Kudos and Celebrations

New Jobs and Promotions

Please congratulate newly minted Associate Professor Rebecca Walker! This semester marks her first since being officially promoted and awarded tenure.

Sarah Hollingsworth recently began her new position as Teaching Assistant Professor of Speech Communication in the Department of Psychology at Oklahoma State University after receiving her Ph.D. in the spring.

Doctoral candidate Patrick Seick recently began his new post as the Director of Forensics at Eastern Michigan University.

After receiving her Ph.D. last semester, Dr. Allison Brenneise started her new job as a full-time lecturer at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she teaches Introduction to Communication Theory and Public Speaking.

Doctoral candidate Lauran Schaefer is now working as the Director of Debate at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. She was also recently selected to be part of NCA’s anti-harassment task force, which is comprised of ten individuals from across the discipline.

Doctoral candidate Antonio Spikes just started his stint as a Visiting Instructor in the Communication Studies Department at Davidson College. He’s currently teaching Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication.

Recent Publications:


Service and Teaching Here at Home:

Josh Houston successfully built and is now implementing the Saluki Explorers, which is a mentoring group for exploratory students. This group provides students with peer conversations, exploration of a variety of majors, and faculty mentoring.

Congratulations to Lindy Wagner who will serve as SCO president after winning her election in August.

Important Dates*

- 9/8: Grad Student Performance Hour
- 9/12-15: Murphysboro Apple Festival
- 9/15: Men’s Football Home Opener
- 9/16: JC Penny Suit-up Event
- 9/19: SIU Day
- 9/21: Leftovers (performance by guest artist Brianne Waychoff)
- 9/29-9/30: Saluki Comic-Con

*For more information on these and other events, please refer to the “Important Dates” list distributed by Darren Valenta on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.
Service and Teaching Beyond SIU:

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook has officially begun his tenure as editor of *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Craig Engstrom spent some of his summer in Washington, D.C. after he was competitively selected to serve as a certification exam writer/consultant for the Association for Talent Development’s exam.

Look for Todd Graham on the press circuit. He’s made numerous appearances in the wake of the Manafort and Cohen trials including an article on smerconish.com and spots on WSIU’s InFocus and SiriusXM’s POTUS.

In July, Emeritus professor, Elyse Pineau took a group of SIU Honors students to the University of Oxford, England for a month long Study Abroad residency. The course was organized around the Bodleian Library Special Exhibit on Tolkien’s work. In addition to time spent in the Exhibit, Dr. Pineau was given access to do research in the Tolkien archives, where she focused on his early pencil drawings and the letters he exchanged with young readers following publication of The Hobbit.

Undergraduates in the News:

Senior Emily Buice spent ten weeks in Brussels, Belgium as part of an internship with the public affairs department of the U.S. Mission to the European Union (EU). While there, she assisted in planning and executing public events and social media outreach, monitoring media for breaking news and developments, and researching key topics in the transatlantic partnership.

Sophomore Samantha Parsons was named a CSCAA Scholar All-American this summer, capping off a successful season in the pool. In order to achieve this honor, Samantha had to achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and participate in the Swimming and Diving Championships.

Senior Hannah Pineau interned with Edward Jones in Carbondale this summer. As part of her duties, she planned a seminar with the Alzheimer’s Association in Carbondale, met other Financial Advisors in the area, and learned the ins and outs of being a Financial Advisor.

Thank Yous:

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the clean-up of the Marion Kleinau Theatre on August 25th. Everyone’s hard work insured the Kleinau stage is ready for what will surely be another wonderful season of shows.