

SPEAK EASY

A Publication of the Department of Speech Communication — Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Scholarship with an Ethical Edge: Speech Communication Students Researching for Social Justice



Richie Hao, Mimi Hodis, and Anh Huynh presenting their research at NCA 2006.

presenting at conferences, and staging their research. Some of these individuals have received departmental recognition for their work.

Amber Zimmerman received the year's award for **Excellence in Research & Creative Activity**. Hailed as a "transformative intellectual" for her commitment to social justice and civic responsibility, she has been described as "one who interrogates and transforms structural inequities while facilitating ethical and egalitarian ways of being and doing." Amber grounds her work in rhetoric, gender studies, 3rd wave feminism, queer theory, spirituality, and environmental stewardship. She has published and performed her scholarship, including her one-person show, "Queer Feminist Revival." Her community service includes queer youth mentoring and crisis work at the women's center. Newly named "Dr. Z.," Amber completed her Ph.D. program this Spring '07 and has accepted a teaching position in SIUC's Department of Speech Communication for the coming year.



As recognition for their pedagogical finesse, **Jessie Stewart** and **Sam McKelvie** received the distinguished **Thomas J. Pace Award for Teaching Excellence**. **Jessie Stewart**, a Ph.D. student, utilizes the classroom as a space for students to "critique the messages they are receiving and think about how we construct our world and what we can do in our daily choices, from language and practice, to change ourselves and our communities." Her research interests include material rhetoric such as space and place, particularly the design of consumer space and consumable pop culture phenomena. **Sam McKelvie** also walks her talk both in and out of the classroom. Sam states, "During my time at SIUC studying critical intercultural communication, I realized that there was a lot about the world that needed to change. It was time to put theory into praxis and find a job in the social justice realm." She completed her Masters Degree this Spring '07 and has been hired as Assistant Director of the Canvassing Office for Grassroots Campaigns, Inc., in Berkeley, CA.

Doctoral student **Elizabeth Petre** received the **Graduate Service Award**. As SCO president, Elizabeth worked tirelessly through the year, attending GPSC meetings and GAUnited events to keep the graduate community informed on university issues.

Liz remarks, "I wanted graduate students to be aware of what was happening within the department and the university. This communication was something I really tried to emphasize." She also volunteered with the Sheila Simon Mayoral campaign, canvassing, encouraging voter participation, and watching polls. "I think participation in local government is so important because it directly affects my life. I feel more a part of the Carbondale community than I ever have because of the people I met and the volunteering I did." Liz's research centers on gender and communication, rhetoric, and organizational communication.



In addition to serving the local communities, many students have taken their scholarship on the road to performance venues and conferences. **Christopher Collins** is a third year Ph.D. student whose research interests range from performances in and around the prison system to investigations of hemophobia, a fear of blood. In February of '07, Chris directed, wrote, and performed his two person show *Good Eats!* for which he was awarded **Outstanding Artistic Achievement**. With graduate student **David Sharp**, who received the **Newcomer Performance Award**, Chris performed "Good Eats" a second time at the UNI Prison Festival in April. According to Chris, *Good Eats!* was inspired by the work of Amiri Baraka and follows some of the tenants of Revolutionary Theatre. Chris states, "*Good Eats!* emerges out of the final meals of death row inmates with an intent of illustrating the disparities located in the capital punishment system. The show parallels the consumption of meals to the consumption of bodies." Chris remarked that this performance has opened up his research in a variety of ways, particularly in relationship to the performance of food.

While Chris Collins researches food, **Alison Fisher** and **Janet Donoghue** compost it—and not only food, theoretically, but that which contributes to the perpetuation of environmental injustices. This performance duo, known as **The Composters**, keeps audiences laughing while educating them on the connections between sustainable living and respect for living beings. The Composters received the 2007 **Marion Kleinau Award** as they've toured their show to multiple venues across the nation. **Alison** remarks that The Composters project has influenced her research, deepening her affinities with environmental rhetoric and performance studies and leading her to the question, "How does satire help/hurt/inform environmentalism?" For **Janet**, the project has enabled her to bridge environmental rhetoric with performance and gender studies while



Student Research, continued on page six...

Alumni Notes

Remy Billups (B.S., 1986) received her M.S. in Higher Ed in 1992 and is the Director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Saint Xavier University, Chicago.

Anne Bowles (B.S., 1999) is Project Manager at LP&G, Inc., a Marketing, Advertising, Web, and PR Firm in Arizona.

Nanci Burk (M.S., 1996) successfully completed her Ph.D., July 2006, in Human Development from Fielding Graduate University.

John Burk (Ph.D., 1996) is currently serving in the Army in Iraq. His rank is Lt. Colonel.

Carolyn Cope (Ph.D., 2005) received promotion and tenure to Associate Professor and is the Director of Theatre at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia. This summer (2007) she will be directing a production in Greece.

Jason Del Gandio (Ph.D., 2002) is a Lecturer in the Department of Strategic and Organizational Communication at Temple University in New York.

Melissa Gerber (B.S., 2002) has lived in Boston since October 2003 and writes that she "recently received a fantastic opportunity to work at Harvard University in the undergraduate department for English and American Literature." She began teaching there in August 2006.

Marie J. Kilker (Ph.D., 1972) is currently a staff writer/theatre critic for TotalTheater.com out of New York, a major critic for Florida West Coast and France, and a member of the International Committee, American Theatre Critics Association. She published an article on Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Southern Writers Workshop in Critics Annual Review 2006.



Scott Lind (Ph.D., 2002) writes from Osaka, Japan, announcing his new position as Associate Professor at the Center for International Education, Kansai Gaidai University. He sends "Best wishes from Japan! Hope to see everyone next year at NCA."

Khalilah Brown (B.S. '01) and Diallo Brown (M.S. '01; B.S. '00) send their best wishes:

"Greetings Professors, alums and current students. It is with great pleasure that Khalilah and I update you on our navigation through this world since our departure from the beautiful Carbondale area. Ahh, where to begin? We did progress our engagement to marital status. It will be 5 whole years in May. We have two beautiful children, Asha Amore and Khalil Tellii. We are expecting one more in late February to complete the trilogy.

"**Diallo** is currently building a Health Care recruiting business from ground up. If there is anyone who may be in contact with a health care professional who could use a more rewarding position, please refer them on to our website www.healthplus.com. Don't forget to attach Diallo's name along with the professional so that we can be sure to contact them personally. **Khalilah** is in Management with the billion dollar retail company Starbucks. This is a very ironic scenario given that we opened our own coffeehouse and were eventually muscled out by Starbucks. Khalilah is also contemplating a return to the books to study nutrition. We do think another degree in the house is long overdue. We can't help but to think that Suzanne [Daughton] had much to do with it with her decision to provide her family a healthy conscious lifestyle. For that, we thank her above and beyond words.

"Aside from this brief synopsis of our post graduate life, we are highly excited to see the Men's Saluki's basketball team make appearances on ESPN. We are enjoying the days as they come, concentrating on how to communicate more efficiently with all we come into contact with. Remain Prayerful and Be Easy. The Browns."



Ajay Ojah, Ahmet Atay, Lea Robinson, and Elizabeth Whitney at NCA 2006

Deborah Walton McCoy (Ph.D., 1998) has been appointed Administrative Services Director for the City of Carbondale, a capacity that became effective this past September and entails administering the City's Human Resources Program. Deborah has worked for the City of Carbondale since 1999 when she began as the Community Relations Officer. She was promoted Community Relations Manager in 2003. She worked for SIUC as an Administrator in the Illinois Minority Graduate Incentive Program and the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program from 1995 to 1999, and as Assistant Director for Student Development from 1989 to 1995.

Thaddeus Martin (Ph.D., 1991) is a Senior Curriculum Developer for Harland Financial Solutions in Pleasanton, California.

Judith Shute Mullen (B.S., 1980) is a professional artist/painter based in Chicago and represented by Giola Gallery, Chicago. Visit her website at www.judithmullen.com.

Sandy Pensoneau-Conway (Ph.D. '06; M.S., '01) is an Assistant Professor and the Basic Course Director in the Department of Communication at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She was married in June '06 to Chad Pensoneau-Conway.

Dorothy A. (Brown) Peterson (M.A. 1951; B.A. 1948) retired with her husband, Jim, in June 1986. They live in Michigan.

Cathy L. Saunders (B.S., 1987) is working with The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago as a volunteer mentor for teen-age girls with disabilities. She is pursuing her Master's Degree in Community Development at North Park University and is looking for paid employment after being downsized in the year 2000.



Cathy Saunders (pictured far right) at a Valentine's Party with friends.

Marguerite "Sugar" Beninati Smith (M.S., 1960; B.S. 1959) recently retired from Pattonville High School in Maryland Heights, Missouri, where she taught Theatre Arts and Speech Education, was Director of Musicals and Plays, and was awarded Teacher of the Year. Her husband Phillip Smith also retired as Art Director from Ralston Purina. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Tim Stotlar (B.S., 1988) lives in Southern Illinois and works for U.S. Oil as a regional sales manager for Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Sachiko Tankei-Aminian (Ph.D candidate) accepted a teaching position in the Communication and Philosophy Department at Florida Gulf Coast University, where her partner, Farshad, will also teach. Sachiko writes, "We are very excited about our new journey. I have been so lucky to have encountered many great colleagues as well as faculty members throughout the SIUC graduate program. Thank you. I really hope to have many more chances to work with you all in the future."

Michael A. White (B.S., 1978) has worked eighteen years with G.E. Capital/Interpark as a Night Auditor/Foreman. Additionally, he is certified as a substitute teacher with the Chicago Public Schools.

John Warren Joins SIUC Faculty

John Warren (Ph.D., 2001; M.S. 1997) returned to the SIUC Department of Speech Communication as a faculty member in Fall 2006, five years after completing his graduate work here and teaching at Bowling Green from 2001-2006.

Much of his research deals with critical communication pedagogy, a joining of communication research and critical pedagogy. He also studies culture, focusing on the performativity of whiteness, gender/sexuality and the production of identity, especially in pedagogical contexts. Ethnographic methods, autoethnography and narrative have also become increasingly significant in his recent work. He remarks: "I am glad to be back in the 'Dale after five years at Bowling Green State University. I have greatly enjoyed the time away, enjoying the fine faculty and students there, but the return to Carbondale has allowed me to focus my research and teaching toward communication pedagogy. After five years as an assistant professor at BGSU, I join the faculty here as an associate professor of communication pedagogy. Indeed, I have enjoyed the return to a department that is

unified in purpose and in general paradigm, allowing for sustained conversations surrounding communication studies. I am invigorated by the intellectual rigor here, the great graduate student body, as well as the faculty who were here when I was a student and those who have joined since I left. The welcome has been uplifting. I have also enjoyed the return to a beautiful part of the country--the forests, the small communities, and the warm people. I loved Southern Illinois when I did my doctorate here and I am glad to be back home. Actually, my mother's family was from Southern Illinois (the Jonesboro area), so in many ways this is a homecoming that is both professional and familial. My partner, Gina, and I will enjoy raising our son Elias here with such a fine community of friends and colleagues."



Greetings from the Department Chair



presentations, and taught well over 2000 students. Perhaps even more impressive than these numbers is the high quality

The truism that 'the only constant is change' seems to apply to Speech Communication at SIUC. Over the years we see new faces among students and faculty while the sense of community and commitment to scholarship and learning remains. In 2006 alone, our faculty and students published 32 journal articles and book chapters, created 92 performances, gave 158 conference papers and

of the work itself, the significance of the educational experience, and the impact on students' lives and on the community-at-large. Our world needs reasoned discourse now more than ever. Our students and faculty work in a real world with real issues. Clear, thoughtful, and sensitive communication is vital if we humans are going to negotiate an array of pitfalls from demagoguery and ignorance to deception and slick fraud that surrounds us in our daily lives. I'm proud of the accomplishments of this department. Our ongoing work depends on the strong support of our alumni and friends in helping us continue our tradition of excellence. For that support I am most grateful.

--Nathan Stucky, Chair

Speakers Forum: Students Speak Out

Celebrating the satisfactions of public discourse, hundreds of students this fall and spring gathered for the eighth and ninth Student Speakers Forum topics: students' engagement with the political process and opinions on the Iraq situation. **Jonny Gray** and **Ahmet Atay** ensured a successful year with committee members **Shana Bridges, Jay Brower, Andrew Kirk, Susannah LeBaron, Shauna MacDonald, Sam McKelvie, Charlie Parrott, Liz Petre, Jim Petre, and Jessie Stewart**. In response to the fall Speakers Forum, **Nathan Stucky** said, "You made me proud of the graduate students in the Department of Speech Communication for the way you offer this program for the Society for Civil Discourse. Our sponsor and benefactor, **Barbara Jane Schwartz**, was impressed with the quality of the presentations; she especially seemed to enjoy speaking with some of the students afterwards--students who were articulate and enthused by the opportunities this program offers... The Law School Auditorium was nearly full--adding another 300 or so to the thousands of students who have participated or attended these events since the first one in the Spring of 2003. Students told me that they were amazed that an opportunity existed on campus that would allow their voices to be heard--they were challenged and thrilled to speak out in a public forum."

Erin Briddick Receives R. Paul Hibbs Memorial Scholarship Award

Erin Briddick was the 2006-2007 recipient of the department's highest undergraduate award, the **R. Paul Hibbs Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship fund was started in 1977 with the intention to create an annual award to recognize top students in Speech Communication who reflect the same passion that Hibbs had for speech, performance, and the beauty of the spoken word. Erin Briddick is a creative writer and performance artist who is deeply attuned to the aesthetic details of communication, and she embodies the passion, vision, and care Hibbs conveyed during his career as a scholar, coach, mentor and artist. Erin has been accepted into the SIUC Masters program in Speech Communication and will begin her coursework this fall 2007.

The Marion Kleinau Theatre 2006-2007 Performance Season

When Dr. Marion Kleinau founded The Calipre Stage in 1966 could she have known it would be renamed in her honor, thirty years later in 1996? And ten years from there, in fall 2006, might she have *known* the stage's capacity to hold the motherload, a trail mix of porn and prayer, a cataclysm, a medicine show, the prison system, and a queer feminist revival? It's possibly so—and perhaps it was her impetus for "staging" her vision from the get-go. And so, this 2006-2007 Marion Kleinau Theatre performance season continued a legacy of envisioning the future by creating new worlds on stage. The season opened with its traditional showcase, an *Evening of Graduate Student Performances*. Next, visiting artist **Elizabeth Bell** presented *Esperando al Puerto: Waiting at the Door of Kinship, Gender, and Performance*. In a double bill of solo-performances, **Janet Donoghue** wrote, directed, and performed *Mother Load*, deconstructing what it means to 'have it all,' **Amber Zimmerman** wrote and performed, with **Diana Tigerlily** directing, *Queer Feminist Revival: The Almost Musical*, a serious comedy questioning "the reign of patriarchal, colonialist, hegemonic, classist, racist, sexist, heterosexist, and fascist demagogues." **Lauren Lamb** and **Nichole Nicholson** staged *Crippling Language: Disabling the Body*, an ensemble production bringing awareness to the ways we talk about dis/ability. **David Hanley-Tejeda** wrote, directed and performed *The Pornographic I*, a solo-show utilizing media and personal narrative to display the overlaps of porn, art, and scholarship. The solo-performance, *Trail Mix: A Sojourn on the Muddy Divide Between Nature and Culture*, written and performed by **Jonny Gray** with direction by **Alison Fisher**, was a hike into liminal space to interrogate multiple possibilities for coexistence. The spring semester opened with *If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again: An Ethnography of African-American Motherhood* performed by visiting artist **Evette Hornsby-Minor**. Next, an *Evening of Faculty Performances* hooked the audience with a diverse narrative landscape. Then, in a double bill **Antoinette L. McDonald** wrote, directed, and performed *Hold My Tongue: The Sisterly Enfleshment of My Black Femininity*, a storytelling journey into Afrocentric feminist identity; **Chris Collins** wrote, directed, and performed *Good Eats!*, a critical look at the inequalities of the prison industrial complex and capital punishment system. **Travis Brisini** and **Charles Parrott** wrote and directed *Doctor Weathervaine's [Adjective] [Adjective] Olde Timey Medicine Show (and Revue)*, an ensemble production offering up a potion "to cure the ailments that lurk...in postmodern life." Finally, the season culminated with a *Cataclysm!: A Post-Medium Revision of Witkiewicz's The Water Hen*, a revisionary staging by **Jake Simmons** that was recognized as the year's **Outstanding Achievement in Technical Design**.

Debate Team Ranks Ninth in Nation, Hosts Irish National Champions

Keeping with tradition, the Southern Illinois University Carbondale debate team completed their season as one of the top debate teams in the country. SIUC's team competed in the National Parliamentary Debate Association, the largest debating organization in the nation. This year's national championship tournament consisted of 240 debate teams from nearly 100 universities. SIUC debaters **Kyle Dennis**, a junior in economics, and **Justin Hingtgen**, a senior in business, finished the three-day tournament as the ninth best debate team in the nation. "Kyle and Justin finished as one of the top 10 debate teams in the country," said SIUC's director of debate, **Todd Graham**. "It was a great way to end the season. They had been debating at such a high level all year, winning a major tournament and never finishing outside of the top 20 in any tournament." Another highlight of the year for the debate team was its exhibition against the Irish National Championship Team in April. The Irish selected only five universities among the many requests for their tour of the United States, and SIUC was honored to be one of these five hosts.

Faculty News

Mary Hinchcliff-Pelias spent the past summer in Paris, working as a Visiting Associate Professor in the International Communications Department at the American University of Paris. During the fall semester, she presented a paper and chaired a program focused on Intercultural Pedagogy, and served as a respondent to a program on Intercultural Communication issues at the National Communication Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas. She retired from SIUC at the conclusion of summer, 2007. A University Distinguished Teacher, Mary began her work in the Department of Speech Communication in 1980. She was centrally important in establishing the Communication Pedagogy and the Intercultural Communication areas in the



Mary Hinchcliff-Pelias in conversation with student Richie Hao. A University Distinguished Teacher, Mary is retiring after twenty-seven years at SIUC.

department. Her research includes over 60 published articles, conference papers, and book chapters. She directed 16 masters students and 20 doctoral dissertations and served on over 60 other graduate committees. Mary has a high reputation as a wonderful teacher and mentor. She won the department outstanding teaching award four times, the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher award twice, and in 1999 was named Outstanding Teacher of the University.

Nilanjana Bardhan published an article in the *Journal of Creative Communication*, has one book chapter and one encyclopedia entry in press, and her previous publication from the *Journal of Health Communication* was reprinted in the 2006 anthology *The Impact of HIV/AIDS on criminology and criminal justice*. She also presented at NCA in San Antonio, and continues to serve on the executive board of the organization's public relations division.



Bryan Crow serenades his colleagues

Bryan Crow recently received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to help fund an additional day of this year's Southern Illinois Irish Festival. As a Humanities Council Road Scholar, he has done presentations this year in Quincy, Odell, Harvard IL, Taylorsville, and Fairview Heights. He presented a paper at the Central States Communication Association convention, and attended a conference of the Illinois Arts Alliance at the Univ. of Illinois. He serves as faculty advisor for the department's NCA Student Club.

This past year, **Suzanne Daughton** published a book chapter on Franklin Roosevelt's Fireside Chats and organized a daylong preconference for the Western States Communication Association entitled "Reframing Our Research for Social Change." She attended training workshops in Nonviolent Communication (NVC), and taught a new class in Compassionate Communication this spring. In conjunction with that class, Dr. Daughton organized a series of NVC events in Carbondale for members of the university and local communities.

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook's script for "Cups" appeared, along with a brief process statement, in *Liminalities*, an online journal of performance studies for which he is also editing a special issue devoted to Paradigms of Performance. He has also continued to work with computer audio, designing sound collaboratively for the shows of colleagues at SIUC and other universities.

Todd Graham and the Saluki Debate team had a successful year in parliamentary debate this year. The team had substantial success landing invitations to two selective tournaments, and had many high finishes at prestigious tournaments, which included third place at the University of Denver.



Department members celebrate the end-of-semester.

Jonathan M. Gray returned for a full year of teaching and service after being on sabbatical for the Spring and Summer of 2006. For part of his sabbatical, he attended "Writing in the Wild Tense," a writers' workshop held in McCarthy Alaska by nature writer, Robert Michael Pyle. He performed his one man show, "Trail Mix" as part of the Kleinau season in the fall. This past year, he attended and presented papers at the NCA Conference, the CSCA Conference, Sedimentations: An Art/Culture/Nature Conference, and the Conference on Communication and the Environment. He served on the Dean Search Committee for the university and has been elected Vice Chair of the Environmental Communication Division of NCA. He continues to serve as Core Curriculum Director for the department.

Josh Houston continues to offer courses in public relations and sport communication and also works in a support role with the PRSSA chapter. He is also studying and using new techniques for on-line delivery of course materials.

Kim Kline accepted a position as Associate Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio beginning Fall '07. This summer she acted as an expert consultant with the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX on a project with Dr. Maria Jibaja-Weiss, Department of Family and Community Medicine, to help develop appropriate health messages in an interactive telenovela addressing diabetes prevention and management for Hispanic populations. She has two forthcoming publications: "Cultural Sensitivity and Health Promotion: Assessing Births in prime-time television: Crazyness, controlling bitches, and ultimate capitulation" in *Women & Language*. Her co-authored chapter (with Dr. Heather Zoller, University of Cincinnati), "Theoretical Contributions of Interpretive and Critical Research in Health Communication," has been accepted for publication in *Communication Yearbook 32*.

Lenore Langsdorf published "The Primacy of Listening," in *Expanding Phenomenology*, ed. Evan Selinger (SUNY Press, 2006) and "Arguing for Analogy: On Recognition vs. Invention in the New SAT," in *Selected Papers from the Fourteenth NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation*, ed. Patricia Riley. (NCA, 2006). She presented "Inventing a Space in the Social Imaginary of Research" at the FEMMSS (Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies) conference (Arizona State University, February 2007), "Scent, Smell, and Sense: A Phenomenological-Cultural Inquiry," at the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences annual meeting in October, and "Changing Our Minds: On Analogical Arguments and Concept Formation," at the Sixth ISSA (International Society of the Study of Argumentation) conference in June. She contributed three responses to panel sessions at NCA in San Antonio: "Cultivating an Existential Subjectivity," "Empathetic Phenomenology in Communication Research," and "Thinking About Subjects Reading About Subjects." Also at NCA, she presented a position paper, "On Gifts and Reciprocity," in the *The Life-Giving Gift of Acknowledgment* session and contributed "Phenomenology as a Site for Connection and Action" to the Top Scholars on Communication Ethics Across the Discipline session.



John Warren, Lenore Langsdorf, and Craig Engstrom at NCA 2006

Faculty News continued on page 6...

Visiting Artists Share Creative Expertise

The SIUC Department of Speech Communication was privileged to have three Visiting Guest Artists-in-Residence this past fall, spring, and summer semester. Elizabeth Bell spent a week in September offering individual mentoring and presenting a lecture entitled *Esperando al Puerto: Waiting at the Door of Kinship, Gender, and Performance*. In January, Evette Hornsby-Minor offered a workshop in embodied poetry and performed a one-person show utilizing storytelling and dance: *If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again: An Ethnography of African-*

American Motherhood. During the month of July, performance artist Stephanie Violet Juno presented a series of 25 events comprised of weekly performances, workshops, and lectures emphasizing creative process and focused inquiry. The series, entitled *Campo Truth Charmer: An Interdisciplinary Performance Expedition with Violet Juno*, was referred to as "an opportunity for artists of all mediums to explore new territory in the realm of performance through an ongoing, community-based interactive investigation."

Speech Communication Organization Demonstrates Service and Leadership



The Speech Communication Organization (SCO) had a productive 2006-2007 school year under the leadership of President **Elizabeth Petre**, Vice-President **Charles Parrott**, Treasurer **Sabrina Worsham**, Secretary **Samantha McKelvie**, Librarian

Emily Kelly-Padden and Social Director **Andrew Kirk**. SCO provides space for graduate students to express their views within the department and to develop stronger relationships among students and faculty. President **Liz Petre** stated, "SCO provides graduate students a wonderful way to stay connected to important departmental and campus issues. I really value the opportunities SCO offers for community and fun." This year, SCO members served on multiple departmental and university committees, including the newly-established graduate student union, GAUnited. SCO also assisted in one faculty hire, participated in the annual SIUC Arts Education Festival, co-sponsored the end-of-the-year departmental picnic with the National Communication Association Student Club, and had a successful fundraising year. Finally, recognizing the importance of leisure, SCO hosted weekly social gatherings, as well as the Tenth Annual Keggs and Eggs celebration.

National Communication Association Student Club Bridges Academic Majors

The National Communication Association Student Club (NCASC) is a student-run organization for speech communication majors as well as other academic majors across campus who have an interest in developing and applying the principles of communication. The NCA student clubs were first chartered on college campuses in 1995.

SIUC is one of only approximately twenty universities nationwide to have an active chapter of NCASC. The mission statement of NCASC is "to encourage discussion between students, faculty, and professionals

Alison Fisher and Mike Garvin perform storytelling with grade-schoolers at the SIUC Arts Education Festival



Public Relations Students Create Connections

The Raymond D. Wiley Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America had another model year under the executive committee leadership of President **Savannah Short**, Vice President **Julie Theefs**, Vice President of Operations **John Baird**, PR Director **Kellee Monahan**, Treasurer **Jenna Helm**, Secretary **Ken Newcomer**, Faculty Advisor **Kim Kline**, Co-Advisor **Josh Houston**, Professional Advisor **Gregg Scott**, and Graduate Advisor **Jim Petre**. PRSSA is a pre-professional student organization that serves as the formal link between PRSSA members and the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Pyramid, a component of the PRSSA chapter, is a student-run public relations agency that provides focused and high quality PR service to clients in the community and on campus. This year PRSSA won the bid for regional activity and hosted *Health Public Relations*, drawing area speakers including former mayor of Benton and a PR professional from the SIUC School of Medicine. PRSSA also entered this year's Bateman National Case Study competition with the goal of raising awareness of family caregivers by hosting a Resource and Appreciation Fair. Additionally, besides forging new relationships with local organizations, PRSSA participated in many community service events including The Bowl for Kid's Sake, Beautify Southern Illinois, Adopt-a-Spot, Partners in Reading program, and Relay for Life.

Students (from left, clockwise) Andi Wallace, Travis Brisini, Charles Parrott, Bennett Whitaker, Mike Garvin, and Rob Carlsen enjoying the end of year picnic at Evergreen Park, organized by student organizations NCASC and SCO



outside the university interested in the criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication." One of the many highlights for NCASC members this year was attending the National Communication Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, where they attended panels and networked with professors and graduate students. In addition to conferencing, NCASC hosted and attended social, community, and fundraising events to encourage interaction between students across campus and within the community, as well as between students and faculty in accordance with NCA goals for NCASC chapters across the country. Among these events were NCASC's partnership with PRSSA to participate in Carbondale's Relay For Life. NCASC collaborated with the graduate Speech Communication Organization to host the annual, end-of-year-picnic held at Evergreen Park for students and faculty in the department. This year's Executive Board was comprised of President **Tracy Golden**, Vice-President **Jessica Levin**, Treasurer **Danielle Grurg**, Secretary **Krishna Pattispapu**, Graduate Advisor **Liz Petre**, and Faculty Advisor **Bryan Crow**.

... *Student Research, cont'd from page one...*

recognizing the richness of creative collaboration. Janet reflects, "I feel really blessed that I get to work on something so intensely that bridges all of my research interests...activism, humor, environmentalism and feminism." This summer **The Composters** performed at the Conference for Communication and the Environment with their newest script *Decomponomics* and have promising performance opportunities for the coming year. In other touring news, undergraduates **Lauren Lamb** and **Nichole Nicholson** performed their show, "Crippling Language: Disabling the Body" at the 25th annual Conference on Disability Studies in Seattle May 31- June 2. The show challenges the notions of a 'normal' body and the outcomes of a body becoming 'abnormal,' exploring what happens when the language we use to talk about disabilities becomes disabling. Nichole is studying intercultural communication and performance studies and Lauren is studying public relations and interpersonal communication. Lauren has cerebral palsy and says she hopes this production will challenge viewers to consider their perspectives in life and the language they choose to use. **Andrea Wallace** received the **Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Achievement Award**, performed an original piece at the Petit Jean Festival, and attended the Central States Convention, her first communication conference, where she performed *The Good Life*, an original script compiled with cast members from Nathan Stucky's Conversational Performance class. Next, she will be staging a Kleinau solo-performance of first-person narratives of interviewed women with eating disorders. **Mike Garvin**, who also performed in *The Good Life*, was awarded the **Tekla Story Award**, the highest performance award for undergraduates. Garvin contributed in the performance, direction, and adaptation of many Kleinau productions during his undergraduate career.



Nicole Defenbaugh, Amber Zimmerman, and Diana Tigerlily at San Francisco's Brava Theatre where they performed their scholarship. Nicole and Amber each completed their Ph.D.'s this past Spring, 2007.

... *Faculty News, cont'd from page four*

During May to July 2007, **Richard L. Lanigan** was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Brock University in St. Catharines, Canada. As a designated Senior Fulbright Program Specialist with the U.S. Dept. of State, he taught and conducted workshops on intercultural communication and curriculum development for the integration of Asian students into graduate programs at Brock University. In 1996, Prof. Lanigan was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Sichuan University in P. R. China. He gave lectures at seven different universities in the PRC.

Aside from presenting conference papers at national/international venues and receiving a 'top paper' award at the 2006 Southern States Communication Association Conference, **Cheryl L. Nicholas** published an article in "Communication Quarterly" and a book chapter in "Interacting and Organizing: Analyses of a Board Meeting." She is also thrilled to be nominated for the Central States Communication Association "Outstanding New Teacher" award.

Ronald J. Pelias was privileged to have five essays written by Alice A. Filmer, Carolyn Ellis, Denise A. Menchaca, Lesa Lockford, and Norman Denzin honoring his work in *Studies in Symbolic Interaction* 38 (2007). He is currently working with Tracy Shaffer on a revision of his textbook, *Performance Studies: The Interpretation of Aesthetic Texts*, which should be available for fall 2007.

Elyse Pineau continued her work in autoperformance and familial biography with the digital publication of her solo show, "Shadowboxing: Myths & Miniatures of Home" in the Nov 2006 issue of *Liminalities*. The performance video & script is accompanied by an essay, "Homesteading: At Play in the House of Wood & Wonder." In February, Elyse was a featured guest artist at Columbia College, MO. Her current project, "Navel-Gazing: A Methodological Play" has been accepted for presentation at the International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Robyn V. Remke taught undergraduate and graduate courses in organizational communication. In addition, she developed and revised the undergraduate curriculum in organizational communication, which in-

cluded the addition of the course "Introduction to Organizational Communication" and the special topics course "Critical Approaches to Organizational Communication." She presented competitive papers at OSCLG, NCA, WSCA, CSCA, and ICA. The members of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender recently elected her to a two-year position on the executive board. She resigned her position at SIUC to accept the position of assistant professor in the Department of Intercultural Communication and Management at the Copenhagen Business School.

Nathan Stucky, Department Chair, published "Fieldwork in the Performance Studies Classroom: Learning Objectives and the Activist Curriculum," in the *Handbook of Performance Studies* (Sage, 2006). He also directed *The Good Life*, a production that involved the cast conducting oral history interviews, and staged using conversational performance techniques; the show was presented in Carbondale as well as at the Central States Communication Association conference in Minneapolis.

John T. Warren is the new editor of Performance and Pedagogy, a reoccurring section of *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, a peer-reviewed online journal found at Liminalities.net. His recent publications include the book *Critical Communication Pedagogy*, a co-authored book with Deanna L. Fassett published by SAGE publications. His edited symposium on performance ethnography was featured *Text and Performance Quarterly* last October. He is currently working on several new projects, including a new book on difference, pedagogy, and performativity. He was also a featured guest at the 2006 Northern Plains Performance Festival at St. Cloud State University.

Naida Zukic is actively involved in doing research and teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in the area of intercultural communication. She continues to explore dynamics of intercultural communication by focusing on how cyber discourses both reinforce and critique relationships of domination. Her manuscript "Sehokia's Voices: Realigning the Zone of the Speakable in Cyberspace," will appear in an edited collection *Webbing Cyberfeminist Practice: Communities, Pedagogies, and Social Action*. She presented a talk on her research as a part of the Women's History Month Series of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and performed "The Vagina Monologues" as part of the VDay Festival that raises money for the Women's Center of Carbondale.

Transitions...

Hal J. Choisser, Sr., (B.S., 1956)
died October 8, 2005

Dr. Richard (Dick) E. Heun (Ph.D., 1969; M.S., 1966)
died July 22, 2006

Dr. Heun's sister, Nancy Mac, writes:
"I am so sad to say,
my brother Dick Heun, passed away July 22, 2006,
of heat exhaustion/heart failure.
He was an intelligent and such a kind giving person.
At his Celebration of Life service,
many people spoke, many tears were shed,
for he touched many people.
He will be sorely missed."

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Speak Easy 2007

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Faculty Advisor: Nathan Stucky

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter

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