

# SPEAK EASY

Department of Communication Studies Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Formerly Department of Speech Communication

Summer 2014

## Joshua Kauffman Honored by University for Young Alumni Achievements



Kauffman addressing the group

Before receiving the SIU Distinguished Alumni Award, Joshua Kauffman had advice for a room of aspiring public relations professionals: "Work hard each day no matter who's looking."

Kauffman, who graduated from SIU in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in public relations,

was one of four alumni

honored on April 25, 2014, for career achievements and humanitarian efforts in his field. Before the award ceremony, Kauffman connected with a room of communication students by sharing professional advice he has learned from his experience in the workforce.

He advised students to discover knowledge gaps and missing skills in the profession they desire to enter and to identify informal influencers within the company in order to gain a quick advantage over other new hires. "You'll learn how to grow into that position," Kauffman said to the students in the Lawson lecture hall. "A lot of people restrict themselves and think, 'Oh okay, that's too big a job. That's too big a responsibility.' I say dive in, learn it as you go and don't look back."

Since graduating from SIU, Kauffman has continuously proven to be a true go-getter. He began working for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in 2006, while also working on his master's degree in business administration at the University of Illinois. He worked on creative projects such as the "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" campaigns. In four years with IDOT he earned three promotions and became the youngest spokesperson for the agency.

Kauffman soon oversaw all of IDOT's marketing communications efforts. Taking on such significant responsibilities at a young age helped Kauffman learn how to become comfortable in challenging situations.

Kauffman has made it a point to be consistently involved with fundraising and volunteer efforts. For nearly two years he served on the Board of Advisors— a nonprofit volunteer position — for the Salvation Army. In that capacity, he worked on a \$6.8 million restoration project and on the Tree of Lights campaign, which

provided help at the holidays for underprivileged families in Springfield.

Kauffman's Distinguished Alumni Award represents the most recent in a long line of milestones he has achieved in his young career. His diligence should inspire hope and provide direction for new public relations graduates who are anxious to find their place in the world. Kauffman — who is an excellent role model for success — shared his perspective: "I think success is in every person. It's just a matter of developing it within yourself, as long as you have the determination, drive and the ability to take on more than what you think is possible."

Being back on campus allowed Kauffman to reflect upon his time as a student. "This kind of repositions myself in the mind of a student more than an academia mindset, and it definitely rejuvenates more of an inspiration to communally learn outside of associations or online classes," he said.

While at SIU Kauffman served as the vice president of the National Communications Association Club; he won the Best Account and Best Committee Awards in PRSSA and Pyramid and made the dean's list every year amongst other academic feats

Currently, Kauffman serves as a senior strategic communications consultant at a subsidiary of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company — a Global Fortune 29 company and the sixth largest IT company in the world.

We are very proud that Joshua Kauffman has received the SIU Distinguished Alumni Award by capitalizing not only on his own talents, motivation and genuine interest in people, but also on what he learned with us as a Public Relations major.

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## Another Exciting Year for Saluki Debate SIU Wins Second Straight NPDA Championship

The last year for Saluki Debate has certainly seen its share of excitement. Coming off their record breaking performances last year, this year the team would have certainly been excused if their performances did not measure up to last year's immense success. However, instead of taking a step back, the team continued its historic run. SIU is once again the national champion of debate, winning the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) National Championship, and the team of Ben Campbell and Josh Rivera are the national champions of debate.

Since SIU won last year's NPDA National Championship as well, it marks the first back-to-back repeat championship performance in the history of the organization. By repeating the championship, SIU stands alone in the 21-year history of the organization. And Josh Rivera has now won the NPDA twice. Only one other

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Rivera and Campbell hoist their trophy

debater in history has won the championship twice (but not consecutively, as has Josh). The back-to-back national championship victory caps off another successful year overall for the team. Ben and Josh were the top ranked team in the country going into nationals. By the time the Spring Semester competition was underway, it had

become clear other teams had closed the gap of success. Although Ben and Josh were still extremely competitive, never finishing below the top 8 teams at any invitational, other teams had certainly worked hard over winter break to catch up. Teams that Ben and Josh had been defeating all year were suddenly winning rounds against SIU.

While Ben and Josh stepped up their preparation to regain their competitive advantage, Freshman debater Ariana Arnone continued to steadily improve. She got an opportunity to showcase her growth when she filled in for Ben for a weekend and she and Josh ended up earning SIU's sole invitational victory of the spring tournament season. They won the Point Loma Round Robin in convincing fashion and followed up their success by winning again that weekend at the Sunset Cliffs Classic hosted on Pt. Loma's campus. This was the fourth year in a row that SIU has won the Round Robin and Ariana's convincing success points to the bright future Saluki debate should enjoy over the next three years.

At this year's championship competition, held at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, there were over 150 teams from across the country. The tournament began rather normally, with SIU having a record of 6 wins with two losses. But that's when things turned around for the better for the Salukis. Having safely qualified for the single elimination debates with the other top 64 teams, there was no more room for error. Any loss meant the team would be eliminated.

Dr. Graham, said: "Ben and Josh could not have debated any better than they did when the pressure ramped up and everything was on the line. In fact, Ben and Josh had a tremendous ballot count (total number of all judges voting for and against them) during the final five elimination debates of 29 for and only 4 against. So as the tournament got smaller, with only the best teams advancing, Ben and Josh were still able to dominate every opponent they debated by winning all of their debates by lopsided decisions." SIU won the final championship round on an 8 to 1 decision in our favor.

"Ben and Josh were great, and they deserve most of the credit. But we couldn't have accomplished this without a lot of help. Our graduate assistant coaches were tremendous this year," said Graham. "Steve Farias and Mike Selck were unbelievably good in all

aspects of their coaching. I don't know what I'd do without them. And our other team member, Ariana Arnone, who is just a freshman, was also critical in scouting and researching for us at the national championship. Since SIU has such a small program, we have to work together if we want to win. We wouldn't have the championship without the combined efforts of everyone on the team."

This is the fifth different year, over a span of four decades, that SIU has had an individual team claim a national championship in debate. An SIU team beat all comers in 1988, 1996, 2008, 2013 and 2014 (not including overall sweepstakes awards, which are based on the size of the program and number of tournaments attended). With over 800 teams competing throughout the season, NPDA is the largest debating organization in the world and SIU sits at the top. That's a truly enviable record for any university involved in any form of intercollegiate team competition! Please join us in heartily congratulating all those who have contributed to this success.

## Department News

### Faculty and Students Participate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference

On March 21, 2014, SIU's Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program held their annual student conference. This year's focus was on *Joining Voices Enduring Dialogue: A CrossDisciplinary Conference on Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies*. The main purpose of the conference is to bring together SIU Carbondale's faculty and students from different disciplinary backgrounds and to open opportunities for collaboration and dialogue about women, gender and sexuality across the arts, sciences, humanities and education.

This year the Communication Studies department was strongly represented by several well-prepared and inspiring speakers.

### Masculinity in American Culture

#### Through the Looking Glass: Perception of Blackness, Black Masculinity and Black Femininity to Television.

Presented by: Patrick Bennett

Co-Authored by: Darylshia Cherry (not pictured)

Patrick Bennett, a graduate student studying interpersonal communication at SIU, did research on Black masculinity and femininity in television. Patrick and Darylshia did a combination of inter-



Bennett

views when gathering their research. Patrick said, "It was mainly one-on-one interviews, man vs. woman and vice versa." He said this was to see how the opposite gender responded to the questions, verbally and non-verbally. He pointed out that contemporary television scripts presented imagery through which viewers see the black masculine body as, "sapphire, loud and head waggin'." Their research

states that the black masculine role is seen as violent, and is usually associated with gangs that live in poverty. A question asked by an audience member led to another interesting finding: the media makes it seem that black males are being influenced by black females. Wrapping up their research, they concluded that “blackness as a whole” leads to the conclusion that people lean towards media as a coping mechanism so they can escape from reality. People like humor so they can laugh and people like drama because it’s appealing; however, African Americans, in general, feel something is missing in media today.

**Queering Radio:  
Broadening Queer Horizons**

Presented By: Julie Cosenza and Jonathan M. Gray

Julie Cosenza and Jonathan Gray have their own radio talk show with WDBX community radio. The title of their show is *Let’s Talk Queer*. During their speech at the conference they were recording so they could put a few speakers onto the radio to discuss the issues that were brought up. Cosenza and Gray focus on bringing the queer community together through radio waves. Cosenza said she wondered, “Where are all the flags?” when she first moved to Carbondale (referring to the gay community flag). She wanted to do something about that. Now she assists with hosting a queer radio talk show which discusses social activism in areas such as environmental justice and water rights, as well as, queer identity with environmental issues. The show also discusses resistance from the greater community in response to queer advocacy and activism and how that resistance interferes with the queer communities efforts. They want to spread awareness to gain a neutral ground, and they do all that through radio waves.



Cosenza

**Absent Black Gay Male  
Bodies in LGBT Community**  
Presented by: Quinton Neal

Quinton Neal, senior studying intercultural communication, discussed his research on the absence of the black male body, mainly in the media and in print advertisements. His framework drew on Standpoint Theory and how power and knowledge shape our daily lives. His research included critiquing *Out* magazine and



Neal

various television shows and movies. He started out by stating how gay, black male bodies are perceived. He said they are seen as, “HIV flamboyant mammals.” Quinton said that when he would visit a gay community, he still would not feel at home because gay, white males are seen as the desirable body. Even on television and in *Out* magazine it’s rare to see a gay, black male on the cover, just as it’s unusual to see one in a main role in a television series or a movie. Quinton wants to resolve this issue and find a common ground and a place he feels at home. He feels very strongly about fighting for his rights, and bringing the gay community together.

## Faculty and Students Get Recognized

### Competitive Arts Residency

Jonathan Gray, Meg Hunt Residency, Wrangell Mountains Center:

Dr. Jonathan M. Gray has been competitively selected to participate in the Meg Hunt Residency program in McCarthy, Alaska. His proposed project involves working with the local community to build and perform with large-form, street theater puppets as well as continuing interview data collection with local wilderness guides. The Wrangell Mountains Center reviewed over 80 applications for five available slots in this inaugural year of the Meg Hunt Residency program. Dr. Gray will be in residence in McCarthy from June 11<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, see: <http://www.wrangells.org/residencies/>

### Convention Honors and Awards

**Central States Communication Association: Minneapolis**

#### Top Papers:

Rachel Griffin and Gloria Pindi Nziba, “Elevating African Women in Communication Studies: Black Feminisms and the Rhetorical Significance of Dr. Wangari Maathai.” Women’s Caucus

Steven Farias, “I am Spam: Theorizing a Relational Practice of Trans-textual Identity.” Communication Theory Interest Group Top Graduate Student Paper

#### Top Paper Panels:

Kyle Ruddick, “Reworking Facework Through Dialectics: A Critical-Performative Framework for Face-Related Research.” Intercultural Communication Interest Group

Kyle Ruddick, “Toward a Performative Understanding of Politeness.” Communication Theory Interest Group

Satoshi Toyosaki, “Praxis-Oriented Whiteness Research: Meta-theoretical Framing” Intercultural Communication Interest Group

**Southern States Communication Association: New Orleans**

#### Awards:

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, “Outstanding Scholar of the Year” Performance Studies Division

Nico Wood, “Top Graduate Student Performance” Performance Studies Division

#### Top Paper Panels:

Nico Wood, “The Reality of Fiction: Relational Aesthetics and *The Family Fang*.” Top Graduate Student Paper Panel, Performance Studies Division

Diana Woodhouse, “Feminist Street Art: Yarn Bombing as Performative Rejoinder of the Public and Private Spheres.” Top Graduate Student Paper Panel, Performance Studies Division

## Meet Our Outstanding Students

### SIU STUDENT AWARDED IACA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Graduate Student Nico Wood Receives Publicity Grant for Her Art

A doctoral candidate in SIU's Performance Studies Program is the first student to receive a \$500 grant that provides support, as well as showcases her as a dedicated and professional performance artist.

Nico Wood received an Illinois Arts Council Agency grant, which eases the process of creating publicity materials to market her work. The Illinois Arts Council Agency dispenses a limited amount of funding to selected applicants, including art education organizations and individual performance artists. While obtaining the recognition of the IACA is an honor in itself, Wood's achievement is also the first of its kind. Prior to her acceptance, students were not typically eligible for Illinois Arts Council Grants. However, as the fine print of the eligibility section states, "Ph.D. candidates who are done with the course work may apply."

Wood comments "This is my second time applying for an IAC grant, but only the first time the grant has been awarded."

Wood is currently a doctoral candidate in Performance Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She is involved in theatre, performance art, playwriting, installation art, and handmade film; as her biography reads on her website, [www.nicowood.com](http://www.nicowood.com). Wood is currently focusing on "The ways in which artwork is produced, presented, and archived".

Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, oversees Woods' doctoral program. He notes, "Nico's work is funny, intellectually challenging, and artistically precise, exemplifying the best of performance studies as a discipline that combines aesthetic craft and communication research."



Wood

Wood has been involved directly and passionately in guest artist presentations, festival performances, and appearances at fringe festivals. She has received glowing remarks for her original work, particularly her most recent, *Sideshow*.

"Nico Wood was given the wonderful opportunity to headline *Sideshow* at the Fringe Festival in Nashville this summer,"

says Dr. Gingrich-Philbrook, "[*Sideshow*] has also been featured at other festivals. The show traces multiple generations of performing women in her family, foregrounding the ways performance offered working-class women opportunities to move beyond difficult circumstances."

Dr. Gingrich-Philbrook proudly uses Wood as an example in his teachings. "In Performance Arts and other courses," he says, "I offer assignments about developing performance proposals and

grant applications to help students learn to secure opportunities to develop and present their work. Nico's proactive commitment to following through on such proposals has always impressed me. I admire her professionalism and the example she sets for other emerging artists in our field."

This first-time accomplishment made by Wood is not only beneficial to her, but also the SIU community and qualified graduate students across the state. Applications for grants from the Illinois Art Council go through thorough scrutiny and out of the thousands they receive, only a prestigious, selected few receive funding. Congratulations on a job well done, Nico!

### Undergraduate Research Service Learning Project

College classrooms can be some of the most creative spaces in the world. Under the right circumstances, they are where young minds gather, grow, and thrive for personal and professional success. And it is especially significant when this creative aura extends from the classrooms to benefit their campuses and communities.

A group of undergraduate students from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale were given the opportunity to participate in this kind of process that seeks to give back to the community that supports them.

Undergraduate students from Kyle Rudick's course, "Research Methods for Public Communication," worked with the local Women's Center to help promote awareness and prevention of sexual assault. "I enjoy working with students on projects that are meaningful outside of the classroom. I think too much of what goes on in college classrooms stays in college classrooms. It's our job as students and teachers to give back to the communities that support us", Rudick explained.

In this service learning project, students gathered essential data by conducting focus groups with students on SIU's campus. The class then took the information captured in the focus groups and created several original public service announcements (PSAs) that were shown around campus and posted to the Women's Center's social media sites. Students also conducted a survey of two primary groups of SIUC students: those who had seen the PSAs and those who had not. This information was then analyzed to help determine the specific effects of the PSAs. Rudick states, "Rather than reading statistics about sexual assault in a classroom, students are asked to contribute their time and effort to making the campus and the State of Illinois a safer place. I think that because students get to be part of a movement to end sexual violence, it helps them see activist work as a viable and meaningful career path".

The research project's conclusions about the effectiveness of the PSAs are shared in detail with the Women's Center to help them carry out their mission. Dr. Jenn Freitag, a Prevention Educator from the Women's Center, said, "As the public service announcements are shared throughout the region, they help us to meet The Women's Center's mission to prevent sexual violence in Southern Illinois. I also think that working with Kyle and his students has created opportunities for incredibly productive discussions about crafting communication with specific goals in mind". Service learning projects are beneficial to the growth of students, the university, and the community that houses them. Through service learning projects such as this one, students get the rare opportunity to see their hard work in action.

"I believe that tangible experience with a local organization can benefit students in a variety of ways. Students can engage in actual, rather than hypothetical, research and applied projects that help them to develop skills they will use later in their careers", says Dr. Freitag, "They are held accountable to their work in this class because the stakes are higher; real people, individuals, and issues are involved. Students may also find projects that engage service learning to be personally and well as professionally meaningful because it involves investing in their own communities".

A student from Kyle's Research Methods Public Communication course stated, "This is the first time I have ever been involved in a class that has worked alongside an 'actual' organization. I am so

used to doing hypothetical work for made-up organizations we usually create in other courses, that I feel I have learned more through my active participation in Kyle's class than I ever have in other classes. I truly felt engaged and encouraged knowing that we are making a difference in our community."



Students working on the project

Dr. Freitag expresses her gratitude by saying; "I have absolutely enjoyed working with SIU students as a representative of The Women's Center. If we desire for today's generation of students to be engaged with their communities, it makes sense that local organizations take advantage of opportunities to help students develop the skills to do so."

We are extremely proud of the significant work carried out by our Communication Studies undergraduates, under the collaborative supervision and skillful mentorship of Kyle Rudick, in contributing to a safer campus and community environment for women. This is the kind of innovative teaching, learning, and community service benefits everyone involved.

## Student Speakers Forum Spring 2014

### Should I Stay or Should I Go: Concerns with Campus Life

Seven undergraduate speakers voiced their concerns about campus life to an audience of over 200 students, faculty, and community members at the Student Speakers Forum on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014. The Student Speakers Forum is a semi-annual event, with a new topic each semester, held by the SIU Communication Studies Department and funded by the Society for Civil Discourse.

The spring 2014 speakers were all undergraduates at SIU. They covered a wide range of topics: university branding; campus dining halls and food options; inclusion of trans-communities; college as an educational journey; anti-discrimination and diverse student cultures; and increasing student involvement in environment activities around Carbondale. Overall, they demonstrated that there are many simple solutions that can help make campus life more

positive for students from all backgrounds. Eric Spies, from Oswego, Illinois, spoke first and emphasized the need for SIU to change its marketing strategies for the branding of the university. Eric suggests that the university focus less on student recruitment advertisements and more on retaining current students to help improve the two-out-of-five student attrition rate. Eric argued that loyal alumni are the best marketing strategies for student recruitment in the end.

The second speaker – Emma Willis, from Austin, Texas – highlighted the positive implications of healthy food on learning and engagement, as well as SIU dining and residence hall services' attention to the safety and care of transitioning students.

Emma called for the university to make student-centered changes to the facilities and residences students are required to use. She urged them to emphasize ways that students can have a greater sense of security and experience the university's sincere commitment to student well-being.

Glenn Ivanoff, a junior from Peotone, IL, spoke third. Glenn focused on barriers for students who identify with trans-gendered communities. Glenn suggested that the university increase the number and quality of inclusive spaces where trans-gendered individuals can feel safe and which will give them a sense of belonging to the campus community. The fourth speaker, Hannah England, a junior from Cobden, Illinois, articulated the unique importance of students' positive perceptions about their university education. Hannah suggested that students change what they understand to be the goal of higher education: obtaining a degree. Instead, she implored students to see education as the experiences they gain throughout their undergraduate journey and encouraged them to enjoy the learning experiences that initiate a lifelong learning process.

Alexander Hall, a first year student from Chicago, Illinois, spoke fifth. Alexander illuminated the need for SIU to make changes that will create a more inclusive community to embrace students' with different ethnic, gender, and sexual identifications. Alexander called for the university to make community changes that invite diversity, but most importantly to make community changes that sustain and thrive on diversity.



Spring 2014 Student Speakers Forum speakers from L to R: C. Kyle Rudick, Samantha Fentress, K 'Lah Jackson, Hannah England, Alexander Hall, Glenn Ivanoff, Eric Spies, Emma Willis, Brendan Petty.

The sixth speaker, K 'Lah Jackson, a junior from Chicago, Illinois, echoed the call for increases in campus diversity. K 'Lah focused on the sparse representations of minority faculty and administration at SIU. K 'Lah suggested that the university equitably increase the campus's diversity so that it will reflect the diverse cultures represented in the student population.

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The final speaker, Brendan Petty, a first year student from Glenview, Illinois, focused on students' recreational engagement with Carbondale's natural environment. Brendan illustrated how students could spend their time more productively by participating in outdoor activities. Overall, Brendan suggested that the university provide more campus events and student organizations that would cater to students' growing involvement with the beautiful natural environment surrounding the SIU campus.

C. Kyle Rudick, a Communication Studies doctoral candidate from Tulsa, Oklahoma, opened the forum by introducing the topic for discussion and previewed the speakers' presentations. Samantha Fentress, another Communication Studies doctoral student who co-moderated the Student Speakers Forum with Rudick, facilitated a dynamic ending for the event. She encouraged and managed questions and comments from several audience members, inviting them to join their voices with those of the seven main speakers.

Overall, the spring 2014 Student Speakers Forum was a very successful event. It clearly demonstrated that students can become more engaged citizens by using the lessons learned from their Communication Studies classes and by effectively exercising their skills at public advocacy for social change.

## Meet Our Amazing Alumni

### They Found Love Through PRSSA!

On July 17, 2014, two very special people will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Who would have guessed that this beautiful story started more than 10 years ago right here in what was then known as the Speech Communication department at Southern Illinois University.

Jim Yantis met Kendra Thorson through SIU's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter during the fall of 2000. The two grew closer and became friends while attending the PRSSA National Conference in Chicago. Later that semester, they were both elected to the PRSSA Executive Committee; Kendra serving as president, and Jim as Vice President.



The Yantis Family

During the following spring semester, Jim finally gathered enough courage to ask Kendra out, and that Valentine's Day they had their first date. Jim says after that their friendship turned romantic and they fell in love.

In the fall of 2001, Jim received his bachelor's of science in speech communication with a concentration in public relations. He earned another bachelor's in marketing a year later. Kendra graduated shortly thereafter, completing her master's degree in 2003. The couple immediately moved to Schaumburg, Ill., where Jim started his job as a banker with Bank One, and Kendra served as an event planner for Embassy Suites.

Jim and Kendra got married on July 17, 2004. Since then, they have had three children, Bella (7), Connor (4), and Collin (2), and have lived in Mahomet, Ill., South Bend, Ind., and most recently Atlanta, Ga., where they have been since 2012.

Recently, Jim accepted a new role as sales manager for Bank of America. Kendra has chosen not to work outside the home since the couple started their family. Kendra stays active in the community through school and church.

When I asked if they would like to add anything else about SIU Jim responded, "We are so proud to be alumni of SIU, and look forward to our next visit to eat some Quatro's and visit Giant City."

*(This story was written by Ariel Rothrock, a current PRSSA member and niece of Jim and Kendra Yantis)*

### Kayla Barkau "Former PRSSA member turned NFL cheerleader"

Kayla Barkau, a 2010 Speech Communication graduate, is entering her fifth consecutive season as a St. Louis Rams cheerleader.

Kayla's passion for cheerleading has created many opportunities for her professionally and personally. Cheerleading allows her to perform in front of 66,000 fans during home games, attend charity events in the St. Louis area, and also gives her the chance to travel around the world representing the Rams Organization. This past New Year's Day holiday she traveled to Djibouti, Africa, to celebrate the New Year with our troops.

"I will cherish that experience forever," Kayla says. "I am blessed and fortunate to have an opportunity to represent the Rams organization."

In addition to being a NFL cheerleader, Kayla is an IT recruiter for Adaptive Solutions Group in the St. Louis metropolitan area. In this role, Kayla works with recent college graduates seeking employment. She recommends that all young professionals create a LinkedIn profile, presenting opportunities to network and build an online presence.



Barkau

Kayla specialized in public relations with a focus in sports during her undergraduate years at SIU. She was an active member of the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

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"PRSSA was one of the best organizations I have ever been a part of," she says. "I made lifelong friends, acquired real-world networking skills and learned how to build professional relationships"

While in PRSSA, Kayla served on the event planning committee. She credits this involvement for providing her with lucrative experience she uses as a professional cheerleader and as a recruiter.

Aside from Kayla's busy schedule with the Rams and working as a recruiter, she enjoys traveling, playing sports, working out, cooking, and above all spending time with friends and family.

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### Little Speech Competition is Good for any Relationship!

Allan and Pam Kimball have shared their lives together teaching and coaching speech and theatre at high schools and colleges.

A shared passion for speech and theatre brought two Southern Illinois University alumni together, and has been the catalyst for their years of work as dedicated speech coaches and teachers.



Allan and Pam's Team

After graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a speech degree, Pam started teaching at Benton High School in 1981. While instructing a group interpretation, her students suggested that Allan, who had more experience, assist her

with instructions. She asked for his help and he agreed to watch the group interpretation.

Later that year, Pam auditioned for Allan's community theater, Pyramid Players. Pam and Allan married in 1984. They both subsequently earned master's degrees from SIU in 2000.

"This is my 34th year at Benton, where speech is a requirement to graduate. I am retiring this year," Pam says. "Since 1981, I have had six state champions and numerous state qualifiers in speech individual events; plays co-directed by Allan and myself that have placed in the top three at state, and miraculously, group interpretation state finalists!"

Allan has also coached numerous state qualifiers and a state champion. Allan and Pam have even competed against each other in speech, group interpretations, and a contest play when Allan taught at Du Quoin High School from 1985-1998.

Allan and Pam have a very close relationship with the work they do coaching students and competing at speech competitions.

"We spent a lot of time hiding material from each other!" Pam jokes in reference to past competitions in which she and Allan coached opposing teams.

But the Kimballs understand their passion takes a lot of time and hard work.

"I can't imagine anyone doing our jobs with someone that did not understand that we work until 6-10 p.m. every night after school" Pam says, "Saturdays are gone from November-March, and when there is a show going on, there is no housework accomplished...period."

Allan now teaches and heads the theatre departments at Southeastern Illinois University. Allan still helps Pam coach speech and does tech work for her plays. Together they direct plays for Pyramid Players, a community theatre.

Their son, Josh, is graduating this year from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts Degree in Musical Theatre and has taken several courses in the Communication Studies department.

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### All-Star Alumnus

**Zachary Sapienza** is an alumnus of our very own. Completing his undergraduate degree in Organizational Communication in 1999 and a master's degree with a specialization in public relations in 2005, he is currently working on achieving his Ph.D. in Mass Communications and Media Arts here at SIU.

While an undergraduate student, Sapienza was an active member of the Saluki Debate Team, which won the National Championship in 1996. He also won his share of individual honors. Zach served as the Graduate Assistant Debate Coach in 2000-2001.

Through Zack's PR degree and background, he was able to attain positions as an educational representative at the ITT Technical Institute in St. Louis, as debate coach at Washington University in St. Louis, and as the education advertising manager with the *Chicago Sun Times*. After traveling extensively and receiving offers from multiple companies, Sapienza decided to give back to his university and was compelled to return to his alma mater - leading to his current role as the Director of Off-Campus Programs at the SIU Alumni Association. Being in charge of planning events, overseeing 35 alumni chapters across the nation, and managing 13 alumni scholarships are just a few of his responsibilities. He also acts as an ambassador for the university.

Zack cherishes his time and memories at SIU and says he has many people to thank for his success in his career. Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan especially played an important role in his accomplishments and was an influential role model for him.

"SIU was the only school that gave me an opportunity," says Sapienza, "I love this university for being willing to take a chance on me."

Zack says that due to the well-rounded education he received through SIU's speech communication program, his new goal is to become a professor and pass on his knowledge in the field to other students.



Sapienza

## The True Spirit of CSR Jim Gildersleeve - Class of 1972

Corporate social responsibility is one of the many efforts an organization takes to connect with its publics. Jim Gildersleeve, president of Gildersleeve Fertilizer Company and a 1972 graduate, has taken corporate social responsibility into his own hands, and was recognized for his efforts with this year's Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award.

After Jim started attending SIU, his major was dropped from the curriculum. Rather than transferring schools like most people would, James switched his major to public relations. Jim was a member of SIU's PRSSA and even knew the founder of the chapter, Raymond Wiley.



Gildersleeve

Jim's resume could fill a newsletter on its own, but some of his notable contributions to SIU include serving 17 years on the SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, 21 years on the SIU Foundation Board and serving two years as the president of each of those boards.

Jim takes his social responsibility to heart, and sponsors a student from Thailand by helping to pay for his education, allowing the student live with his family and has accepted the student as a part of his family.

In his acceptance speech at the SIU Alumni Association Award Ceremony, Jim made it clear to the crowd that the work that went into him earning the Humanitarian Award was the combination of many people.

"This award isn't about me," Jim said. "This is about a lot of people."

Jim was referring to the faculty, staff, administration and fellow alumni of SIU. Jim went on in his speech to explain the importance of alumni giving back to the university to improve the campus, resources, and opportunities for students to succeed.

"We have challenges, but we're here to help. We haven't gone away. Whatever we can do on the political level or with our pocketbooks is helpful," Jim said "A little bit of giving has a big result."

Jim currently serves on the College of Agricultural Sciences Leadership Board, where he assists the dean of the college in collaborative efforts between businesses and the college through a program called Ideas to Investments (i2i). The program pairs students with successful business leaders to create new opportunities for hands-on learning and research.

## Faculty Updates

**Nilanjana Bardhan** continues to teach courses in intercultural communication and public relations. Over the past year, along with Dr. Sobre-Denton, she published a book titled *Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication*. She also published articles in the *Journal of Public Relations Research*, the *International Journal of Strategic Communication* and *Public Relations Review*.

**Bryan Crow** was program planner and chaired two panels for the Language & Social Interaction Division at the Southern States Communication Association convention in New Orleans. Also in April, he taught a day-long workshop at the St. Louis Irish music festival, the Tionol. He was recently cross-appointed with SIU's Linguistics department, and has chaired three thesis projects in Linguistics this year. He continues to represent the department on SIU's Graduate Council.

**Craig Gingrich-Philbrook** began the year by directing *Meta-physique D'Ephemera*, written by department alum Sarah Jackson and Christopher Shipman. His work has appeared in numerous journals this year, including *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, *Cultural Studies* => *Critical Methodologies* as well as in the anthology *On (Writing) Families: Autoethnographies of Presence and Absence, Love and Loss*, edited by Department alum Tony Adams and Jonathan Wyatt. He is proud to be this year's recipient of the Outstanding Scholar of the Year award from the Performance Studies division of Southern States Communication Association. Craig also presented a keynote performance at the *Doing Autoethnography* conference at San Angelo State University, and was an invited panelist in a symposium held at Northwestern University honoring the legacy of Dwight Conquergood.

**Todd Graham** was awarded the inaugural Washburn University Award for Debate Coach of the Year on the heels of his second and third national championships in National Parliamentary Debate. The debate team also had great success this year. SIU is once again the national champion of debate, winning the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) National Championship. The SIU team of Ben Campbell and Josh Rivera are the national champions of debate.

**Jonathan Gray** presented work at NCA in the fall and SSCA and QI in the spring. This spring, he worked with Cade Bursell from Cinema and Photography on a Carbondale Community Arts Grant, teaching puppet making workshops in the community that culminated in an "All Species Parade" on Earth Day. He also did puppetry work for Benny LeMaster's Kleinau Theater production of "The Terribly Awful and Wonderfully Wacky World of the Jumbles." He will be returning to Alaska this summer on a competitive residency program with the Wrangell Mountains Center to continue his work with community puppet performance.

**Rachel Griffin** published "Pushing into Precious: Black Women, Media Representation, and the Glare of the White Supremacist Capitalist Patriarchal Gaze," in *Critical Studies in Media Communication* and "Black Women and Gender Violence in *For Colored Girls: Black Feminist Reflections on the Power and Politics of Representation*" in an edited collection entitled *Interpreting Tyler Perry: Perspectives on Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*. She also co-authored "Still Flies in the Buttermilk: Black Male Faculty, Critical Race Theory, and Composite Counterstorytelling" with graduate students, LaCharles Ward and Amanda Phillips, in the *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. Additionally, Rachel delivered anti-gender violence and Inclusive Excellence keynotes 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 enti-

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tled *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 third 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, and its marquee events including the Third Annual "Shop with a Cop," she is looking forward to great things to come. Denise also continues to add to the alarming collection of Sock Monkeys that have taken over her office

**Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** continues her work as the Introductory Course Director for SPCM 101. She became a part of a university-wide efficacy working group to evaluate and assess the four foundations courses within the core curriculum, of which SPCM 101 is a part. She was invited to contribute the closing essay for a special issue of the *Texas Speech Communication Journal* (theme: Doing Autoethnography), expected to be published in late 2014. She received a "Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Award" grant jointly sponsored by the University Women's Professional Advancement and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies programs. The research project examines how the tablet initiative here at SIUC impacts the educational experiences of students with disabilities. She presented papers, participated in panel discussions, and responded to work at the National Communication Association and Central States Communication Association annual conferences. She continues teaching courses in communication pedagogy within the department.

**Elyse Pineau** continues her research at the intersections of performance methodologies and arts-based pedagogies, with special emphasis on teaching the novel as qualitative case study. Her landmark essay "Teaching is Performance" has been translated into Mandarin by Dr. Sheng-Tao Fan and published in *Theatre Arts*, the leading drama education journal in Taiwan. This year she also published in *Qualitative Inquiry and The International Review of Qualitative Research*, as well as revisiting portions of her solo show, *Nursing Mother*. Dr. Pineau is currently teaching a course on J.R.R. Tolkien's epic *The Lord of the Rings* for the University Honors Program. Dr. Pineau will retire from SIUC at the end of Spring Semester in order to explore new opportunities and venues for her artistic and pedagogical work.

**Miriam Sobre-Denton** has had a productive year, publishing articles in *Communication Studies* and *The International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, as well as presenting several papers at NCA and SIETAR (the Society for International Education, Training and Research). She and Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan also published a book, *Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication: Communicating as Global Citizens* for Routledge. Miriam is sad to leave us after this spring, as she is starting her own small business called Intercultural Connections, designed to connect intercultural scholars with practitioners. She would like to thank the department for all the support and mentorship she has received here.

**Nathan Stucky**, Department Chair, published "Everywhere and Always Performance" in *Text and Performance Quarterly* 33.3, gave a paper and performance at the Central States Communication Association conference, "Adrienne Rich's 'Tonight No Poetry Will Serve,'" and performed in a staged reading at the McCleod Theatre. He taught the Introduction to Graduate Study course in

the Fall Semester, and Performance Studies History and Criticism seminar in the Spring Semester.

**Satoshi Toyosaki** co-authored one manuscript with Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway and single-authored another. They appear in *the Handbook of Autoethnography* and *Qualitative Communication Research*. He served the department as the Undergraduate Studies Director. He continues attending and presenting his scholarship at various conferences. He enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in intercultural communication.

**Rebecca Walker** published "Experiments in Critique de Performance: An Experimental Review of *Experiments in Ecriture Feminine*" in the Winter issue of *Text and Performance Quarterly* and taught classes in persuasion, performance theory, and feminist theory. She also enjoyed traveling to the Petit Jean Performance Festival in the Fall Semester with students, and presenting her own work at the NCA conference in D.C., and SSCA in New Orleans this past April. Next year, Rebecca will serve as program planner for the Performance Studies Division for the SSCA conference in Tampa. Rebecca was excited to debut her first show in the Kleinau Theater this February, *Alienations*, which investigated the role narratives of aliens and alienation play in popular culture

## Club Updates

### Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

The members of the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of 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 premiered in 2011) focused on 15 children being given Kohl's gift cards. The children, along with members of PRSSA, then traveled with 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 and purchased holiday gifts for their families. Each child selected to participate was the son or daughter 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



2014 PRSSA Members

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materials and participated in on-campus publicity for the Carbondale Women's Center annual "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" event that raised awareness for domestic violence, the Carbondale Boys and Girls Club, and many other worthy causes. Our student-run public relations firm, Pyramid Public Relations, continued to work with on and off campus clients. This was our largest firm in years with 10 clients. Projects included assisting a local clothing boutique, working with our Undergraduate Student Government, and publicizing a new app – Life at Southern. As the 2013-2014 school year concludes, the future continues to look bright. Junior Nicole Kmiotek will continue to be our president and we have a newly elected, talented executive board to advance the Chapter and push members toward success.

## Excellence Recognized at Annual Awards Ceremonies

On April 5th, the following undergraduate students were recognized by the department at the College of Liberal Arts' Honors Day:

Elizabeth Lance Toth Public Relations Student Award  
Aleisha Guerretaz

Levina Micken Award for Excellence in Debate  
Ariana Arnone  
Ben Campbell  
Josh Rivera

Paul Hibbs Award  
Elizabeth Fines

On May 2nd the department recognized the outstanding achievements of our graduate and undergraduate students, as well as our faculty. This year's winners are as follows:

John T. Warren Memorial Scholarship  
UG—Anthony Zarinana; G—Bin Zhang

John T. Warren Award for Excellence in Graduate Research/Creative Activity  
Benjamin LeMaster  
Julie Cosenza

The Ron Pelias Graduate Student Service Award  
Diana Woodhouse

Dr. Tom Pace Teaching Awards  
Masters—Hannah Long; Ph.D.—Andrea Baldwin

Department Outstanding Teacher Award  
Dr. Satoshi Toyosaki



From left to right, Back row: Diana Woodhouse, Julie Cosenza, Benjamin LeMaster, Hannah Long, Satoshi Toyosaki, and Bin Zhang. Front row: Anthony Zarinana, Elyse Pineau, Andrea Baldwin, and Miriam Sobre-Denton.

## In Memorium



**Rick Jones**, one of our Ph.D. candidates passed away this past April in California. Rick was a bright, creative person with so much potential. He had been very active in the department, working technical magic in the Kleinau Theatre on many productions and directing his own work, including two major productions, *The Carnival* (2009) and *Lightbulb* (2011). Many of us remember Rick's ready smile and his enthusiasm for performance. He was an important part of our community and he will be missed.

If you would like to submit updates or story ideas for *Speak Easy*, please send an e-mail to: [denisem@siu.edu](mailto:denisem@siu.edu).

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