SIU Debate Team Wins Third Consecutive National Title

By Greg Scott, SIU Foundation

SIU’s debate team of Josh Rivera, a senior from Chicago majoring in political science, and Zach Schneider, a senior from Great Mills, Md., majoring in computer science, won the national championship of debate by finishing first in the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. Nearly 800 teams competed in parliamentary debate this year, with only the top 68 qualifying for the NPTE.

It marks the third consecutive year that SIU won a national championship. SIU has won individual team national championship titles during six different years -- 1988, 1996, 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Teams that finished behind SIU in this year’s national tournament included University of California-Berkeley, University of Oregon, University of Utah, Whitman College, and Lewis and Clark College. SIU defeated the following schools in parliamentary debate this year: Rice University, UCLA, The University of Nevada, Texas Tech University, Loyola University, The University of Colorado, etc.

Todd Graham, SIU’s debate team coach, says the NPTE is a double-elimination tournament. So a team must lose twice to be eliminated. This usually makes it so the best/most consistent teams do well at this national championship.

"We feel like the cream always rises to the top in this tournament. If a team has one bad debate, they are not eliminated," he says. "We’ve been successful because of our system, the team’s preparation, and our standards for what constitute solid arguments in debates. Those factors have served us well, in addition to a lot of good fortune."

Schneider adds: “It is gratifying to see the fruits of the hard work that we logged in the weeks before the tournament. This was truly a team effort and I am deeply appreciative for the opportunity to be surrounded by such a quality group of people and end my debate career on top.”

There are two different tournaments in parliamentary debate that are considered “national championships.” NPTE and NPDA (National Parliamentary Debate Association). NPDA is open to anyone, while NPTE is by invitation only based on season-long rankings. SIU won both championships in 2013, and earned the NPDA title in 2014. This year’s NPTE title earned SIU the national distinction of winning a third consecutive national debate title.

SIU was the top ranked team in the country for the season-long rankings to determine seeding order before the tournament. Also, Rivera was named “Best Debater,” so
We are very proud to announce that Derrick Langston, a second-year MA student from Chicago, was selected by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences this Spring Semester as the recipient of its new Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. It's clearly a significant honor for Derrick to be chosen as the very first recipient of the award. That honor is made even more special by the fact that Derrick is just completing his first year as a classroom teacher!

During his initial year with us in 2013-2014, Derrick distinguished himself as a graduate assistant who supported and mentored students served by the Black Men’s Initiative of the Black Resource Center. This year, Dr. Sandy Penseneau-Conway (the Director of our Introductory Course) asked Derrick to capitalize on his experience by teaching a special Fall Semester 2014 section of “Introduction to Oral Communication” (COMS 101). The section was intended specifically for SIU’s Exploratory Student-Provisional program, never imagined I could do it in college,” Rivera says. “Now as graduation approaches, I am leaving as one of the most successful debaters. I feel blessed and privileged to have represented a school that supported my passion for debate, and on a team that cultivated my talents into a series of successes.”

SIU’s debate team owns the following records:

Three NPTE championships – a national record.

A total of five NPTE or NPDA five times total – a national record.

The “Final Four” of a national championship tournament for eight consecutive years

The top-ranked parliamentary debate team in the country for “season-long” rankings (the pre-national championship rankings) on five occasions.

“SIU debate gave me the opportunity to be part of a tradition of hardworking and successful debaters,” Rivera says. “The fact that I won four national championships with three different partners speaks to the system of competitive excellence that is ingrained in the culture of SIU debate.”

Rivera won 25 tournaments in his career and earned national championships three consecutive seasons; both are national records. He has won either the NPTE or NPDA championships four times. Rivera and Schneider were the highest ranked team, under the new system of NPTE rankings, since its inception, with the most points recorded under the new ranking system.

“I was a debater in high school, but
which serves students who show potential for college-level work, but who don’t meet regular SIU admissions requirements. Sandy had no doubt that Derrick would succeed. As she wrote in her letter nominating him for the CoLA Outstanding GTA Award, “Even though Derrick had never taught COMS 101 before, I knew him to be a person of integrity, a person of commitment, and a person of intellect. Further, given his experience in working with underserved populations on campus, I felt confident that he would excel in providing a productive educational environment for his students.”

Derrick worked so well with the Fall Semester class that Sandy – in consultation with Dr. Derrick Williams, Coordinator of the Black Resource Center – invited him to teach a COMS 101 section in conjunction with the Black Men’s Initiative. This section, which Sandy describes as “engaging COMS 101 content through the lens of Black Rhetoric,” ended up with a very long waitlist of students who heard that Derrick was going to teach it. The lucky ones who were able to enroll flourished in the supportive, yet demanding, classroom climate created by Derrick.

When he learned he had won the CoLA Outstanding GTA Award, Derrick said, “It was amazing! I didn’t think for a second that I would be nominated. It’s very humbling that I would be chosen for my style of teaching and pedagogy. I’m so grateful for the award and getting recognized for something that I love to do!” The kind of humility and enthusiasm that’s reflected in Derrick’s reaction is a clear sign of why he has been so successful. We offer him our heartiest congratulations on his exceptional achievements as a GTA, as well as our gratitude for making the Communication Studies Department the academic home of the first recipient of CoLA’s important new award.

Department News

Department Welcomes New Faculty Member

Dr. Craig Engstrom joins CMST in the Fall

The Department of Communication Studies is happy to introduce our newest faculty member, Dr. Craig Engstrom. A graduate of SIU, Engstrom will re-join the Department of Communication Studies in the fall, teaching classes focused on organization communication. Interested in working with undergraduates, Engstrom shared his excitement about teaching here: “I look forward to working in a department with an undergraduate public relations program. I've been utilizing social media in teaching and research, so it's going to be great to be working in a place where what I teach in my classes will be reinforced across the curriculum." In fact, Engstrom has already developed a LinkedIn profile for the department.

With research focused on institutional theory, external environments, and structure, Engstrom has an impressive list of research successes and publications. Engstrom’s textbook, Business Communications for Professionals and Consultants: A Rhetorical Perspective, is currently used for our Business and Professional Communication Course. Engstrom has also published competitively selected articles in journals such as Communication Theory, Tamara Journal for Critical Organizational Inquiry, and Entrepreneurship Research Journal. Engstrom told us, “I’m currently working on an article that looks at the research conducted from an institutional theory perspective since 2006.”

Engstrom has additional experience in consulting, which makes him an excellent resource both for students preparing to enter the job market and for professionals in need of improved résumé and public speaking skills.

On a personal note, Engstrom expressed his excitement about re-acclimating to the Carbondale area. He jokes, “Coming from Chicago, where a two-hour bike ride consists of only 200 feet in elevation change, I look forward to the challenge of hitting up to 1000 feet of elevation change in 30 minutes. Last summer I rode with the Bike Surgeon riding group and I bonked (hit the wall). I look forward to many more near-death riding experiences now that I've returned to cycling as hobby.”

The department is very excited that Dr. Engstrom is joining the ranks of our faculty!
Bardhan Receives Outstanding Service Award

By Karthiga Veeramani, Speak Easy Student Writer

Dr. Nilanjana Bardhan received an award for her outstanding service and dedication to community, diversity, and scholarship during the Southern Illinois University Asian American Heritage Month kickoff, which took place on March 30th, 2015. Dr. Bardhan is a Professor of Communication Studies, and a renowned intercultural scholar. She is the current Graduate Director for the Department of Communication Studies. Dr. Bardhan modestly accepted the award “on behalf of everyone who labored to promote intercultural sensitivity at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.” Dr. Bardhan credited her students for making her a strong interculturalist in scholarship and in practice.

Dr. Bardhan’s teaching and research interests include intercultural/international communication, public relations, critical media and cultural studies. Dr. Bardhan has presented her research at various national and international conferences. She has published in numerous journals and has written several book chapters. She is the co-editor of the books Public Relations in Global Cultural Contexts, Identity Research and Communication, and co-author of Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication, for which she recently an award at the National Communication Association Conference in November, 2014.

To those of us in the Communication Studies Department, Dr. Bardhan is lovingly known as “Nil.” Nil challenges her students to be stronger scholars who are committed to their field of study. She is always conscious of her students’ scholarly struggles, and urges them to continue their work with hope for a better world. Also, Nil has never hesitated to share Chicago-style popcorn and chocolates with her students. Nil has been serving in graduate committees for more than 14 years, and has served as the primary adviser for more than 17 graduate students who completed their programs with her exemplary guidance and support. These achievements are only a glimpse of the work Nil has done to create intercultural sensitivity on this campus and beyond.

Speakers Forum Spring 2015: Sticks, Stones, and Hashtags: The Power of Words for Violence and Transformation

By Manthy Fentress, Speak Easy Student Writer

Six undergraduate students voiced their concerns on the power of words to more than 170 students, faculty, and community members at the Speakers Forum on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Speakers Forum is a semi-annual event, with a new topic each semester, held by the Department of Communication Studies and funded by the Society for Civil Discourse. The SIU Public Relations Student Society of America chapter provides volunteers who assist the Speakers Forum committee with running a successful event.

The Spring 2015 speakers ranged from freshmen to senior students at SIU. This year’s topic, Sticks, Stones, and Hashtags: The Power of Words for Violence and Transformation, is in light of hashtags such as #YesAllWomen and #BlackLivesMatter, which have raised awareness and sparked meaningful conversations around the world.

The first speaker of the night was
D.J. Jeffries, a sophomore Communication Studies major from Memphis, TN. He feels our ability to use and manipulate words gives us the unique power to discuss the realities of our existence. Social media gives us an opportunity to level the playing field, tell our story, and express the things that matter to us. He suggested we all have an obligation to get involved, through social media, in the conversations that may change the world as we know it.

The second speaker was Helen Feest, a freshman Psychology major from Oregon, WI. She addressed how social media provide platforms where members of oppressed demographic groups can make their voices heard. She also pointed out that social media have the ability to decontextualize movements for social, racial, and economic equality. For example, she noted that platforms like Twitter and Facebook have become young people’s primary sources of news. Helen recommends we take in the words we read with a grain of salt, because no 140-character tweet will ever hold the entire story.

Emma Oliver, a sophomore Cinema and Photography major, Nashville, TN, spoke third. She felt that in this new age of technology, we have the power to communicate across the world with people. However, instead of talking about how we can make the world a better place, we share selfies and pictures of what we had for lunch. She suggested that we should be using sites like Facebook and Twitter to fight for a better world, because social media make it easier than ever for us to rally together.

Dorissa White, a senior Communication Studies major from Chicago, IL, spoke fourth. She talked about how and why we should keep a positive attitude. She offered reasons why being positive can help your health and mood, and how it communicates to other people. Dorissa wanted the audience to be aware that what we say to people can stick with them for a lifetime, so it’s important to say healing words like “You’re beautiful” and “You’re appreciated.”

Joshua Gavel, a freshman Fashion Design major from Champaign, IL, spoke fifth. He titled his speech, “Speak Up, Speak Out: Voices for Positivity on Social Media.” His speech was clearly a call for action. A call to everyone - regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or ability - to speak up for their fellow humans. Joshua believes the time has come for social media to be used as a positive force in the lives of all people across all cultures and societies.

The last speaker, Kori Kirkpatrick, is a sophomore Zoology major from Indianapolis, IN. She provided a unique poetic narrative as the introduction to her speech. She addressed how words can be harmful, whether intentional or not. Kori spoke about specific instances where cutting words regarding her sexual identity have deeply hurt her in the past. She challenged us to consider the long-term consequences of the word choices we make, especially our judgmental language. Through her own story, Kori pointed us back to the theme of the evening, reminding us words are every bit as powerful and dangerous as sticks and stones.

Samantha Fentress, a Communication Studies doctoral student, moderated the Speakers Forum. The event also included an open forum that allowed attendees to share feedback on the topics raised. The open forum was facilitated by Greg Hummel, a Communication Studies doctoral candidate.

Emma Oliver discussed her experience as a speaker: “Going into the Speakers Forum, I was nervous, but when I looked up from my papers and saw an entire audience of people intently listening to what I had to say, I knew this was an opportunity to make a difference.”

Student speaker D.J. Jeffries said about the event, “Words matter so much. All of the speeches were extremely moving. Hearing such powerful words from my peers left me speechless. I’ll never forget what was said this year. It’s a great feeling to know that the speakers were just as moved as the audience.”
The Raymond D Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) hosted a very successful Epilepsy Fundraising Gala on Friday, April 24 at Blue Sky Winery. $2,200 was raised and donated to the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois.

The Keynote speaker for the evening was Louis Beckley, Epilepsy Services Coordinator of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois in Mt. Vernon, IL. Beckley talked about his experience working for the Epilepsy Foundation and how his work was important to him. He also explained to those in attendance how their donations would help the underfunded foundation.

The gala also featured Comedian Cameron Brewer, a Communication Studies graduate student, who kept the audience laughing from the start of his performance to the end. The ticket prices for the gala were $25 for an individual, $40 for a couple, or $160 for a table of eight. Dress attire for the event was semi-formal and all the attendees showed up “dressed to impress.” Over 150 tickets were sold for the event, with over 100 people in attendance. PRSSA members managed to get many donations from local businesses, including hors d’oeuvres from Cristaudo’s Café, Bakery, and Catering, Crystal’s Catering, and Great Boars of Fire.

A silent auction for special gift baskets was one of the high points of the night. Many of the items for the silent auction were donated by PRSSA members and assembled to make a grilling basket, a wine basket, a spa basket, a microbrew beer basket, a “stuff to do your laundry” basket, and many other cleverly themed collections. In addition, former SIU football coach and current University of Minnesota football coach Jerry Kill, who has epilepsy, donated a signed football that was a featured item in the silent auction. The gala’s host, Blue Sky Winery, generously donated an auction basket that included a one-night stay at their bed and breakfast facility.

The event was developed to show support for Josh Houston, a Senior Lecturer in our department. Houston was diagnosed with epilepsy last year. The idea for the gala came from senior Sean Rados, a member of PRSSA and the Vice President of Operations of its student-staffed consulting firm, Pyramid Public Relations. Rados explained, “I just wanted to help Josh out any way I could. He has dedicated his life to preparing students for the next chapter in our lives and we can never fully repay him all he has done for us. Josh is an amazing instructor and an even more amazing man.”

When asked about the gala, Houston said, “Teaching is a job that requires an emotional connection to subject and student. I am emotionally connected to my students now more than ever. This event symbolizes that connection...students of PRSSA stepping forward like this is an act of good will that I will never forget.” He also added “A person skilled in PR is as well-equipped as any professional to serve charitable causes and help those in need. The members of PRSSA obviously agree with that premise.”

The Gala was a big success: it raised $2,200 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois. The event also served as a way to heighten awareness of the foundation and the complex nature of epilepsy itself. Rados said, “I was really excited how successful the Epilepsy Gala was. It was awesome to raise so much money for a great cause while honoring an amazing teacher and mentor, Josh Houston.” Houston also shared his ex-
ciment about the gala’s success: “I was proud of my students for staging such a well-planned event. I was happy that everyone had a great time. Most of all I was gratified that so much money was raised for a cause I care about deeply.”

“It is exciting that our chapter has hosted two philanthropic events this year – Operation Sgt. Santa in the Fall Semester, and now the Gala in the Spring Semester,” said Denise McClearey, a Senior Lecturer in our department and the Faculty Advisor for PRSSA. “It’s really wonderful to see how community-minded our chapter has become. I am very proud of our students.”

Meet Our Amazing Alumni

Dr. Jim Ferris Honored with NCA Award
Congratulations to Ph.D. alumnus Dr. Jim Ferris. At the 2014 National Communication Association (NCA) convention, Dr. Ferris was honored with the inaugural “Outstanding Achievement in Disability and Communication” award. Even more significantly, the NCA Disability Issues Caucus has named the award in his honor. Henceforth, it will be known as the “Jim Ferris Award for Outstanding Achievement in Disability and Communication.” (Dr. Ferris is pictured here with Dr. Jim Cherney, a faculty member at Wayne State University and Member of the NCA Disability Issues Caucus). Our faculty and alumni make an important difference in our world! Congratulations Dr. Ferris!

Veronica Gruel
Veronica graduated from the Speech Communication program (Intercultural, Interpersonal, and Organizational concentrations) in May of 2012. Since graduation, she has been working as an Admissions Counselor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her background in Speech Communication has been valuable in this role and she finds the various theories especially helpful in recruiting and working with prospective students and families from a wide variety of cultural identities. She is responsible for recruitment territories both domestically and internationally and enjoys the travel associated with her position.

Veronica is starting the Human Resources Development program at Illinois this year and is excited to further her education. She is very interested in the recruitment and training process of new professionals and looks forward to marrying her communication theory foundation with this new discipline. She hopes to work in recruitment, training, and organizational consulting upon graduation.
Transitions

Jack Kay, Ph.D.

Jack Kay 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. Jack received his M.S here in 1975.

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, even receiving death threats in response to his 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 D. Phillips Jr., Ph.D.

Edwin 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’s management and flight program. He completed his Ph.D here in 2000 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.
Faculty Updates

Nilanjana Bardhan continues to teach courses in intercultural communication and public relations. She is also enjoying her new role as graduate director of the program. Last year, she published a book chapter, "Public Relations Leaders as Sense-Makers," and an article in Public Relations Review. Her co-authored book (with Miriam Sobre-Denton), Cultivating Cosmopolitanism for Intercultural Communication, won the 2014 Best Authored Book Award from NCA's International and Intercultural Communication Division. In 2014, she was also promoted to Professor.

Bryan Crow teaches classes in Interpersonal Communication; Language, Culture & Communication; Gender, Sexuality & Communication; Introduction to Oral Communication; and graduate seminars in Family Communication and Conversation Analysis. In Spring 2015, he taught a University Honors course on Irish Culture & Communication, and he is scheduled to be a faculty chaperone/driver on an SIU Forestry Department Study Abroad trip to Ireland in June 2015. He is currently Chair of the Language & Social Interaction Division of the Southern States Communication Association. He is cross-appointed in the Linguistics Department, where he has been advisor for several thesis projects. He continues to host “Celtic Connections” on WSIU Radio, which has been on the air for over 24 years. He is doing ongoing research toward a book on the classic MGM film director Clarence Brown.

Suzanne Daughton is grateful to be back teaching courses in rhetoric and compassionate communication in the department, after nearly dying in April, 2014. When she experienced cardiac arrest (ventricular fibrillation) at home, her sweetheart Dr. Nathan Stucky utilized his CPR training to keep her alive until paramedics arrived. After spending about half of that month in the hospital, receiving a state-of-the-art pacemaker/defibrillator, and recently celebrating one year of peaceful survival after her ‘heart adventures,’ Suzanne is now doing well physically, mentally and emotionally. She is very grateful to colleagues who stepped in to cover classes and help out with advising in the final weeks of Spring 2014, especially Dr. Molly Cummins, Dr. Sandy Penson-Conway, and Ms. Diana Woodhouse. In Spring 2014, Suzanne published an essay with Nathan Stucky in Text and Performance Quarterly. Last fall, Suzanne presented at NCA, and traveled to Arizona for continuing training in Living Compassion. She is most appreciative of friends, family, colleagues and students for support, love and understanding throughout the ongoing process of healing and recovery.

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook co-directed Lindsay Greer’s Toil and Rubble in the Kleinau Theatre. He has work forthcoming in a variety of anthologies and special issues related to autoethnographies of home, queer community, and trends in performance studies. He continues to work with digital sound and is developing a new solo work on queer futurity. This year concludes his term as the William and Galia Minor Professor of Creative Communication.

Todd Graham was awarded the Quintilian Award for service and dedication in debate by Point Loma Nazarene University. The debate team also had great success this year. SIU is once again the national champion of debate, winning the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) National Championship. The SIU team of Zach Schneider and Josh Rivera are the national champions of debate.

Jonathan Gray was named the Minor Professor of Creative Communication, with his term in this position beginning in July 2015. He presented work at NCA and SSCA this past year. He continues to pursue research and creative projects regarding the use of puppetry in environmental education and advocacy. He will be presenting some of this work at the meeting of the International Association for Environmental Communication this summer. Jonny served as a puppetry workshop facilitator for a second year, working with Carbondale community members to put on the "All Species Parade" on Earth Day. He also continues to co-host the weekly talk show, "Isn’t It Queer," on local community radio station WDBX. The show is also available as a podcast on iTunes and iHeart Radio.

Rachel Alicia Griffin recently published “Problematic Representations of Strategic Whiteness and ‘Post-racial’ Pedagogy: A Critical Intercultural Reading of The Help” in The Journal of International and Intercultural Communication, and “Olivia Pope as Problematic and Paradoxical” in Feminist Theory and Popular Culture. Additionally, Rachel was appointed for a three-year term to the National Communication Association’s Publications Board. She also delivered anti-gender violence and Inclusive Excellence keynotes at conferences and on campuses in the United States and Canada.

Joshua Houston continues to teach courses within the emphases of public relations and organizational communication. The Sports Public Relations course that he built and offers each semester was formally added to the course catalog under CMST 482. The Interviewing course he teaches has partnered with the Career Services Center at SIUC in ways that benefit the students and providing volunteers for Career Fairs held on campus.
Denise McClearay continues to teach courses in the areas of public relations and organizational communication. She is currently finishing her fourth year as the Faculty Advisor for the Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). After a successful year with PRSSA, and its marquee events ("Operation: Sgt. Santa," "BrandU," and "The Adult Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois Purple Gala"), she is looking forward to great things to come in PRSSA. She also serves as the Editor and Faculty Advisor of the Speak Easy.

Sandy Pensoneau-Conway continues her work as the Introductory Course Director for SPCM 101. She presented the SPCM 101 assessment plan at the first annual conference on Assessing Academic and Curricular Impact on Student Learning. Last summer, she became involved with the McNair Scholars Program here on campus as a summer research institute mentor. As the chair of the CoLA Council Teaching and Learning Committee, she was instrumental in establishing a new college-level award: the CoLA Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. She co-authored a book chapter with colleague Dr. Satoshi Toyosaki and Ph.D. alum Dr. Sachiko Aminian-Tankei ("Community Autoethnography: Critical Visceral Way of ‘Doing’ Intercultural Relationships" in the edited book Case Studies in Intercultural Dialogue). She also co-authored an essay with Dr. Toyosaki and Ph.D. alum Dr. C. Kyle Rudick, published in Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies ("Self, Relationship, Positionality, and Politics: A Community Autoethnographic Inquiry into Collaborative Writing"). She presented papers, participated in panel discussions, and responded to work at the National Communication Association and Central States Communication Association annual conferences. She also facilitated a workshop on pedagogical accountability and autoethnography at the Doing Autoethnography conference. She continues teaching courses in communication pedagogy within the department.

Nathan Stucky, Professor and Department Chair. With co-author Suzanne Daughton he published "Revisiting HopKins: Turning and Tossing Rhetoric and Performance" in Text and Performance Quarterly. He hosted the SIU Alumni reception at the National Communication Association conference in Chicago—a great chance to reconnect with successful alumni and introduce them to current and prospective students. At NCA he also presented two papers: "Chautauqua Echoes: Nineteenth-Century Reverberation in Twenty-First Century Performance Praxis," and "Mining Poetry in Everyday Moments: Ron Peilas and the Ethnographic Microscope." At the Tenth International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, Illinois, he presented "Cap Pistols and Rubber Tomahawks: Learning the Ways of Cowboys and Indians." For the faculty performance hour on the Kleinau stage he performed two poems by Cynthia MacDonald: "How to Order a Freak" and "News on the Death of the World’s Biggest Man." He taught the Introduction to Graduate Study course in the Fall Semester, and Performance Ethnography in the Spring. Three of his doctoral advisees defended dissertations in 2014: David Hanley-Tejeda, Joe Hassert, and Molly Wiart Cummins.

Satoshi Toyosaki works with various co-researchers. His collaborative and relational research has appeared in Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies, International Review of Qualitative Research, and Case Studies in Intercultural Dialogue. He continues attending and presenting his scholarship at various conferences. He enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of intercultural communication and communication pedagogy.

Rebecca Walker took over the Foundations of Communication course for undergraduates, taught performance methodologies, and a special topics course on tourism and communication. She also was cross-appointed as faculty for the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program here at SIU. She enjoyed traveling to the Patti Pace Performance Festival in the Spring of 2015 with graduate students, and presenting her own work at the NCA conference in Chicago. Rebecca will serve as program planner for the Performance Studies Division for the SSCA conference in Tampa this April. This summer, she will travel to Portugal to do research on tourism and communication, as well as to present work on communication pedagogy involving tourism at the World Communication Association conference in Lisbon.
Excellence Recognized at Annual Department Awards Ceremony

On May 8th the department recognized the outstanding achievements of our graduate and undergraduate students, as well as our faculty. This year’s winners are as follows:

Back: Mapes, Schweksa, Hummel; Front: Fentress, Pensoneau-Conway, Mulderinck

Elizabeth Lance Public Relations Student Award
Sean Rados

Levina Micken Award for Excellence in Debate
Zach Schneider

Paul Hibbs Award
Jovan Gathings

John T. Scholarship
Carrie Mulderinck

John T. Warren Award for Excellence in Graduate Research/Creative Activity
Meggie Mapes

Graduate Student Service Award
Greg Hummel

Dr. Tom Pace Teaching Awards
Masters—Carlye Schweksa; Ph.D.—Manthy Fentress

Department Outstanding Teacher Award
Sandra Pensoneau-Conway

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


**Speak Easy Advisory Staff**
Editor and Faculty Advisor: Denise McClearey
Professional Advisor: Greg Scott

**CONTACT US:**

**BY MAIL**
Department of Communication Studies
College of Liberal Arts
Communication Building—Mail Code 6605
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
1100 Lincoln Dr.
Carbondale, IL 662901

**ON our WEBSITE**
http://cola.siu.edu/communicationstudies/

**BY EMAIL**
cmstdept@siu.edu