

# SPEAK EASY

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

2

0

1

1

Winter Issue

## Spotlight on Intercultural Communication

As diversity in the United States continues to rise and the connective forces of globalization bring people closer together, the study of Intercultural Communication is becoming increasingly important. This reality has led the department to pay special attention to the growth of its Intercultural Communication specialization, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Within the last three years, the department has hired three full-time faculty members to serve this area.

Intercultural Communication aims to teach students to apply intercultural theory and research to everyday encounters with individuals of different races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexualities, ages, physical abilities, and other markers of difference. The department started offering courses in this area in the 1990s under the leadership of now retired Associate Professor **Mary Hinchcliff-Pelias** and Dr. Daradirek Ekachai. "The area, from the beginning to present, has been a strong contributor to both the undergraduate and graduate education of students at SIUC," says Hinchcliff-Pelias.

According to Assistant Professor **Rachel Griffin**, the specialization "offers a means for us to engage the complexities of how we build and maintain relationships across identity differences." The department is committed to expanding the area by recruiting more students, notes Assistant Professor **Miriam Sobré-Denton**.

The faculty specifically devoted to this area includes Associate Professor **Nilanjana Bardhan**, Assistant Professor Rachel Griffin, Assistant Professor Miriam Sobré-Denton and Assistant Professor **Satoshi Toyosaki**.



Nilanjana Bardhan (right) teaches courses in Intercultural Communication

Professor **John Warren** also offers graduate level courses, specifically in Communication Pedagogy and race, that appeal to students of Intercultural Communication.

In April 2011, the department will host a mini-conference that will bring together leading scholars who will discuss their work on identity and intercultural communication. Proceedings of this conference will be published. According to Toyosaki, "This mini-conference will help highlight our program nationally, and we hope internationally as well."

## Our students from around the world



Doctoral student Sharon Chuang (left) discusses a paper with a classmate

Among all the graduate students in the department, there are also many international students. When international students are asked what they like the most about this department, there seems to be a popular theme: the faculty.

Most of these students were also considering other institutions for their graduate studies, but ultimately chose SIUC because of the quality of the program, the areas in which faculty are conducting research, the opportunity to teach through

graduate assistantships, the beautiful campus, and the lower cost of living. **Jana Simonis**, a master's student from Germany studying Intercultural Communication, stated that in her opinion, SIUC's Speech Communication graduate program is one of the best in the country.

With all of the praise these students have about the department, one wonders: how do they find SIUC? The majority of the students heard about the university from recruitment fairs at their schools, and in some cases SIUC was the partner school for their exchange programs. Doctoral student **Chengxiu (Karen) Suo**, who is from mainland China, actually worked as an interpreter for an SIUC delegation which visited China before she came to SIUC.

The department hopes to attract more students from around the world in the future. As international graduate students come here to learn, the department, in turn, learns and grows through exposure to the diverse perspectives and experiences they bring.



Master's student Jana Simonis

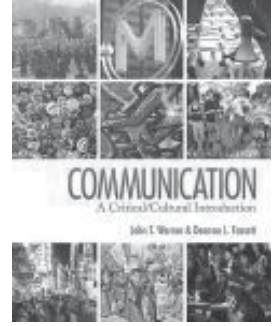
# DEPARTMENT NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## Warren co-authors unique textbook

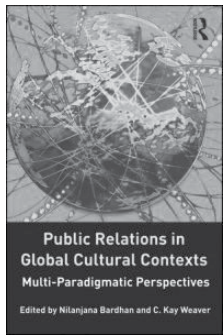
*Communication - A Critical/Cultural Introduction* is authored by Professor **John Warren** and department alum Professor **Deanna Fassett**. This new book provides an introduction to communication theory, interpersonal communication, and public communication and culture through the perspective of contemporary critical theory.

The notable feature of Warren and Fassett's new textbook is its critical/cultural approach to communication pedagogy. Unlike some introductory textbooks, it is written in an engaging narrative style. It provides a focus on public advocacy, and is illustrated with contemporary examples.

According to Professor Dob Rubin at the University of Georgia, "The authors' style is conversational, non-didactic, and the approach encouraged critical thinking. ... The great advantage of this text is that it will help foster dialogic communication in the classroom and a high degree of student reflection."



## New book on public relations and globalization



*Public Relations in Global Cultural Contexts: Multi-Paradigmatic Perspectives* is co-edited by Associate Professor **Nilanjana Bardhan** and Professor C. Kay Weaver (Waikato University, New Zealand). This book, recently published by Routledge, focuses on two greatly under-studied concepts in public relations scholarship – globalization and culture.

In order to present a range of research positions on public relations, globalization, and culture, this book presents perspectives from public relations scholars working out of different paradigmatic positions. The contributors emphasize theories and concepts that highlight cultural and global interconnectedness through interpretative, critical/cultural, postmodern and social scientific approaches.

Postmodern, critical/cultural and interpretive perspectives are growing in public relations scholarship, and this book makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in international/global public relations. "We hope our work will be welcomed for the effort it makes to create dialogue between the various perspectives in the context of globalization," says Bardhan.

## Singer develops research on agrarian rhetoric

Assistant Professor **Ross Singer**, along with Appalachian State University professors Cindy Spurlock and Jeff Motter, is in the early stages of developing a co-authored book tentatively entitled *Cultivating America: Agrarian Rhetoric and the Formation of National Identity*. The book will explicate links between the discourses of institutions such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Country Life Commission. The book will uncover the role of rhetoric in creating "place-based" citizen identities and rural, agricultural, and environmental policies.

As part of their research program, Singer and his colleagues recently held a three-day mini-conference at the NCA convention in San Francisco called "Building Sustainable Bridges through Interdisciplinary Research: Agrarian Studies and Communication Studies in Conversation." The mini-conference gathered 20 participants, including scholars working in other countries, to derive an agenda for future scholarship. Additionally, Singer, Spurlock, and Motter have recently applied for multiple grants to fund their work.

Singer, who grew up on a primary-income family farm in the Midwest, notes that he realized the power of communicating a sense of place when he toured an outdoor "living history" agricultural museum in Iowa in 2009. The tour, which featured historically costumed performers, ended at a reconstructed 1900 farm that he says felt "eerily similar" to the one on which his parents continue to live. This experience encouraged him to think further about "authentic" representations of the rural past within postmodern culture, and why they mark absence and presence in some ways over others.

## Speakers Forum: Do we eat ethically?

The fall 2010 Student Speakers Forum, entitled "Do We Eat Ethically?," drew 325 attendees to the Lesar Law Auditorium on November 9, 2010. The audience for the event was one of the largest recorded in recent history. The topic of eating and ethics afforded many different intersections for discussion such as organic and local farming, economic implications, health, vegetarianism, and personal vs. societal responsibility.

Forty two students auditioned for the event and six were selected to present their speeches as a part of the opening panel: **Jessica Cogdill**, **Thomas Jefferson**, **Michele Williams**, **Brittine Denoncour**, **Quam Odukoya**, and **Taylor Gordon**. After the selected panel of speakers presented their speeches, the floor was opened for impromptu speeches given by the audience.



Top (L to R): Jessica Cogdill, Thomas Jefferson, Quam Odukoya  
Bottom (L to R): Michele Williams, Brittine Denoncour, Taylor Gordon.

# OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

## Sarah and Paige @ AKA Media INC

**Sarah Schalmo** (B.S., '06) is currently working as a producer at AKA Media in Chicago. In her role as a producer, Schalmo works directly with clients at global PR firms and Fortune 100 companies to consult and oversee a wide range of projects from concept development to results measurement. Some of her clients have included Kraft, Oreo, Campbell's, and Hidden Valley Ranch.

Interviewing celebrities, implementing social media campaigns, and coordinating media tours are just a few of the many tasks Schalmo does on a daily basis. She maintains that the basics of what she does stems from the knowledge she gained while attending SIUC and being involved in PRSSA. "Writing press releases, meeting deadlines, working as a team and brainstorming campaign ideas all provide a solid platform to ensure the success of my projects," she says.

Schalmo adds that while she's traveling for business and keeping up with the fast-paced industry of PR, she knows she can always go back to the basics and channel her inner Saluki. Once a Saluki, always a Saluki!



Hollenbeg (left) and Schalmo smile for the *Speak Easy* camera

**Paige Hollenberg** (B.S., '10) is also currently working as a production assistant at AKA Media in Chicago.

As a production assistant, Hollenberg is responsible for assisting AKA's producers, editors and designers in all aspects of video and web production; she is also involved in everything from the booking of the production crew to aiding at location shoots. Additionally, Hollenberg assists the digital team with social media research and outreach.

Since becoming a member of the "real world," Hollenberg has come to further appreciate her experiences at SIUC. "Thanks

to the practical knowledge and patience I gained through PRSSA, Pyramid and Speech Communication courses, I now understand and will never underestimate the importance of writing well, and being an organized multi-tasker," she says. Hollenberg adds that her experiences as a Saluki taught her that adaptation and collaboration are key, and she advises that one should "never think you know everything, and never stop learning."

## A story of personal and professional triumph

**David Bateman** (Ph.D., '70), was recently honored by the Harvard Medical School for having lived on insulin for 50 years – a rather rare occurrence.

Bateman had Type 1 diabetes when he arrived on campus and assuming a shortened life span pursued graduate degrees in Classical Rhetoric, Business, and finally a Ph.D. combining Speech Communication and Business. His dissertation focused on how corporations can effectively communicate with employees. Following his doctorate, Bateman was hired by the SIU School of Business. He also became an active consultant to corporations throughout the nation.

After a 35-year career at SIU, Bateman retired in 1995. A former SIU president called him the most decorated teacher in the history of the institution. Following his retirement at SIU, he assumed The Lumpkin Distinguished Professorship in Business at Eastern Illinois University. Bateman is now fully retired and enjoys international travel with his wife Patricia, also a retired professor.

## Spirit of entrepreneurship

**Eric Haley** (B.S., '03) is the CEO of RedLetter, a PR firm based in Delray Beach, Fla. Haley began his career in broadcast journalism before focusing on public relations. He has worked in a variety of PR settings such as corporate, not-for-profit, agency and freelance. He has also worked with many accounts in a wide range of industries. His clients have been featured in major media outlets such as *CNN Headline News*, *Entrepreneur Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Spike TV*, to name a few.



Haley runs RedLetter PR

Today, Haley's company proudly manages seven accounts, six throughout South Florida and another in Newport Beach, Calif. As far as success tips go, Haley says, "Work hard, but always find a balance between your personal and professional lives. You must take care of yourself before you can do a good job for anyone." We applaud Haley for his entrepreneurial spirit, and wish him all the best in the future.

## Transition

We sadly mark the passing of **Dr. Keith R. Sanders**, in January 2011. He was a member of the Speech Communication faculty from 1967-1983 where he developed the study of political communication; he directed 19 dissertations, and served as dean of the former College of Communication and Fine Arts. Dr. Sanders was a former executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and a member of the SIU Board of Trustees.



# MEET SOME OF OUR STUDENTS

## Connecting with the world through Study Abroad



Trainor in New Zealand

In spring 2009, **Laurissa Trainor** embarked on a journey that would take her farther than she ever imagined—New Zealand. While in New Zealand, Trainor studied International Case Studies in Public Relations at Massey University – Wellington.

“The course described the overwhelming importance of understanding through communication, as many corporations are going global,” says Trainor. “The local-global-local scale of implementing international campaigns was extensively studied as well as how messages received differently from one culture to another could result in miscommunication,” she adds.

Trainor described New Zealand as a place of “complete wonder and awe,” and highly recommends Study Abroad programs to anyone with the capability to indulge in what she calls “unique experiences.” She firmly believes that such experiences add to a person’s overall worldview, and have a strong impact on one’s life.

**Crystal Bell** is specializing in Organizational Communication as well as Intercultural Communication. In May 2010, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Kenya for 17 days.

In the first week of her trip, Bell, among other students, stayed in resorts. However, the second week Bell stayed in a Kenyan village. “We had the opportunity to sleep how they slept, eat what they ate, and walk miles and miles just as they do every day. It was definitely a real eye-opener.”

While in Kenya, Bell and the other students helped construct a library for the children there, as well as taught in classrooms at Thirikwa Primary

School in the Village of Thirikwa. Bell taught public speaking to fifth grade students. During the last days of the trip, she was able to go on an African Safari.

Bell says that this experience has helped her become a more well-rounded individual. “I view life differently and am grateful for everything I have. Kenya was amazing. Taking a trip like that was a one-in-a-lifetime experience. I learned to be flexible and adaptable in another culture, and demonstrated my various communication skills,” she says.



Crystal Bell

**Danielle Bacigalupo** is a senior specializing in Public Relations with a minor in Political Science. Over the summer of 2009, Bacigalupo studied abroad in Florence, Italy. It was a place she always wanted to visit. So, when the opportunity came, she took it.

During her stay she was happy to learn more about Italian culture by taking a food and wine course as well as a course in the Italian language. She made a lot of friends that she still keeps in contact with. Bacigalupo says, “Studying abroad in Italy was the best decision I made in my college career. I learned more about other cultures, as well as about myself.”

Now, Bacigalupo has a job waiting for her in Italy if she chooses. “Is it expensive to go abroad? Yes, but the memories are worth it,” she says.



Bacigalupo in Italy

## Calderwood judges debate in China



Kevin Calderwood

**Kevin Calderwood** is a first-year master’s student in the department. He earned his bachelor’s degree from SIUC in Political Science with an International Affairs specialization. He was also a member of the Saluki Debate Team from fall 2007 through May 2010.

Calderwood was chosen by the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press of Beijing Foreign Studies University to judge debates at the 14th Annual FLTRP Chinese National English Debating Championship. Over the course of four weeks in China, he judged around 20 rounds of debate at three different tournaments in Beijing and Xi’an (the ancient capital).

He cites having studied international relations and being on the debate team as being very useful while traveling to China. According to Calderwood, “Traveling to China was definitely one of the most rewarding experiences I have had. It was educational in terms of interacting with people from so many different countries.”

## Esquibel explores narratives about sundown towns

**Elena Esquibel** is a doctoral candidate, and is currently writing her dissertation on sundown towns in the southern Illinois area. Her main areas of interest include critical intercultural communication research and performance studies, specifically focused on critical race theory, critical performance ethnography/oral history, and social justice performance.

Recently, she staged her research in a show titled *Sundown in Southern Illinois*. Judging by the turnout at the Kleinau Theatre, the show seemed to spark a lot of local interest. “I think the large numbers of audiences that came pouring in to see this show reveals the potential of our work as scholars and particularly the potential of performance for social change,” says Esquibel. *Sundown in Southern Illinois* consisted of verbatim narratives from interviews with community members.

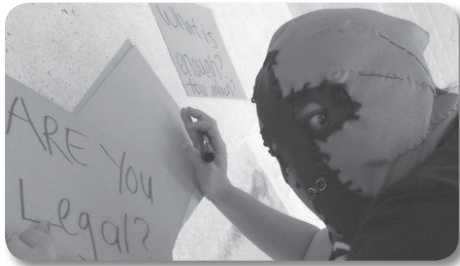
During the show, Esquibel led a dialogue session with the audience to discuss some of the issues related to sundown towns, race, and racism. The Kleinau Theatre wasn’t the only stop for this performance; it was also performed at the Petit Jean Performance Festival in Arkansas.

“Looking back at the show, I am very grateful because it turned out better than I could have ever imagined or hoped for,” says Esquibel.



Esquibel (right, facing camera) and cast in *Sundown in Southern Illinois*

## Justicia Masked



Olivia “Gigi” Perez-Langley as Justicia Masked

**Olivia “Gigi” Perez-Langley** is a second-year doctoral student with a focus in Performance Studies, Intercultural Communication and Communication Pedagogy. She is from Texas where she earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of North Texas.

Perez-Langley’s current work, which is performed as a masked figure she calls Justicia Masked, focuses on the institution in Taylor, Texas, called T. Don Hutto: Family Residential Center. The Center holds children, pregnant women, and whole families until their immigration status is determined. As a performance artist and activist, Justicia Masked began spreading the word about the injustices surrounding the facility which include denying the children education, pregnant women proper nutrition, and all detainees proper medical attention.

For further information on this ongoing project, contact [justiciamasked@gmail.com](mailto:justiciamasked@gmail.com), visit [justiciamasked.blogspot.com](http://justiciamasked.blogspot.com), or find her on Facebook as Justicia Silenced.

## Carlsen conducts research on cosmopolitanism

**Robert Carlsen** is a second-year doctoral student with a focus in Intercultural Communication and Communication Pedagogy. He is originally from New York where he earned his bachelor’s degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Before earning his master’s degree in Speech Communication at SIUC Carlsen lived in Taiwan, an experience that informs his current research interest in cosmopolitanism, a postmodern perspective on the effects border crossings have on identity. He has conducted research among long-term Western residents in Taipei, Taiwan, examining how these migrants narrate their experiences of cross-cultural engagement and belonging as they negotiate their identities in global and local contexts.

Carlsen is also working on a project with Assistant Professor Miriam Sobré-Denton that aims to help Hostelling International, a non-profit organization, fulfill its mission to foster greater understanding of the world through an evaluation and assessment of their educational outreach programs serving underprivileged youth in the Chicago area.



Carlsen travels in Asia for fieldwork

For further information on this ongoing project, Carlsen can be contacted at [carlsen@siu.edu](mailto:carlsen@siu.edu).

# Kleinau Theatre : Fall 2010 Season

The fall 2010 Kleinau season featured a variety of performances written and directed by current graduate students and faculty.

September 23-25th, 2010 (Double Bill)

## **Nomadic Practice(s): a Rhythmic Exploration of Everyday Space**

*Written and Directed by Hunter Fine*

In this production, a nomad, a squatter, a rhythm analyst, and at times an ethnographer navigated through every day space in a multi-textual and multi-mediated performance. This performance embodied various spatial practices as the narrator attempted to transgress physical constructions of space in his search for the rhythms of life.



Jonny Gray in *Cross/Walking*

## **Cross/Walking**

*Written and Directed by Jonny Gray*

This solo performance challenged product-oriented ways of thinking. It featured the journey instead of the destination, and used walking as a metaphor as well as performance practice. This performance encouraged the audience to reconsider the ways we conceptualize “nature” and environment” as things rather

than dynamic processes by taking seriously Baz Kershaw’s call that biocentric performances reveal processes of perception and investigate “reflexivities of paradox” in ecological thinking and practice.

October 28-30, 2010

## **Sundown in Southern Illinois**

*Compiled and Directed by Elena Esquibel*

This performance featured oral history narratives from southern Illinois residents, and explored experiences and stories about “sundown towns” that have historically banned African Americans after dark. Although time has passed and these towns have changed, most of these communities continue to be almost all-White. The performance explored a history of racism deeply imbedded in America’s past through community narratives.

December 2-4, 2010 (Double Bill)

## **Meat My Package**

*Written and Directed by Anna Wilcoxon*

This solo performance turned the dominant paradigm on its end and soaked the audience with a reality check. Based in themes of queer female sexuality, the show doused the audience’s senses.

## **Cutting the Fat**

*Written and Directed by Brian Healy*

Throughout the performance, Healey asked the audience to begin answering the question: How do I fit in? This one-person auto-performance dealt with issues of size and identity as read in and against media representations of large men. The performer investigated the relationships between his large body and the societal norms that continue to discipline large bodies.



Brian Healy in *Cutting the Fat*

# ALUMNI UPDATES *(continued from page 3)*

**Ryan Anthony** (B.S., '98) has been in financial services work since graduation. He recently founded Select Energy Partners, which assists businesses secure the best electricity and natural gas rates and attain budget certainty. Anthony lives in Chicago and is very involved in philanthropic work aimed at integrating families and teaching life skills to homeless and economically underprivileged individuals, especially women and children.

**Amber Fern** (B.S., '03) is currently employed with the American Cancer Society as a Community Representative and lives in Bloomington, Ind. She coordinates major fundraisers such as Relay for Life for Monroe County and for Indiana University, and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in Bloomington.

**Kurt Kuehnert** (B.S., '70) is an advertising sales manager for Prairie Ridge Media in Cary, Ill. He is a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and lives in Crystal Lake, Ill., with his wife of 29 years, Mary. They have two daughters, two sons, and four grandchildren. Kuehnert still keeps in touch with friends from his undergraduate days at SIU!

**Tom LaPorte** (B.S., '79) is Assistant Commissioner at the Chicago Department of Water Management. He is also very involved with Doctors Without Borders and the annual Burning Man event held in Black Rock City, Nev. He helps lead the media relations team for the latter.

**Jami McDermott** (nee Hunt) (B.S., '86) is a mortgage loan officer with PNC Mortgage in Saint Charles, Mo. After graduation, she lived in Denver for a while where she first worked in the sales sector of Sprint Communications, and then as a teacher for Denver Public Schools. She and her husband Dale McDermott moved back to the St. Louis area to be closer to family. They have two children, Lauren and Conner.

**Lynn Phillips-Gaines** (M.S., '81) is an investment management consultant and has owned Phillips Financial in Starkville, Miss., since 1984. She has been recognized by Money magazine as one of the top 200 financial planners in the U.S. Phillips-Gaines has been a communicant of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville since 1997, and was recently assigned to All Saints' Episcopal Church for field placement. She is married to Russell Gaines, and her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live in Memphis, Tenn.

After graduating from the department, **Patrick Stack** (B.S., '72) attended the New York Institute of Finance and worked on Wall Street for 22 years. In 1996, he moved to Kauai, Hawaii, where he currently owns and operates Kauai Arbitration and Mediation LLC, an alternative dispute resolution enterprise.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



A glance through this Speak Easy offers a sample of the rich array of activities, programs, and accomplishments of our faculty and students. We are a vibrant, energetic group committed to learning and growth. Our students come from cities in Illinois both large and small and from around the globe to study with outstanding faculty. We've a long tradition of intercultural scholarship; in recent years we have enhanced this area with new courses and new faculty committed to helping our students develop skill and critical understanding of our complex world. As alumni or friends of this department you can be rightly proud of Speech Communication at SIUC.

--Nathan Stucky

## SPEAK EASY STAFF

Student Writers: Stephanie Myers & David Ranalli (Pyramid PR)

Contributors: David Bateman, Lisa Raser

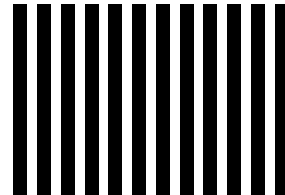
Faculty Advisors: Nilanjana Bardhan, Josh Houston

Graduate Advisor: Brian Zager

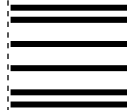
7

CUT HERE TO RETURN

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



FOLD ON LINE



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS PERMIT NO. 81 CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION

MAIL CODE 6605

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901





# SPEAK EASY

2 0 1 0

Department of Speech Communication  
Communications Building 2002 - Mail Code 6605  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
1100 Lincoln Drive  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

**Non-Profit Org.**  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 15  
Carbondale, IL

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois 2/11 3900 112220

For more information about the department, check our website at  
[www.speechcommunication.siu.edu](http://www.speechcommunication.siu.edu)

CUT HERE TO RETURN

## KEEP IN TOUCH ALUMNI INFORMATION

We'd like to know what is going on in your life and what you're doing.

\_\_\_\_ Check here if you're correcting or changing your address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Current employment? Promotions? Comments? Other News? (Please send a photo too.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

or e-mail your information to [spcmdept@siu.edu](mailto:spcmdept@siu.edu)

### MAKE A DONATION

Your financial support is important to us; each gift contributes to our program. You can give online by going to our department website and following the Alumni page links to "Give Now." Or, simply send a check to the department. We appreciate the support of alumni and friends

—thank you!

Visit the Alumni page at our website: <http://speechcommunication.siu.edu>