

# SPEAK EASY

A Publication of the Department of Speech Communication Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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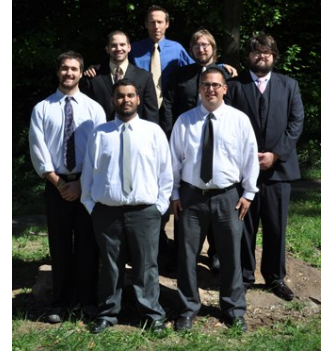
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Winter Issue

## SIUC Debate Team Succeeds Again

Success is nothing new for the SIUC debate team, but this year sets a new bar for the team. The debate team thus far has won every tournament it attended that leads up to the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence this spring. The debate team includes: Mike Selck, SR, Speech Communication, Sidney Rehg, SR, Speech Communication, Ben Campbell, JR, Political Science, and Joshua Rivera, SO, Political Science. Mike has now won a total of 16 tournaments at SIUC, setting new career and individual records. The team is led by debate coach Todd Graham and assistant coaches Steve Farias and Kyle Cheesewright.

The team's tournament wins are leading up to the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence in March, but Ben Campbell and Joshua Rivera have supplemented their experience by attending an international tournament in Berlin. In December 2012, the duo competed at the World Universities Debating Championship. They represented the Salukis and the United States against 385 other teams coming from multiple nations. Campbell and Rivera both said the experience was one like no other, giving them the opportunity to engage with students from across the globe. Campbell said, "I was honored to represent not only SIUC but the United States at this tournament. It was an incredible opportunity to engage with international debaters and viewpoints." Acceptance into the World Universities Debating Championship was no easy task. Graham said, "Over 1000 teams submitted applications into the tournament within the first minute of the submission form opening. We were very proud and excited to apply our skill set in Berlin." The debate team plans to continue its winning ways through intensive research and preparation for the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence in March 2013. Last year, the team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. They hope to meet or exceed this success in the coming year.



## Second Annual "Shop with a Cop" Event a Success



Our Department's Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) did their part to spread the holiday spirit as it wrapped up 2012. PRSSA members, along with Kohl's, hosted the "Second Annual Shop With a Cop" event on Tuesday evening, December 4, in the Alumni Lounge of the Student Recreation Center.

"Shop with a Cop" paired 15 children (ages 5-12) from Evergreen Terrace – SIU's housing area for married students and their families - with officers from the SIU Department of Public Safety. Generous donations from Kohl's, as well as a number of other businesses and individuals in Carbondale, meant that each team had \$100 to shop for its child's family at Kohl's. The special aspect of the experience - each of the fifteen children got to make the purchasing decisions, with a bit of friendly guidance from the police officer helping him or her. Once all the purchases were made, the officers drove their teams back to the Student Recreation Center and helped the children wrap the presents. Of course, one of the highlights for the children was the chance to make the trip to and from Kohl's in an SIU police car!

Over 60 PRSSA members worked tirelessly to decorate the Alumni Lounge and ensure the children and their families had a great time. And while the teams were out shopping, the children's parents and siblings were treated to refreshments, entertainment and a visit from Santa Claus. Various members of the media came to cover the event, and Carbondale Mayor Joel Fritzler stopped by to show his support.

"The entire experience was very rewarding for us all," said PRSSA President Nathan Maul. "It was humbling to see how much these families appreciated the work we put forth. And for Mayor Fritzler to not only stop by, but to stay as long as he did, really helps hammer home what an accomplishment this all was."

PRSSA first staged "Shop With a Cop" fall of 2011. It has proven to be so worthwhile that PRSSA plans to put it on each year. Denise McCleary, Faculty Adviser, said she was very impressed by the professional and enthusiastic way they reached their goals for the event's second year. "We really wanted to expand upon what we were able to accomplish last year, and everyone stepped up and met the challenge," she said. "I am extremely proud of them and their effort."

Vice President Phil Riggs, who was in charge of planning the function, said it was personally rewarding to help fellow students on campus who might be struggling financially. "It's expensive to go to college, especially when you have kids," he said. "Our chapter realized it had the means to make a personal impact on the lives of people we go to school with during a time of year that can be expensive for most families."

## Debate Coach Graham Goes International



Debate coach Todd Graham regularly leads the SIUC debate team to outstanding levels of achievement, but, like any good coach, he is quick to credit his teams' members for their success. However, every four years when a national election comes around, Todd has a chance to perform on his own – and he makes the most of it. In 2012, Todd moved from providing locally and regionally broadcast commentary about the United States' primary and Presidential debates to critiquing the candidates' performance for a truly international audience. He not only wrote articles for CNN's web site, but also appeared on television for CNN and Al-Jazeera. In addition, he was interviewed

by radio stations broadcasting in a variety of nations.

Graham's work covered the election, but with a twist. Graham said, "I analyze presidential debates in the same manner as I analyze my debate team. I provide feedback the candidates' debate styles, and regardless of the issues I point out which candidate was one smooth smoothie." As a new presence on the scene in the international news arena, Graham's unique approach to candidate analysis, the humor interlaced throughout his articles and interviews, and his pop culture metaphors leave audiences laughing and thinking. Watch – and listen – for more from Todd in 2016!

## Violet Juno Artist in Residence

This past fall, Southern Illinois University welcomed performance artist Violet Juno as an Artist in Residence. She performed "(I am still here) Language Has Left The Building" in the Marion Kleinau Theatre on Friday, October 5, 2012.



Counting the languages learned and lost over the generations in her family history, English is Violet Juno's sixth language. Her performance investigated the intriguing dynamic between language and language(less)ness. By recounting stories from settings as diverse as the classroom, an Intensive Care Unit ward, and Angkor Wat Temple in Cambodia, Juno explored how words express and shape who we are and what we think we know. The performance interwove theatrical props and costumes, evocative movement, layered text and a three-dimensional form of cognitive mapping.

As a multidisciplinary artist, Violet Juno is a dynamic performer and expert educator in performance art, performance text, and arts integration. Since 1990, Juno has lectured as a guest at 16 universities and performed and exhibited at 70 venues in over 30 cities in the United States, Canada and Scotland.

In addition to her solo work on stage, Juno creates site-specific performances in unusual settings such as abandoned military batteries, underground trainyards, and farm haylofts. During her visit here, several graduate students participated in her "Reversicon" Workshop to enhance their understanding of her methods.

## Deanna Fassett Visits Campus



Deanna L. Fassett (Ph. D, '00; M.S., '96) obtained her degrees here at SIU in the Speech Communication department, specializing in Communication Pedagogy. Fassett joined us in the Kleinau Theater this past September to talk with Graduate Students and Faculty about "Publication as Pedagogy."

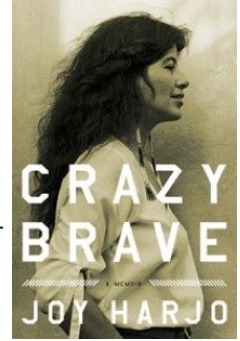
Her visit to the Kleinau Theater was one that illuminated the role of publication as a way to extend reach as an educator. Fassett said "There should be coherence/continuity between and amongst teaching, research, and service." She believes that through the process of publication, a pedagogue is able to bring into alignment: purpose, audience and voice, all of which are necessary and effective for critical work in the discipline of communication. Fassett encouraged graduate students to welcome reviews and special issues of works-in-progress and book drafts that may arise. She expressed that these experiences are good practice and can help in the work of editing and self-reflexivity.

She has been successful in publishing, having published several books, three of which were co-authored by the late Dr. John T. Warren, and one of which is currently being used in the SPCM 101 courses in our department.

Fassett is a Professor of Communication Studies at San Jose State University, and also serves as the Graduate Teaching Assistant Supervisor.

## Native American Spirit Brought to Campus

Joy Harjo, a well-known Native American poet, performer, and musician, visited the SIU campus recently to share her work and stories of her past, as well as to sign books. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Harjo captivated a large audience in the John C. Guyon Auditorium with her honest and compelling description of her life, heartfelt readings from her work, and her experience of what the writing process was like.



Harjo has written 7 books of poetry, released 4 award-winning CD's, and has recently released her memoir entitled, "Crazy Brave". During her presentation, Harjo admitted that the process of writing her memoir was somewhat difficult. She revealed that it

## Fall 2012 Speakers Forum

### "Arenas, Brands, and Customers: Going Beyond the ABC's of Higher Education"

This fall's Student Speakers Forum on "Arenas, Brands, and Customers: Going Beyond the ABCs of Higher Education" attracted great interest and support from SIU students and faculty. The Lesar Law Auditorium held an almost-full house on November 8, 2012, when the Forum explored the interrelated topics of colleges' branding efforts and colleges' decisions to treat students as customers.

Six speakers were chosen from a very strong group of students who sought to be a part of the Speakers Forum. The final panel for the Forum consisted of Kelly Krone, Octavia Washington, Victor Burnett, Shannon Simmons, Vontae Jackson, and Devon Ruhde.

The panelists often offered similar opinions of the efforts to transform educational institutions into organizations modeled on successful businesses and corporations. Many of the speakers stated that they feel that their higher education is more of a business transaction than it is an opportunity to prepare for their future.

Following the speakers' remarks, Kyle Rudick, the event's moderator, opened the floor for a stimulating round of comments and questions from the audience. Molly Cummins, the SPCM graduate student responsible for planning and staging the Student Speakers Forum, said, "I'm really pleased by how thoughtful and articulate all of our speakers were today, whether they were on the panel or in the audience. The great thing about the Forum is that it clearly shows the continuing relevance of public dialogue about important issues."



Fall 2012 Speaker's Forum Speakers from L to R: Victor Burnett, Vontae Jackson, Octavia Washington, Devon Ruhde, Kelly Krone, Shannon Simmons

# Meet some of our students

## Ben Campbell Named the First Paul Simon Debater

Ben Campbell was named as the first Paul Simon Debater at the beginning of the 2012 academic year. The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and the Department of Speech Communication created the Paul Simon Debater award as an annual scholarship to honor the late Senator Simon and celebrate the University's highly successful debate team. Campbell is the first to receive the \$5,000 scholarship.



Campbell said, "I am honored to be the first recipient of this award. Paul Simon loved the civil argument on the Senate floor, and I think he would love that our University is helping students learn the skills required to continue civil argumentation." The award will continue annually, and all debaters are eligible. The award is selected by a committee that includes the debate coach, speech communication department chair, and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute chair.

## Students Help Manage SIU Image and Brand

University Communications, SIU's department in charge of managing all marketing communications, has recently decided to hire students to work for them. This is the first time students have been employed by the program. Students who have been selected to work with University Communications get hands-on, real-world experience and the opportunity to work alongside professionals in the communications field. Program director Michael Ruiz says the process is going extremely well. In regards to the students work he says, "Students have hit the ground running and have already made a positive impact." Ruiz also believes the students bring energy and a unique perspective to the program.



Nathan Maul, a senior specializing in Public Relations and one of the students working for University Communications, believes it is a great opportunity that will benefit him after he graduates. He says, "University Communications is a great opportunity for us as PR students to get more experience interviewing people, apply what we've learned about how to write in AP style, and deal with the need to send out effective

Pictured left to right: Tiana Russell, Joaquin Norman, Nathan Maul, and Jance Staten

cializing in Public Relations and for University Communications, tunity that will benefit him after he "University Communications is a PR students to get more experience what we've learned about how to the need to send out effective

## Graduate Teaching Assistant Reaches Students Through YouTube Channel



After moving from California to Carbondale, Benny Lemaster, Graduate Teaching Assistant in SPCM, started a YouTube Channel to help students who were struggling to understand critical thinking. He has been posting such videos online since 2007, but recently, in the summer of 2011, started the YouTube Channel *Critical Praxis*. It was designed so that various scholars, academics, thinkers, and activists could discuss a specific subject that focuses on critical thinking. The idea is that these videos will be used in classrooms to help further students' education and make them think. "The main purpose of the channel is to teach beyond the confines of the university". He also said, "I am a firm believer in the necessity of leading a critical life and what it means to consume cultural items with a critical eye always asking questions that lead to new understandings."

Benny hopes that these videos are not only helpful to those at the university, but also outside of it. Public intellectualism and working to teach our skills to everyone in and out of the academy is one of his theories. He hopes that people approaching the channel will be ready to learn and ready to talk back, and is eager to start next season's series of videos.

# Our Amazing Alumni

## Our Academic Family Contributes to Success of Alumnus



Krishina Pattisapu (M.A. '10) received the National Communication Association Ethnography Division Best Book Chapter Award for 2012. The chapter appeared in SIU Professor Nilanjana Bardhan and Mark Orbe's edited volume of *Identity Research and Communication: Intercultural Reflections and Future Directions*. The chapter was co-written with her current doctoral advisor at Denver University, Dr. Bernadette Calafell, and focuses on the work and legacy of late SPCM Professor John Warren. Pattisapu had John Warren as an advisor for her master's program. The chapter is titled, "(Academic) families of choice: queer rationality, mentoring, and critical communication pedagogy."

When collaborating with Dr. Calafell, Pattisapu noted that they both felt that in the wake of John Warren's passing, it was important to reflect on the academic family they established through him. Pattisapu reflects on the writing as therapeutic and says, "The process of writing the chapter was surreal; before co-authoring this piece, I don't think I really understood what it means to learn and heal through writing." She credits John with much of her academic success and her ability to believe her work has a purpose. When asked how her relationship with John helped her, she stated, "Because such an accomplished scholar like John believed that I am important, and that I have significant contributions to make to critical communication pedagogy, performance theory, and intercultural communication, I felt confident for the first time that, someday, I could speak and the world would hear my voice."

Pattisapu urges current students to nurture mentoring relationships and build a community, as she did. The connections that are made outside of academia for academic reasons will be worth more in the future. She believes that surrounding yourself with people who believe in you will provide you with strength and the confidence to succeed. She also adds, "And don't forget to pay forward the favor of being an empathic, engaged listener for the folks in your lives who will need to call upon you from time to time." Keeping a strong academic family played an important role in Krishina Pattisapu's success. Not only did her academic family support her in her research and writing, but in her life as well.

### Michelle Restivo



Michelle Restivo (B.S. '10, M.S. '12) is currently working as Assistant Director of the Honors Program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. As director, she does everything from event planning to student and scholarship advising. Restivo is the first person to

hold this position, which, she explains, is unique, "One of the amazing aspects of my position is the fact that I am the first person to hold it. Because of this, I have the opportunity to co-create this position and the responsibilities that go along with it."

Restivo enjoys the unpredictability and variety her job offers her every day. "I am a mentor, advisor, supervisor, friend, colleague, and confidant at any given moment," she says. She is very grateful to SIUC for getting her to where she is today, and believes her experience here was a key element that helped her obtain her current position. She says, "The professors I had in Speech Communication gave me the skill sets that I needed to succeed in a higher education environment and specializing in intercultural, interpersonal, and organizational communication connects perfectly with the tasks I do on a daily basis."

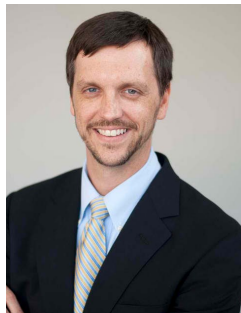
### Megan Kramper

Megan Kramper B.S. '10, M.S. '12), was a Speech Communication major, with a specialization in Public Relations. In 2012 she went on to get her master's degree in Kinesiology, with a concentration in Sports Studies. Today Megan is a communications intern with the Florida Gators, also known as the University Athletic Association. Her main account is working for the women's lacrosse team as their primary contact. She oversees all publicity efforts. Her duties for the company include writing press releases and content for the official GatorZone.com website; creating media supplements, web guides, and recruiting materials; handling all media requests for coaches and student-athletes; and much more.



Megan Kramper's journey in PR is one that many PR students can say they want to experience. Megan suggests working for the Daily Egyptian to get ahead. She says, "You can't be in this business and not love what you do. This isn't a 9-5 job, this is a 24/7 job. You work nights, weekend and at home. All PR professionals are passionate about what they do and I'm no different. I love every second of this and am grateful for the opportunity to work for Florida and in the SEC."

## SIU Alumnus a Successful Jury Consultant



Keith Pounds (M.S. '96, PhD. '02), raised in Tampa, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas, now lives in the suburbs of Chicago working as a successful jury consultant at a company called Trial Graphix. He has met a lot of great people and has worked on around 150 cases in his time as a jury consultant. He spends half of his time working on mock trials or focus groups. The rest of the time he spends marketing, doing hourly consulting in such areas as witness preparation, or sitting in court assisting with jury selection. He also has put in some hours to participate in CLE presentations on various topics. He started his career when he was working at Hofstra University on Long Island as a professor. A man, who had just lost a case, contacted him asking for advice on how to think "outside the box." The idea was to teach him a compelling story to tell the jury. Keith says, "In litigation, merely having the right set of facts is not enough to win a case." He also added, "Juries always try to do the right thing, but they need to be helped in that process by attorneys who care to take the time to tell their side of a story in a way that is interesting and engaging." He has worked on various cases and enjoys what he does. Keith says the best part of his job is getting to meet new people and work with a great staff. He comments, "You have to be intellectually curious and have great people skills to do this job, and that is a lot of fun."

## Kleinau Theatre : Fall 2012 Season

Sept. 27-29

### ***You're Already Dead***

Directed by Nichole Nicholson

There is nothing original; there is no progress. There is only anarchy. The show featured avant-garde art manifestos, song lyrics, and oral histories from the early American punk movement in the mid-60s to early-70s. The audience was invited to "Join our band as they prepare for their first real gig." More info at [ahistoryofnofuture.tumblr.com](http://ahistoryofnofuture.tumblr.com).



Sept 30-Oct 6 Violet Juno Residency & Oct. 5

### ***(I am Still Here) Language has Left the Building***

Violet Juno, Visiting Artist

Counting languages learned and lost over the generations in her family discourse, English is the sixth language in Juno's family history. To explore how words express and shape who we are, this multi-sensory piece used spoken word, unusual props, movement, flamboyant costumes, soundscapes, and a three-dimensional form of mapping.

Oct. 25-27 - Double Bill

### ***I Put a Spell on You***

Written, Directed, and performed by Charlie Hope Dorsey

Co-Directed by Sheng-Tao Fan

This solo performance explored the life of *The High Priestess of Soul*. Her story, her significance, her presence blurred and intertwined with poetic autoethnographic critical reflections on performer Charlie Hope Dorsey's own life. Dorsey seeks to honor Simone, while simultaneously enfleshing history, making it visceral, evocative, and sensuous.

### ***Rollercoaster Halos***

Compiled and performed by Kyle Cheesewright

Directed by Nichole Nicholson

Using the work of James Baldwin, Ray Johnson, and others, this show challenged Fran Varian's grandmother's prophecy, from a Buddy Wakefield poem, that "the children of her children's generation would be devils walking the earth." It explored folks with halos shaped like roller coasters you would stand in line to ride twice.

Nov. 29-Dec 1

### ***Villain***

Directed by Brian Healy

*You're bad. You are really bad. You are just so, evil.* How often do you hear a voice say this to you during your day? What if this is the voice going through everyone's head who surrounds you. *Villain* followed the lives of several inhabitants immersed in a world of evil. What could possibly go wrong, or really, what could possibly go right?

## Alumni/Transitions

**Diana L. Tucker, (Ph.D. '00)** serves as an Academic Coordinator in the College of Undergraduate Studies Communication Division at Walden University. Walden University, is the recipient of the 2012 Extraordinary Faculty Award for the College of Undergraduate Studies at Walden University. This annual award recognizes one outstanding Walden University instructor from each college who exemplifies the university's core values of quality, integrity and student-centeredness.

**Dr. John M. "Jack" Price, (Ph.D '03)** died peacefully after a brief illness with his family, friends and loving wife of 40 years, Bernadette M. (Bernie) Bewsey Price by his side. He graduated from Southport High School and went on to receive an Associates Degree from UIndy, a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University and a Master's Degree from Indiana State University. He received his Ph.D from Southern Illinois University in Speech, Communication and Performance Arts. Jack was instrumental in creating the Speech Lab at IUPUI and was a faculty advisor for the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He was recognized on several occasions as an Outstanding Instructor at IUPUI during his time on the faculty. Jack also was an instructor in the School for Adult Learning at UIndy. Our department extends its deepest sympathy to the Price family.

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