

SPEAKEASY

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

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Summer Issue

SIUC Debate Team Wins National Championships



Josh Rivera, left, and Mike Selck, right, The pair is shown with the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) trophies.

If you read the last Speakeasy, you already know that the SIUC debate team is used to success. This year, the debate team took that success as far as it can go. They won the national championship! In fact, Mike Selck, a senior Speech Communication, and Joshua Rivera, sophomore in Political Science, won both national championship tournaments that are offered to collegiate debaters, making SIUC only the sixth university to ever win both titles in the same year. The two tournaments are the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) and the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament (NPDA). The NPTE is an exclusive “by invitation only” national tournament that may only be attended once a debate team qualifies. This year, 56 teams were in attendance. The NPDA is considered the “people’s championship,” since it is open to any team that wants to enter. This year, there were a total of 864 teams that competed in intercollegiate parliamentary debate – and the Selck-Rivera team rose to the absolute top of that large field.

The remaining members of the debate team, Sidney Rehg, a senior Speech Communication, and Ben Campbell, a junior Political Science, also found a significant place on the podium: they placed a third in the nation. SIU had two teams in the “final-four,” a feat no other school accomplished this year. 2013 marks the sixth consecutive year SIU had a team advance to the “final-four.” This is the longest streak in history. SIUC debaters win debates by knowing more about the topic and presenting the most logical, well

reasoned, and thoroughly researched arguments. Presentation takes a backseat to substance. Debaters only have 20 minutes to prepare once a topic is released, so they need to be familiar with these topics ahead of time if they want to argue successfully. This year’s topics included such demanding challenges as “The United States federal government should substantially improve its ballistic missile defense” and “The Republic of Turkey should enact constitutional measures to substantially increase the autonomy of Turkish Kurds.”

SIUC has now won a national championship in debate in each of the last four decades. This makes it the 7th different year SIUC brought home a national title, but we suspect it will not be the last.

Department Announces the Retirement of Ron Pelias

As many of you know, Professor Ron Pelias has announced that he will be retiring effective August 15, 2013. Ron has been a stellar colleague, inspiring teacher, remarkable scholar, and excellent Director of Graduate Studies. We'll miss him! Below are some messages from colleagues, students, and friends.

Nathan Stucky, Ph.D. Chair of the Department of Speech Communication from 2002 to the present. I'm proud to say that I came to SIU in 1990 because Ron Pelias recruited me up here from Louisiana State University where I was teaching. Over the years of his astonishing career, Ron has been a major influence on so many students and colleagues. Ron came to SIU in 1981, becoming Director of Graduate Studies in 1994. He has been a prolific scholar, publishing eight books, fifty journal articles, seventeen book chapters, and creating over thirty stage performances. He directed twenty-eight doctoral dissertations, nineteen masters theses, and served on over one-hundred graduate student committees. He won the Outstanding Scholar Award in the College of Liberal Arts, the Outstanding Scholar Award in Performance and Theatre from the Central States Communication Association, and the Lila Heston Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Interpretation and Performance at the National Communication Association. Ron has been a steady influence in the department and a well-known national figure. We'll miss his wonderful presence.



See page 2 for more

Marvin Kleinau, PhD, Chair of the department from 1982 until his retirement in

1991; he also served as acting dean of the College of Communications and Fine Arts from 1982 until 1991. I performed the marriage between Mary and Ron and that is why both were so successful as teachers, mentors and parents. No other reason can be identified. The thing about Ron that enabled him to keep a level head as graduate director, even as the students were on a bumpy road from time to time, was the passion for golf. As a young boy he achieved considerable success as an amateur golfer in his home state, Louisiana. To achieve that he had to learn to control his nerves, temper and general understanding of the meaning of each and every moment of crisis or importance. He learned to master that requirement on the golf course and it gave him an advantage both on the golf course and in the department. Ron, like many of us, had to rely on the strengths of the students for his success. We don't make silk purses out of.... You know. If a student doesn't have the drive to tackle the higher degrees, most of us can't write the dissertation for them. Ron didn't enable lazy students. He makes it clear they could do it if they applied themselves. What a nice gift.

Tom Pace, PdD, Faculty member 1965-1994. I remember when Ron interviewed for our department! He did a great job overcoming the bias we had against the U of I. The Department party for his interview was held at my house. Little did he know it was there I started building a romantic case for Mary, now Mimi, whom I knew would eventually show up again at SIU. Mary, always a favorite of mine, was a student worker when I arrived here. My early "work" was recognized many years later when Ron and Mary were married by his golf partner, Marvin Kleinau. Marvin owed Ron much, as Ron "carried him" in many a golf outing.

Keith Nainby, PhD, 2003. Associate Professor at California State University, Stanislaus.

I first learned about Ron's exceptionally supportive approach to building extended, multilayered graduate communities in Spring 1997, when my partner Amy Kilgard and I were working dull jobs in Florida, each of us planning to head to grad school someday. Amy, having applied for the Performance Studies program, got a phone call from Ron—but she was not home at the time, so I, the hitherto unknown partner of the applicant, picked up the phone and told him so. Ron and I then talked for about fifteen or twenty minutes; I cannot recall what we discussed, but what I recall with great clarity is how deeply impressed I was with his personal style, especially given that he was a busy graduate director who had every reason to simply leave a quick message and hang up. This brief phone conversation with Ron was my introduction to professional academic life in general—and to Ron and the SIU culture in particular, and I could not have asked for a better one.

Tami Spry, PhD, 1991. Professor of Performance Studies, St. Cloud State University. Any professor who can be flipped the bird and turn it into a teaching moment is as brilliant and compassionate as they come. Ron Pelias embodies a scholarship of rigorous compassion that I can only continually try to emulate. Though he is retiring, Ron's influence on the field of performance studies is enduring and foundational. All my love, Ron.

Nicole Defenbaugh, PhD 2007, Director of Medical Education and Program Evaluation, Lehigh Valley Health Network. Ron Pelias is the reason I started writing about my illness (IBD). In Spring 2004 I took his autoethnography course. After class one day I spoke with him about because I was having difficulty choosing a topic to write about. I will never forget when Ron said, "Why don't you write about what it means to live with ulcerative colitis (IBD)." My exact words, "No one wants to read about that!" In the time that followed he persuaded me to write about my life experiences. And so, in Ron Pelias's office began the first step—or in this case keyboard stroke—in a life-long journey of illness writing. The paper for that class was eventually published in *Qualitative Inquiry* and I eventually wrote my dissertation on the topic, using autoethnography and narrative as my primary methods. My book was not only dedicated to the millions who live with IBD but also my advisor and friend who encouraged me to take that first step. I am so grateful for the many conversations we had in his office and believe his words of wisdom and encouragement inspired me to be the educator and writer that I am today. I am eternally grateful to him and how much he changed my life at SIU.

Shauna M. MacDonald, MA, 2007, PhD, 2011, Assistant Professor, Villanova University.

I have too many things to thank Ron for; it would take far more than 2-3 sentences! One of the things that will always stick with me is his way of hyperbolizing (and so critiquing) "Performance is *EVERYTHING!*" (picture jazz hands making an arc around his head while he says it); it's something I have taken with me into my own performance classes, with my own spin of course! And, who could forget his virtuoso performance of "Mountain?" Ron, I'm so happy for you, and wish you all the best in this next phase of your journey. :)

Dr. Aubrey Huber, PhD, 2013. Performance, though an exhilarating experience is often nerve-wracking. Will I remember my lines? Is my work theoretically sound? However, when you perform in the Kleinau you know it will all be okay because you have Ron Pelias and his infectious laughter. As soon as you hear it, you know you're golden. SIU will not be same without Ron's laughter resonating throughout the department, but I hope it will echo in their hearts as it does it mine.

Dr. W. Benjamin Myers, Ph.D, 2008. Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, USC Upstate. The first time I was exposed to Ron was in my Qualitative Methods class (taught by John Warren). We read "For Father and Son: An Ethnodrama With No Catharsis." After reading it, I immediately ordered "Writing Performance." After reading it, I told John that I wanted to go to SIU and study with this guy. When I visited campus and met Ron, I became surer that this was the right choice.

I was talking with a German scholar recently, and he told me that in Germany you refer to your Dissertation Adviser as "Doctor Father." In that vein, I will always think of Ron as my Academic father who pushed me (with warmth and collegiality) to do my best work. I wish you the best in your new endeavors, Ron, and I remember with such fondness sitting on those concrete benches outside and sorting things out.

Dr. Chris McRae, PhD, 2011. Now working as an Instructor at the University of South Florida, (but I will be an Assistant Professor at USF starting in the fall.) I first met Dr. Ron Pelias at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois as part of an assignment for a Qualitative Methods course I was taking as a Master's student at USF. A year and a half later, I nervously walked into the conference room at SIU on the first day of orientation as a doctoral student. Ron smiled at me from across the room, and I immediately felt a sense of welcome, encouragement, and generosity that characterized my relationship with Ron as his advisee throughout my time at SIU. I think that smile is one of the most beautiful and important lessons I learned from Ron, and it's one that I strive to enact in my own work as a teacher.

Bin Zhang, Current PhD student. Ron makes me feel secure and protected in this program, in Carbondale and in the U.S. He always knows how to integrate you into this community even if you are from another world.

Sam Sloan, Current PhD student. One thing I've really liked about Ron is his down-to-earth guidance: clearly show the intentions of your performance/paper/presentation, don't talk dirt about your peers, and always be prepared to justify why you're doing what you're doing. Whether in academia or life, that's some pretty handy advice.

Sheng-Teo Fan, Current PhD student. Dr. Pelias, I have deeply appreciated your encouragement these past few years. You have inspired me to strive for excellence and to dedicate myself to service. Thank you!

Suzanne Daughton, PhD, Associate Professor. For 23 years, Ron has been a mentor for me (and I know for others, as well--as far as I can tell, he has been willing to nurture anyone who is willing to accept it). He has stood rock-solid, like an island of serenity and acceptance. I have been able to go to his office, or ask him questions at lunch, that I would be afraid to share with anyone else--but Ron has consistently been able to hear, and to hold with equanimity, my concerns, my frustrations and challenges, and my confusion, as well as my celebrations. It has been an honor to call him my colleague and friend, and I will miss him dearly.

Bryan Crow, PhD, Associate Professor. Ron and I both started our careers in this department in Fall 1981. We've seen a lot of people come and go since then, but Ron has always felt like the heart of our community. We will miss his smiling face and his daily presence in the office, but we will carry on the spirit of community that he has nurtured among us.

Nilanjana Bardhan, PhD, Associate Professor. "Ron has been a caring and wise mentor to not just me but many in this department over the last three decades." She feels extremely fortunate to be taking up this role. "I have big shoes to fill, no doubt. But Ron has done such a marvelous job over the last 20 years, and I feel honored to follow in his footsteps. I hope to continue the trajectory which he and others before him have charted out and nurtured," says Bardhan.

Sandra Pensoneau-Conway, PhD, Assistant Professor. One of my earliest memories of Ron was going into his office before I started my MS in Speech Communication, must have been late 1999 (because I started in the Spring semester). I had already been accepted into the program, and he was giving me advice. "Go to the parties." That, no joke, was his advice. And he was right. I don't know that I would have made it through grad school without having been at the parties to socialize, build community, and have the sort of conversations that helped me to make sense of what I was reading and thinking about and doing in my coursework and my writing.

Department Highlights

Department Participates in Research Town Meeting

Assistant Professor **Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** and doctoral candidate **Molly Wiant Cummins** presented a poster of their study, titled "Pedagogical Dialogue: A Feminist Praxis of *Being-With*," at the 10th Annual SIUC Research Town Meeting. This annual event, which was held April 16, 2013, showcases research and creative activity and provides networking opportunities for faculty, students and staff, and members of the community.

Their research centered on using the concepts of care and dialogue and a Freirean critical pedagogy approach. The goal was to 1) critique the separation of teacher and student, 2) engage letter-writing as a method of inquiry, and 3) develop new perspectives on the student-teacher relationship and the process of learning.

According to Wiant Cummins, "This project has become an important lesson in engaging other students and teachers in dialogue. For me, this means entering relationships as fellow humans in the process of becoming. It also means entering this relationship in vulnerability." Wiant Cummins says she is grateful for the opportunity to work with Pensoneau-Conway. This project is yet another example of how our graduate students collaborate with faculty as they prepare for careers in academia.



Pictured: Doctoral Candidate Molly Wiant Cummins and Assistant Professor Sandra Pensoneau-Conway

Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Dean John Koropchak, Chancellor Rita Cheng and colleagues from various departments stopped by the display and interacted with Wiant Cummins, Pensoneau-Conway and other members of the department who attended the event. Doctoral students **Bin Zhang**, **Julie Cosenza**, **Sharon Chuang** and **Sheng-Tao Fan** were instrumental in organizing and supporting the department's participation in the event.

Get to Know Dr. Rebecca Walker



Dr. Walker

Dr. Rebecca Walker has only been at SIU for a few months, but describes her experience as being overwhelmingly positive: "I am grateful to work in a department where they have smart, generous, and welcoming colleagues who care a lot about the students they teach and mentor. Most of all, I am pleasantly surprised and inspired by the diversity and dedication of the undergraduate students that I have had encountered thus far."

Dr. Walker has high and achievable expectations for SIU. She expects that SIU will continue to work toward growing and serving the needs of its student population, while protecting and promoting the needs of the faculty who teach those students.

Dr. Walker received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of North Texas (UNT) in 1998. She returned to UNT a few years later to work on her Master's in Communication Studies, and received the degree in fall of 2004. Rebecca then worked towards her doctoral degree in Communication Studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and graduated in May of 2011.

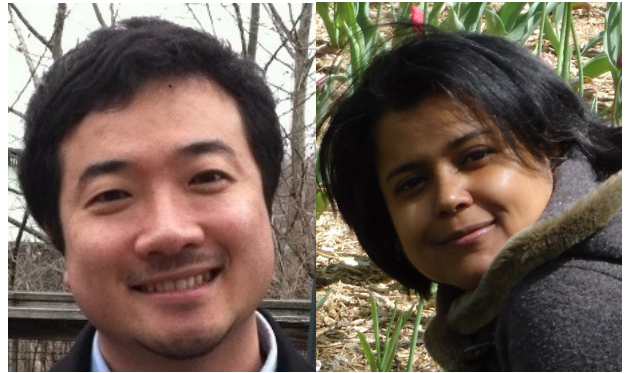
Her degrees involved an emphasis in Performance Studies. Dr. Walker's dissertation research examined how flash mobs operate as communicative acts, as well as the historical precedents for similar types of spontaneous public performance. She is also interested in tourism, particularly how tourist sites promote and preserve cultural practices through the performances created for tourists. In the area of rhetorical studies, her interests fall primarily in the realms of visual rhetoric, feminist rhetorical theory and practice, and rhetoric and philosophy.

Dr. Walker has an array of academic aspirations, including working on creating and scripting a show for the 2013-2014 Kleinau Theatre seasons. The show will explore how aliens operate as a manifestation of our cultural fears and aspirations. She hopes that the show will debut in the spring of 2014. Dr. Walker also aspires to publish a book on flash mobs. The book will outline flash mobs' various historical precedents in performance and culture, as well as the rise and spread of flash mobs across the global stage. In general, Dr. Walker wants to continue creating critical and provocative work on both the stage and the page.

Graduate Students and Faculty Collaborate on Research

Perceptions on Race in in Transnational Contexts

Every year, faculty members and graduate students collaborate on research projects. **Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan** and **Bin Zhang**, a doctoral student studying intercultural communication, are currently collaborating on a research project focused on perceptions of race in transnational contexts. Bardhan and Zhang started working on the project in January, 2013, and are currently in the data collection phase. They hope the project will make a meaningful contribution to critical intercultural communication studies by bringing scholars' attention to the racial de/reorientation of international students when they enter the United States for the first time.



Zhang

Bardhan

In addition, the results will also offer U.S. American educators insightful suggestions on facilitating racial de/reorientation of international students in our higher education system. While research on race relations in intercultural communication has increased, it tends to be focused primarily on the United States. "Perceptions of race vary across cultures and societies and our goal in this study is to explore how those sojourning in the U.S. make sense of race when first immersed in U.S. contexts," Bardhan said. The study involves in-depth qualitative interviews with international students on SIUC's campus who have lived in the U.S. for at least a year. Bardhan and Zhang hope to increase our understanding of the communicative implications of race when different perspectives intersect. "I think this project will offer critical intercultural scholars an opportunity to look at issues related to race and ethnicity outside of the U.S. American system and bring in new perspectives to help the racial orientation of international students in the U.S.," said Zhang. They plan to present and share their work through conferences and journal publication. "I believe it is important training for graduate students to collaborate with faculty on research whenever they can. This mentoring and collaborative experience helps students build confidence when it comes to publishing and preparing for a career in academics," Bardhan said.



Griffin

Cummins

An Exploration Into Gendered Racism

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is known as a research institution. A recent collaboration between one of our faculty members and one of our graduate students has produced some significant insights into the relationship between black male students and higher education. Recently, **Dr. Rachel Griffin**, an assistant professor in the Speech Communication Department, and **graduate student Molly Cummins** collaborated on a qualitative research study guided by critical race theory.

"The most exciting part about this project was working with my grad student," Dr. Griffin said. "Cummins and I have been able to present our findings together at a conference as well as publish two peer-reviewed articles."

One of the articles, "It's a Struggle, It's a Journey, It's a Mountain That You Gotta Climb," was recently published in the *Qualitative Communication Research Journal*, Vol. 1, Number 3, in the Fall of 2012. It is an exploration into "gendered racism" and the struggles that black males face while in higher education.

The second article is entitled "Critical Race Theory and Critical Communication Pedagogy: Articulating Pedagogy as an Act of Love from Black Male Perspectives." The focus of this study was to reveal how black misandric ideology manifests in traditionally White educational spaces. It was published in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 5, in November 2012. These projects were funded through a seed grant provided by the SIU Office of Special Projects Administration (OSPA).

"I am so grateful to have been a part of this project. The research, as well as the networking opportunities, have been great," Molly said.

Research Collaboration (Continued)

Hostelling International

Southern Illinois University is known for its important research initiatives and its relationships between professors and students. **Dr. Miriam Sobre-Denton** is a professor here at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and **Rob Carlsen** is an intercultural communication doctoral student. Sobre-Denton and Carlsen collaborated on a research project this past fall as they partnered up with Hostelling International in Chicago.

Hostelling International is a hotel company that provides interns research opportunities. While being supported by a seed grant, Sobre-Denton and Carlsen worked with underprivileged Chicago youth, between the ages of eight and eighteen, keeping documents on how they lived in the area and how it affected them. The results of their research were featured at several regional conferences and published in academic journals. The project was presented at the National Communication Association conference in Orlando, FL in November, 2012, as well as at the Perspectives on Interculturality conference St. Louis this past March.

Sobre-Denton is also featuring a part of the research project in a chapter of her book, *Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication*, and is incorporating some of the research into an article she is currently working on, with goals of it being published.

Sobre-Denton said, "I enjoyed working with Rob, and I'm really pleased that the work was so successful." She emphasized that Rob is a very outgoing and hardworking individual. Her next research project is currently a work in progress, since she hopes to collaborate with a company that does all the work for the schools in Chicago. Together, they could generate more research on young children in underdeveloped communities.



Carlson & Sobre-Denton

Faculty and Students Participate and Perform at Pattie Pace Performance Festival

Patricia Pace may have passed away, but her dedication to the performing arts lives on in a festival she organized shortly before her death in 2000. The Patti Pace Performance Festival is an event hosted in honor of the former director of graduate studies in the Speech Communication department here at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Her affiliation with Louisiana State University, Georgia Southern University, and SIU Carbondale has created a network of schools that take turns hosting the annual festival. This year's gathering, with the theme "Performing Fairy Tales," was hosted at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Rebecca Walker, Assistant Professor, accompanied a group of graduate students who participated and performed in the festival. The Patricia Pace Memorial Fund provided funding for their transportation.

Dr. Walker also worked as a respondent to provide feedback to other performers. The Patti Pace Performance Festival is a non-competitive forum. It provides the opportunity for faculty and graduate students to receive critical feedback for their work through performance. Participants are given the opportunity to network, and learn more about their chosen field while also learning about the various university programs and curriculum.



Woodhouse and Greer Performs at Festival

Graduate students Lindsay Greer and Diana Woodhouse wrote and performed "The Leaky Architecture of Beehives and Boxes," directed by graduate student Olivia Perez-Langley. It is a performance art piece that combines movement and feminist poetry. It draws on bee culture as a metaphor to explore women's relationships to media, language, labor, and each other. The performance at the Patti Pace Festival was a short scene from the play, and it received extremely positive feedback from their peers.

"What was most exciting for Lindsay, Olivia and me was having the opportunity to present our current collaborative piece, and receive feedback on it from a wide net of truly remarkable performance scholars," Diana said.

Students Speak Out on College Finances

Several students encouraged their peers to act on the financial issues they face in college during a forum Thursday [April 18, 2013].

Speakers filled the Lesar Law auditorium stage to voice their opinions on financial issues that surround college students during the event, "Deficits, Education and Funding: Student Voices on Money Matters," sponsored by the Department of Speech Communication and the Society for Civil Discourse. Five student speakers — Evette Rudolph, Leslie Murray, Jess Michels, Noah Coleman and Kyle Rudick — suggested constitutional amendments, equal educational rights and student-teacher relationship improvement as solutions to students' issues, said Rudick, a graduate student in speech communications from Tulsa, Okla.

He said higher education funding has declined because it makes Americans easier to control. While Rudick said he admits this sounds like somewhat of a conspiracy theory, this is the culture the U.S. government has built, and now we must deal with the consequences.

Funding for education was at its highest between 1945-1975, he said. During this time period, college students held protests regarding civil rights, women's rights and the demand for higher wages, showing that when students stand up for their rights, the government will listen, he said.

"One thing was clear — give people an education, and they will learn to demand their rights," Rudick said.

Rudick said funding has dropped since the protest era died out, which caused a student-debt increase and a lack of quality programs and instructors. Because of this, students select their careers based solely upon earning potential, he said, which limits the likelihood that students will become activists in fear that it might endanger their careers. Students do not protest what they know to be problems, he said.

"Keep your head down, scrape together a living and hopefully you'll be able to afford that little house with the white picket fence whenever you're 60 years old," Rudick said.

Rudolph, a sophomore from Country Club Hills studying psychology, said she focused her speech on tuition rates and student retention because students must actively work to improve their college, she said.

"The only way to make a change is to create it," Rudolph said.

Coleman, a freshman from Du Quoin studying English education, said higher education funding is a big university issue. Tuition is often raised when students can barely afford it already, he said.

Students in attendance at the forum took the national issues the speakers addressed and applied them to their university experiences. Gloria Pindi, a graduate student in speech communication from the Republic of Congo, said university fees alone are too expensive. Although graduate assistants get free tuition and a stipend, she thinks she just gives the stipend back to the university, she said.

Eric Dussthua, a senior from Chicago studying architecture, said while he agreed with many of the speaker's opinions, he didn't agree with complaints about the school spending too much on physical appearance.

"Obviously, the campus is lacking in money and the way it looks, and you have to do something in order to bring people here (and) in order to bring revenue into the school," he said.

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[This story first appeared in the **D.E.** on April 21, 2013.]



Participants L to R are: Les Murray, Jess Michaels, Noah Coleman, Evette Rudolph

Meet some of our students

“Isn’t it Queer?”



Cosenza at the Mic

Whether you listen online or on the radio, it is safe to say that many people from many different walks of life will enjoy “Isn’t it Queer?,” a radio talk show, hosted by Julie Cosenza and her co-host, Dr. Jonny Gray. Queer activist Julie Cosenza is from San Francisco, CA, and earned her Master’s from San Francisco State University in Women and Gender Studies. She is currently a doctoral candidate here at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

“Isn’t it Queer?” is one of the first shows of its kind to air in southern Illinois. The show has been on for three years and initially started off with three hosts: Paulette Curkin, Billy Rogers, and Cade Bursell, who are also the program’s founders.

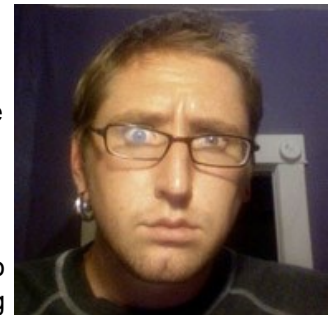
The mission of the show is to promote queer events, and to discuss and inform the community on both global and local concerns about gay and lesbian issues. Cosenza started off as a guest host. Her first show explored the issues of disability and sexuality. The audience responded to her so well that she soon became a familiar voice and has been the host of the show for two years now.

“Isn’t it Queer?” airs every Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m. and has developed a strong following in both our local broadcast region and areas as distant as California. The show tackles controversial topics, features special guests (including other gay and lesbian activists), and promotes community activities, including the Pride Picnic, in southern Illinois. When asked how the show has affected her, Cosenza said, “Doing the show has bettered me in the sense of feeling more connected to the queer community and being more accountable for what is going on in the queer community.”

Cosenza said that the show helps bring diverse people together and is not just beneficial to a specific audience, but to everyone. She is conscious of homophobia and uses the show as a way to “talk back” (as Bell Hooks has termed it) and to voice both local and global concerns. Individuals who are interested in learning more about “Isn’t it Queer?” and the GLBT community can ask questions and participate in discussions on Facebook: [facebook.com/isntitqueer.pa](https://www.facebook.com/isntitqueer.pa)

Occupy the Airwaves

“Occupy the Airwaves” is a radio show that currently features rotating cast members who come together to discuss contemporary political landscape, while undertaking criticism of the current political atmosphere. The show was formed by a group of students on campus that were involved with the occupy movements that took place in 2011 and is now run by SIU PhD candidate Kyle Cheesewright.



Cheesewright

Kyle, who received his B.A. in Speech Communication and Political Science at Colorado State University and his M.A. in Communication Studies at California State University, Long Beach, was influenced to start the show because of his interest in the Occupy movement in late 2011.

“The dedication to a wide range of political issues made me interested in getting involved with conversations about income inequality, and the social inequality, that helps to maintain bias, prejudice, and oppression,” Kyle said.

The show initially aired in December of 2011 and has now become a regular show on the airwaves. Kyle stated that the primary message for the show is that if we, society, pay attention and refuse to remain silent, that another world is possible. He describes the most interesting part about hosting the show as being able to see a unique perspective on the diverse issues that are examined.

“I hope to display and practice the political spirit of the Occupy movement through highlighting that we don’t have a choice if we are going to occupy or not,” he said. “The only question is how consciously we are going to approach our occupation of the world.”

The show attempts to target anyone who is interested in creating connections between various social justice issues, and is willing to encourage others to pay attention. The show airs on Thursday’s from 12-2 p.m. The best way to get involved with “Occupy the Airwaves” is to connect with the group on Facebook, or you can contact cast members individually with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

“At its heart, Occupy the Airwaves is an attempt to join with a wide range and vibrant history of political dissent and create connections between history and today in an attempt to understand our world,” Kyle said. “It’s as easy as just getting involved in the world around you and finding people with similar concerns.”

Our Amazing Alumni

Former PRSSA Member is Captain of Chicago Slaughter Dance Team

Algonquin, Illinois, native Brittany Cheves was known for juggling a complex variety of extra-curricular activities while she was with us. Brittany graduated from our department in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication, a specialization in Public Relations, and a distinguished record of leadership for Delta Zeta Sorority, the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, and the Saluki Shakers dance team.

Since graduating and returning to Chicago, Brittany – one of SIU Carbondale's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors in 2011 – has stayed busy. After a stint as an account manager for A&A Marketing, she has been promoted to affiliate manager in the online advertising department of Clickso, A&A's sister company. In addition, Brittany recently accepted a social media internship position with Sharon Ringier Events, a boutique special event and wedding planning company in Chicago.



Cheves pictured front row, far right.

And, since Brittany is still as enthusiastic about dancing as she was here in Carbondale, she has sparkled as the captain and manager of the Chicago Slaughter of the Indoor Football League.

Promoting Events With Passion



Cox

Lesley Cox, a 2005 speech communication graduate, is the promotions manager for three television stations – FOX 55/27, The Central Illinois CW23, MeTV and THISTV – all owned by Sinclair Broadcasting in Springfield, Ill. She is

responsible for all promotional events for the stations, while serving as the on-air personality for FOX.

"I'm so thankful to be in this role with Sinclair Broadcasting, and it's a great opportunity to utilize the skills I initially developed at Southern and during the early years of my career. I really love the people I work with and couldn't be happier."

Cox promotes events spearheaded by the station, in addition to community activities. She's also responsible for developing relationships with radio deejays in Sinclair Broadcasting's dominant market area (DMA). These associations are valuable in promoting new shows and other FOX initiatives.

The SIU graduate has made on-air appearances in Champaign, Decatur and Springfield, and produces her own radio show.

Cox credits our Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America for providing her with an opportunity to develop and tone presentation skills, and work with her peers on various SIU and community PR-related projects while representing the organization.

Rockin' the Hard Rock Hotel

John Schumacher graduated in 2012 with a specialization in public relations, *cum laude* honors and as one of SIU's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. He held several Executive Board positions in a number of student organizations, including President of our Raymond D. Wiley chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.



Schumacher

John is currently working as a Social Media Specialist for the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. He manages the social media accounts—primarily Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—across all of the hotel property, including nightclubs, pools, and concert venues.

John believes the positive relationships he made while a student here were vital and assisted him in getting the position he holds now. His advice to students is to never underestimate knowledge of the basics. "PR is all about writing, writing, and more writing. I know it sounds too simple, but if you can truly write well, you will be ahead of the game," he said.

John enjoys the freedom he has at work to experiment and the opportunity to learn from his superiors. "Try your best to put yourself in a position which values your growth professionally," said Schumacher. "If you are doing things right, your education shouldn't stop after graduate, it should escalate."

Communication Consultant, Instructor, and Scholar



Engstrom

Craig Engstrom is a Business and Professional Communications trainer and Instructor at Elmhurst College in Chicago, IL. He earned his PhD in 2010 in Speech Communication, with an emphasis in intercultural and organizational communication.

Engstrom teaches Professional and Business Communication, Organizational Communication, Social Media Communication, and Intercultural Communication at Elmhurst. He travels regularly to Carbondale, too, which he regards as his “second home,” since his partner is our department’s Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan.

Even though Engstrom is very busy, teaching courses, researching and publishing, he managed to find time to start his own consulting business, Sophist.es Consulting.

Through his firm, he hosts free résumé workshops, and also coaches private clients in the art of job searching and writing an effective résumé.

Recently, he published a book entitled *Business Communications for Professionals and Consultants: A Rhetorical Perspective*, which is used in the SPCM 280 Business and Professional Communication courses here at SIU. Engstrom says it took two years and

twenty hours a week of hard work and dedication to complete the book. *Business Communications for Professionals and Consultants* is based on what he learned during his years of schooling, research, teaching and other experiences.

Currently, he is working on another book titled *Public Speaking in a Digital Word: A Practical Approach*. The book focuses on preparing speeches in today’s web and online culture.

Engstrom is very passionate about the topic of communication and sees it as an area of study that can really help students launch their careers. His advice to students is, “You can either be a victim of change or navigate the tumultuous waters of change.”

Alumnus Becomes Activist

Bryant Cross, M.A. 2012, is one of many Southern Illinois University Carbondale graduates who has exceeded even his own expectations. Cross is currently a professor at two institutions in Tampa Bay, Florida and also is a spoken word artist. As an additional contribution, near and dear to his own heart, he has developed a movement called the 500 Campaign that is rapidly gaining recognition.

Considering the increasing violence in Chicago, Illinois, Cross is determined to make a change with his movement, the 500 Campaign. The 500 Campaign is a grassroots social media endeavor created to bring national attention to Chicago’s violence.



Cross

“I’m from the south side of Chicago myself. Even back then, the murder rate was in the hundreds and some of those numbers were personal friends of mine,” Cross said. “It upsets me that hundreds of people can be killed in a particular city, yet there is no national discussion about what is happening and how things can change. I wanted to spark that conversation.”

The 500 Campaign has become a national movement. It has received coverage from all over the country and has had media recognition from NBC national news, ABC, BET, and Jet Magazine. However, Cross wants to acquire the attention of networks such as CNN, Fox, MTV, etc. “We need to view people as...people again, particularly African-American and Hispanic citizens. Before gun control and violence became a ‘hot topic,’ the general public ignored the hundreds of murders that happened every year in Chicago,” Cross said. “I believe this is due to the fact that minorities (and I hate using that word by the way) are still not viewed as citizens, as people, as fellow brothers and sisters.”

Regarding his time here at SIU, Cross said: “Trust your professors and the surrounding community. I myself was hostile and resistant only to learn in the end that they’ve always had the best intentions at heart. They know what they’re doing. So, just be humble, learn, and don’t be afraid to ask for help.”

Faculty Updates

Nilanjana Bardhan continues to teach courses in intercultural communication and public relations and supervise internships for undergraduate students. She published "Culture as a 'traveling' variable in transnational public relations: A dialectical approach" in the edited book *Culture, social class and race and in public relations*, presented papers at the NCA 2012 conference and the Perspectives on Interculturality conference at St. Louis University, and is working with a team of colleagues on a multi-country study of leadership in public relations.

Bryan Crow Bryan Crow was a panel respondent at the Southern States Communication Association convention in Louisville, Kentucky in April 2013. He will be the program planner for the Language and Social Interaction division for next year's SSCA convention in New Orleans. Also in April, he taught a day-long workshop at the St. Louis Irish music festival, the Tionol. He continues to represent the department on SIU's Graduate Council.

Suzanne Daughton was on sabbatical in the Spring semester, and during 2012 participated in nine trainings in Nonviolent Communication; Conscious Living and Loving; and Yoga and Meditation; this included completion of the two-year LIFE (Learning, Integration, Full Embodiment) training program with Robert Gonzales in October. At the NCA conference in November, Suzanne presented a portion of her research on the rhetoric surrounding childbirth. She continued teaching and advising in rhetoric and philosophy of communication, gender and sexuality studies, and compassionate communication, as well as (volunteer) teaching Compassionate Communication at Carbondale New School.

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook returned from a year on sabbatical; created a solo performance, *The Last Giraffe*; and has work coming out in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, and the forthcoming *Handbook of Autoethnography* from Left Coast Press. He continues to work with experimental sound, and particularly enjoys making music for the Butoh performances of Naida Zukic.

Jonny Gray was on sabbatical this academic year.

Rachel Griffin published "I AM an Angry Black Woman: Black Feminist Autoethnography, Voice, and Resistance," in *Women's Studies in Communication*, "Gender Violence and the Black Female Body: The Enduring Significance of 'Crazy' Mike Tyson" in *The Howard Journal of Communications*, and "Power, Privilege, and the Surprising Absence of Repair: Kobe Bryant and Interest Convergence" in an edited collection entitled *Repairing the Athlete's Image: Studies in Sports Image Restoration*. Rachel also delivered five anti-gender violence keynotes and five anti-gender violence workshops at conferences and on campuses all over the country.

Joshua Houston continues to teach courses within the emphases of public relations and organizational communication. The *Sports Public Relations* course that he built and offers annually was formally added to the course catalog in 2012-2013. In addition, Josh created and offered a new course in spring 2013 entitled *Sports in Social and Political Movements*, where students consider the sociological and cultural role of sports in the United States and around the world.

Denise McClearey continues to teach courses in the areas of public relations and organizational communication. She is currently finishing her second year as the Faculty Advisor for the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). After a successful year with PRSSA, she is looking forward to great things to come.

Ronald J. Pelias is currently working on a book project entitled, *Performance: An Alphabet of Performative Writing* (Left Coast Press). He hopes to complete the book by summer's end, when he will be retiring after 32 years of teaching at SIU.

Elyse Pineau was this year's recipient of our award for "The Outstanding Teacher" in the Department of Speech Communication. She spent her Fall 2012 sabbatical working on a book project in performative pedagogy and was invited to bring a new one-person show, "Poem Schooling" and related teaching workshops to St. Cloud State University. This year she has published articles in *International Review of Qualitative Research*, and *Qualitative Review*, as well as having an earlier article on critical performative pedagogy translated into Portuguese and published in a new Brazilian edited collection. In the spring she performed *Homesteading: Tales of Growing Up in the Canadian North* at a local venue and is currently directing Nico Wood's solo production, *Sideshow*, for the Marion Kleinau Theatre.

Miriam Sobre-Denton spent the majority of 2012 working on her forthcoming book with Dr. Bardhan, entitled *Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication: Communicating as a Global Citizen*. The book is due out in May. In April she headed to San Diego to run a seminar on intercultural conflict facilitation and macro-contexts at the San Diego Peace Building Conference. She is currently taking the reins on NCASC from Dr. Toyosaki and will be the full-time faculty supervisor by Fall 2013. Miriam also continues to teach courses in advanced intercultural theory and intercultural communication in the globalizing workplace.

Faculty Updates (Continued)

Nathan Stucky, Department Chair, performed his one-person show, *Black & White & Red All Over* in the Marion Kleinau Theatre, and at the Central States Communication Association meeting in Kansas City. He published "Wallace Bacon's View from the Lighthouse" in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, and "It's Time to Boo: Resonance, Resistance, and Revolution" in *Qualitative Inquiry*.

Satoshi Toyosaki co-authored two manuscripts and single-authored one. They appeared in *Iowa Journal of Communication* and an edited book, *Identity and Communication Research: Intercultural Reflections and Future Directions*. He continues attending and presenting his scholarship at various conferences. He enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses, primarily in intercultural communication, and serving the department as Undergraduate Studies Director.

Rebecca Walker published "Fill/Flash/Memory: A History of the Flash Mob" in the Spring issue of *Text and Performance Quarterly* and taught classes in persuasion, storytelling, and a special seminar on the relationship between performance, culture, and technology. She also enjoyed traveling to two performance festivals with SPCM students, the Petit Jean Performance Festival in the fall and the Patti Pace Performance Festival in the spring semester. Rebecca created a performance installation for NCA titled "Absence Marked," which solicited participant work from communication and performance studies scholars across the country, and was honored to be chosen as the speaker for this spring's SSCA Page to Stage panel, where she discussed her most recent directorial work, an adaptation of Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* for the stage in the Spring of 2011. Rebecca was excited to perform an original monologue by graduate student Lindsay Greer in the inaugural Big Muddy New Plays Festival this spring, sponsored by the Department of Theater, and looks forward to debuting her own performance work on the Kleinau Theater stage next year.

Club Updates



Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

The members of the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) just closed out an exciting year. The self-funded Chapter, which is organized as seven committees that execute various aspects of public relations, planned and coordinated a variety of on- and off-campus activities.

Each semester, the Chapter featured a marquee event. In the fall, the focus was again on **"Shop With a Cop."** This event, which was featured in the Winter edition of this newsletter, started with 15 children being given Kohl's gift cards. They then traveled, along with members of PRSSA and officers from the SIUC Campus Police Department, to the Carbondale Kohl's department store.

With a little help from their friendly "cops," the children selected, purchased and wrapped holiday gifts for their families. Each child selected to participate was the daughter or son of an SIUC student.

In the spring, the big event was **"Brand U,"** which was a professional development retreat that featured speakers who gave tips for post-graduate success that students won't find in a textbook.

Members also got involved in several projects that united the Chapter and the community. The Chapter created promotional materials and participated in on-campus publicity for groups such as: The Carbondale Women's Center annual "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" event that raised awareness for domestic violence; For Kid's Sake, an international program that raises money to support orphanages and schools in Bangladesh; and many other worthy causes. Our student run public relations firm, Pyramid Public Relations, continued to work with on- and off-campus clients. Our most successful account – planning a "Red Carpet" event for an RSO from the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts.

As the 2012-2013 school year concludes, the future continues to look bright. Junior Nicole Kmiotek will become President, and she looks to lead a talented Executive Board to advance the Chapter and push members toward success.

National Communication Association Student Club (NCASC)

The National Communication Association Student Chapter (NCASC), directly affiliated with the National Communication Association (NCA), has done great work with our undergraduate students throughout the past few years, and we are excited to do more good work in the future! SIUC is one of the lucky twenty universities that have a NCASC chapter. It has been guided this year by faculty advisor **Dr. Miriam Sobre-Denton** and has created many exciting opportunities for our students through the work of President **Brianna White**. **Greg Hummel**, a doctoral student and assistant to our department's Undergraduate Program Director, provided constant support and inspiration. NCASC has become a fun-filled opportunity for community outreach, resume building, receiving credit, and philanthropy.



The goal of the NCASC is to make connections. The NCASC hosts various social and professional events in order to encourage interaction among students, faculty, and professionals. Once again, this year the main focus has been on Relay for Life. We have held fundraising activities such as a Bags Tournament at the CoLA Council event *Friday on the Breeze*, pizza socials, and selling purple bows and baked goods on campus. NCASC has also sought to grow by reaching out to peers, the Department of Speech Communication, and other student organizations (such as SCO and PRSSA). President Brianna White is proud of the Chapter, which created promotional materials and participated in on-campus publicity, particularly the fun day-shoot of a recruitment video (available soon on Youtube) written by Anthony Zarinana. We celebrated the end of a great year with a dinner at Global Gourmet.

Speech Communication Organization (SCO)



Although the 2011-2012 academic year has been a quiet one for the Speech Communication Organization (SCO), it has still been a year that has given our graduate students a great number of opportunities to heighten their academic development. This year's SCO board members, including President **Nichole Nicholson**, have been guiding members to develop and execute events in order to raise money for the department, as well as, for the John T. Warren Memorial Scholarship.

As you may know, **Dr. John T. Warren** was a well-known and highly-respected member of our faculty. In his honor, a small group of graduate students, including **Molly Cummins**, **Christi Saindon**, **Benny LeMaster**, **Aubrey Huber**, and **Diana Woodhouse**, have taken on the responsibility of developing an intra-departmental scholarship program. This

scholarship program makes awards to one undergraduate and one graduate student who seek assistance with individual research funding. The plan is to establish this as an annual award and to keep the loving memory of Dr. Warren in our hearts for many years to come.

Kleinau Theatre : Spring 2013 Season

Feb. 21-23 ***The Last Giraffe***

Written and Performed by Craig Gingrich-Philbrook

In a data base/data basement, on a lost interstellar probe/in an abandoned hospital, in the future/present, a program/person running out of power compiled fragments from its/his favorite (post)human memories into an abstract performance about time before signing off, going dark, and drifting in the cosmos.



March 1 ***Triskaidekaphobia: 13 Consumer Tragedies***

Amy K. Kilgard, Visiting Artist

Thirteen characters faced the perils of consumerism. A cashier becomes consumed by her big-box store. A compulsive collector reconciles his obsessions. From her own retail experiences to others' (sometimes) bizarre customer service interactions, Amy explored how we consume today and how we might change consumption tomorrow.

March 21-23 ***Nacht der Textlichen Leiche: The Movie Riffers' Performative guide to Reanimating Bodies in the Dark***

Directed by Matt Foy

The audience was invited to the radical reanimation of the film audiencing experience. They were thrilled as a company of performers appropriated a beloved (or not) film and riffed it into new realms of kinetic possibility! They gasped as film, audience, and theatre rose from the crypt in an alchemic orgy of sensual delights!

April 25-27 ***A Double Bill:***

Sideshow

Written, Performed, and Directed by Nico Wood

A trapeze artist gave birth to a burlesque dancer. The burlesque dancer gave birth to a jazz dancer, who gave birth to a carnival side-show performer. The sideshow performer gave birth to performer Nico Wood. This solo-show tracked her archeology of these faded, familial narratives. As in any good performance, the lines between magic, illusion, and truth were blurred.

The Leaky Architecture of Beehives and Boxes

Written and Directed by Lindsay Greer & Diana Woodhouse

What is the shape of laughter? How do you map an echo? This show navigated the fluid architecture of interiority, the geography of pleasure, and the landscape of *jouissance*. It moved_ through the leaks in language, not settling for solids. Pandora's Box was never opened—it refused to close in the first place, always spilling over.

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Excellence Recognized at Annual Department Awards Ceremony

On May 3rd the department recognized the outstanding achievements of our graduate and undergraduate students, as well as our faculty. Here are this year's winners:

Thomas J. Pace Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching

Masters student awarded to: Kyler Cook
 Doctoral student awarded to: Lisa Raser

Ronald J. Pelias Graduate Student Service Award Benjamin LeMaster

John T. Warren Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Award Joshua Phillips

Tekla Story Award for Excellence in Performance Poe Foy

Outstanding Teacher in Speech Communication Dr. Elyse Pineau

Elizabeth Lance Public Relations Student Award Nathan Maul

Paul Hibbs Award Carlye Schweska Rita Cook

The Marion Kleinau Theatre Award Nichole Nicholson Sam Sloan Nico Wood

Outstanding Junior in Speech Communication Elly Braaten Elizabeth Fines Veronica Jones

Levina Micken Award for Excellence in Debate Ben Campbell

John Warren Student Scholarships Carlye Schweska Poe Foy Olivia Perez-Langley

Outstanding Senior in Speech Communication Rita Cook Toni Foy Aleisha Guerrettaz Kelci Jones Jeffrey Miller Carlye Schweska Brittany Underwood Jessica Wharton

Outstanding Sophomore in Speech Communication Melanie Kurinec



Back: Dr. Elyse Pineau, Lisa Raser, Kyler Cook, Benny LeMaster
 Front: Olivia Perez-Langley, Carlye Schweska, Joshua Phillips

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS!