

SPEAK EASY

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

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Summer Issue

Department hosts intercultural communication mini-conference

The Department of Speech Communication hosted an Intercultural Communication Mini-Conference on April 27-29 at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center. The theme of this working group style conference was "Landscaping identity research in intercultural communication: Reflections and future directions." Participants included the department's intercultural communication faculty and 11 intercultural communication scholars from across the country.

The keynote for the conference was delivered by Professor Kent Ono from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and was titled "Making migrants alien: Rhetoric, migrants and culture in the U.S. Southwest." The lecture drew a large audience from across the campus and community.



Satoshi Toyosaki (center) presents a paper
(L -Sandy Pensoneau-Conway; R- Kent Ono)

The goal of the conference was to collaborate with scholars from across the country, and put the department on the map for its intercultural communication emphasis. The papers presented by participants will be published in a volume edited by Associate Professor **Nilanjana Bardhan** and Professor Mark Orbe from Western Michigan University. This book will be dedicated to the memory of Professor **John Warren**, who was actively involved in the planning stages of this conference.

The conference was made possible by a generous grant from the College of Liberal Arts and the SIUC Office of the Provost.



Standing (L-R): Richie Hao, Jianhua Sun, Kent Ono,
Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Keith Berry, Satoshi Toyosaki

Sitting (L-R): Miriam Sobré-Denton, Nilanjana Bardhan,
Rachel Griffin, Mark Orbe, Hsin-I Cheng.

Participants not in photo: Devika Chawla, Ronald Jackson II,
Rona Halualani & Thomas Nakayama

Using technology to connect beyond the classroom

Assistant Professor **Miriam Sobré-Denton** is engaging students by incorporating new technologies into her teaching plan. Her Intercultural Training class (SPCM 448) is using Skype, an online program that allows

people to video chat. The students are currently communicating via Skype with Hostelling International, a global non-profit organization. Within the U.S., the organization performs educational programming techniques to benefit local communities. The program strives to educate local residents about different cultures by way of cuisine, language, etc. The program also strongly encourages interaction between local residents and those staying at the hostels to further bridge cross-cultural gaps.



First Row (L-R): Ashley Burks, Jewel Stokes, Miriam Sobré-Denton,
Hsun-Yu (Sharon) Chuang, Matthew Ruth

Second Row (L-R): Patrick Colvin, David Whitfield, Veronica Greuel, Jana Simonis,
James Brokaw

According to Sobré-Denton, "Skype is a fantastic implementation to the course study and really allows students to work in a hands-on manner with not only members of Hostelling International, but others around the world. It helps them get to feel more connected with the people that they were working with because they are able to see them and interact with them 'face-to-face'."

For over a year and a half, Sobré-Denton has been performing research on the non-profit organization, and when the chance to teach such a class arose, she thought it would be a great way for her students to be able to make a difference in intercultural projects worldwide.

Department loses dear friend and colleague

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of our colleague and dear friend Professor **John T. Warren** (Ph.D., '01), who died of complications from advanced esophageal cancer on the evening of April 2nd.

Warren was an integral part of this department, and his contributions as a gifted teacher, prolific scholar and mentor were remarkable. During his short but intense career, he authored or co-authored six books, three-dozen scholarly articles, a 100 or so conference presentations, and directed six masters degrees and eleven Ph.D.s.

An alumnus of this department, Warren taught at Bowling Green State University before returning to his old home. According to College of Liberal Arts Dean Alan Vaux, "John's impressive reputation allowed us to hire him to an Associate Professor position, and he was awarded tenure and promoted to Professor in 2010. John was amazingly generous, energetic, and productive."

According to Department Chair Nathan Stucky, "John's bright intelligence and wit extended across the many points of contact from his relations with family, students, and friends, to his professional associations and his significant impact on his discipline."

Warren is survived by his wife Gina and their two young sons, Elias John Warren and Isaac James Warren. He will be sorely missed.



John T. Warren

DEPARTMENT NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The debate team does it again!



Debaters (L-R) Brandon Merrell, Kevin Calderwood, Mike Selck, Ben Campbell & Andrew Thomas at the Berkeley tournament in fall 2010

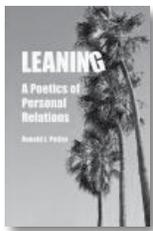
The debate team wrapped up the season in mid-March with a third place finish at Nationals. This was SIUC's fourth year in a row to finish in the top four at Nationals. Besides the great showing, the team also won a total of five tournaments this season. The main debate team was made up of senior **Brandon Merrell** and sophomore **Mike Selck**.

Merrell received the All-American Award for Debaters, which is only bestowed upon three people in the country. This award is given to a person who shows success in debating, has a good GPA, and provides service in his/her community.

With their consistency and winning record, the debate team gets SIUC a lot of nationwide recognition. "The debaters got congratulatory notes from SIUC Chancellor Rita Cheng, and SIUC President Glenn Poshard. We just do our best to make the school look good," says Debate Coach and Assistant Professor **Todd Graham**.

Next year, the team will be returning with three debaters and one new transfer from Chicago. "I think we should be pretty darn good next year," added Graham.

Pelias publishes *Leaning*



Leaning: A Poetics of Personal Relations, recently published by Professor **Ronald Pelias**, is a book about how bodies place themselves in relationship to other bodies. It works from a simple premise: In most cases, leaning toward others carries the greatest potential for meaningful and lasting relationships. The book shows

how "leaning toward" others is an appealing way to be, although seldom do we or should we always live up to that ideal.

According to Pelias, "I've been interested in the metaphor of leaning as a way of understanding interpersonal relationships for some time now. I find that 'leaning in' has considerable power for establishing how I'd like to be, and reminds me why sometimes 'leaning in' asks for more than I am willing to give. This book was my chance to think through my understanding of relationships in terms of leaning - leaning in, leaning with, and leaning away from."

Griffin awarded seed grant



Rachel Griffin

Assistant Professor **Rachel Griffin** was awarded an SIUC Faculty Seed Grant for her study titled, "Recruitment, retention, and the recovery of black male voices: Creating intergenerational conversations to fuel academic success." She and her graduate assistant, **Molly Cummins**, have conducted multiple, successful presentations and workshops based on this research.

In April, Griffin presented the material at the SIUC Research Town Hall and Fair, and she and Cummins conducted a workshop titled, "Inclusive excellence and the promise of pedagogy: Black male student perspectives at SIUC." At both events, they displayed findings about how black male students feel about stereotypes on campus.

One of the reasons Griffin wanted to conduct this study was because the graduation rate for black males on campus is lower than the overall rate. She is interested in finding out how race and gender related factors might be contributing to this reality, and she hopes to continue the dialogue and develop discussions of race and gender on campus.

OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

Engaging disability through performance

Professor **Jim Ferris** (Ph.D., '94) was recently granted the Central States Performance Studies and Theatre Interest Group's Outstanding Scholar Award. His work is well known in the field for focusing on how disability is identified through acts of performance and performance criticism.

Proud to have directed the first show in the Marion Kleinau Theatre, after the moniker change from the Calipre Stage, Ferris recognizes his time at SIUC as formative in both his personal and professional endeavors. He notes, "Even when I am not 'teaching performance' or 'doing performance,' the insights and ways of being in the world that I learned at SIUC permeate my work and my life."

Ferris says that current students should recognize that although some work always exists within a contested site of scholarly inquiry, they should "stay with it, and not sacrifice the integrity or the complexity of their message."

Currently the Endowed Chair of Disability Studies at the University of Toledo, Ferris has published his poetic-scholarly work in numerous books and journals.



Jim Ferris

Graff speaks about his PR experiences

In March, 2d Lt., USAF **Mark Graff** (B.S., '09), a recent graduate of the department, spoke to students about how he applies his public relations education in his position in the U.S. Air Force. The Kleinau Theater held many intrigued students as they listened to Graff speak about his experience being the director of community relations for the 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Airforce Base in Tampa, Fla.



Mark Graff

Throughout his years at SIUC, Graff was enrolled in the ROTC program and was an active member of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). He says his experience in PRSSA put him ahead of others when starting in his current position. Graff shared with the students his experience with a few major security incidents across the domestic United States, and what he advised commanding officers to do in these situations.

Graff was deployed to Afghanistan in late March. The department is proud to call Graff an alumnus, and knows he will serve and represent his country well.

A Chicago Bulls success story

Todd Abbott (B.S., '05) spoke to Josh Houston's Sports PR class in February. As a marketing and public relations coordinator for the Chicago Bulls, he works hand-in-hand with the Bulls' mascot, "Benny the Bull." Abbott spent his years at SIUC specializing in public relations, and was an active member of PRSSA. He said his years in the department prepared him well for the "real world."

Abbott emphasized the importance of interning, and working diligently with the foreknowledge that internships can expand into something more. He started out as an intern with the Chicago Bulls, and quickly moved up to the position he holds now. He also spoke of the various roles he plays within the Bulls organization, and demonstrated the Bulls usage of video and electronic media to appeal to die-hard fans.

Transition

We sadly note the passing of Dr. **Lynda Lee Kaid** (B.S., '70; M.A., '72; Ph.D., '75) on April 13. Kaid was professor of telecommunications and former senior associate dean for graduate studies and research at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. Her research focused mainly on political communication, and she authored or edited over 30 books and nearly 200 refereed articles and book chapters. Kaid was known to be an outstanding mentor to her many students over the years. In 2007, she received the SIUC Distinguished Alumni Award.

Engstrom teaches students how to mentor prisoners

Craig Engstrom (Ph.D. '10), a visiting assistant professor at the University of Montana, Missoula, taught a course titled "Communication and entrepreneurship" in which he had his students work out business plans for 11 soon-to-be-paroled prisoners in Texas as part of the Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP), a non-profit organization based in Houston, Texas.



Haley runs RedLetter PR

According to some of his students, this course was a unique learning experience which taught them skills of humanity, and how to view prisoners as humans with potential rather than stereotype them.

Engstrom has been an adviser for PEP for the past five years, and decided to incorporate this program into his class in order to enhance the scope of learning. He says, "My goal was to help students be part of the larger mission to help prisoners re-enter the work force. This was a way to help them learn how to write a good business plan while involving them in a worthy cause."

Engstrom will start his new position as assistant professor of communication at Elmhurst College, Ill., in August, where he will mainly teach courses in organizational communication.

MEET SOME OF OUR STUDENTS

A whole lot of magic



Magician David Ranalli

David Ranalli is not just your average Speech Communication major. At age 13, he started performing magic. He says he was instantly impressed after meeting David Copperfield, and wanted to learn all the tricks and secrets of magic.

Ranalli has been successfully performing magic for 10 years. He has appeared on the Chicago show, “It’s Magic” several times, and has been awarded scholarships from The Society of American Magicians three years in a row for his achievements in academics as well as magic.

Ranalli offers a variety of shows from strolling through crowds, to performing at larger venues with audiences up to 250 people. “I like doing tricks that take people out of their comfort zone, and make them think, and make them question the ways things are and what’s possible in life,” says Ranalli.

In 2009, Ranalli won first place at the Conjuror’s Corner Magic Competition in Chicago. “I was very happy that my years of hard work had paid off, and I felt like I had turned a corner with my magic. This gave me the confidence that I could pursue magic as a career,” says Ranalli.

Performance for a posthuman world



Shauna MacDonald

Shauna MacDonald, a doctoral student within the department, has progressively worked towards her goal of increasing performance studies’ focus on technological and scientific discourses. In her dissertation, which she successfully defended in May, she argues that artists and scholars must begin to participate in the discourses of science and technology that pervade our lives, and that performance is a way for doing so.

MacDonald has devoted her efforts to, “drawing upon several bodies of literature, including posthumanism, cyborgology, and phenomenology,” in order to better understand “how performance methodologies can help us live in our technoscientific, posthuman world.” She attributes much of her success to the helpful and supportive faculty she works alongside. “Dr.

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook is the chair of my dissertation committee, and has been not just an amazing teacher, but also a wonderful conversation partner and friend,” she says. The rest of her committee has contributed greatly and been supportive throughout her academic journey.

As assistant professor of communication at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, MacDonald will begin another journey in August. “I will miss our whole faculty and graduate student community dearly when I leave this summer—they are more like family than colleagues. I have loved every second of my time here,” she adds.

Top students on campus

Every year, SIUC awards the Most Distinguished Senior Award to 25 deserving students from across campus. Three of this year’s recipients - **Phyllis Allen**, **Brittany Cheves** and **LaCharles Ward**, are Speech Communication majors. In addition, **Darlyshia Cherry**, also one of our students, was the one and only recipient of the Super Student Scholarship this year. Allen, Cheves and Cherry are specializing in public relations, and Ward in intercultural communication.

Congratulations! You have made us proud.

FACULTY UPDATES

Nilanjana Bardhan continues to teach intercultural communication and public relations. She published a co-edited book titled *Public relations in global cultural contexts*, and an article titled “*Slumdog Millionaire* meets ‘India Shining’: (Trans) national narrations of identity in South Asian diaspora” in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*. She will be on sabbatical leave in fall 2010, and will use this time to work on two book projects.

Bryan Crow taught the Family Communication seminar in Spring 2011, and will be on sabbatical for fall 2011. During this time, he will work on a book on the classic MGM film director Clarence Brown, whose shooting scripts, production stills, and other papers are in the special collections archive at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the site of Crow’s sabbatical work. Crow also presented a paper at the Southern States Communication Association conference about teaching gender issues in the communication curriculum.

Suzanne Daughton published “Cursed with self-awareness: Gender-bending, subversion and irony in *Bull Durham*” in *Women’s Studies in Communication*, and was the recipient of two teaching awards in 2010: the Outstanding Teacher from the College of Liberal Arts, and the Feminist Teacher-Mentor Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender. Daughton was also very excited to be accepted into a two-year Nonviolent Communication training program for 2011-2012.

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook is editing a section of *Liminalities* surveying the work of performance artist Violet Juno. He performed *Still life, with uncertainty and cardinal* at Lake Superior State University, and created sound for two projects by Naida Zukic: the Butoh performance *The memory of the anesthetized body* (CAVE Experimental Artspace, Brooklyn); and the short film “Oneiroid life,” which screened at the Ljubljana International Short Film Festival in March.

Jonathan Gray presented his solo performance, *Cross/Walking*, at the University of Maine in Orono in April, along with a lecture and workshop on performance and environmental issues. He attended and presented research at the National Communication Association conference in San Francisco in November, and at the Southern States Communication Association conference in Little Rock in March. He is the vice-chair of the SIUC Sustainability Council. Beginning this summer, he will be stepping back into the role of Core Curriculum Director for the department.

Todd Graham continues to develop a distinguished team of debaters. Among other accomplishments, this year the Saluki Debate Team finished as the third best team in the country at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence national championship tournament.

FACULTY UPDATES *(continued)*

Rachel Griffin was awarded an SIUC Faculty Seed Grant for a project entitled "Recruitment, retention, and the recovery of black male voices: Creating intergenerational conversations to fuel academic success." She also has two book chapters forthcoming titled "Placing my brown body on the line: Painful moments and powerful praxis" in *Still searching for our mother's gardens: Experiences of new tenure-track women of color at 'majority' institutions*, and "Control, discipline, and punish: Black masculinity and (in)visible whiteness in the NBA" (co-authored) in *Critical rhetorics of race*.

Joshua Houston continues to teach courses within the emphases of public relations and organizational communication and offers a special topics course in Sports Public Relations each spring. He is currently preparing to deliver an on-line version of the Introduction to Public Relations course for the summer semester. In 2011, he also advised the department's PRSSA chapter and Pyramid, the student-run public relations firm.

Andrew Kirk recently published a chapter titled "Super-sized fandom: Globalization, popular culture, and the peculiar case of 'Miss McDonald'" in the book *Global media convergence and cultural transformation: Emerging social patterns and characteristics*. The paper from which the chapter emerged was awarded the Samuel L. Becker Award (Top Student Paper) at the 2009 meeting of the Central States Communication Association.

Denise McClearey spent the last year concentrating on integrating the public relations classes with professionally based assignments, and also taught the Business and Professional Communication course. She is looking forward to being the Faculty Adviser for PRSSA in the upcoming 2011-2012 academic year.

Ronald Pelias recently published *Leaning: A poetics of personal relations*, a book that brings a poetic sensibility to interpersonal relationships. He directed a show using the metaphor of leaning at the Kleinau and at the International Conference of Qualitative Inquiry to explore how others might conceive of their own leanings.

In the past year, **Elyse Pineau's** research in performance methodologies, performative writing, and critical pedagogy has led to published articles in *Qualitative Inquiry and Global Crises*, *International Review of Qualitative Inquiry*, and the Brazilian education journal, *Educacao & Realidad*. She developed two new courses titled "Literature as communication case study" and "Performance of historical figures." In recognition of her artistic work in solo and group productions, the Performance Studies Division of National Communication Association awarded her the 2011 Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance.

Rochelle Robertson continued teaching Interpersonal Communication for nursing students. She also taught speech at Shawnee Community College in Anna, Ill. In addition, she is also working on a book which explores how eastern and western philosophies of diet and health perspectives intersect with lived scripture. Robertson has accepted a tenure-track position in communication at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., and will begin work there in fall 2011.

Ross Singer received the National Communication Association's Christine L. Oravek Research Award in Environmental Communication at the 2010 annual meeting. At the same conference, he was an invited panelist at a special NCA-Forum event on the documentary *The Garden*. Panel members extend their conversation in an upcoming Praxis Forum in *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*. Singer also recently published a chapter in the path-breaking volume *Food as communication: Communication as food*.

Miriam Sobré-Denton published an article on cosmopolitan social support in the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*. She co-authored another article about virtual cosmopolitanism and cultural capital, forthcoming in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, for which she is an editorial board member. Sobré-Denton is currently working in collaboration with Hostelling International-USA, which has led to two conference papers, a service learning project for her intercultural training course, and a faculty seed grant for the year 2011-2012.

Nathan Stucky, Department Chair, presented a paper, "State versus nation: Local hegemonic performances" at the Performance Studies International conference in Toronto, Canada. He also presented two papers at the National Communication Association conference in San Francisco, and helped to host the annual NCA Speech Communication Department reception for alumni and friends of the department.

Satoshi Toyosaki published an article titled "Critical complete-member ethnography: Theorizing dialectics of consensus and conflict in intracultural communication" in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*. He presented his research at the Central States Communication Association conference in Milwaukee in April, and also provided pedagogical sessions for intercultural communication competence to Saluki First Year oral communication instructors.

Diana Tigerlily is currently developing a creative retreat center called "Mandala gardens." This past year, she co-facilitated a workshop entitled "Intersectional embodiment of difficult discourse" at the National Women's Studies Association conference. Her poetry was invited for publication in the We'Moon anthology, Celebrating 30 years - *An anthology of We'Moon art and writing*, and she created a short adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's novel *Nickel and dimed* for a performance by JALC students, which she also directed.

John Warren published his co-authored textbook *Communication: A critical/cultural Introduction*, and his co-authored book *Coordinating the communication course: A guidebook* is due out later this summer. His co-edited issue of *Text and Performance Quarterly*, "SomeBodies(') in school," is due out later this year. In May, Warren would have completed his three-year term as department Core Curriculum Director.

Kleinau Theatre: Spring 2011 Season



L-R: Andrea Baldwin, Julie Cosenza, Anna Wilcoxon and Diana Woodhouse in *Leaning*

creates new possibilities for how we think and talk about experiences of oppression and violence that impact the ways women move through the world. This performance invited dialogue full of risk, depth, humor, and theory. And it began with a jacket.

January 22nd, 2011

Red Vixa

A collaborative performance by guest artists Violet Juno and Ron Coulter.

February 3-5th, 2011

I Want My Jacket Back

Written & Performed by Jennifer L. Freitag

This solo performance works at the intersection of gender violence, sexual politics, feminism, and activism. Working from the nexus of agency and wholeness, this show

March 3-5th, 2011

2nd Helping

Adapted & Directed by Aubrey Huber

This three-woman show explored the politics and pedagogical implications of "help" through dynamic relationships forged between white women and the black women who raised them. Based on Kathryn Stockett's bestseller, *The Help*, this performance weaves a narrative of women's voices, white supremacy, family functions, and the struggle for civil rights.

April 16, 2011

An Evening of Faculty Performances

April 28-30th, 2011

Leaning: Stories of Personal Relationships

Compiled & Directed by Ronald J. Pelias

This performance staged how leaning marks relationships, how leaning establishes an orientation to others, how leaning in to, away from, and with others display an ethical sensibility.

MORE STUDENT NEWS

SCO helps build community



SCO 2010-2011

The Speech Communication Organization (SCO), our graduate student organization, has had an eventful year. Leadership for the 2010-2011 academic year included President **Molly Cummins**, Vice-President **Heather Hull**, Treasurer **Andrea Baldwin**, Secretary **Kate Gramlich**, Librarian **Sam Sloan**, and, for the first time, dual Social Directors **Nico Wood** and **Anna Wilcoxon**.

SCO provides a space for graduate students to help support one another while building community. In the spring, with the loss of adviser, mentor, and friend, Dr. **John Warren**, graduate students counted and leaned on that community. Members worked hard to find ways to help Warren's family. All of this resulted in a monetary donation, as well as continued support in non-monetary ways.

Last fall, SCO worked concessions at SIUC's brand-new football stadium in order to raise money for the organization. Some of the other services members provide include serving on departmental and university committees, working with the graduate student union (GA United), engaging in social events with undergraduate organizations NCASC and PRSSA, and participating in weekly social gatherings.

NCASC looks to rebuild mission and goals

Over the past year, the National Communication Association Student Club (NCASC) successfully organized events from career building workshops to pizza socials. NCASC's main goal in the spring was to recruit new and dedicated members.

The organization is looking to revamp its mission and goals, and looks forward to an exciting future that will focus more on preparing students to become successful communication professionals in a global society.

ALUMNI UPDATES *(continued from page 3)*

Kevin Anderson (B.S., '08) is an account executive in sports marketing for FIPPEX Operations, LLC, and lives in Chicago.

Katie Bollman (B.S., '07) completed her three-year mark at Millward Brown, a global research agency in Chicago.

Julie Gehring (nee Balsley) (B.S., '80) lives in Kansas City, Mo., and is Vice President of Corporate Relations at March of Dimes.

Alan Ladwig (B.S., '70) is Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Outreach for NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Dr. **Joseph Robinette** (Ph.D., '72) has retired from Rowan University. He is the author and co-author of 51 plays and musicals. He is currently the

PRSSA has another successful year



Grey Dog visits PRSSA members at a recent basketball concession

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter has always focused on giving students interested in public relations a chance to do hands-on work. This year was no different. Throughout the last two semesters, PRSSA continued its community service initiatives with Adopt-a-Spot, Relay for Life, volunteering with WSIU-Radio, and other causes.

This year, PRSSA focused on building an alumni base starting in October with an Alumni Homecoming tailgate event. During spring, it put together a special committee focusing on a 40th anniversary publication for the chapter. Additionally, members built relationships with professionals in the field. Two members attended the PRSSA National Conference in Washington, D.C., in October, and several participated in networking luncheons hosted by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), PRSSA's "parent" organization.

The newly elected executive board, headed by President **John Schumacher**, looks forward to the next school year, and PRSSA will continue to advance the profession and future professionals of public relations.

Speakers Forum



L-R: Willie Porter, Linnae Campbell, Lauren Hilmes, Ryan Reed, Beatriz Galindo, & LaQuita Washington

The topic for the spring 2011 Speakers Forum was "Should the university take care of its students?" and it took place on April 19. The event was sponsored by our department and the SIUC Society for Civil Discourse.

An audience comprising approximately 213 people witnessed six speakers: Linnae Campbell, Beatriz Galindo, Lauren Hilmes, Willie Porter, **Ryan Reed**, and **LaQuita Washington**. The speakers discussed a wide range of topics including the SIUC health center, the recreation center, classroom upkeep, and the reduction of faculty. After panel participants finished, audience members contributed views on the speeches and topic.

scriptwriter for a new musical version of the movie *A Christmas Story*, and he attributes his adaption skills to his "brilliant mentor Dr. Marion Kleinau." Dr. **Paul Siddens III** (M.A., '85; Ph.D., '89), associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Northern Iowa, has received the 2011 College of Humanities and Fine Arts Faculty Excellence Award. The purpose of the award is to honor tenured faculty who have excelled as teachers and scholars/creative artists.

Debra Schroeder Thompson (B.S., '73) has a Ph.D. in family therapy and she maintains her own private clinic. She lives in Collegetown, Penn.

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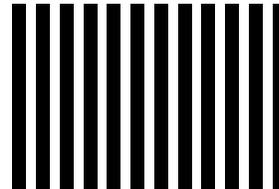
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