

SPEAK EASY

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

Formerly Department of Speech Communication

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Winter Issue

Communication Studies Replaces Speech Communication as the Department's Official Name



Dr. Suzanne Daughton, Associate Professor and Meggie Mapes, Graduate Student place the new department name outside the main office.

The Department of Communication Studies became the new official name for the former Department of Speech Communication through a notice from University President Glenn Poshard on January 13, 2014. The name change reflects the diversity of specializations in the department and brings the department's name in line with the name used by similar programs at most other universities. This move is also expected to make the program more marketable to students. Department Chair Dr. Nathan Stucky said, "We are pleased to move forward with our new name. We got the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council last year, so this has been in the works for quite some time. Communication Studies is a term that can help students understand that we do more than just public speaking, something that is just one aspect of our program." Stucky explained that the name change is effective immediately, but will also require a phased-in process. The new catalog will show the new name, but the name of the degrees offered will not change until Summer 2015 since the Illinois Board of Higher Education

approval process is on a different schedule

Dr. Kimberly Leonard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has taken immediate action to begin implementing the name change in various official records. In a note to staff Dean Leonard states, "I would like us to mount an effort to implement the new name Department of Communication Studies (formerly known as Speech Communication) on all our College of Liberal Arts materials. The degree programs will change beginning summer 2015, but the new department name is effective and welcome now!"

While discussion of a possible name change has taken place over many years, it took on new energy in 2011 when a department committee of faculty and students, headed by Dr. Rachel Griffin began an extensive study. Data from the National Communication Association showed that only 2% of departments used the name Speech Communication. Most programs similar to Communication Studies at SIUC are housed in colleges of liberal arts or arts and sciences even when there is a separate mass communications or journalism school on campus. Griffin observed that "Our name change is an exciting shift that renders the rich diversity of our teaching, research, and service more clear to students, employers, and our colleagues on campus and beyond. I am quite grateful that our collective efforts, combined with the energy of our supporters, have been successful." The department faculty voted unanimously in favor of supporting the name change.

Communication Studies is a better fit for what the department actually teaches. Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, Assistant Department Chair, stated that, "The name change reflects our department's long-standing commitments to the ways communication shapes relationships, families, identities, and cultures beyond the scope of traditional studies of public address." The diversity of Communication Studies includes specializations at the undergraduate level in intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, organizational communication, performance studies, persuasive communication, and public relations; and at the graduate level the department has areas in communication pedagogy, gender sexuality & communication, intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, performance studies, and rhetoric & philosophy of communication.

Communication study has been part of the SIU curriculum at least since 1874 when the Board of Trustees approved a curriculum that included a Department of Reading and Elocution. Professor Dorothy Magnus is given credit for founding the Department of Speech in 1938. It became the Department of Speech Communication in 1948 with Professor Melville Larson as head of the department. Dr. Stucky, who has been department chair since 2001, noted that "Sixty-six years is a pretty long run for a department name. It has served us well, but it is definitely time to change."

Department News Highlights

Graham Wins Inaugural Washburn University Award for Debate Coach of the Year



Todd Graham

The Top City Classic Debate Tournament, hosted by Washburn University on November 16-17, 2013, has become recognized as one of the most competitive fall semester debate tournaments in the nation. Incorporated as one part of the I-70 Cup (along with tournaments at William Jewell, McKendree, and Loyola), this year's Sixth Annual Top City Classic hosted 10 of the top 20 - and 20 of the top 50 - debate teams in the nation.

Attempting to restart a tradition of recognizing the nation's top coach, Washburn Director Kevin O'Leary pointed out, "Often (the debate community) recognizes the successes of competitors, rightfully so, while coaches and directors take their place behind the competitors. Still, it is important that we also acknowledge the hard work and dedication those coaches and directors show at every tournament, every season, year after year." Dr. O'Leary and his squad chose Dr. Todd Graham, on the heels of his second and third national championships in National Parliamentary Debate, for the "Debate Coach of the Year" award because of "his consistent dedication, years of success, and overall care he exhibits for his debaters and the event." Despite winning a similar award over fifteen years ago for his success in policy style debate, Dr. Graham seemed so stunned that – as he later confessed - he may have confused this year's award for winning the Men's Finals of The Championships at Wimbledon! Yet, even in his surprise, he had the ability to focus on his team and

begin helping them prepare for the upcoming elimination round. By delaying his own moment for celebration in order to support the team, Dr. Graham demonstrated why he so richly deserved to be named "Debate Coach of the Year."

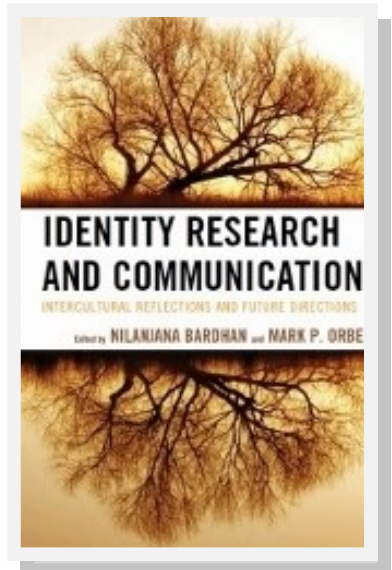
Even though his title at SIU is Director of Debate, Todd identifies as a hands-on coach and not a supervisor. While his peers often place the mundane burdens of coaching on their graduate assistants and assistant coaches, Dr. Graham revels in being involved with his debaters. Rather than sit in his office and direct, Todd coaches, instructs, and mentors his team members on how to be ethical, well-rounded students who debate competitively and successfully. There is no doubt that this is why, once again, Southern Illinois University was ranked first in the nation at the close of the Fall Semester and is the reason Dr. Graham is more than deserving of his 2013 Coach of the Year award.

Faculty Member Receives Award for Best Co-Authored Book of the Year

In April 2011, the department hosted an Intercultural Communication Mini-Conference. Invitations were sent out to intercultural communication scholars across the country. The department's intercultural communication faculty and 11 other intercultural communication scholars met at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center to present papers and discuss the future of the topic of identity within intercultural communication.

Due to the excellent quality of the papers presented, plans were made to create a book based on the conference's scholarly contributions. *Identity Research and Communication: Intercultural Reflections and Future Directions*, edited by **Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan** and Dr. Mark Orbe, was published by Lexington Books in April 2012. The contributors to the book include seasoned as well as budding intercultural communication scholars, and the collection honors the work of the late **Dr. John Warren**.

In November 2013, the book was awarded the "Best Co-Edited Book of the Year" award by the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the National Communication Association. According to Bardhan, this award belongs to everyone who contributed to the book, and it is also an important marker for the department's growing reputation as a place to study intercultural communication.



Debate Team Looks to Continue First Semester Success



Debate Team, Fall 2013

The team, led by partners Ben Campbell, a senior from Springfield, Mo., studying political science, and Josh Rivera, a junior from Chicago, studying political science, are ranked No. 1 in the nation, according to the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence. The two are now preparing for the next semester and the challenges they will face.

Campbell and Rivera have a record of 60 wins and two losses this year – a 97 percent win ratio – winning five of six tournaments they entered this year. Campbell and Rivera were the first team in the country to qualify for the National Championship this year. The championship will be at Northern Arizona University in March.

Todd Graham, debate team director, said the two are working together better than he had hoped before they were paired together this season, and have become one of the best teams he has ever seen at the university. “It’s hard to put into words how well they’re debating. It’s a great season,” he said. “I can’t say it was entirely unexpected. It would be any other year, but how really good Josh was and how really good Ben was, we were hoping the two of them would work this well as a team.” Graham said it is hard pairing debaters because they sometimes use different styles or enjoy different topics and no matter how good they are, sometimes debaters do not work well together.

He said the team would hit the ground running next semester with multiple tournaments in places such as San Diego and Chicago. Keeping his debaters on track, especially after all their success, can be difficult, Graham said. “There’s a tightrope we have to walk as coaches,” he said. “We have to make sure and let them know that they’re doing an excellent job, but we also have to make sure and let them know when they need improvement. That can be difficult with a team this good.” The key is making sure both Campbell and Rivera are praised for their efforts, but are reminded when they can be better, Graham said.

Campbell said his record with Rivera this season has been a joy for him to witness. “It’s really exciting. We’ve done very, very well in the past and I’ve done very, very well over the last three years,” he said. “But to see the level of success that Josh and I have had this year, it’s been really, really exciting. It’s something I wouldn’t have normally expected us to be able to do, but everything’s been clicking very well.” Rivera said the year has been an overall success with Campbell, even outside of debating. “It really shows all the hard work and dedication,” he said. “It shows the fact that we were both able to get through the year as roommates and also academics and have a really good win ratio.” The two are good friends and have been roommates since the beginning of the year, but that does not factor much into their overall teamwork as much as their practices, Campbell said.

Both Campbell and Rivera said their strategy for the debates has mostly stayed the same this year, but the level of focus and effort has been the key to their success. Campbell said having such a record this season has actually helped him stay calm during debates, especially since he and Rivera have a high level of trust with each other. “I don’t know how to really put it,” he said. “It’s calming, I guess, because normally whenever you go through a big round, there’s a lot of anxiety about how you’re going to perform.”

Matt Daray

Daily Egyptian Reprinted courtesy of the Daily Egyptian

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<http://cola.siu.edu/speechcommunication>

Faculty Participates in University Honors Program

The University Honors Program [UHP] at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is designed to reward SIU's best students for their high academic achievements. Faculty from the Department of Communication Studies have made significant contributions to the UHP and its mission of nurturing academic excellence. The UHP prides itself for having small classes that are unique and created just for its cadre of exceptional students. The courses are created by the UHP faculty to satisfy the requirements of the University Core Curriculum, as well as the student's major.



Dr. Crow

Dr. Bryan Crow taught two different courses in the UHP, one in 1987 and one in 1994. After spending a year in a teaching exchange program in Northern Ireland, he created and taught an honors course on contemporary Irish culture and politics. His second course covered men's movements and their response to feminism in America. Dr. Crow is looking to create another course within the next year.

He says the honors courses are much more research intensive and that makes the presentations from students one of his favorite parts of teaching the course. "You can assume that they are taking it because they are interested in it, not because they have to," says Dr. Crow.

Dr. Elyse Pineau is also involved in the UHP. She has been recognized by the Central States Communication Association as a recipient of its Outstanding Scholar in Theatre and Performance Studies award. She has also been recognized as an Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher by the Department of Communication Studies.

Dr. Pineau has proposed three courses for the UHP; two of them were about students' personal life narratives and oral history. Her third course will cover J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. Pineau says one of the nice things that the UHP offers is specialty topics courses. One memorable experience of Pineau's was when a group of 17 students created an hour-long performance of narratives they had collected throughout the semester.

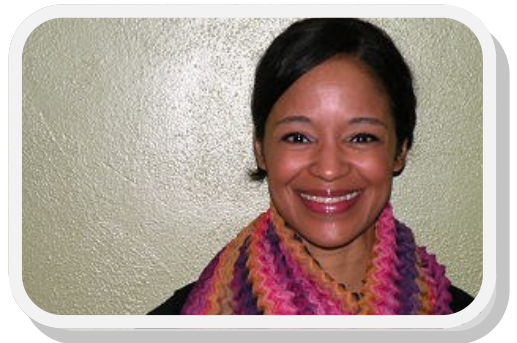
"I think one thing the Honors Program tries to promote is small class size, 15-20, depending on how many people they have; [it's] a highly interactive environment with a lot of feedback," Dr. Pineau says. She believes the program is well worth it and "growing by leaps and bounds."

Along with Pineau and Crow, Dr. Rachel Griffin has participated in the UHP. She is an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, and known by students as teaching some very interesting and eye opening courses. She has also been recognized for her work by several scholarly associations, including the Eastern Communication Association in 2009 and the National Communication Association in 2008 and 2007.

Dr. Griffin created and offers an honors course in the program called "Walt Disney: The Man, The Empire and the Politics of Popular Culture." The course has been popular since she began teaching it in Fall 2011. She said it aims to critically engage with Disney's animated films. "We deconstruct Walt Disney as a person and a company in terms of being a media conglomerate, and we use different analytical frameworks to do so," says Dr. Griffin. Her favorite memories of the course center on how much critiquing Disney films affects this generation of students, particularly those who grew up watching Disney films and going to Disneyworld or Disneyland.

One outcome upon which all three faculty members agreed was that the students were choosing their courses because they were genuinely interested in the topic, not because it was a requirement by the university. They also said that when students take a general interest in the course, their grades tend to be higher.

The UHP accepts new students every semester. Students will choose to get an Honors Diploma or Honors Certificate and must maintain a GPA of 3.3 or higher on all coursework.



Dr. Griffin

Speakers Forum Fall 2013

Access-Ability: Gaining Access to University Life

Four undergraduate students voiced their concerns about campus life to over 200 students, faculty, and community members at the Speakers Forum on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013. The Speakers Forum is a semi-annual event, with a new topic each semester, held by the SIU Communication Studies Department and funded by the Society for Civil Discourse.

The fall 2013 speakers were all first year students at SIUC. They covered a wide range of topics including deaf culture, campus food, education preparation for higher education, and the student-to-faculty ratio. Overall, they demonstrated that there are many simple solutions that can help make university life more accessible (“access-able”) for students from all backgrounds.

Kristina Ksarjian, from Knoxville, Tennessee, spoke first and emphasized the need for more courses specializing in American Sign Language. As a self-identified person with a hearing disability, Kristina testified to the lack of access for people who are deaf and advocated for the development of a major in American Sign Language.

The second speaker – Kentrell Marsh, from Chicago – highlighted the positive impact of healthy food on learning and engagement, Kentrell called for using more tuition and fees to create healthy eating options in residence halls and around campus.

Oscar Ortega, from Harlingen, Texas, spoke third. He focused on barriers for students attending under-resourced high schools. He suggested that regional high schools use more Advanced Placement courses to prepare their students for the rigor and demands of a university.

Finally, Mason Perry, from Mt. Zion, Illinois, stressed the need to provide students with opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with instructors. He suggested that universities hire more instructors, limit the number of students in lecture-based courses, and limit the number of lecture-based courses all together.

C. Kyle Rudick, a Communication Studies doctoral candidate from Tulsa, Oklahoma, responded to the speakers’ presentations. He commended them for their well-researched topics and stated that they showed how “higher education can and should play a vital role in producing a more democratic society.” Samantha Fentress, another Communication Studies doctoral student who co-moderated the Speakers Forum with Rudick, facilitated a dynamic ending for the event. She encouraged and managed questions and comments from several audience members, encouraging them to join their voices with those of the four main speakers.

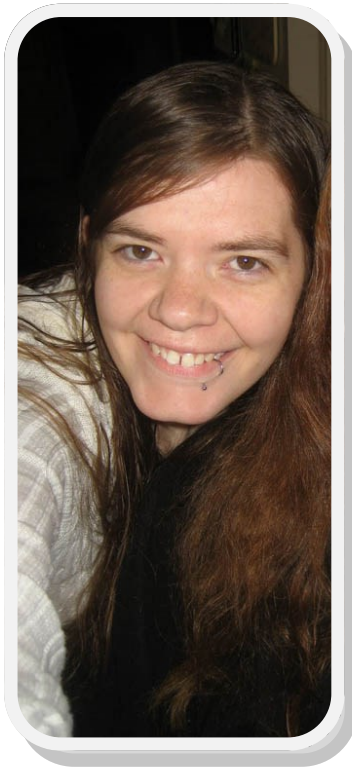
Overall, the fall 2013 Speakers Forum was another successful endeavor demonstrating that students can become more involved citizens by using the lessons learned from their Communication Studies classes and effectively exercising their skills of public advocacy.



L to R: C. Kyle Ruddick, Mason Perry, Oscar Ortega, Samantha Fentress, Kristinia Ksarjian, and Ken-

Meet Our Students

Nichole Nicholson Wins National Scholarship



Nicholson

Nichole Nicholson, one of our distinguished graduate students majoring in Performance Studies, is receiving a prestigious award for her performances, publications and course work: the Marie R. Robinson Scholarship from the Performance Studies Division of the National Communication Association. The award was established in 2006 through a bequest by Dr. Robinson, who served as Head of the Department of Speech and Drama at State Teachers College, Bemidji, Minnesota (1945-49) and was Professor of Speech at Illinois Wesleyan University (1950-1980), where she served as Department Head from 1953-1974. Dr. Robinson directed that her gift be used to support and recognize students who have a passion for performance and demonstrate their talents through creative work.

Nichole began her involvement in performance by doing slam poetry, taking creative writing classes and participating in a wide variety of activities that focused on involving audiences in high school, as well as here at SIU. This past August, Nichole took her work to the next level; she co-authored and performed in an edgy romantic comedy production, "Glitch," at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Nichole traces many of her influences back to artists who share her emphasis, "When being in front of an audience, I like and want to make a difference through my performances."

Nicholson says, "It's a humbling experience to be awarded this scholarship and be recognized by the Performance Studies Division." She sees the award as providing strong motivation for her to continue broadening, refining, and effectively expressing her skills as a scholar and performer.

As Nicole prepares for her dissertation, she looks forward to breaking new ground for herself and others who recognize performance's power to produce social change. We're proud of her achievements and we look forward to being able to say, "We knew her

Performance Studies Students Participate in Minnesota Fringe Fest



Nicholson and Sloan

Glitch

From August 1st to the 11th, Sam Sloan and Nichole Nicholson took their original production, "Glitch!" to the Minnesota Fringe Festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They performed for five nights in the Illusions Theatre in the bustling downtown of the city. Sam and Nichole also had the opportunity to sample 27 other works performed at the festival and to network with actors, directors, playwrights, company board members, and technicians working both locally and nationally in theater arts and education. More information about "Glitch" can be found at glitchthisshow.com.

Sideshow

Nico Wood says, "Ladies and Gentlemen, come one, come all to witness the unbelievable *Sideshow*! In my one-woman, solo performance I spin the stories of my family and their torrid history with the performing arts." This August, Nico was chosen as a headlining act in the (serendipitously named) Sideshow Fringe Festival in Nashville, Tennessee. She and her road crew — Gigi Perez-Langle (road director) and Carlye Schweska — drove to Nashville with a teardrop trailer and camped at the local KOA in the true spirit of the sideshow.

Nico performed *Sideshow* for an enthusiastic audience. As she tells it, the performance was given "at an adorable venue called the East Room. When it was over, they gave me a standing ovation. Bringing *Sideshow* to The Sideshow Fringe Festival was personally fulfilling and professionally productive. I hope to return to this festival next year!"



Wood

Meet Our Amazing Alumni

SIU Communication Studies Graduate Will Vie for Miss USA Title



Miss Mississippi Chelsea Reardon

Chelsea Reardon's competitive nature dates back to her being a two-sport athlete in high school. She was a three-time basketball MVP at Agape Christian High School in Energy, Ill.

She transitioned to competing in pageants throughout the southern Illinois region, which ultimately paid her way through college. Some of her titles include Miss Illinois Collegiate America, International Junior Miss Teen, Miss Herrin Festa Italiana and Miss Mardi Gras.

"I love any sort of competition. It is an integral part of who I am as a person," Chelsea says. "I always say that I went from 'high tops to high heels.' Athletics and pageants were the perfect vehicles to display my competitive drive and determination to succeed."

The 2012 SIU Communication Studies graduate will represent Mississippi at the 2014 Miss USA Pageant. She earned the crown this fall during a competition at Harrah's Event Center in Tunica. Contestants are judged on the basis of a swimsuit, private interview and evening gown competition. The top five competitors must answer a question on stage.

"This has been a quest of mine for years. It is a pretty surreal feeling to accomplish a major goal you set for yourself," she says. "I am honored to represent the state of Mississippi in the Miss USA Pageant. My mindset is to continue preparing

for Miss USA and be the best Miss Mississippi that I can be."

A native of Murphysboro, Ill., Chelsea says she always wanted to be a 'Southern Belle.' She always planned on moving south after graduating from SIU. Chelsea resides in Southaven, and is a sales rep for Pearson Education. She says the Southern Hospitality and the 'importance of faith and family' in the south coincided with her own beliefs on the values of a happy life.

Chelsea, a former member of SIU's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), also says she proudly shares her Saluki Pride in the south.

"I was very active on campus through PRSSA, Sigma Kappa and Order of Omega Honor Society," she says. "My Communication Studies classes were enjoyable and I keep in touch with my professors, staff and classmates through facebook. SIU was a wonderful place to earn my college degree."

The date and location of the Miss USA Pageant haven't been determined yet. But you can follow Chelsea on twitter (RealMissMSUSA), instagram (MissMSUSA) or facebook (Miss Mississippi USA) for updates regarding the event.

SIU Graduate Lesley Cox is *Roadtripping*



Cox

Lesley Cox promotes various aspects of the Illinois state capitol through her role with Sinclair Broadcasting in Springfield. But now she is taking her show on the road.

A 2005 Communication Studies graduate, Lesley is hosting “*Roadtripping*,” a new program being produced by Sinclair, which primarily showcases various aspects of surrounding central Illinois communities. Lesley has also traveled to southern Illinois and the metro east region, in addition to Hannibal, Mo.

“*Roadtripping* presents me with an opportunity to travel to various communities and regions and conduct interviews with residents,” Lesley says. “I report on places to stay, eat and shop, along with hidden treasures in those communities. Also, we provide tips for viewers who are seeking a little adventure when they travel.”

Lesley says the show has been well received and she is enjoying this new aspect of her job.

“I meet some fascinating people who take great pride in what their communities have to offer,” she says. “Our viewers are appreciative of the insight that *Roadtripping* provides as they make travel plans.”

Additionally, Lesley serves as the promotions manager for three television stations – FOX 55/27, The Central Illinois CW23, MeTV and THISTV – all owned by Sinclair Broadcasting. She is responsible for all promotional events for the stations, while serving as the on-air personality for FOX.

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

A member of SIU’s Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) during her college years, Lesley says the University serves as a strong learning laboratory for various aspects of the career she enjoys today.

Former PRSSA Student is Staying Busy

Algonquin, Ill., native Brittany Cheves recently accepted a position as medical sales representative for Stericycle in Chicago. In her words: “It is great to work for a big, successful company alongside awesome co-workers.”

The 2011 SIU Communication Studies graduate is also a part-time liaison with Sharon Ringier Events, where she assists in planning weddings and various other functions. She is also co-captain and director of the Chicago Slaughter dance team.

“I enjoy event planning a great deal because it allows me to use my creative side,” she says. “I’m also busy planning our upcoming tryouts and the upcoming season for the Slaughter. I love dancing and don’t plan on giving that up anytime soon.”



Cheves

Cristina Enea: SIU Experience Leads to Lifelong Goal



Enea

Many college professors inform students of how essential it is to attain hands-on experience in their chosen fields prior to graduation. Cristina Enea took this advice to heart.

The 2011 public relations graduate appeared to be on a mission. Cristina was hired into a sports marketing role with Alli Sports of the NBC Sports Group in November 2012. She was recently promoted to Vice President of Sales. Cristina realized it was essential to acquire skills in college that would be an asset in her professional career.

Experience is huge,” Cristina says. “There is quite a difference when you compare an individual who acquired hands-on experience in college to another person who focused solely on their studies.”

Cristina’s experience featured a myriad of jobs in Carbondale. She acquired customer relations skills at 710 Bookstore. In addition, Cristina carved out her own role as public relations manager at Southern Illinois Dance Company, where she assumed responsibilities related to increasing attendance for various productions. Cristina served in both positions all four years of college.

The Des Plaines resident was a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), where she acquired additional experience in her chosen field. Cristina says she confirmed her true calling when she accepted a marketing internship with Saluki Athletics.

“It’s the best thing I could have done,” she says. “I realized it was a lot of work. But it truly urged me to pursue a career in sports.”

The internship entailed handling promotions and production at all Saluki football and basketball games, in addition to marketing games via social media. She recalls working with ESPN College Gameday crew when it visited Carbondale for the SIU-Creighton basketball game in 2008. Cristina refers to this as the “highlight of my internship.”

And her SIU experience immediately paid dividends. After graduating, Cristina began applying for sports jobs. She discovered a ticket sales and services internship with the Chicago Wolves hockey team, which hosted 38 home games between August 2011 and May 2012. Her responsibilities included processing ticket orders, assisting in database management related to sales, and working all home games at the Community Relations and Customer Service Booth.

“The hours were crazy but it was a great experience,” she says. “It’s a minor league team, so ticket sales are more affordable for families. The athletes are also very involved in the community.”

Following her internship, Cristina accepted a project manager role with Paragon Marketing Group, where she coordinated efforts with clients to sponsor sports teams and events. Cristina assisted with sponsorships between PNC Bank, Reliant Energy, Gatorade, ESPN and its clients. And now with Alli Sports, she supports the partnership sales team to gain and maintain event sponsors for the Dew Tour, Red Bull Signature Series and Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championship.

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