

THE SPEAK EASY

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REMEMBERING DR. BRYAN CROW

By Dr. Randy Auxier, Professor

Many other laudatory eulogies have been written, and if you want to know his legacy and the wide influence of his gentle personality, you should read them. It's only a Google search away. After all, he was quite famous, in spite of himself. I want to offer something more personal, something that will, I hope, capture the deep feeling his colleagues and friends had for him.

First, I want to say I can't believe I don't get to talk to him anymore. He softened my view of the world pretty much every week in some way. Often more than once a week. You see, I ate lunch with Bryan at least once a week, and often twice for many years. We had uncountable projects together, but here is what I miss most: I practically live at Tres Hombres restaurant, in one particular booth. On Mondays they have a special on the black bean burger, and on Fridays, the catfish sandwich –he would eat a catfish, but that was about the most complicated critter he could bear to see destroyed for human food. Catfish. Are they persons? Bryan thought maybe so, but he forgave himself.



Dr. Bryan Kelso Crow, 1953-2019. Photo by WSIU.

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REMEMBERING DR. SUZANNE DAUGHTON

By Dr. Allison Brenneise and Dr. Sarah Hollingsworth

Suzanne Daughton will be sorely missed by so many of us affiliated with the Department of Communication Studies at SIU. As Suzanne's last doctoral advisees, we want to reflect on and share some of the important lessons she helped us learn over the course of our study at SIU. We entered the Ph.D. program in the fall of 2014 and chose to work with Suzanne for different reasons, but the three of us (Allison, Sarah, and Suzanne) worked and learned with and from each other across the four years of our study there. Suzanne truly

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Dr. Suzanne Marie Daughton, 1963-2020.

“Bryan was about giving, but also about compromise, about meeting flaws with compassion and about seeing a way through the morass of personal and professional relations.”

(Crow, continued from page 1)

And in that we have a not bad symbol of what I want to say. Bryan was about giving, but also about compromise, about meeting flaws with compassion, and about seeing a way through the morass of personal and professional relations. I would bet my last dollar he never made an enemy, and I know he kept me from making some. It's not just that he had mastered interpersonal communication as an academic field, he had mastered it as a path to wisdom. Like many of you, I received that wisdom for years before I really understood what he was doing, and even longer before I understood why.

Bryan's level of involvement as a servant to those around him limited his "scholarly" production, but rightly, no one much cared. It was catfish. It was compromise with a system that cared about things he could not place first in his world, or second, or fourteenth, because there were people to be tended. For as long as I knew him he was trying to find the leisure needed to assemble his immense knowledge of the filmmaker Clarence Brown. Bryan knew more about that man than he ever could have known about himself. I really regret that Brown did not get the grand tribute Bryan had planned for him. Who knows? Maybe someone will assemble that. Maybe I should, if life permits. But that was not the point of his life and service. It wasn't fourteenth. It wasn't even really catfish.

I could tell Bryan anything, no matter how embarrassing, and vice-versa. Not that we always did. He tried to spare me from knowing whatever could serve no possible good, and he did that for many people. And I would think carefully about what I wanted to share with him because I knew he would worry, and remember every word I said to him, and would carry it with me and for me, in his Bryanish way, and, well, one doesn't want to unload that kind of weight on a sensitive soul unless it is necessary to one's own sanity. I wish I were more like him than I am, and in missing him, in his utter irreplaceability, I feel certain I speak for many, many people, and for all of his colleagues and students and former students.

(Daughton, Continued from page 1)

opened her universe to us in the way that only Suzanne could - she acted as an academic advisor, but also a counselor, confidant, friend, comedian, teacher, student, meditation-leader, empathy-buddy, and so much more.

And as she taught us about rhetoric, feminism, pedagogy, and empathy, she also taught us how to continue on without her, which we were not ready to do so soon. Suzanne expertly modeled how to grieve as she was learning to do it herself, breathe, care for oneself, and have fun. Importantly, she taught us how to build relationships based in love and compassion, lessons not typically learned in higher education. We watched her reach out to countless students in their times of need. Her ability to listen without judgment and act with compassion stays with us. Right now, we find ourselves in a socio-political moment that makes it increasingly difficult to focus on our work. And although we cannot just text or call her, we are heartened and made hopeful by Suzanne's lessons - we know that empathy, compassion, listening, and understanding are our only hope for uniting with each other to solve the problems our society is currently facing. We share these lessons in the hopes that you will also reflect on the lessons Suzanne's work might have taught you.

In her course on Compassionate Communication, we learned to emulate the peacefulness of the giraffes, but we were also encouraged to let our jackals howl. Suzanne practiced nonviolent communication (NVC) at a zen level. We can't remember a time when she didn't model it in her interactions with us. Even as we stumbled and failed to use it, she taught us through modeling. If her jackals were howling inside, we never knew it. With her as our guide, we also learned about grieving. During our time together at SIU, all three of us (Allison, Sarah, and Suzanne) navigated grief in relation to all of our fathers' failing health. Suzanne taught us that everyone grieves differently, and that sharing our grief can

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(Daughton, Continued from page 2)

lead to greater understanding and healing.

Suzanne also taught us to be authentic; she unabashedly expressed her feelings in the classroom and in life and she invited others to do the same. When you were with Suzanne, you got the feeling that she knew life was too short to feel shame for your joy and she reminded us to find joy wherever we could in life. She unashamedly enjoyed “guilty pleasure” reading and television. Many will remember her love for the “Team Edward vs. Team Jacob” controversy in the *Twilight* saga. And while some might have considered that mindless reading, Suzanne never felt guilty about the joy and playfulness those novels brought her. She embodied a love for herself and for fun, joy, and play that taught us to also be guilt-free about the things that bring us joy - an important lesson to remember especially in hard times.

As much as Suzanne was playful, she was equally a smart and talented scholar. We were so fortunate to learn what she knew about writing (and editing). We’d argue that we are better scholars and writers because Suzanne touched our work. We share fond memories of the times that as student writers, we sometimes pushed the boundaries of Suzanne’s patience. In those moments, we learned what patterns of our writing were unwelcome and we vow to avoid those errors going forward. We will miss her insightful feedback or some of her “huhs?” in the margins of our papers.



Suzanne on the front lines of the 2012 Faculty Strike

As we have mourned the loss of Suzanne, we have also connected with her other students, friends, and family to find some community in our grief (just as she taught us to do). In talking with others about the impact she has had on our lives, we quickly learned that Suzanne had enough love, compassion, and care to really deeply connect with those around her in unique ways. While Suzanne and Sarah laughed a lot about their shared enjoyment of the television shows *Game of Thrones* and *How to get Away with Murder*, Allison and Suzanne created a close connection over their shared experiences with motherhood (and sea turtles). With others, Suzanne shared her love of singing, dancing, and karaoke. After all, creating and maintaining deep connection with others is what Suzanne was all about. It was only after she passed that we came to know how strong and deep her connections were and that although Suzanne could make us feel that we were the only people who mattered in the moment, she made legions of people feel that way.

We share these memories with you as a way to honor Suzanne and invite you to contribute your memories with us. If you have a memory you would like to share about Suzanne, please contact molly.cummins@uta.edu who is compiling a book of memories to share with Nathan and Michael. Deadline is July 10, 2020.

“Suzanne had enough love, compassion, and care to really deeply connect with those around her in unique ways.”

2019-2020 SPEAKER’S FORUM RECAP

By Alex Lockwood, Member, Speaker’s Forum Committee

The twentieth anniversary of the Student Speaker’s Forum coincided with SIU’s 150th anniversary in the fall of 2019, which provided the opportunity for our department, in partnership with the Society for Civil Discourse, to reflect on the history and future of the university, with the topic “Looking Back, Moving Forward: Reflecting on 150 Years at SIU.”

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(Forum, Continued from page 3)



A publicity poster for the cancelled spring 2020 student speaker's forum

This event gives precedence to undergraduate speakers to voice their own ideas in five-to-six minute speeches on the topic for the evening. Following these speeches, a short session of audience feedback places the emphasis on engaged discourse that the student speakers and those in attendance might pursue beyond the scope of the event.

The forum committee met throughout the fall semester and conducted classroom visits and auditions, selecting Jessica Jurak, Jesus Ortega, Gabrielle Updike, and Grace Gunn to present their speeches on November 5th in the student center auditorium.

First-year student Grace Gunn, responding to the call, opined that the topic was important to her, as “my mother graduated from here and my godmother and godfather went here. They always talk about their great experiences and how the campus was thriving, and I believe SIU can have that attraction again, but there must be things in place that encourage that to happen.” Senior Jesus Ortega used his speech as an opportunity to discuss the unique history of SIU’s automotive technology program, emphasizing the opportunities it affords learners interested in developing their passion for automotive technology through the attainment of post-secondary degrees.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the cancellation of all on-campus events and classes during the spring 2020 semester, the Speaker’s Forum, which had been planned around the theme “20/20 For 2020: Your Vision For Our Future” was cancelled. Although the committee met several times in the early semester, the dismissal significantly re-focused their efforts over the course of the semester. Now under the incoming leadership of Robert Fiedler, the Speaker’s Forum prepares to adapt to a post-COVID world for the fall semester of 2020, where issues such as personal connection, technological advancement and intervention in public discourse, and the role of media is sure to have a pronounced importance for any upcoming forum, no matter the method of delivery.

“My mother graduated from here and my godmother and godfather went here.”

ANNOUNCING THE BRYAN CROW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Department Chair

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Bryan Kelso Crow Memorial Scholarship, to honor the outstanding teacher and scholar that bears its name.

Background

Dr. Crow joined the Communication Studies department (then Speech Communication) in 1981 as an instructor, moving onto the tenure track in 1982 and being promoted to Associate Professor in 1988. In 2013, he became cross-appointed in both Linguistics, and in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He taught courses in gender and sexuality, media

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FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

By Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Department Chair

Greetings to all of you in this time of unprecedented uncertainty and change. It has been months since we've seen one another face to face, and I know that many in the department are missing the gentle smiles, warm "hello"s, and occasional hugs of our colleagues and friends. Some silver linings I have thoroughly enjoyed include seeing department pets through our zoom meetings, and seeing all of the creative backgrounds folks are using. I've been in meetings with colleagues on beaches, on the Starship Enterprise, in space with cats eating pizza—and the list goes on! But through all of this, I am pleased to say that we remain in good contact with one another, and I think we may have even started to miss being in the office.



Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway,
Department Chair

We have had some fantastic accomplishments over the course of the year that you will read about in the pages of our newsletter. Some of these accomplishments came about because we welcomed new faculty member Justin Young. Justin came to us after having been department chair at Trine University, and teaches in our Public Relations area. He serves as the advisor for the Raymond D. Wiley chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, has been instrumental in the activities of PRSSA, and even found himself in the recruitment fair dunk tank during his first week on campus. Justin has been a wonderful addition to our department!

At the other end of the spectrum, our department experienced significant loss, first with the passing of Dr. Bryan Crow in September, and then with the passing of Dr. Suzanne Daughton in January. We mourn their absence, yet feel surrounded by their presence in the memories we share, and the little reminders of the mark they left. There is not an aspect of department life that they did not touch; we continue to send our loving thoughts to their families.

On March 16, the SIU administration announced that we would go online until further notice. That has included our current Summer semester, and considerations are underway for the Fall semester. As has long been the case with our department, faculty and graduate teaching associates immediately went into action to create the best possible learning experience for their students. Introductory Course Director Dr. Elyse Pineau and Assistant Introductory Course Director Darren Valenta had already set in motion a remote learning plan for the CMST 101 course, even before the official announcement from the university. Our GTAs of other courses quickly went to work adapting their classes, and our faculty learned and advanced their skills in remote learning. It was certainly a proud moment for me, as department chair, to see the dedication and commitment. And it was no surprise.

But the news of our nation—and of the world—is grim as of late, though for many Black folks, "as of late" is really hundreds and hundreds of years. On our minds and hearts are George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Riah Milton, Dominique Fells, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others who have been murdered at the hands of actors serving on behalf of racist and discriminatory institutions. Many of us reading this are part of the academy, an institution that has contributed to systemic inequality in our nation and around the world. Our department has participated in both the preservation and dismantling of racism; at times, we have thought we were doing the latter while the effect has been the former. As both an individual *and* as chair of the department, I commit to the work of dismantling this system,

"It was certainly a proud moment for me, as department chair, to see the dedication and commitment. But it was no surprise."

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“Teaching was such a passion of Dr. Crow’s, and this came through to each student who had the pleasure to sit in a class with him.”

(Scholarship, Continued from page 4)

studies, conversation analysis, family communication, and public speaking. He also taught a very popular course on Irish Culture through the University Honors Program, and hosted study abroad trips to Ireland in collaboration with SIU's Forestry Department. Throughout his time as an academic, he participated in conferences local, regional, national and international, and published in outlets such as the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, *Journalism Monographs*, and *Media, Culture and Society*. Dr. Crow sat on nearly 40 masters committees, over 100 dissertation committees, and directed over 30 masters and doctoral projects.

Teaching was such a passion of Dr. Crow’s, and this came through to each student who had the pleasure to sit in a class with him. This scholarship was the idea of Caleb McKinley-Portee, a current PhD student and vice-president of the Student Communication Organization. (SCO is the registered student organization for our graduate students.) Caleb was a student in Dr. Crow’s last class, and took the thought of this scholarship to SCO, who was in strong support. After speaking with Dr. Crow’s family, it seemed that the best way to remember Dr. Crow was by supporting students. Caleb wishes for this scholarship to “honor the impact of his vast and expansive time in the department, and in particular, for the many ways he taught and advised students. I hope this scholarship helps students achieve academic success; it was clear to me that student success was Dr. Crow’s goal.”

The plan is to award two scholarships each year, one to a Communication Studies undergraduate student and one to a Communication Studies graduate student.

If you would like to contribute to this important scholarship fund, you can do so in several ways:

By check: Mail your check made out to “Communication Studies,” with “Crow Scholarship” written in the memo line. Mailing address is at the end of Speak Easy.

On the web: visit <https://cola.siu.edu/communicationstudies/giving/>, and look for “Communication Studies Scholarship Fund.”

DR. PINEAU RETURNS FOR A YEAR!

By Dr. Darren Valenta, Assistant Introductory Course Director

Prior to this academic year, I only ever encountered Dr. Elyse Pineau in passing: countless anecdotes from colleagues who took her classes; an electrifying professional seminar about her Tolkien honors course; a few magical months when we shared the Kleinau stage. This year, though, I had the privilege of working closely with her as the Assistant Introductory Course Director (AICD), facilitating orientation, scheduling classes, navigating a typical semester, and then navigating a *not so* typical semester. Now I understand why she looms so large in our department and why we recognize the outstanding graduate teachers in our midst with an award bearing her name.

Elyse fully embodies student-centered, creative pedagogy. During orientation, I would often pull out my own notebook during a session to jot down bits of her wisdom, even though I was, ostensibly, there as a co-facilitator. One cannot help but learn something about teaching when she speaks.

Elyse remains a shining example of what it means to invest in the humanity of our students and colleagues. After finding out my wife and I were expecting, Elyse would frequently

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RANDY DEBATES MAYOR STEPHENS

By Alex Lockwood, Ph.D. Student

Dr. Randy Auxier is a professor in communication studies who got the chance to debate Mayor Will Stephens of Murphysboro, Illinois during the Constitution Day events of September 2019, an event organized by Director of Debate Dr. Todd Graham, and sponsored by the Morris Library Special Collections Research Center. The topic of the debate was whether or not the impeachment of President Trump should move forward.



Dr. Randy Auxier awaits the first moments of the debate with Mayor Will Stephens.

What prompted you to do the Constitution Day debate? For that matter, what is your history with public debates generally?

It was Todd's idea. The debate team is in restructuring mode, so he was looking for an alternative, and at that moment, everybody was thinking about the issue of impeaching Trump. I was immediately agreeable, but on the condition that I argue the affirmative of "impeach Trump." It's not that I had very strong views on the subject; it is complicated. But as someone who has run for public office on the Green ticket, and may again, I cannot provide any media with soundbites of me defending Trump, however hypothetically. One cannot explain to the public a soundbite that makes it look like, in a clip or cut, I have defended someone I oppose politically. The world does not permit that sort of ambiguity. I have debated publicly as part of past electoral processes. I have judged debate, so I am familiar with a number of protocols and forms. I did televised debates at my last university

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of better listening to the voices of Black and other historically marginalized folks—especially students and colleagues—of acknowledging when I preserve the system, and of engaging in productive critique of my privileges.

Many of us have expressed how much we miss seeing our colleagues and students, and we remain grateful that we have a community of people to miss in the first place. On behalf of our department, I wish to extend a deep gratitude for the family and friends of CMST who are essential personnel; we send our appreciation and good wishes to you.

May you each find connection where you can, and may we all be safe and well.

“Many of us have expressed how much we miss seeing our colleagues and students, and we remain grateful that we have a community of people to miss in the first place.”



“I suggest that cultivating genuine respect, not just lip service, for people who disagree is a good habit for those who want to make the world a little better.”

(Debate, Continued from page 7)

in Oklahoma, many years back, debating mainly law professors. Plus, I have engaged in hundreds of philosophical "debates" over the decades. This was not a new situation for me.

What would your advice be for people finding themselves in contentious political discussions nowadays? Does public debate function as a way to resolve issues?

Well, if people watch the Constitution Day debate that Todd organized, I think they will find an exemplary instance of civil public discourse. That was more important from my point of view than what we were arguing about. My respect for Will Stephens is genuine and deep, as are my disagreements with him. The idea of a "loyal" opposition needs to be valued, even if I am not optimistic it will be any time soon. I suggest that cultivating genuine respect, not just lip service, for people who disagree is a good habit for those who want to make the world a little better. We also need to remember that stating a position is not the same as advocating it. Another thing that has gotten lost and has cost us our ability to interpret sympathetically that which is foreign to our settled opinions.

What would you hope to see in future Constitution Day programming on campus?

Well, I wish that the work of creating civil discourse was shared more intentionally across the campus. Many other programs cultivate these virtues, but we don't seem to do it together, in a sufficiently coordinated effort, to bring a common message of civility and sympathetic interpretation to the fore of our communicative praxis. It could be better shared and better pursued in concert.

DR. BARDHAN PASSES THE BATON



Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan will be stepping away from the role of graduate director

By Janine Armstrong, PhD Student

After seven years of service, Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan is stepping out of the role of the graduate director of the Communication Studies department. To commemorate her hard work and dedication, Janine Armstrong (graduate assistant to the graduate director 2019-2020) interviewed her about her experiences and upcoming projects.

JA: What prompted your becoming graduate director initially?

NB: Our colleague Ron Pelias was in this role for 20 years before me, and he left behind a solid legacy. I was fortunate to inherit this strong foundation. The year before Ron's retirement, our department leadership asked me to consider this position. I was honored. I suppose they saw me as someone who would perform with care and diligence. And I hope I have. I must be honest though. I had not really imagined myself in this role before I was asked to consider it. The opportunity to grow through this experience and serve the department and our graduate community in this leadership role was appealing. I decided to accept.

JA: What are you looking forward to about the transition out of this role?

NB: I have a couple of book projects and some articles that have been on the back burner for a while. I am going to put them on the front burner again. I am also looking forward to devoting more time to working with the Center for International Education on our campus. I

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check in with me about the baby and make concerted efforts to get to know my wife. This on top of her inquiries about my dissertation, job search, and all the other concerns of a Ph.D. student nearing the end of his program. I felt seen and cared for in our professional relationship. When the chaos of the spring hit, I began to miss our weekly check-ins because of the bond we had built in those first six months. Since I will not ever get to take one of her classes, an experience I have been assured is indelibly wonderful, I thoroughly enjoyed my year as her assistant. It was truly a pleasure.

I asked Elyse to answer a few questions reflecting on her year returning as Introductory Course Director (ICD). I am sure you will find her answers equally insightful and inspiring.

What were some of the highlights of your time as ICD this year?

If there were an epigraph of my past year as Acting ICD, it would be T.S. Eliot's famous line: "We shall not cease from exploration and the end of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time" (*Four Quartets*). I first stepped into this role in 1995, spurred by emergent research in GTA development, critical pedagogy, and the catalytic role of the introductory course. Returning 25 years later, I can see and celebrate the fruits of that disciplinary trajectory. Our current GTAs daily embody this intellectual and ideological commitment to the scholarship of undergraduate classroom teaching. The 'highlight' of the year?: learning again 'for the first time', that these fundamental principles—student-centered, access-sensitive, creatively-adaptive pedagogy—offer a guiding compass through times of chaos and crisis. Classroom teachers are the highlight; they always have been.

What has changed since the last time you served as ICD?

Well, that's obvious! But setting aside the unprecedented online shift that defined spring semester, I've been saddened to reflect on the increased pressures on graduate teachers; their financial burdens, job prospects, research demands have been markedly affected by decades of downturn in higher education. Like their faculty mentors, they struggle to do more with less resources, and their students, likewise, struggle mightily for access and marketability in an increasingly utilitarian educational system. And yet. And yet what is important stays the same. These teacher-scholars show up. They stepped up when it mattered, with their fierce intelligence, deep compassion, and unwavering work ethic. The CMST graduate teaching staff of Spring 2020 made a difference in lives of 500+ young folk shocked into sudden disarray. Y'all made a difference. What an honor it's been to observe that close-up.

What advice do you have for future graduate teaching assistants, Assistant Introductory Course Directors, and/or Introductory Course Directors?

Hmmm. Be your 'best self'; which is to say, in all things pedagogical, be true to your values, your intellectual grounding, your social commitments. Be not afraid to make excellent teaching one nexus of your professional profile—not by citing the current buzzwords, but by genuinely making those words visible in your classroom practice—and then make that practice *visible and viable* as you promote yourself to prospective departments. Entering the market, you cannot control what a department/search committee *needs*, but in giving a clear, engaging, and honest presentation of yourself, you give them a *choice* about how to fill those needs, a *felt sense* of what it would be like to work and shape a program with you. I believe there is a *homeplace* for everyone, within or outside academe, and I wish each one of you satisfaction in creating one.

Finally, my return to the department was marked and made successful by partnering with Dr. Darren Valenta as my 'right-hand' collaborator. Working closely with Darren was the *highlight* of my year; he made the *difference* in shifting seamlessly to the remote format. My *advice* to all, is partner well and wisely; your cohort, your colleagues, your communities of support will steady you through the storms.

*“In all things
pedagogical, be true to
your values, your
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commitments.”*

came to this country almost 30 years ago as an international student. I want to give back in some way. I am not sure yet what form my engagement will take, but it is something I am looking into. I would also like to continue my work with SIU's Diversity Council, on which I currently serve. And of course, I will continue to contribute to the work of our department in every way I can as we grow and possibly merge with some other programs in the future.

* * *

Each year, a graduate student works as Bardhan's assistant. Two past graduate assistants wanted to share thoughts on their experience with Bardhan.

Janine Armstrong (assistant 2019-2020): I faced some difficulties and losses in Fall 2019. I chose to shut everyone out. Nil wouldn't let me. Nil reminded that I could lean on my Communication Studies family for support. As her assistant, I have witnessed her dedication to helping the department grow, not just in number, but in heart.

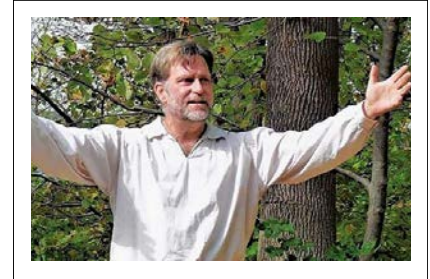
Lindy Wagner (assistant 2018-2019): Nil has been a tremendous support in my experience at SIU. I know she believes in the program and believes in her students. I hope to complete this program successfully and I know I will get there because Nil helped me along the way.

*"Nil reminded me that
I could lean on my
Communication Studies
family for support."*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KEVIN PURCELL

By Bolton Morales, PhD candidate

You have probably seen Kevin Purcell at some point during the past year walking around the Communications Building. An alumnus of the Theatre and Communication Studies (formerly Speech Communication) department, Purcell worked as the first senior director of organization development for Microsoft from 1993 to 2004. While there, he worked closely with founder Bill Gates and former CEO Steve Ballmer. Additionally, he's the co-founder of the Seattle Public Theater and Over the Moon Productions. After recently relocating to Carbondale following retiring from managing his own business for 30 years, Purcell has dedicated his free time to giving back to the department and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. To highlight our appreciation of his efforts, PhD student Bolton Morales interviewed him about his experience as a Saluki and valued alumnus of the Communication Studies department.



Kevin Purcell, department alumnus.

BM: What attributes of the Communication Studies program influenced your decision to pursue your degree at SIUC?

KP: I would have to say, I was very young when I got involved, first in Theater, then Speech Communication and Theater. So, I would say two specific attributes. One, was the fact that in Speech Comm. back then the primary focus of learning in the classroom was experiential learning, and I had learned, probably too late as a young man, that experiential learning

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THE KLEINAU: YEAR IN REVIEW

By Alex Lockwood, PhD candidate

The Marion Kleinau Theatre opened its season with a return from performance artist Tim Miller. Miller led a week-long performance workshop where participants devised and performed *Body Maps* in September. Miller also debuted his new solo show *A Body in the O*, during his visit. The season continued with *Nourish*, written and performed by Christos Patelis, and co-directed by Patelis and Dr. Rebecca Walker. Patelis' show explored the culinary work of women in the professional arena of television cooking shows, and in the everyday arena of home-life and generational knowledge production. The Kleinau next hosted a second guest performer, as Jesus Valles performed his solo show *(Un)Documents* concerning the experience of how documents come to confine so much of the lives of queer and Latinx Americans. Next, Kleinau audiences were treated to a sprawling tale about the stories that are told and that fail to take shape, set against the backdrop of generations of midwestern working class families in Anna Wilcoxen's *Inheritance of a Flyover*, directed by Anna Wilcoxen and Alex Davenport.

The semester was followed by a spotlight hour showcasing performance work from undergraduate and graduate students created in courses like Performing Culture, Storytelling, and Solo Performance.

The Spring semester began with a faculty performance spotlight hour, in which several members of the communication studies department faculty delivered engaging and compelling performances ranging from a stunning seminar on the stigma surrounding snakes, to acts of self-care against an increasingly turbulent world. The Kleinau also hosted speaker Lani Gahiji, who gave a talk titled "Reshaping Higher Education: The Real Deal," addressing the costs and struggles faced by people of color in higher education.

The final two performances planned for the year, Shelby Swafford's *The Muses are Calling* and Alex Davenport's *Threading: A Vibrant Installation of Travel and Memorial*, were cancelled following the university's cancellation of public events in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. However, the faculty and student performers have been hard at work in transitioning the Kleinau to experiment with means of broadcasting performances at a distance for the upcoming academic year. For all of their hard work, we offer thanks to the performance faculty: Drs. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, Jonny Gray, and Rebecca Walker; to the Kleinau Theatre staff; and to the performers



The Kleinau Theatre hosted guest artists, speakers, a cast performance, and solo performers in 2019-2020.



Anna Wilcoxen in *Inheritance of a Flyover*

"Patelis' show explored the culinary work of women in the professional arena of television cooking shows, and in the everyday arena of home-life and generational knowledge production."

(Purcell, Continued from page 10)

was the primary way I learn. I don't learn by sitting and listening to people talk, and I did fairly poorly in my first couple of years of undergrad classes at SIU because I was bored all the time. When I got involved in Speech Comm. the classes were primarily experiential, and so that was very exciting and energizing for me. The second attribute was, as a nineteen-year-old junior, I was in courses with people much older than I was and that was a very good experience for me. I took courses from Marion Kleinau and other faculty at the time where they allowed juniors and seniors, but I was also in classes with PhD students. I learned so much from the diversity in experience in education in those classes. It was a real unique learning environment.

BM: You've mentioned having more free time now that you're officially retired. So, why give that time to SIU, specifically working closely with our department? What keeps you coming back?

KP: I would say, my wife and I, when we left Seattle, virtually all of our family was either in Chicago or on one of the coasts. Living in Seattle for 20 years, both of us were basically done with our jobs and our kids had grown up and moved away. So, we moved back to Springfield for about six years, and we have dear friends there. That was a good experience, but then we got to a point where we knew it wasn't going to be a long-term solution for us. So, I said to my wife, "I'm not going back to the northwest but will live anywhere you want in Illinois, you decide." And my wife had never been to southern Illinois before, but she did a bunch of exploring and found a property that she fell in love with. So, we came down, we built a house and we both love it here. That was about six years ago. I have a great appreciation and great memories of SIU, especially in the Communications Building. So, I feel very grateful to the university. To be honest with you, over the years I've been here now, this time I sense a low self-concept in the university at large and that troubles me. I hope to be able to do something to help that.

BM: That's an amazing response. I think it does speak a little bit to the trials the university, and the state of Illinois, have faced over the past five years. I can't speak for others, but I do think that alumni such as yourself are doing what they can to try and reinvigorate some of that Saluki pride and seeing your involvement over the course of this last year has been very beneficial to me, personally. Thank you so much for taking the time to let me interview you and thank you for continuing to support the department!

"I learned so much from the diversity in experience in education in those classes. It was a real unique learning environment."



The members of SCO meet in the newly repurposed conference room, COMM 2010, to discuss the goals of the graduate student community for the upcoming year. 2010 received a paint makeover; restructuring of the furniture layout to facilitate collaboration; the addition of a more informal meeting space with couch, lounge chair, and lamps; and the introduction of multiple dry-erase boards. This past year, 2010 has been the room where things happen.

SCO: YEAR IN REVIEW

By Shelby Swafford, President, SCO

For decades, the Student Communication Organization (SCO) has been dedicated to the professional development of Communication Studies graduate students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. This year was no exception. Last year's SCO president, Lindy Wagner, hit the ground running in August, participating on behalf of SCO in our annual orientation week. From organizing food for various sessions to counting the election ballots, Lindy's service to SCO continued well into the first weeks of the fall semester.



SCO members discuss strategies for supporting graduate student research in a discussion with Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook.

In our first meeting, SCO voted to create an official position for a Graduate Assistants United (GAU) departmental steward and elected OJ Duncan to this new position. Throughout August, members of SCO were also elected into service positions across the University. Personnel committee member Anna Wilcoxon was elected as GAU President, while SCO officers and members Alex Lockwood, Dianah McGreehan, Alex Davenport, and Robert Fielder were elected as members of GAU's executive committee. Within the first month of the semester, Anna and the rest of the executive committee secured a fee reduction for graduate assistants. Meanwhile, Lindy Wagner, OJ Duncan, Dianah McGreehan, Emily Vajalla, Ryan Freels, and Caleb McKinley-Portee were all selected to serve in various officer and committee positions of SIU's Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC).

This momentum continued into September, with SCO members participating in various events departmentally and across campus. Several SCO members participated in Tim Miller's performance workshop, "Body Maps," to create an ensemble performance on September 14. On September 19, SCO members volunteered to assist our Undergraduate Director in undergraduate recruitment efforts at SIU Day, including a breakout session led by planning and development committee member Devin Collins. Later in the month, this year's SCO treasurer, GAU steward, and GPSC representative OJ Duncan organized the second annual Gaymer Lounge for Saluki Comic Con, which was co-hosted by the Department of Communication Studies and Rainbow Café. The Gaymer Lounge also featured presentations from SCO secretary Janine Armstrong, SCO social director Dianah McGreehan, and SCO member Bolton Morales. Also in September, SCO developed the first departmental Graduate Student Survey to identify our community's strengths and opportunities for continued improvements. SCO service efforts continued throughout October, with volunteers participating in the CMST Academic Fair on October 23, where we helped connect undergraduate students to the research, teaching, and service accomplishments of CMST faculty and students.

November was a particularly busy month for SCO, beginning with the first Brown Bag professional development session of the academic year on November 1. This session, "Preparing for the Academic Job Market," featured contributions from SCO member (and recent PhD graduate) Dr. Darren Valenta, PhD alum Dr. Allison Brenneise, and faculty member Justin Young. Panelists offered their perspectives and advice for graduate students navigating the current job market, and each discussed the process of job searching, application materials, on-campus interviews, and the role of networking, conferencing, and publication in academic job searches. In preparation for the National Communication Association's (NCA) annual conference, SCO organized a practice session for graduate students to receive feedback from faculty and peers on their conference presentations.

"For decades, the Student Communication Organization (SCO) has been dedicated to the professional development of Communication Studies graduate students."

(Continued on page 14)

(SCO, Continued from page 13)

This year's practice session, held on November 8, featured presentations by Darren Valenta, Tao Zhang, and Christos Patelis. Current SCO members participated in 15 presentations at this year's NCA, along with volunteering their time and labor to the grad fair and open house.

Even in the last weeks of the fall semester, SCO remained active. On December 2 and 3, SCO held a fundraiser to benefit SCO and the John T. Warren Scholarship, which honors Dr. Warren by acknowledging the critical research of one undergraduate and graduate student each year. SCO treasurer OJ Duncan organized this fundraiser in conjunction with vice president Caleb McKinley-Portee to sell delicious homemade treats. On December 6, SCO held one final Brown Bag of the semester, "Preparing for and Navigating Graduate School," which featured contributions from graduate students OJ Duncan, Alex Lockwood, and Kevin McCarty.

SCO sustained this drive into the spring semester. Our intercultural relations officer, Maddie Wiles, organized a visit from guest speaker Lani Gahiji on February 28 for an event titled "Reshaping Higher Ed: The Real Deal." Lani spoke with CMST faculty and students about her experiences as a Black woman in higher education and how faculty, students, and staff can empower Black women in the academy. Also on February 28, SCO held its first Brown Bag of the semester, "Demystifying Prelims," featuring Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan and PhD candidates Scott Jarmon, Alex Lockwood, and Anna Wilcoxon. Panelists discussed the preliminary exam process, as well as shared their experiences and advice for completing prelims. Just a few days later on March 3, SCO co-sponsored a screening of *Pride* with GAU as part of their labor union film screening series.

Like so many others across the world, much of SCO's spring semester plans were cut short after COVID-19. Fundraisers, service events, professional development sessions, research symposiums, committee meetings, and social gatherings were all put on hold until further notice as we find ways to prioritize our collective health. Even so, SCO's accomplishments this year are notable. In the weeks following the beginning of the pandemic, our SCO librarian, Alex Lockwood, put the finishing touches on an electronic database for the department's theses and dissertations that can be found at scolibrarians.libib.com. In addition to the work I've briefly outlined here, members of our organization provided feedback to faculty on University reorganization proposals and departmental hiring plans, hosted potential incoming graduate students, helped update the departmental website, provided feedback on the graduate student handbook, worked to develop structures of graduate student research support, assisted in undergraduate recruitment efforts, and helped develop a new scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Bryan Crow.

Even through all of the challenges and uncertainties, this was a productive academic year for SCO. The SCO president would like to thank the executive committee, Janine Armstrong, OJ Duncan, Alex Lockwood, Caleb McKinley-Portee, Dianah McGreehan, and Maddie Wiles for their dedicated service this year. The executive committee would also like to thank our members who served on committees and councils, as well as all of our active members, who gave their time to the organization. Regardless of what the next academic year brings, SCO looks forward to continuing its support of CMST graduate students at SIUC!

*"Like so many others
across the world, much
of SCO's spring
semester plans were cut
short after COVID-
19."*

PRSSA: YEAR IN REVIEW

By Kiara Hartmann, Vice President, PRSSA.

The Public Relations Student Society of America's (PRSSA) 2019-2020 academic year was eventful and full of surprises. PRSSA has grown immensely over this past year, hosting a variety of social events and development meetings for the members' academic and professional development.

Our members had the opportunity to speak with a PR professional during a Q&A session with Candace Gibson, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for Bellevue Independent Schools. During this session, PRSSA members learned about the major role that communication and public relations play in her job. As fall semester wrapped up, members got to participate in a fun end of semester social together.



The members of PRSSA meet for their spring bowling night at Student Center Bowling and Billiards

As spring semester began, PRSSA was off to a great start. Pyramid, our student run PR agency, had taken on four new clients, including For Kids' Sake, SIU's Student Health Center, the Fierce RSO, and The Communication Studies department. Members worked hard to meet deadlines, make social media posts, create press releases and more. But all of this work was abruptly cut short, as the executive board and PRSSA advisor worked hard during and after spring break to reformat the classes and the RSO in the wake of the global pandemic.

After lots of emails and video chats, PRSSA was back up and running in a new way. As client work had to be cut short, PRSSA members instead worked on honing some of the skills necessary for their careers. The group met via zoom, and participated in video conferences where outgoing PRSSA president Savannah Coady led a workshop on how to use Canva.com. During another call, PRSSA member Haven Thompson led a workshop on how to write press releases, and past PRSSA president Madison Case was brought in to speak on how her PRSSA experience helped her develop her career after graduating from SIU. Behind the scenes, PRSSA's new advisor, Justin Young, also developed the new PRSSA website during the spring semester. To view it, and see the exciting new projects that PRSSA has been involved in, you can check out the site at www.siuprssa.com.

Finally, we felt that the semester wouldn't be truly over without a makeshift version of our end of year social. The PRSSA vice president set up a Netflix party for all of us to watch a movie together one last time. PRSSA plans to reconvene, whether online or through some new form of meeting, in the fall of 2020.

*“After lots of emails
and video chats,
PRSSA was back up
and running in a new
way.”*

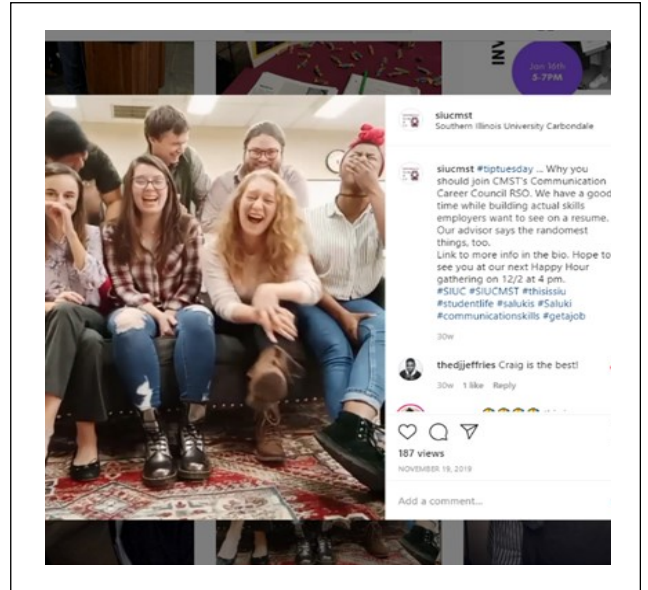
ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR THE COMMUNICATION CAREER COUNCIL (C3)

By Dr. Craig Engstrom, Associate Professor

The Communication Career Council, under the advisement of Dr. Craig Engstrom, continues to achieve its mission of providing career preparation to our department's undergraduate students in three areas: social media and email marketing, professional development, and networking.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

You may have noticed that our department's social media has really taken off over the past few years. This is the result of both training and planning. Students take practicum credit and complete HubSpot certifications in social media marketing and email marketing. Students then create a social media marketing plan, which includes market personas, social calendars, and metrics for success. We have also upped our game internally, sending targeted emails to our students—driving engagement to campus events. This year this effort was led by Savannah Coady and Danielle Lorentz.



C3 Having Fun for an Instagram Post

“Students take practicum credit and complete HubSpot certifications in social media marketing and email marketing. Students then create a social media marketing plan, which includes personas, social calendars, and metrics for success.”

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BRANDU

In the fall, we resurrected the BrandU event, which was dormant for about 8 years. This year's theme was personal branding. On Friday, November 8, 2019, students were treated to a variety of guest speakers, including Kevin Purcell, an alum of the program who personally coached Bill Gates, Russ Roca (a YouTuber with over 80K subscribers), Jon Kefaloukos, a professional Esports Broadcaster and Former Professional Gamer, and Henry Mahome, a community activist. To learn more about the 2019 event, go here: <https://www.siuc3.com/BrandU-2019>.

NETWORKING

In the spring, the C3 team kept busy by writing blogs and inviting guest speakers, which included alumni and working professionals, to share their insights with the group. The semester culminated in a LinkedIn training that drew in a Zoom crowd of nearly 40 attendees from across the country. These events provide opportunities for students to learn more about their career options while meeting professionals who can help them launch their career. It also markets the department and the value of the Communication Studies degree.

(Continued on page 17)



(C3, Continued from page 16)

Of course, it is not all work. We had a Christmas party via Zoom in May just to spite Covid-19. Folks wore their ugliest sweaters and we played games.

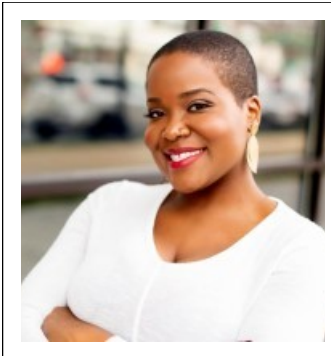
If you'd like to support the C3's efforts, financially or as a guest speaker or mentor, please contact Dr. Craig Engstrom (craig.engstrom@siu.edu).

Guest Speaker Henry Mahome discusses his activism with members of C3 at this year's BrandU event.

LANI GAHIJI SPEAKS

By Madeline Wiles, MA student

This year we had the pleasure of hosting Lani Gahiji for a talk regarding her experiences in higher ed. Each academic year, the Intercultural Relations Officer for the Student Communication Organization (SCO) brings a scholar to discuss a diverse range of topics and interests. Lani is a native to Chicago, IL, and was happy to lend her voice to the event. She held a one-hour talk titled "Higher Education: The Real Deal," about her experiences obtaining her master's degree, and the discriminatory state of higher education. Unfortunately, those experiences led her to leave the life of a scholar, but she ultimately uses her voice to reclaim the space where she faced discrimination. Her discussion not only resonated with the students and faculty of SIU, but held higher administration and faculty accountable for creating inclusive spaces. The format of her talk was personal, and allowed the audience to interact with what she was telling them in real-time. For some members of the audience, the event helped affirm their feelings and experiences. She ended the night with a beautiful discussion and engaged with her audience one-on-one. Lani's narratives and lessons in creating more inclusive spaces for our students brought a new perspective on education. The event was a success, and there is hope that these conversations will continue in the years to come.



Guest Speaker, Lani Gahiji

"Her discussion not only resonated with the students and faculty of SIU, but held higher administration and faculty accountable for creating inclusive spaces."

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Randy Auxier writes “I have had another year of training for Comm Studies and the project is coming along. Hard to teach an old dog new tricks, but I already knew how to beg, stay, and speak (the latter a bit too much and not always on command). A highlight for me this year was a public debate, arranged by Todd Graham for Constitution Day in which I argued the proposition "Impeach Trump" well before it happened, and my worthy opponent was Will Stephens, the dynamic young mayor of Murphysboro. That debate is up on YouTube somewhere. The attendance was great. I don't know when I've had so much fun, really. My co-edited book *Rorty and Beyond* appeared this year, and I finished a logic textbook, called *Logic: From Images to Digits*, which is designed to undercut the logic of domination that has been taught in the universities for some six generations. It is a companion to the persuasion textbook I did last year, both published by Linus. I edited a special issue of *Eidos* on film and image that has appeared now. It is open access, here: <http://eidos.uw.edu.pl/>.

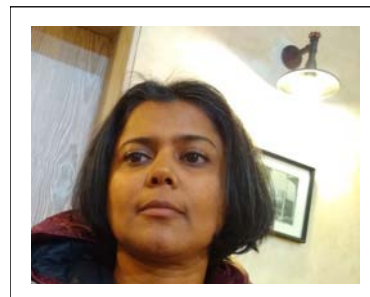


Dr. Randy Auxier

I co-organized the International Conference on Persons, which met in Israel in August, my first trip to the Holy Land, and an education in itself. We have continued to maintain an active slate of events at the American Institute of Philosophical and Cultural Thought, including an increasingly interdisciplinary focus. Check the website <http://www.americanphilosophy.net>. I look forward to teaching Dark Communication for the first time in the fall. Some people say I have a knack for that sort of thing . . .”

“Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan worked on organizing the second Diversity & Inclusion Summit in Chicago for the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations.”

Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan worked on organizing the second Diversity & Inclusion Summit in Chicago for the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations. She has been serving on the board of the Center since 2014 and with its support is working on a book that is developing a model for diversity, equity and inclusion for public relations education and industry. She also serves on SIUC's Diversity Council and the systemwide Diversity Action Committee which is developing a strategic plan for diversity, equity and inclusion for the three-campus system. Bardhan continued to teach courses in intercultural communication and public relations and advise MA and PhD students this past year. Like most of us, she has been pushed into the world of online teaching for the first time because of Covid-19, and she is beginning to develop a new perspective on online pedagogy. Bardhan recently received the SIU College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher award. She has served as the director of graduate studies for the department since 2013 and come fall, she will pass the baton to Dr. Rebecca Walker.



Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan

FACULTY UPDATES (CONT.)

Dr. Craig Engstrom continued his role as the Undergraduate Program Director and adviser of the Communication Career Council (C3). He made progress on research related to learning record stores (LRSs) and digital badges, which is research supported by a ~\$10K grant from the SIU Foundation. He presented two papers at NCA and received a top paper award at CSCA. He was the chair of the Training and Development Division. He completed the Online Learning Consortium's Advance Online Instructor Certificate and, in the process, was able to validate that the CMST 101 online course meets the best practices of online course design per the OpenSUNY Course Quality Review (OSCQR) for accessibility and the Quality Course Teaching and Instructional Practice (QCTIP) scorecards. He continues to serve as a subject-matter expert on instructional design for the Association for Talent Development's APTD certification exam and as a communication, interviewing, and career coach for LinkedIn Corporation.



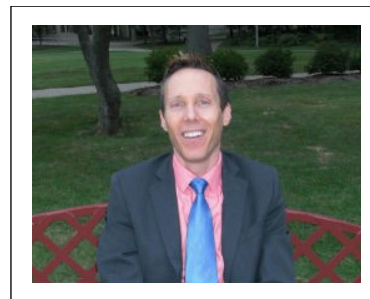
Dr. Craig Engstrom

Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook writes, "Like many of you, I spent my year in a kind of shock with the loss of both Bryan Crow and Suzanne Daughton, the advent of COVID-19, and a sudden shift to teaching online. Against that backdrop, there were wonderful things: a new kitten (Donut), a grand-nephew's (Preston) birth on the same day as mine, and the host of Saluki successes you all have shared via social media and personal correspondence. I've enjoyed the "middle year" of my Text and Performance Quarterly editorship, hosting two extraordinary guest artists (longtime departmental friend Tim Miller and emerging performance artist Jesus Valles), and continuing work on a book project with Jake Simmons. I hope the best for you and yours as we move through this uncertain time, and that, like me, you are strengthened and supported by the relationships and friendships formed here in Carbondale. Take Care."



Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook

Dr. Todd Graham directed the debate team as they competed in the British Parliamentary style of debate, culminating in their attendance at the World Universities Debating Championship, held over winter break in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Graham has been analyzing each of the Democratic Party's presidential debates for CNN and other media outlets. Dr. Graham teaches interpersonal communication and argumentation.

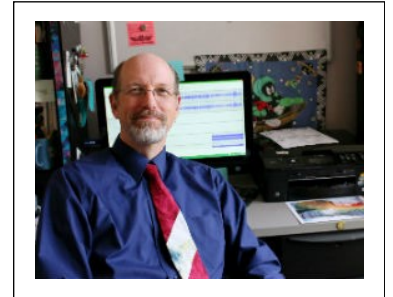


Dr. Todd Graham

"I've enjoyed the 'middle year' of my Text and Performance Quarterly editorship, hosting two extraordinary guest artists (...) and continuing work on a book project with Jake Simmons."

FACUTLY UPDATES (CONT.)

Dr. Jonathan Gray has been continuing to work while on sabbatical, despite most research plans being cancelled due to pandemic. He will be the convenor of the fall conference of Gay Spirit Visions in September, either virtually or face-to-face, as conditions allow. He has also made and distributed over 100 face masks this spring as part of a project on craftivism, related to his sabbatical research and writing on art and environmental advocacy. He is also preparing to teach a new course in the fall on “Performing Graphic Novels” and trying to figure out what such a class might look like as an online course. He continues to produce the weekly podcast/broadcast “Isn’t it Queer?” from his home office.



Dr. Jonathan Gray

Josh Houston continued to teach Introduction to Public Relations and attempt to get students excited about a career in strategic communication. In addition, Josh worked with the more experienced PR students in courses such as PR in Sports & Recreation and PR Ethics.

Josh continues to work in areas other than PR as well. In addition to teaching Interviewing, this past year he taught Small Group Communication for the first time and he is also preparing to offer Nonverbal Communication next fall.

The end of the spring required all courses to shift online, and Josh enjoyed this process so much that he plans on moving some courses to an online format going forward.



Josh Houston

Sandy Pensoneau-Conway has enjoyed her second year as department chair. In addition to teaching CMST 501: Introduction to Communication Studies Research in the Fall, she taught CMST 531: Seminar in Communication Pedagogy: Public Pedagogy in the Spring. This class was a fantastic encounter with learning outside of the classroom.

Together, the class explored the educational process that happens amongst various publics, in various public locations, and with various publicly available texts. They did this by meeting each week in a different location, such as the Center for Empowerment and Justice, University Mall, Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center, and the Carbondale Public Library. On the publication front, Sandy partnered with friend and collaborator, Dr. Ahmet Atay (also an alum of the PhD program), to publish *Queer Communication Pedagogy*, out in print from Routledge in November 2019, and is currently running for member-at-large with the Central States Communication Association

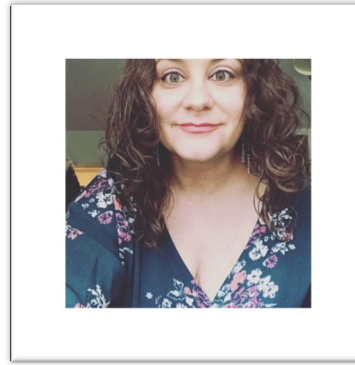


Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway

“This class was a fantastic encounter with learning outside the classroom.”

FACULTY UPDATES (CONT.)

Dr. Rebecca Walker began the Fall semester of 2019 by fulfilling one of her academic dreams, to lead the Petit Jean Performance Festival. In October, she co-led the 40th anniversary of the festival with her friend and colleague, Dr. Holley Vaughn from the University of North Texas on the theme, *Petit Tourism: Tourism as Performative Practice*. In November, she traveled to NCA to present research currently underway with fellow storytelling teachers and colleagues at two different universities at the NCA Baltimore conference. Dr. Walker and her collaborators are currently working on turning that presentation into an article. Over the fall semester, she also completed initial drafts of two invited book chapters, one on performance methodologies and another on theorizing place with performance. This spring, she created a new version of the graduate course on History and Performance, this one with a special focus on genealogy as an historical research method. This summer, she will begin preparing to take on her new role as Director of Graduate Studies in Fall 2020.



Dr. Rebecca Walker

“Dr. Rebecca Walker began the Fall semester of 2019 by fulfilling one of her academic dreams, to lead the Petit Jean Performance Festival.”

Justin Young spent some of this year adjusting to his new home at SIU. That included advising PRSSA as it worked with clients through our student-run PR agency, Pyramid. He built PRSSA's new website at siuprssa.com. The hope is for it to grow and become a portfolio resource for students to showcase the work they've been involved with once they graduate. Additionally, it features workshops of graphic design and press releases led by PRSSA's Executive Board members. He is also in the process of building out the department's new podcasting studio with hopes to soon begin showcasing student and faculty research through it.



Justin Young and MA student Scarlett Rodriguez at the PRSSA Halloween event.

ALUMNI UPDATE EDITION OF THE SPEAK EASY

We are excited to announce that this Fall, Speak Easy will publish an alumni update edition, featuring alumni from all of our programs over the years. If you would like to be featured in this edition, please send us a few words about what you have been up to, along with a photo (if you'd like one to be published). Be sure to include your name, degree, and graduation year. You're also welcome to include your social media information.

In addition, if you have any digital photos from your time in the department that we might keep in our archive, we would love to have them! Please send them our way.

Deadline for submissions is November 6, 2020. Send to department chair Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, sandypc@siu.edu

END OF YEAR AWARDS

As with every year, the department ended the academic year by recognizing the excellence of its undergraduates, graduates, and faculty.

Several undergraduate students were recognized with departmental awards:

The R. Paul Hibbs Memorial Scholarship went to Megan Dunker and Jordan Smearman. First awarded in 1978, this scholarship remains the department's most prestigious and distinguished undergraduate award, often given to up to three recipients.



Megan Dunker received the R. Paul Hibbs Memorial Scholarship.

Randi Burns and Tadzia Lee were awarded the **Dr. Albert Weitz Scholarship**, which was left as a bequest by Dr. Weitz in 2013 in order to establish a scholarship for students in the field of Communication Studies.

This year's **Elizabeth Toth Public Relations Award** went to Savannah Coady. This financial award is given to an outstanding graduating senior specializing in public relations who is a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

Martiece Arrington received the **Dr. Tekla Story Award for Excellence in Performance**.

Finally, Randi Burns, Jordan Smearman, and Megan Dunker were awarded the **Robert Carr Speech Communication Scholarship**, which is given to notable CMST students.

Additionally, Communication Studies recognizes the following students for their exemplary academic work:

Outstanding First Year Student

Walton Carter

Outstanding Sophomore

Jami Allen

Michael Clarke

Megan Dunker

Grace McGuire

George Wright

Outstanding Junior

Martiece Arrington

Madison Chimack

Kiara Hartmann

India Piro

Alyssa Roimiser

Outstanding Senior

Savannah Coady

Ariel Denton

Jake Ellsworth

Jackson Hunter

Madison Kic

Danielle Lorentz

Samantha Parsons

Madeline Reinhardt

Finally, Communication Studies awarded the **CMST Scholarship for New Majors or Transfer Students** to Randi Burns.

Several graduate students were also recognized for their excellence this academic year. Traditionally, the department gives three awards to graduate students who are nominated by the faculty or their peers.

“[The R. Paul Hibbs Memorial Scholarship] remains the department’s most prestigious and distinguished undergraduate award, often given to up to three recipients.”

The **John T. Warren Excellence in Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Award** was given to Alex Davenport. This award is meant to recognize a student's production of acceptable research and creative activity as determined by the university's criteria, which includes but is not limited to articles in professional journals, chapters in professional books, professional presentations and performances, and book reviews. The award is named in honor of a beloved and prolific late member of the Communication Studies community.

The **Ronald J. Pelias Excellence in Graduate Student Service Award** went to two students this year, Shelby Swafford and Dianah McGreehan. This award recognizes an individual's devotion to serving the department, the university, and the surrounding community as determined by the university's criteria for acceptable service activity.

Finally, the **Elyse L. Pineau Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching** was awarded to both a master's and Ph.D. student in the department, as is tradition. Madeline Wiles won the master's award and Anna Wilcoxon won the Ph.D. award. The award is named after a Professor Emeritus whose work on pedagogy and contributions to the department as an instructor and Introductory Course Director continues to shape the teaching practices of graduate students at SIU and beyond.

Communication Studies students also nominated faculty members for the **Communication Studies Outstanding Teacher Award**. Ultimately, the review committee awarded this year's honor to Josh Houston.

In addition to these awards, the Communication Studies department also awarded the **John T. Warren Memorial Scholarship** to undergraduate student Megan Dunker, and Ph.D. candidate Alex Lockwood. This scholarship is awarded to an individual for research-related expenses of up to \$250.



Dianah McGreehan received the Ronald J. Pelias Excellence in Graduate Student Service Award



Anna Wilcoxon won the Elyse L. Pineau Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching

“[The Elyse L. Pineau Award] is named after a Professor Emeritus whose work on pedagogy and contributions to the department as an instructor and Introductory Course Director continues to shape the teaching practices of graduate students at SIU and beyond.”

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- Awards and Grants: **18**
- Chairing at Professional Meetings/Conferences: **4**
- Invited/Visiting Scholarship: **2**
- Panels at Professional Meetings/Conferences: **12**
- Papers Presented at Professional Meetings/
Conferences: **19**
- Performances/Creative Work: **34**
- Professional Membership/Attendance: **30**
- Publications- Book Chapters: **7**
- Publications- Journal Articles: **3**
- Publications- Articles/Reviews/Creative Work: **1**
- Readings/Presentations/Guest Lectures: **17**
- Review and Editorial Activities: **16**
- Service-Campus and Surrounding Area: **125**
- Trainings and Leadership Development Work: **25**



Dept. faculty and graduate students at the orientation week potluck before the beginning of fall semester 2019



Several graduate students gather at their apartment for an outdoor movie viewing: August 2019

EDITOR'S NOTE AND THANK YOU

By Alex Lockwood, Editor, Speak Easy

Dr. Tico Braun, a history professor at the University of Virginia, reminded those of us going through the pandemic that “You do not write alone.” Those are words that I’ve been keeping with me as this year has turned into one of the most challenging periods of history that many of us have encountered. I’ve had the opportunity over this past year to stay thoroughly tuned in to the community of the SIU communication studies department, and I want to extend thank yous for allowing me so much insight into this role. From the small moments of victory, to the immense swells of love and grief, and to the ongoing work around the raw honesties of anxiety, uncertainty, and pain.

When Dr. Braun reminded his classes that “You do not write alone,” he signaled the importance of keeping records, of keeping journals during our lives under pandemic. Not only for historians, I think, but for the people doing the writing. I thank you, then, for affording me the opportunity to compile this admittedly partial account of our department over the past year. As we continue to make our way through this uncertain new decade, let’s strive to remember those small moments of contact and grace that live in the interactions all of these names contained herein have had with one another.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to scholarships, student groups, or development funds within the department, please visit the SIU Foundation Homepage (<https://siuf.org/>) or contact the Department Chair, Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway (sandypc@siu.edu).

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