

SPEAK EASY

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A Note from the Editor:

The snapshots in this newsletter of our wonderful alumni are very close paraphrases of the updates they sent us. They were writing in response to an open-ended invitation, sent via an Alumni Association email blast, to tell us what they have been doing since graduation. Some updates are short; others are long; some are general; some are detailed; some are formal; others are casual. We like to think that, in each case, what they wrote will help you form a compelling image of the person who wrote to us—and now “speaks” to you through her/his entry.

Of course, we take full responsibility for any substantive or stylistic errors made while preparing the entries for publication. Please be assured that we will be happy to publish corrections if requested.

RECOGNIZING OUR AMAZING ALUMNI



Dr. Lisa Raser (PhD 2013) & Dr. Suzanne Daughton

This *Speak Easy* issue recognizes some of more than three thousand graduates of our program. We dedicate this issue to them in order to recognize their many accomplishments, achievements and life events, as well as to note the important role their experiences at SIU have played in their careers. Our department has a long and proud history. Communication study, in the form of rhetoric and elocution, was part of the curriculum when the school was founded in 1869. In 1938 we were named the Department of Speech, with Professor Dorothy Mangus as chair. In 1958 we became one of the first four departments on campus awarded Ph.D. granting status.

When the College of Communication and Fine Arts was closed in 1993, we moved to our present home in the College of Liberal Arts.

In the following pages you can see brief sketches of the lives and career successes of alumni from the 1950's to the present. We hope that our current and future students can gain inspiration from seeing what others have done, personally and professionally, with their communication studies training. In the National Association of Colleges and Employers annual surveys, communication-related skills are always at the top of the list of the most sought-after skills in job candidates. Because communication skills are so widely valued, there are many jobs for people with a communication degree. For example, in September 2015 there were over 32,000 jobs advertised on LinkedIn *in the Chicago area alone* that were looking for applicants with communication skills - and 13,380 entry level positions for communication graduates. It's not surprising that our department's baccalaureate graduates have found important and rewarding positions in event planning, journalism, radio and television, executive assistant roles, health communication, public relations, corporate communication, marketing, advertising, social media marketing and many other areas. In addition, our masters and doctoral graduates find positions of significant responsibility and influence in government, non-profit and/or educational institutions.

The notices here reflect only a small number of our graduates. We welcome additional updates from our alumni and will be honored to include them in a future issue of *Speak Easy*. We hope you enjoy catching up on some of your fellow Salukis.

Sincerely,
Nathan Stucky
Professor and Chair



Dr. Elyse Pineau, Dr. Joe Hassert, (PhD 2015), Dr. Nathan Stucky

1950's



Tom Sloan(e) (M.A. 1952, B.A. 1951) married Barbara Lewis (from Herrin) in 52, served as a Naval officer in the Far East (52-55), received his Ph.D. from Northwestern in 1960. He was instructor in English at Washington and Lee University (1958-60), Assistant then Associate Professor of Speech at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (1960-1970), and Professor of Rhetoric at the University of California Berkeley (1970-1993). Now Emeritus, Tom has published numerous scholarly articles, essays, and reviews; he authored or edited nine books, most recently *The Encyclopedia of Rhetoric* (Oxford, 2001). He and Barbara, a former middle-school teacher, have three children and nine grandchildren. They spend their retirement volunteering and world-travelling.

1960's

Raymie E. McKerrow (B.S. 1966) recently retired as a Professor from Ohio University's School of Communication Studies.

Richard L. Lanigan (Ph.D., 1969) is an SIU Department of Communication Studies emeritus faculty. He also graduated from SIU. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the International Communicology Institute, which is an online and conference based international research group located in Washington, DC. It may be of interest to alumni that he was given the first International Scholar Award in Philosophy of Communication, in 2011, by the Dept. of Communication & Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. In 2012, he was elected a Member of the Polish Academy of Science (Philology). His academy investiture lecture, titled "Familiar Frustration: The Japanese Encounter with Navajo (Diné) 'Code Talkers' in World War II," centered on a comparison of English, Japanese, and Navajo languages in combat communication. Most of his publications are available on the academic.edu website.



Ruby Kay (Lynch) Easley (M.S. 1965) is a retiree who lives in Fort Collins, CO, and facilitates classes for a continuing education series co-sponsored by Colorado State University and her local League of Women Voters. Her recent travels have included Europe, Israel, and a special trip to Cuba earlier this year through the League. She studied under the direction of **Dr. Marvin Kleinau** in the Department of Speech (1964-65). Her career has spanned over 35 years, during which she taught speech in various colleges and universities, and eventually consulted with management development courses for businesses. Her husband, Wayne Easley, and she both taught speech and debate, even while he served in the U.S. Army in Germany. He passed away in 2013. Her son, his wife, and grandson live in the area. Her first memories of SIU began in 1963 when she attended the Pi Kappa Delta (Speech Honorary) National Tournament. The campus and program impressed her so much, she elected to do her graduate studies here. She values the education and experience she received as a graduate assistant. They prepared her for a profession she always enjoyed and wonderful opportunities to work with students and to travel.

1970's

Larry Bradshaw (Ph.D. 1970) recently retired as Professor of Mass Communication at Abilene Christian University. While at ACU he founded KACU-FM, an NPR station, and KUF-TV7, a LPTV campus station. He received his Ph.D. from SIU's School of Communication in 1970.





James P. Hamilton (B.S. 1971) was recognized in 2011 as a Distinguished Alumni by the SIU Alumni Association. In 1973, Hamilton founded Milestone, Inc., a private, not-for-profit Illinois-based corporation designed to provide residential and vocational support to individuals facing developmental disabilities. Milestone has since become one of the largest employers in the Rockford area. He also founded Hamilton Consulting Ltd. in 1979 to provide assistance to additional corporations similar to Milestone. Hamilton also helped draft a national plan on new housing options for people with developmental disabilities for the Developmental Disabilities Administration. He was featured in the Fall 2011 *Speak Easy*.

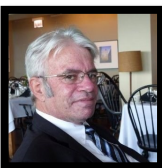
James T. Gildersleeve (B.S. 1972) has demonstrated steadfast dedication and service to his alma mater for over 30 years, including 17 years on the SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, where he held the post of president for two years. In addition, Gildersleeve served 21 years on the SIU Foundation Board and was president for two years. In 2012, Gildersleeve began serving on the College of Agricultural Sciences Leadership Board. He has committed time, talent, and resources to the overall good of the institution, and has done so while serving as president of Gildersleeve Fertilizer company, a major agricultural business four hours away from Carbondale. In 2014 Jim was recognized by the Alumni Association and received the Humanitarian Efforts Award. He was also featured in the Fall 2014 *Speak Easy*.



Sandra L. (Fish) Herndon (Ph.D. 1975) graduated from SIU-Carbondale with a Ph.D. in 1975 and, after teaching at the University of Tennessee for a couple of years, moved to Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, where she taught for many years, chaired the graduate program, and retired in 2005 as *Professor Emerita*. During that time she was President of the Eastern Communication Association, published a number of books and articles, and served on a variety of nonprofit boards. After retiring, she continued to teach for several years and now serves as Secretary of the Washington State Board of the League of Women Voters and as Vice-President of Sound Learning, a two-county educational and literacy organization.

Kevin Purcell, (B.S. 1976) is semi-retired, after 14 years, from his role as Senior Director of Organization Development for Microsoft. During his years at Microsoft, Kevin worked with Bill Gates and other executives on product strategy for all Microsoft's major products. His theater experience, since leaving SIU, includes co-founding two theaters (one in Seattle and one in Illinois). Kevin, as an actor, has done solo shows of Mike Royko and Leonard Bernstein. He has directed more than 75 plays and compiled scripts. Most recently he directed "Mother Hicks," by Suzan Zeder, in Carbondale. He will be performing Dylan Thomas's story, "A Child's Christmas in Wales," in Springfield this December. He has performed this story around the US every holiday season for 38 years. Kevin owns his own consulting business, and also is Adjunct Faculty for the U of Illinois-Springfield, where he teaches two electives he created.

1980's



Tom LaPorte (B.S. 1980) spent a decade and a half in radio news in Chicago, and 13 years as a spokesman for the City of Chicago (Water Management). He is now pioneering the technology of 3D Printing with several initiatives that include:

- 3D Printing for Disaster Relief
- Working with museums and schools to make history tangible
- Printing a prosthesis for an elephant in Sri Lanka
- Working to help develop a children's book that incorporates 3D Printing, so when reading is over at night the child goes to bed with the object and continues the story
- Working with Black churches to make 3D a Workforce Development project and to create entrepreneurial opportunities

He was lead producer for the first Internet national political convention in 1996. He also coordinates video production and technology projects for Burning Man. While a student at SIU, he was honored with the Outstanding Student Award in 1979 for a public speaking project called SpeakEasy. It involved Speech students along with Agriculture and Business students. [Any resemblance between the title of his project and the title of our newsletter is, of course, entirely coincidental. ☺]



Dan Leyes (M.S. 1980) is Professor of Speech Communication at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. He also runs a private firm called Semiosphere Consulting, through which he helps people with public speaking. Recently, he coauthored an ebook, with colleague Howard Miller, titled *Public Speaking in the Semiosphere: Creating a Meaningful Experience for Your Audience* (Amazon). He also serves on the Environmental Commission for Bradley Beach, where he resides.

David Wendt (B.S. 1980) is completing his 32nd year of teaching Communication and English courses at Keokuk High School in Iowa. He currently serves as the Director of Student Services and teaches dual-credit Speech courses. He also serves as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Iowa, where he teaches Oral Interpretation for the Communication Studies Department and the Department of Teaching and Learning. He also serves as an Adjunct Instructor for Southeastern Community College, where he teaches Communication and Education courses. This year he is a member of the Nomination Committee and Community College Division Chair for CSCA. He has been very involved in NCA, CSCA, Iowa Communication Association and the WCA. His SIU highlights were competing on the forensics team that placed 10th at NFA Nationals and acting in various productions on the Calipre Stage. He credits his years at SIU as being a foundation to serving the communication discipline.

Carol Benton (Ph.D. 1988) currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Interpersonal Communication, Improving Listening, Family Communication, and Nonverbal Communication at the University of Central Missouri. In addition, she has provided workshops and trained groups in the areas of performance studies and gender/diversity studies. She is the author of published articles, book chapters, and academic papers exploring the performance of personal and intimate narratives, as well as mindfulness in intrapersonal and interpersonal interactions. In her HONR 3000 Colloquia, she will explore the difficulties and "dark side" of interpersonal communication and the importance of mindfulness for listening to the self and others.



1990's



Laura Burkey (B.S. 1991) is a Thought, Behavior and Communication Coach. She started practicing as a coach in 1996 (before personal/life coaching was even on the map). Her double major in Psychology and Interpersonal Communications has enabled her to develop a very strong and rewarding career and self-owned business helping people create the 'life experience' they want for themselves. For a closer look at the area Laura is exploring, see www.lauraburkeycoaching.com.

Her coaching style and techniques focus heavily on the thought-behavior programs in a person. She helps her clients to identify what is they want to pursue and 'create' in their lives, and then go about developing traction and momentum toward it. A big part of the coaching work is also identifying what thought-programs are holding them back or keeping them from achieving what they want. Once identified, they can reprogram their minds to run more productive 'thought programs' that support and encourage success.

The communication piece to her coaching is many fold. She helps clients condition a much stronger and more supportive inner dialogue (with themselves). She helps clients with articulation and clarity of what it is they actually and really do want, and she also helps them communicate much more effectively with the world around them. She crafted this career with her very own personal vision of "what I would love to do." She dovetailed that with "what just comes naturally to her" - her gifts - and "Presto!": a Coaching Career was manifested. The Speech Communication Department from 1988-1991 was an absolute treat and playground for her. She loved every bit of it and learned so much. She is forever grateful for the education and confidence she gained from her time and experience at SIUC.

Andrew Krause (B.S. 1992) is currently the Executive Producer and CEO of AKA MEDIA, Inc.

In August 2015, he was accepted into the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program. The program educates small business owners and provides them with the tools, knowledge, contacts and support to grow revenues and employ more people. AKA MEDIA, Inc., continues to thrive in Chicago with three Salukis on board. While a student at SIU, Andrew was a Raymond D. Wiley PRSSA Chapter member and served as the Executive Director of Pyramid Public Relations in 1991-1992.



Michiyo Okawa (M.A. 1992) is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) in downtown Tokyo. Her co-authored book, *Theories and Praxis in Oral Communication* received the Japan Association for College English Teachers (JACET) Award for Educational Praxis in 2003. The JACET Award is one of the most prestigious awards for university English teachers in Japan to exemplify excellence in research and praxis. Since joining AGU in 2003, she worked to change the course name from “Oral Interpretation” to “Performance Studies” and has been annually hosting three festivals: (1) a showcase from Oka-

wa Seminar in Performance Studies; (2) an AGU Performance Festival with colleagues with professional theater backgrounds; and (3) an intercollegiate festival with college English teachers from across the country. Michiyo has invited SIUC faculty and alumni to the festivals, including **Dr. Marc Rich** at California State University at Long Beach, **Dr. Anita Rich** at Eastern Michigan University, **Dr. Bryant Alexander** at Loyola Marymount University, **Dr. Judy Yordon** at Ball State University, and her longstanding mentor, **Dr. Nathan P. Stucky**. Michiyo hopes to invite more performance scholars and artists from the SIUC Performance Studies community. She is determined to continue this tradition. Although her department has 30 faculty members, she is the only one with a formal degree in Communication Studies. Michiyo says, “I truly admire **Dr. Ronald Pelias** and **Dr. Nathan Stucky** for their excellence in teaching and scholarship. I wish to pass along their influence and inspiration to my own students just like they have done. I always have a sense of pride that I am an alumna of SIUC and of the Performance Studies program.”

Todd Thomas (B.S. 1992) has been applying what he learned at SIU to his own DJ business, Porta Party DJ’s, for 20 years and has been the in-game emcee for the St. Louis Cardinals for the past 19 seasons. During home games, he interviews fans on the big screen and runs short game show promotions. Additionally, he’s a facilitator/trainer, public speaker, corporate emcee, on-camera host, actor and a husband, father and basketball coach. He absolutely LOVES what he does for a living, and is proud to be an SIU-C alum.



Eric Dishman (M.S. 1992) is an Intel Fellow and general manager of the Health and Life Sciences for the Data Center Group at Intel Corporation. He is responsible for driving Intel's cross-business strategy, R&D, product, and policy initiatives for health and life science solutions. His organization focuses on growth opportunities for Intel in health IT, genomics and personalized medicine, consumer wellness, and care coordination technologies in more than a dozen countries.

Dishman is widely recognized as a global leader in healthcare innovation with specific expertise in home and community-based technologies and services for chronic disease management and independent living. He is also known for pioneering innovation techniques that incorporate anthropology, ethnography, and other social science methods into the design and development of new technologies. He and his team's work have been featured in publications including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Business Week*, and *USA Today*. The *Wall Street Journal* named him one of “12 People Who Are Changing Your Retirement.”

An internationally renowned speaker, Dishman has delivered hundreds of prominent keynotes on healthcare reform and innovation around the globe, from the Consumer Electronics Show to TED to the White House Conference on Aging to the World Health Organization. He has published dozens of articles on personal health technologies and co-authored many government reports on health information technologies and reform.

Dishman co-founded some of the world's largest research and policy organizations devoted to advancing the cause of independent living, including the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre, the Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST), the Everyday Technologies for Alzheimer's Care (ETAC) program, and the Oregon Center for Aging & Technology (ORCATECH). Dishman has received numerous awards for his work in helping to shape the future of health care.

He writes about his vision, experiences, and concerns on healthcare IT and policy issues, especially around the growth of personal health technologies for the home, at his Healthcare@Intel Blog: blogs.intel.com/healthcare.

Melanie (Endres) Bray (M.S. 1991, B.S. 1990) has worked in the publishing industry for many years, assisting with publishing self-help law books. After publishing, she worked in administration for both community and public health organizations. She is presently employed as a Project Manager for Grand River Jackpot, LLC in Springfield, IL. This company provides video gambling devices to bars and restaurants throughout the state. Her son Cameron lives in Ft. Collins, Colorado and her daughter, Madison lives in Portland Oregon. Melanie remarried 3 years ago to Shawn Endres. They are looking forward to retirement next year and traveling the U.S. as full-time RVers - with their Harley in tow!



Lori L. Montalbano (Ph.D. 1995) is Division Chair of Communication, Visual and Performing Arts at Governors State University. She taught at Indiana University Northwest for 17 years, where she served as Chair of the Department of Performing Arts and Artistic Director of *Theatre Northwest*. She is a Professor of Communication and Performing Arts. She has a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Southern Illinois University. Montalbano has published articles, book chapters; a book entitled *Taking Narrative Risk: The Empowerment of Abuse Survivors*. She co-authored a textbook, *Public Speaking and Responsibility in a Changing World*, with Dr. Dorothy W. Ige. She has won many teaching awards, directed, performed and produced a number of theatrical productions. She currently serves as Co-Producer for the Theatre and Performance Studies program at GSU.



Dan Fox (M.S. 1995, Ph.D. 1999) is the Chair of the Department of Speech Communication, Monterey Peninsula College, California. Recent achievements: Published novels, YA "romaction" suspense-adventure. 1. Trident's Flame (NavPress, 2012) 2. Sanctum Threat (Aloplex Pub., 2014)



David Burke (Ph.D. 1994) is the Head of Speech Communication and Theatre at Greenville Technical College in SC, having served in this position since 2011. Last fall he performed a one-person adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* locally. Currently, he's staging an ensemble adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, in which he and four colleagues perform a one-hour cutting presentationally. They hope to bring the show to local schools to promote the Theatre major at GTC.



David W. Worley (Ph.D. 1996) was a Professor and Chairperson Emeritus in the Department of Communication at Indiana State University where he served for 15 years. He is now retired and lives in both Colorado and Arizona for parts of the year. He and his wife, Debra, have a basic communication course text on the market, *Communication Counts*, published by Pearson Education. He remains active with a number of volunteer activities, reading, and blogging.

Mara Loeb (Ph.D. 1996) is currently an Associate Professor of Communication at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Their program has been reconfigured and she now teaches in the Communication Advocacy concentration, where a rabble-rouser like her feels right at home! She had the great pleasure of teaching a seminar on Intercultural Communication for the International Relations program at Pole Universitaire Leonard de Vinci, in Paris, in March 2014 and 2015. She is now the adviser for the campus chapter of Circle K International, a service organization affiliated with Kiwanis International, and loving the opportunity to have a positive impact on the campus and community through over 30 wonderful members. She is now also a member of the oldest Artist Cooperative in the state of Louisiana, the Ouachita River Art Guild, showing her jewelry as well as paintings. When her schedule permits she has been taking painting and ceramics courses. She's happy in a new home with her four dogs, and life is good.



Jackson Miller (Ph.D. 1998) currently serves as a Professor of Communication Arts and Director of Forensics at Linfield College in Oregon. During the 2014-2015 school year, he was on one-year sabbatical engaging in work related to the general theme of “difficult dialogues in debate and theatre.” Specific projects he completed during this sabbatical included teaching two eight-week debate courses for inmates in a maximum-security prison, facilitating (with fellow SIUC alum Dr. Marc Rich) more than 70 interactive trainings about sexual assault prevention for the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps at military bases around the world, including Naval Station Guantánamo Bay, and leading workshops on debate and critical thinking for more than 500 individual students and faculty members representing more than 30 different universities in China. The work in China was funded by a \$2.3 million dollar grant from the Open Society Foundation, which supported a cooperative effort by six institutions in the United States to teach debate and critical thinking at Chinese universities. He was a contributing author and the principal investigator for the \$230,000 Linfield College portion of this grant.



2000's



Stephanie Poole Martinez (Ph.D. 2003) is an associate professor of communication and basic course director at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. She recently led two eight-week study abroad trips to Angers, France, and to Sevilla, Spain. In 2015, she received a Presidential Excellence Research Grant for her current work on health communication during the 2014 Ebola crisis in Dallas, Texas. She has a forthcoming chapter in a book of case studies on Sport Communication that is co-edited by another SIUC Alum, Diana Tucker. In her free time, she enjoys the company of her partner, Chris, and her daughter, Anya.

Sandra Calderon-Doherty (née Garza) (M.A. 2003) is currently Asst. Professor at Thomas Nelson Community College in Williamsburg, VA. She chaired the Communication Studies Department from 2010-2014, stepping down to welcome the birth of her daughter Alexis with husband Dan. At TNCC, Sandra holds a dual appointment with the Performing Arts Department where, in addition to teaching acting courses, she also directs mainstage shows.



Stephanie (Collins) Batson (B.S. 2003) shares her expertise and talents part-time with a St. Louis non-profit, Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministries (DFCNM). At DFCNM, Stephanie creates fundraising appeals, writes grants and plans events to benefit community-based nurses who give care to clients at no cost. Stephanie spends the rest of her time caring for her family: Jerret (an '01 alum of the SIUC College of Business Administration), Ephraim (age 6) and Greydon (age 2). She serves her local church through Women's Ministry, by planning events, and supporting an annual trip to Reynosa, Mexico, to serve underserved children and families.

Julie Orlandini (B.S. 2004) is still a proud Saluki. Currently, she resides on the far North Side of Chicago in the neighborhood of Roger's Park. She is a successful veteran as a Senior Recruiter & Senior Account Manager for Watson Dwyer, Inc., a direct-hire recruiting agency headquartered in the Chicago Loop.



She has been an integral part of the Watson Dwyer team since 2004, where she was initially responsible for candidate sourcing and interviewing, focusing on the right long-term job match for applicants. She then progressed to working as a full-life-cycle recruiter, which included business development and a strong passion for managing competitive clientele by providing A-Talent candidates who can run efficient operations and are poised to produce future growth for companies.

Today, as a seasoned Senior Account Manager/Senior Recruiter she specializes in placing candidates for high-level marketing roles, IT, human resources, and legal positions. Her clientele includes Chicago's top law firms, software

development companies, consulting firms, and many others. The knowledge she has gained from her Communication Studies Degree has helped her achieve success in the highly competitive recruiting world by maintaining a strong relationship with multiple candidates and clients for over 10 years. She obtained her Professional in Human Resources Certificate (PHR) in 2013, and is an active member in the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM).

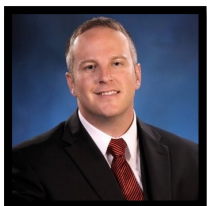
Outside of the office, she enjoys walking her dog, Denali, and taking her twins to Loyola beach. Also, she is a proud member of the Roger's Park Garden Group and loves attending the Glenwood Sunday Market for some fresh Farmer's Market produce.



Beth (Hartke) Walker (B.S. 2005) just celebrated her 10th year anniversary with the American Heart Association as Corporate Events Director. She manages corporate fundraising for the American Heart Association in 26 counties of Southern Illinois and six counties in Southeast Missouri.

Julia Reimer (Ph.D. 2005) is Associate Professor of Theater at Fresno Pacific University. In 2013, while on an extended study leave/sabbatical in NYC, she completed an MA in Applied Theater (CUNY) and researched youth Shakespeare programs. The latter led to the establishment of the YES! Project (Youth Engage Shakespeare) in Fresno, California, which now in its 4th year. She also created and performed a solo show that focused on recovering women's voices of 16th century Europe.

Janee' (Schuster) Ferrari (B.A. 2005) for the past five years has been working for a Fortune 100 company known as Liberty Mutual Insurance. She loves talking to people (hence the major) and enjoys helping people to protect what matters most to them. She was recently promoted to Lead Sales Representative and is currently one of the top 10 of all sales representatives in Illinois. Her personal life has been a whirlwind (in a good way) for the last few years as she married a fellow Salku Alum, bought a home, and had a baby! Life is good and she will always have fond memories of her college life at SIU. The Communications department, PRSSA, and the campus/surroundings will always be a part of her best memories. She hopes to make it back to campus one of these days.



Joshua Kauffman (B.S. 2006) is the System Director of Communication and Public Affairs for the Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield, Il. He was recognized, in 2014, by the Alumni Association as a recipient of the Young Alumni Achievement Award. While at SIU, he was Vice President-elect of the Kellogg Hall council, Vice President of the National Communications Association Student Club, and Community Service Chair for the SIUC's Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. Kauffman participated in the Honors program, Golden Key International and Gamma Beta Phi Honor Societies. He was an account executive for Pyramid Public Relations firm and a resident assistant in Boomer Hall. He was also featured in the Winter 2014 *Speak Easy* Newsletter.

Michelle Restivo Howell (B.S. 2007 and M.S. Ed. at SIUC) received her degrees and moved to central Florida to work at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. She is currently the Associate Director of the Honors Program here. She also teaches speech as an adjunct in the Department of Humanities and Communication. She loves that she has the opportunity to share her passion for communication with the students at Embry-Riddle!



She has a variety of roles as the Associate Director in the Honors Program, including:

- Advise all first year and continuing Honors Program students and establish academic plan for completion of Honors requirements
- Advise Honors Student Association (HSA)
- Serve as prestigious awards advisor for Honors Program students

- Assist with the scheduling, planning, advertisement, and implementation of events sponsored by the Honors Program
- Collaborate with Career Services, outside companies, and other campus departments to offer professional development workshops for Honors Program students
- Collaborate closely with the Office of Undergraduate Research to ensure Honors Program is an integral component and active participant in undergraduate research

As far as her personal life goes, she got married in November 2014. She and her husband closed on their first home together on September 30!



Pamela (Stine) Armstrong (B.S. 2008) now lives in Fort Lauderdale and is a Senior Account Executive at public relations and crisis communications firm Red Banyan Group. She was one of the first hires at the young firm, so, in addition to client work, she's also gotten to be a big part of building the business itself.

She is an experienced communications and public relations professional who works closely with a diverse array of Red Banyan Group's clients. Highly skilled in copywriting, media relations, online reputation management, and project and event coordination, she conceptualizes and executes strategic communications campaigns that help the firm's clients identify and achieve their most important business goals.

Before joining Red Banyan Group, she handled public communications and community outreach for a fast-growing technology and software company. She has also worked with dynamic startups and nonprofit organizations to help them define their brands, launch new products and initiatives, and more effectively reach target audiences.

She graduated *magna cum laude* from SIUC, where she worked in marketing, membership and events at the university's Alumni Association. She currently lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with her husband Ryan and their rescue dog, Kona.

Andrew J. Kirk (Ph.D. 2009) is an Instructor at Spoon River College in Canton, Illinois. He also serves as Assistant Coach for Illinois Central College's speech team. When he isn't teaching or coaching, he is busy raising three rascally dachshunds—Beverly, Wellington, and Gladys. And when he's not doing any of that, he can be found sitting on his couch eating carbs. All of the carbs.



Sachiko Tankei-Aminian (Ph.D. 2009, M.S. 2000) completed her dissertation with the help of her advisor, **Dr. Nathan Stucky**. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Philosophy at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her areas of research are intercultural communication and interracial communication, with a special focus on cultural adaptation, intercultural identity, and the concept of privilege in relation to issues of race and racism. She uses various methods in her scholarly work, such as personal narrative, autoethnography, performance, and filmmaking. Among her publications are "On Becoming Japersican: A Personal Narrative of Cultural Adaptation, Intercultural Identity and Transnationalism" (*Globalizing Intercultural Communication*, Sage, 2015); "On Becoming Japerican" (*Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* 9.3., 2013); and "Cross-cultural Adaptation at the Intersection of Power and Oppression" (*Koroba to Komyunikeishon no Forum—A Forum on Language and Communication*, Kaitakusha, Japan, 2011).

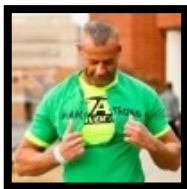
Amy Darnell (Ph.D. 2009) is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Honors Program Director at Columbia College, in Columbia, Missouri. She earned her Ph.D. from SIU, with an emphasis in Performance Studies under the direction of **Dr. Nathan Stucky**. Her teaching primarily focuses on visual communication and film, performance, and public speaking.

Darnell has served the Performance Studies Division of NCA as Secretary and as Archivist. A former Marie J. Robinson Award recipient, she has also served as Chair of the Performance Studies and Theatre Interest Group of CSCA. Currently, Darnell is a member of the NCA, SSCA, and the Society for Film and Media Studies.



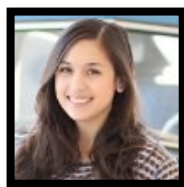
Her scholarly work has appeared in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, *Performing Ethos*, and *Text and Performance Quarterly*, among other publications.

When she's not cheering on her favorite teams from Ohio, she crochets scarves for her favorite people, imagines her next great road trip, volunteers at a local women's shelter, and serves as an advisor to the University of Missouri chapter of Chi Omega.



Morgan Freed (B.S. 2009) is self-employed and runs a health and wellness direct selling line with his wife. They recently spoke on stage about debt busters at Dallas Cowboys Stadium in front of 20,000 people. They are very successful, and just hired Pyramid PR to help grow their business in the Carbondale area. He likes to say they get people healthier, better and with a renewed ability to hope and dream again.

Kahla (Holtz-Fazzini) Poczatek (B.S. 2009) is currently working at CMT (Country Music Television), the place she landed her first job out of college. She first started with the news team right after her summer internship and worked as a PA with that group for 4 years and then switched departments. She is currently working with the Creative team under Promos, so she helps obtain footage, books editors and edit time, and works directly with producers to make sure they have what they need for their edits. Her team creates all promo material for all of the new shows on CMT. ****(So be sure to check out the latest season of Party Down South)**** In addition to that, she is the producer of their off-channel media buys. Her Marketing team buys ads with various companies, and she works with an editor to get those spots to other markets such as DISH Network, DirecTV, digital buyers and local carriers.



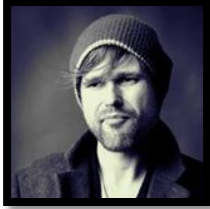
Pamela Dorn (B.S. 2009) is currently working for Allstate Insurance at their headquarters in Northbrook, IL. She is a Senior Human Resources Consultant. She uses a lot of the skills she learned in school in her day-to-day work, including writing, strategic research and networking. She's been there for over three years and loves it.

Ken Maurice Newcomer (B.S. 2009) spent two years after graduation teaching at a university in France. He came back to the US in 2011 and worked in the medical industry. The last two years he was the Director of Sales and Marketing for two medical facilities, with annual revenue of \$4.2 million annual. He finished his MBA in finance at FIU while he was working there. He left his job in Florida after being admitted to Simon Business School's fifth ranked finance program in the world to finish his education with a master's in finance.

Katherine Nye (B.S. 2009) is currently in the process of applying for a Master's program in Marriage and Family Therapy. For the last three years she has worked for a nonprofit as a Mentor/Job Coach where she guides clients with physical and emotional barriers in identifying and celebrating their skill sets, while encouraging self-advocacy. In addition, she has worked as a Nanny/Caregiver, working with two (wonderful) Pre-K children, for whom she provides early, one-on-one professional tutoring and developmental care. Her employer at this job is a licensed therapist and, as a result, she has rediscovered her once-dormant appreciation for conflict resolution.

She took a Compassionate Communication course with **Dr. Suzanne Daughton** during her time at SIUC and has seen, years later, that it has immensely influenced her professional journey. She looks forward to applying the methods and applications to those of non-violent communication in her next chapter of graduate school (and beyond).

Looking back, the Speech Communication program was an amazing platform for what would be ahead of her. In her experiences post-graduation she has learned the importance of communication: it is, after all, the most essential component to a work place. Basic human communication is overshadowed by deadlines, rhythms, and grooves and she feels rewarded from the knowledge she acquired from the Speech Communication program. So much of what she learned during her time at SIUC has followed her through her professional and personal life and she want to thank all of her professors and mentors.



Christopher Collins (Ph.D. 2009) is a Performance Studies scholar who analyzes sites of marginality in the United States. Dr. Collins is an instructor and manager of the HopKins Black Box Theatre in the Department of Communication Studies at Louisiana State University. He received his Ph.D. in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University in 2009. He recently performed the show *Fractured* with Alison Fisher at both the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry and the International Environmental Communication Conference. He is currently the assistant director for Tracy Stephenson Shaffer's show *Rollerland*.

Mimi Hodis (Ph.D. 2009) has been promoted to senior lecturer at Massey University, Wellington New Zealand (the NZ academic ranks are lecturer, senior lecturer, associate professor and then professor). She joined Massey University on February 2013. She has been enjoying teaching courses on intercultural communication, public relations, and research methods. She gives so much credit to her professors at SIUC who encouraged and supported her to succeed. Mimi has great recollections of the wonderful time she spent at Southern (seven marvelous years). In addition, she is proud to be a Saluki and a lifetime member of the SIU Alumni Association. She lives in Wellington with her husband Flaviu and their three year old son Alexandru. All three of them are enjoying exploring the lovely natural surroundings where they live.



Mimi's work has been published in professional journals such as International Journal of Communication, Journal of Applied Communication Research, Communication Yearbook, and Basic Communication Course Annual. Her work has been recognized internationally as she received the "Top Published Journal Article of 2010" presented by the Communication Apprehension and Competence Division of the National Communication Association; the "Top Three Papers Award" presented by the Instructional & Developmental Communication Division of the International Communication Association, Singapore, 2010, and the "Best Paper Award" for a paper presented at the annual meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association, Queenstown, New Zealand, 2015.



Kayla Barkau (B.S. 2010) has been employed as an IT recruiter at Adaptive Solutions Group in St. Louis for almost 5 years. Recently, she retired from the NFL after five seasons as a St. Louis Rams Cheerleader.

Paige Hollenberg (B.S. 2010), after graduating in May 2010, began working as a summer intern in the web department at AKA MEDIA, Inc., (AKA). AKA specializes in creating and distributing content for Video, Radio, Web, TV and Social Media Campaigns, working with well-known companies and PR agencies around the globe. Throughout her web internship, the company recognized her passion for production and hired her on as a full-time Production Assistant (PA) at the end of the summer. As a PA, she worked with producers to create timely and intriguing media alerts, secure crews for video shoots, manage production logistics, and familiarize herself with the company's offerings and routines. A little less than two years later she established herself as a go-to for many AKA clients and was promoted to Producer. Five years after graduating from SIU, she's working with some of the largest brands and is a part of a team that never stops striving for more.

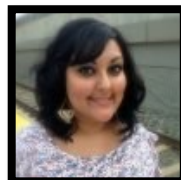


Edward Saba (B.S 2010) pursued a career in Human Resources upon graduation and initially started in the staffing and recruiting industry. He has since transitioned into an HR role as an HR Specialist with Feldco Factory Direct where he has worked for just over two years. They are a home remodeling company with approximately 200 employees in four Midwestern states. Some of his responsibilities, under the umbrella of recruiting, include the creation of job descriptions, ad placements for open positions, interviewing of candidates, writing/extending offer letters, and conducting employee orientations & training. Outside of recruiting, he handles a wide variety of day-to-day HR responsibilities such as employee relations, training for managers, structuring the internship program and company volunteer initiatives. He also contributes to policy and procedure documentation, such as the employee handbook, confidentiality agreements, etc. Depending on the circumstances, he will also present or provide advice and support for other HR related issues, including terminations, verbal and written warnings, FMLA requests, etc.



Rachel (Henniger) Nimmo (B.S. 2010) moved to Austin, TX, after graduation - and got married. She is now working for a company that focuses in the Educational Technology space. They provide predictive analytics and applications for higher educational institutions to help students succeed. She is in the People Operations group as a Talent Acquisition Manager, where she focuses on hiring top talent in sales, partner success and technical groups. She always thinks back about college, because she never fully knew what she wanted to do for a living, and Speech Communication as a degree kept the door open for her to find her passion. She's now really glad that she learned so much, grew as a person, networked like crazy and took risks.

Krishna Pattisapu Allen, Ph.D (M.S. 2010, B.S. 2008) graduated from the Department of Communication Studies at SIUC in 2008 with a B.S. in Speech Communication (emphasizing Intercultural Communication) and again in 2010 with an M.S. in Speech Communication (emphasizing Intercultural Communication and Communication Pedagogy). She worked with Dr. John T. Warren on a research report that examined the presence of LGBTQ students of color in communication scholarship. In 2014, she graduated from the University of Denver with a Ph.D. in Communication Studies (with emphases on Culture and Communication and Pedagogy). Her dissertation is entitled, "Celebration, Resistance and Change: Queer Gender Performers of Color as Public Pedagogues." Since then, she spent a short time teaching at a college preparatory middle school in Denver before moving to her current position as Director of the Pre-Collegiate Program at the "I Have a Dream" Foundation of Boulder County in Boulder, Colorado. She designs pre-collegiate curricula and provides resources for high school students, from underserved backgrounds in Boulder County, who will be the first in their families to attend college. She works directly with high school and middle school students and serves as a liaison between "I Have a Dream" and area colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder and Front Range Community College. She is excited to put her academic background into praxis each day!



Allie Marie (Toothman) Silvernale (B.S. 2010) graduated in May 2010 with a degree specializing in PR, and a Fine Arts Degree specializing in Communication Design (Graphic Design). With her two degrees, she moved to Charlotte, NC, for a while and worked with a company doing web design, public relations, and social media. During this time, she also flew home for a wedding - and met the man who would become her future husband. A few months later, she made the decision to move back home. She worked at a local Newspaper for a year, but (since pay is never very good with newspapers in her area) she then worked at Springleaf Financial, as a Senior Designer, in Evansville, IN. She made the commute every day until she got pregnant and the two-hour drive every day became too much. A few months after returning from maternity leave, a friend of hers called her about working for her company. Allie is still there today, working a wonderful job where she utilizes BOTH degrees every day to do web design, PR, social media, event planning, media planning, etc. She is the Media Manager/Designer at Brushfire Creative.



One of the many reasons she chose her two degrees was because she would be forced to live in a city all of her life. That's what she thought she wanted: to be FAR AWAY from her little hometown, and her parents would have to deal with it (lol). However, little did she know that she would actually want to get married and settle down in a small community. She was very nervous at first with her two degrees. She worried that she wouldn't get the opportunity to work in either of those two industries ever again since making the decision to move back home, but she did. And found quite a few opportunities. She still truly believes that receiving her Speech Communication degree is what set her up to never struggle for very long to find another job. It prepared her very well for her future. Having teachers like **Denise McClearney**, **Josh Houston**, and all the others, challenged her to better herself and really kept up her drive and determination, even when the future looked scary and like she was never going to find a job. But now, she couldn't be happier with life and would love for future students to know that what they put into their degree really will help them keep that drive when it's time to go out and get a job.

Ben Stickel (B.S. 2010) is currently a Channel Sales Specialist for a building materials company called James Hardie Building Products. This is his fifth position in the last three and one-half years with Hardie. His jobs have ranged from Customer Service rep I & II, Inside Sales Rep, and Retail Merchandiser, to Account Rep. while working his way up through these positions, he has lived in New Jersey for a year and a half, dealt with a large business transfer within the company, trained new



members on various teams, dealt with managing the resolution of all the many sorts of problems that a sales/manufacturing company has, and many other challenges.

Currently, in his position as a Channel Sales Specialist, he manages 84 accounts in the Chicagoland Area., Operating out of his home office, he works to strategically target potential customers (builders, architects and developers) through area lumber dealers. He also generates and grows new business and works to successfully convert the target audience from using traditional building products to using James Hardie products. He also positions their unique product value proposition and whole-product solution to the customer to build and enhance new strong customer relationships and to become a superior business partner. He also plans and coordinates events on a local and regional level to build brand awareness of James Hardie products.

Megan Kramper (B.S. 2010) is in her third season as the Assistant Director of Athletic Media Relations for the Indiana State Sycamores. Prior to Indiana State and after graduation with her Master's Degree in 2012 in Sport Management from SIU, she did a year- long internship with the Florida Gators (2012-13) as the primary contact for their nationally-ranked lacrosse program and secondary contact with their SEC champion volleyball team.



At Indiana State, she is the primary media contact for women's basketball, volleyball and women's swimming and diving, and has also worked with women's soccer and outdoor track and field. Some of her duties include: acting as the spokesperson for the teams she is assigned; coordinating interviews; writing and editing press releases, media guides, and other publications; shooting video and photos; and overseeing all team and departmental social media. She also promotes her student-athletes for conference and national awards and has tried her hand at marketing a few of ISU athletic events, including coordinating efforts for breast cancer awareness games. She also had the opportunity to take her first foreign tour with the Indiana State women's basketball team to Costa Rica in August 2014. She travels with the volleyball and women's basketball teams and makes yearly trips to Carbondale, which she is always grateful for!

Phyllis "Abbi" Allen (B.S. 2011), after graduating in May 2011, moved to Gainesville, Florida where she pursued and received her Master of Education in Student Personnel in Higher Education at the University of Florida. Currently, she works for the Department of Campus Recreation at the University of Arizona as the Coordinator for Collegiate Club Sports. While at SIU, she was on the Executive Board of PRSSA, where she served as the Vice President of Operations for Pyramid PR.



Jamie L. Huber Ward (Ph.D. 2011) is a professional development curriculum designer and instructor for the National Center for Women and Information Technology and an outreach coordinator for the St. Charles City-County Library District. She is also affiliated, as adjunct faculty, with the Women's and Gender Studies Department at Saint Louis University, the Gender Studies Program at Lindenwood University, the Communications Department at St. Charles Community College, and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina-Upstate. Jamie also volunteers with Girls Scouts of Eastern Missouri, the St. Louis Region Aspirations in Computing Program for high school girls, the Bridgeway Behavioral Health Women's Center Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Junior

League of St. Louis.

Shauna M. MacDonald (Ph.D. 2011, M.A. 2007), after defending her dissertation and graduating in 2011, started on the tenure track at Villanova University just outside of Philadelphia (where she currently works). She is getting closer to the time for a permanent tenure decision - and keeping very busy with a full research agenda and full-time teaching in the area of Performance Studies. She has been fortunate enough to serve as a Study Abroad instructor for the Summer in Greece Program two years in a row, so (along with her colleagues) is one of the few people who can say they've taught performance in the ancient theaters where modern Western theater was born. She enjoys working to bring more performance studies spirit and awareness of gender-related issues to campus through classes and service work. Beyond academia, since leaving SIU she has become an avid kickboxer and runner (she ran her first half marathon a few summers ago) and (since it's only two hours away) has spent time on the beaches of New Jersey, reconnecting with the Atlantic Ocean.





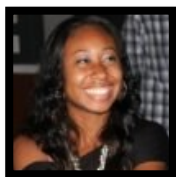
Robyn Phelan (B.S. 2011) packed her bags, as soon as she graduated, and moved to Las Vegas to intern for the inaugural Digital World Expo (which was organized by an SIU alum). She kept telling herself she would be home in Chicago by Thanksgiving, but 10 days before the holiday she was offered a position with MGM Resorts International. As the Internet Marketing Manager, she was responsible for online marketing for The Mirage, Circus Circus Las Vegas, Cirque Du Soleil LOVE, and Terry Fator. She soon joined the marketing team at the Palms Casino Resort where she led all digital entities as Interactive Marketing Manager. During her 2.5 years with Palms, she handled the back end of the website, email marketing, display/video campaigns, social media marketing, affiliate marketing, SMS and more.

After 4 years in Las Vegas, she decided to move back to Illinois to be closer to family and accepted a position with Walgreens. As the Social Marketing Manager, she oversees all things social for Walgreens, Duane Reade, Beauty.com and Drugstore.com, including content creation, community management and paid social media.

Chris McRae (Ph.D. 2011) currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of South Florida where he teaches courses in Performance Studies. He recently published his first book, *Performative Listening: Hearing Others in Qualitative Research*, with Peter Lang.



LaQuita Washington (B.S. 2011) is currently a public relations manager at TopFire Media. She specializes in media relations (where she's known for securing media in some of the largest publications including: Forbes Magazine; Huffington Post; The Chicago Tribune; Examiner.com; and NBC Chicago); consumer marketing; and event coordination for franchise businesses. Since graduation, she has had the opportunity to work for both nationally recognized firms, such as Edelman, and boutique PR firms, such as Blast Marketing and PR and Paramount PR. She's worked behind the scenes conducting consumer insight and marketing research for some of the biggest brands, including Quaker, Groupon, Starbucks, Kellogg, and Jenny Craig.



N. Eda Ercin (M.A. 2011) completed her Speech Communication degree with an autoethnographic study of community theatre under the direction of **Dr. Nathan Stucky**. At SIU she specialized in Performance Studies as a Fulbright fellow from Turkey. Following graduation she worked as a performing arts teacher in Turkey for two years, concentrating on devised performance with children and teenagers. In 2013, she received the International Doctorate Studentship from the College of Humanities at the University of Exeter (UK) to pursue a Ph.D. specializing in Performance Practice in the Department of Drama. As a part of her practice-based research project - which is at the intersection of physical performance, gender and (auto)ethnography - she has designed and facilitated workshops on improvisation and embodiment with women in Turkey and the UK. Most recently, she has presented at two international conferences: International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (on practice as research methodologies) and Feminism and Women Studies Association (FWSA) Biennial Conference at the University of Leeds (on the concept of virginity and female embodiment). As a performer/researcher, she collaborates with artists, participates in international artistic residencies, and teaches. In the spring semester of 2016, she is going to teach a Research and Performance module in the Drama department at the University of Exeter.



John Schumacher (B.S. 2012) put his experience and education to work immediately after graduating. He flew out to Las Vegas and interned for a couple of months at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, and then turned his internship into a full-time job. He then accepted a position as a Social Strategist for Digital Royalty. The mission of Digital Royalty is to empower brands to be human and inspire personal connections to positively disrupt the world. As a Social Strategist, John got to work on major accounts with clients such as Hilton Hotels and Resorts, Tony Hsieh (Zappos CEO), and the Chicago White Sox. He left that position in 2015 to accept a position as a Social Media Strategist at

SK+G advertising agency in Las Vegas. He is on retainer and contracted to help out with one of their clients, Maryland Live! Casino. He handles all of their social media marketing efforts - strategy, community management, advertising, analytics, and anything else that comes with the territory.



Jonna Reule Ziniel, (Ph.D. 2012) is currently the Chair of the Department of Communication Arts at Valley City State University. She has been at VCSU for 7 years. She lives in Valley City, ND, with her partner (Dennis) and their three children (Aurora, Kyle, and Zoey), three cats (Katniss, Bella, and Maggie), and a dog (Wiggly). She is very active on campus and in the community, and she volunteers for many organizations. She also has her own blog, which she started in 2009.

Jamie Strothmann (B.S. 2012) works in the digital marketing field for a global advertising agency called Performics. She focuses on paid search efforts, such as Google Adwords, Youtube, Remarketing and social outreach for Fortune 500 companies.



Dr. Chengxiu Suo (or “Karen” Suo) (Ph.D. 2012) returned to China to continue her teaching career at Zhengzhou University (ZZU), one of the largest and most prestigious universities in mainland China. ZZU is also the university where she received her Bachelor's Degree of Arts--English Major and where she taught as an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher for 16 years before coming to SIUC to further her graduate education.

Currently, Dr. Suo is enjoying living with her husband and family in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province. She is an associate professor, and Director of Centre of Intercultural Studies at the School of Foreign Languages at ZZU , which consists of Comparative Literature and World Literature, Foreign Languages, Linguistics & Applied Linguistics, Translation, and Culture. She enjoys teaching graduate and undergraduate courses such as Intercultural Communication Studies, Culture and Translation, and Western Culture, Intensive English and English Public Speaking.

Besides her teaching, Chengxiu (Karen) began serving as the deputy dean of the School of Foreign Languages in January 2015. Currently she is in charge of Research, International Exchange & Collaboration, Teacher Training & Development, etc., at the school. Since the beginning of her term, she has been dedicated in inviting and arranging approximately 30 internationally acknowledged scholars of Literature, Linguistics, Translation, Culture and Communication, from UK, U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand and China, to come to give lectures or workshops to ZZU students and faculty.

Apart from her daily teaching and executive duties, Dr. Suo is incorporating her training and background in the areas of Intercultural Communication, TESOL and Applied Linguistics into her imminent and future research and teaching plans.

She has published one book: "Globalization and the Rise of Haier" (2012); co-edited one book, "The Classic Works of American Writers: From Franklin to Faulkner" (2013); and co-written one journal paper, "Charting the Waters of Globalization: An Analysis of Haier's Strategic Organizational Discourse" with her Ph.D. adviser **Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan** (published in *The International Journal of Strategic Communication*). Moreover, she is heading a provincial level research project entitled "On Zhongyuan (Central China) Culture and Its Translation and Spread to the World," and is the first participant of a China Educational Ministry research project entitled "A Comparative Study of Chinese and Western Rhetoric." Additionally, she has presented papers at two national and international conferences held in Hangzhou and Beijing, China. Looking ahead, she is keen on doing research in the areas of intercultural communication, intercultural pragmatics , Zhongyuan (Central China) culture and its translation and spread to the world, culture management in global companies, and culture and translation.

Last but not least, Dr. Suo always cherishes her abundant, sweet recollections of the marvellous time she spent at SIUC. Both the university and Carbondale are and will always remain dear to her and her family.

Larry Greene (B.S. 2013) (performance studies) currently works for the Missouri Division of Youth Services as a Youth Specialist for minor offenders. He runs his own bi-monthly comedy show. HiLarryous Comedy Night, where he features national and local talent. He has opened for the 2015 Last Comic Standing Champion, Clayton. He is also a 2015 FunnyBone Competition Finalist. Currently, he has a couple of standout roles in the "She Say....He Say" sketch comedy show, where he will do a guest stand up performance and will feature in a few skits.



Sidney L. Rehg (B.S. 2013) worked as a marketing assistant, after graduation to directly help SIU Credit Union with their marketing efforts. Upon finding a career opportunity in St. Louis in August of 2014, he relocated and became the Technology Coordinator for Intaglio Creative. He oversees all digital content that goes out from the agency including, but not limited to, web-design, social media marketing, SEO, email campaigns and general site maintenance/updates. He is also producing e-commerce solutions for clients to provide them with efficient e-storefronts without requiring users to depart their site for purchase. He recently celebrated his first anniversary with the company.



Outside of Intaglio, Sidney is still utilizing his own firm - Piranha Public Relations - for freelance work, but he has removed the website and is slowly winding this company down. He is currently managing two clients through Piranha regularly, and running random small projects through the company as well.

He also continues to find outlets to fuel his performance fire. Since moving to St. Louis he has performed spoken word in 10 venues, the most recent being the STL Slam qualifier for the Individual World Poetry Slam (iWPS). iWPS is the most important tournament for individual performance poets, with only 72 in the country qualifying to compete. He placed 8th in the qualifier. This does not secure a place in iWPS, but does give him a position on the 2015-2016 STL National Slam team. He will now be writing for their national team to compete in multiple events across the country, including the 2016 National Poetry Slam. Continuing with the poetry theme, Sidney is just a few weeks away from publishing his first book, *Citrine Dreams*, which is a 120-page collection of poetry written over the last three years.

While working on everything above, he has also been maintaining a presence in activist communities in the St. Louis area, focusing on both local and national social justice issues. Originally started as an attempt to document protests with a nuance and honesty that national media tends to lack, his presence has evolved into seeking the use of art and performance to reach out to communities often prone to avoid discussions of racism, systemic injustice and police brutality throughout St. Louis. Some of his earlier work can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/sidneyrehg/WQv176>

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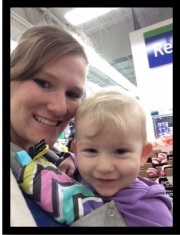
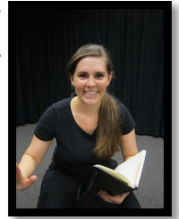


Lisa Raser (PH.D. 2013) lives in the town of Arcata on the coast of Northern California. She is in her third year teaching in the Communication Department at Humboldt State University. She loves working with the students there and walking to work. Lisa and her husband Derren have enjoyed getting to know their new community and exploring the Redwood forests in their backyard.

Sheng-Tao Fan (Fulbright Recipient from Taiwan) (Ph.D., 2013) obtained his degree here at SIUC in the Communication Studies department, specializing in Performance Studies and Communication Pedagogy. Dr. Fan works as Associate Professor at Nanjing University Jinling College in Mainland China and he joined the Graduate Institute of Performing Arts at National Taiwan Normal University as Assistant Professor in the spring of 2015. With gratitude to his academic mentor **Dr. Elyse Lamm Pineau**, department chair **Dr. Nathan P. Stucky**, all the rest of the department's faculty members, and his fellow students, Dr. Fan has been utilizing what he learned at SIUC Communication Studies and focusing on arts-based learning and teaching. Recently, he has taught courses in the Performing Arts undergraduate and graduate program, the Cultural and Creative Industries undergraduate program, and the Performing Arts Teacher Education program. He translated Dr. Pineau's landmark essay "Critical Performative Pedagogy-Fleshing Out the Politics of Liberatory Education," into Mandarin; it appeared as the opening article in *Research in Drama Education and Theatre Studies* 2015. This year, Dr. Fan also published "Innovation, Creativity, and Imagination: Drama-Theatre-Performance in Taiwanese Corporate Training" in *The Journal of Drama and Theatre Education in Asia*.



Aubrey A. Huber (Ph.D. 2013) is currently the director of public speaking at the University of South Florida. She teaches courses in Performance Studies and has published essays in *Text and Performance Quarterly* and *Departures in Critical and Qualitative Research*. She is looking forward to teaching a graduate course in communication pedagogy in spring 2016. She lives in Temple Terrace, FL with her partner, Chris McRae (Ph.D. '11) and their son, Graham.



Molly Wiant Cummins (Ph.D. 2014) is currently an adjunct instructor in the Department of Communication Studies at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. During the fall semester, she's teaching two sections of the Introduction to Communication Course, and in the spring she will be teaching one section of the intro course for the Honors Program. Molly also keeps busy raising her almost-one-year-old child – and will have an essay coming out in *Critical Education* with SIU faculty member **Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** sometime in 2016.

Aleisha Guerretaz (B.S. 2014) landed her first position after graduation as an Office Manager for Aspen Dental. After 25 weeks of rigorous training and traveling, she was recruited by her dream nonprofit agency, Children's Home + Aid, to be their Regional Development and Volunteer Associate in the Bloomington, IL, office. She accepted and began in December 2014. She is now the Statewide Development and Volunteer Associate and is in charge of development, major gift and fundraising efforts in the Southern, Central, and Northern Illinois regions. She is charged with raising over \$700,000 in donations yearly throughout Illinois, and coordinating several signature events, alongside several third party events and numerous holiday events throughout the state.



Christina Murray (B.S. 2014) began working for Extra Help, Inc., after she graduated. They are a workforce development company located in Marion, IL, with offices located in seven cities in the U.S. She currently works as the Communications Coordinator and is tasked with marketing and recruiting. She does everything from media relations, writing various public relations tactics, and coordinating social media activities, to recruiting at job fairs and visiting local businesses in hope of recruiting candidates.

Phil Riggs (B.S. 2014) left Carbondale after graduation to serve as Western Regional Manager for Associated Equipment Distributors. In this role, he coordinates events with members of Congress, oversees workforce development initiatives to fill the technical worker shortage, and maintains relationships with construction equipment dealerships across the western half of North America. In his free time you can find him in one of Chicago's many micro and craft breweries.



Sydney Battle (B.S. 2014) had always wanted to go into Hospital PR, so she applied for all types of hospital jobs to get her foot in the door. She got a job with the University of Chicago Medical Center as a Receivables Clerk for Medicare Inpatient billing. She worked there for about a year and decided she wanted to go back to school. She is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health degree; her dream job is to be a Health Communications Specialist.

Lucas Clark (B.S. 2015) has taken over as PR manager for Rig'Em Right Waterfowl, a growing brand within the outdoor products industry. His day-to-day activity involves managing social media accounts, and talking via email or phone with writers and magazine editors. He also pushes web sales through their online store, manages a group of 30 representatives across North America, and plans activities across the nation to highlight the Rig'Em Right Waterfowl brand during charity events, veterans events, etc.



C. Kyle Rudick (Ph.D., 2015) is an assistant professor at the University of Northern Iowa, where he teaches and conducts research. He is especially proud of his students, who are currently working with the UNI Campus Police to find ways to create better police-community relationships. He is also working on a co-authored book, *Teaching from the Heart & Learning to Make a Difference*.

TRANSITIONS

Dan R. Salden (Ph.D. 1971) Professor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Dr. Dan R. Salden founded the Hawaii Whale Research Foundation in 1987. Dan, a distinguished teacher, colleague and friend, passed away on July 18, 2012. Dan dedicated and devoted his life to studying Humpback Whales and other Marine Mammals. Among Dan's many accomplishments, he: created The Hawaii Whale Research Foundation; authored, co-authored and was cited in numerous scholarly articles and professional papers; created a multifaceted data base for identifying and tracking humpback whales; and developed an online interactive book, *Humpback Whales of Maui*. "Dr. Dan" will live on through each of us who were fortunate enough to know, learn, and work beside him. He touched our hearts and changed our lives forever.

Robert Stevens Fish (Emeritus Faculty) died in his home June 28, 2015, in the presence of his wife and son. He intended to use his experience with cancer as a means to be more fully aware both within life and during the transition out of it. His last few days were a testament to that, and he was surrounded with clear, present, and deep love.

Robert was born February 26, 1941, in New York City to Donald and Vera (Mills) Fish, as the younger brother of Donald Fish. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan in 1959, then earned his bachelor's at State University of New York at Albany in 1963. He completed his master's degree from University of Oklahoma in 1965 and then his doctorate in 1970. He was on the faculty at Southern Illinois University where he taught communication, readers theater, and oral interpretation from 1970 through 1980, when he moved to San Francisco to become a street performer on Fisherman's Wharf before returning to teaching communication, this time in the corporate world as a trainer. In the 1990's he began to prioritize his developing spirituality, and by 2002 he had become the spiritual leader of Unity Church of Fremont. He eventually moved to Kansas City to teach at the Unity Seminary, which he left in 2009 to move to Portland OR, where he continued to offer private ministerial coaching.

Robert was a loving son, brother, uncle, husband, father, and grandfather. He married three times, to Sandra Herndon (1964 – 1974), Rebecca Morgan (1985 - 2004), and Lynette Jett (2006) He had a son, Alex, with Sandra in 1970, and his granddaughter Sylvia was born in 2003. He was consistently kind and loving in his relationships, with a genuine humility and a playful sense of humor. Those qualities were evident throughout his life, both in his relationships and as a teacher, a role that took many shapes and was a comfortable and natural fit for him. He had a deep love for books, and for words, and a passion and skill for helping others cultivate their own communication talents. This passion pervaded his work and his life, from his storytelling, to his speaker training, to the comics and plays that he created with his granddaughter. He also had the ability to genuinely listen and the capacity to care deeply about the issues and struggles of the people in his life. His commitment to his spiritual path, and his own personal growth, was unending. He continued to strive for ways to be a better man with those in his life, with humility and an open mind, right to the end. He saw his cancer as an opportunity to deepen his spiritual work and to meet death consciously. He worked consistently through fear, sadness, and heartache to be open to giving and receiving love completely and without hindrances. Those of us close to him feel that he succeeded. This obituary was written, with love, by his son, Alex Fish.

Jack Kay (M.S. 1975) passed away on January 30, 2015. He was Interim Chancellor, Provost, and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs as well as Professor of Communication at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Prior to his time at the University of Michigan-Flint, Jack had many other administrative posts. In fact, he was well known for his ability to lead and mentor. Jack was also an excellent scholar. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Communication from Wayne State University in 1979, an M.S. in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1975, and a B.A. in Speech Communication from Wayne State University in 1974. As that indicates, he was a part of the Central States region in so many ways for so many years.

Professor Kay's work was voluminous, including many journal articles and books. Perhaps his best-known work was *Argumentation: Inquiry and Advocacy*. He was quite the scholar when it came to understanding the power of language. Some of his most notable work includes scholarship about extremist groups. Particularly, Dr. Kay focused on the communication strategies of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, and Neo-Nazi Skinheads. Jack never wavered in his quest to provide honest scholarly insights, and even received death threats as a result of this work.

Professor Kay also made the leap into public scholarship, lending his scholarly findings to a variety of media news programs. He also testified before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and consulted with law enforcement agencies. His knowledge was also shared with many students. Known as an outstanding mentor, he served as dissertation advisor to over 40 Ph.D. graduates in his career.

Jack was married to Ruth Kay, the head of Michigan's Debate MIFA league and coach at Detroit Country Day School.

Edwin Phillips (Ph.D. 2000) passed away Saturday, April 4, 2015. He was the current president of Carbondale Lions Club. He earned his Ph.D. in Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University and served as professor in the Aviation Management and Flight program. He completed his Ph.D. with a dissertation entitled, "Defining Leadership Communication: A Qualitative Investigation of Leadership in a Nonprofit Organization."

Prior to his time at SIU, Ed had a long career at United Airlines, retiring as the head of facilities management for its corporate headquarters. He served in the U.S. Navy (EOD) for 22 years, attaining the rank of captain.

He was a very involved, longtime member of Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship. He loved music and developed a jazz show at Central Michigan University that still runs today.

Survivors include his wife, Susie; daughters, Vicki (Craig) Rawlins, Julie Phillips (Darlene DuFay) and Tammi (Tom) Pinski; grandchildren, Brooke and Andrew Rawlins; brother, E. Dallas (Gretchen) Phillips; and sister, Carol Lynn Bourns.

If you'd like to be included in our next issue, or if you have any questions:

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