describes Rentner as intelligent, devoted and driven.

Together they have received large grants for their research projects. Rentner said she has received over a total of \$1.3 million of grants for all of her research projects, which is the highest amount in the School of Media and Communication.

"It is an honor to be with her. She is so enthusiastic, and it is contagious when you are around her," Hoffman said.

Hoffman and Rentner's research and programs on campus have brought them recognition for social norm programming.

Seth Oyer, assistant profes-



*Terry Rentner  
Director*

*School of Media and Communication*

sor in the journalism department, has the utmost respect for Rentner. He has worked with her on a research project about the perception of journalism as a career among guidance counselors.

"She has great ideas and is very collaborative. She is just excellent," Oyer said. "I am not surprised that she would become full professor."

Oyer said it is too bad it took this long for a woman to receive the full professor title in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations. "It might have been overlooked in the past, but this is awesome that she is the first woman," Oyer said.

Hoffman said, "She never did all of this work for personal gain, she did it for education."

## TIMELINE:

2008-PRESENT

*Director  
School of Media and  
Communication*

2004-2008

*Chair  
Department of  
Journalism*

2002-PRESENT

*Associate Professor*

1996-2002

*Assistant Professor*

1987-1995

*Instructor*

1987- PRESENT

*Public Relations  
Consultant*

1982-1984

*On-air personality,  
WVKS 92.5 FM Radio  
in Toledo*

1980-1981

*WNWO-TV 24  
General Assignment  
Reporter*

## AWARDS:

2010

*BGSU Top 5 Master  
Teacher Award Finalist*

2008

*BGSU Lifetime  
Achievement Award*