How Has New Media Changed Our Close Relationships?
An Examination of Friendship Maintenance and Deception

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September 23 (Friday), 3-4PM

Burton Hall Room 202

Dr. Johnson is a leading expert on how computer-mediated communication influences the development and maintenance of long-distance relationships and friendship. Dr. Dunbar recently was awarded several major grants to examine how new technology improves deception detection accuracy and reduces bias in credibility assessments. They will share their insights into how new technology and media have changed our everyday life. This is the first of the research forum series that will be hosted by the Department of Communication, sharing faculty members' research interests and accomplishment.

Discussion Topics:

Traditional View of Friendships

--Seen as "fragile"

--Require more effort, lacking frequent talk and emotional support

--New media has changed effort, frequency of interaction, and support

New View of CMC Friendship

--Seen as "flexible"

--changing privacy boundaries

--re-defining closeness

--channel differences

Traditional View of Deception

--Difficult to detect

--Emphasis on nonverbal cues

--Trust in close relationships changes motivation for and types of deception

New view of "digital deception"

--Deception in CMC might be easier to detect, depending on the channel

--CMC channels might embolden deceivers

--motives for deception have not changed as a result of CMC