

# SPEAK EASY

*A Publication of the Department of Speech Communication - Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

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## Debate Team Wins National Championship

Our debaters had a record-setting year, capping it off by winning the National Championship of Parliamentary Debate. The SIU debate team of **Kevin Calderwood** and **Kyle Dennis** won the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) National Championship Tournament held at the University of Puget Sound.

Before winning the NPTE, SIU was the first team in history to win both the Point Loma Nazarene University Round Robin tournament (hosting only the top 20 debate teams in the country) and the Sunset Cliffs Classic held at Point Loma Nazarene University (an open invitational tournament with one hundred debate teams). These are considered to be the two most prestigious tournaments in the nation outside of the national championship.

With almost 500 individual debaters competing at the season ending National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) National tournament, **Kevin Calderwood** from SIU outshined them all. Calderwood was named the best debater in the country by debate coaches and judges nationwide, while his partner **Kyle Dennis** was named the third best individual debater.

The team of **Adam Testerman** and **Katie Thomas** finished the NPDA tournament of almost 250 teams as the fifth best debate team in the country. Put this award with the national championship by Calderwood and Dennis, and this means SIU had two teams in the top five at the end of the year.

It was one of the best years in the long history of the SIU debate team. The Salukis can now say that they have two of the top five debate teams in the country, one of which was the national champion, and can also boast the single best individual debater, voted on by debate coaches from coast to coast.



Back Row: Benjamin Haas, Katie Thomas, Todd Graham, Adam Testerman, Brian Nocross: Front Row: Kyle Dennis, Kevin Calderwood

## Speech Communication Student COLA Valedictorian

**Krystal Stein**, a public relations student, was the College of Liberal Arts' graduating valedictorian. As a passionate student who dedicated her time to curricular and departmental activities, there was no doubt she would graduate summa cum laude. More impressive, however, is the fact that she achieved her academic honors while meeting the rigorous demands for her time as a four-year starter on the SIUC softball team. She excelled in both of these areas of her student life; catching, as a result, some very impressive awards and honors.



Valedictorian, Krystal Stein

On the softball field she competed with her team in three NCAA Regional Championships, and helped her team win the 2005 Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Championship. She was twice selected to both the MVC Allconference Team and All-Great Lakes Region Team. Because of her academic success, Stein was named a 1st team All-MVC Scholar-Athlete three years in a row. She was also twice chosen as the CoSIDA/ESPN Academic All-American, becoming only the 6th Saluki in school history to be named to the Academic All-American team two times.

Off the field, Stein accumulated even more praise. In the spring of 2007, she was selected as the SIUC representative to attend the NCAA

**"Valedictorian," continued on page 2**

## The Composters Continue to Talk Trash

In last year's Speak Easy we reported that **Alison Fisher** and **Janet Donoghue**, aka "The Composters," were the recipients of the 2007 Marion Kleinaw Award because they had performed across the country.

This past year has been a continued adventure for The Composters. It was just last summer that their whirlwind of performances encompassed a punk bar in St. Louis and a major environmental communication conference in Chicago (COCE). They also added to their "pile" by becoming radio hosts for Take a Look at What Mother Nature's Wearing on WDBX FM 91.1, Carbondale's community radio station. Every Monday from 10am - 12pm they dish the dirt on local and global environmental news, mixed in with great music vibes. The show can be accessed via live web-stream at <http://www.wdbx.org>.

The fall semester included being invited performers at Winona State University and discovering they would be the featured activists in nationally circulated Bitch magazine (the magazine with the proud tagline: "A feminist response to pop culture"). The magazine hit bookshelves in March, and prompted several people to contact them suggesting they write a book. After a series of e-mail exchanges and long conference calls they are now proudly contractually bound to Epstein Literary. They describe literary agent Kate Epstein as a powerhouse, do-it-yourself, feminist mother who they believe has the patience to hold their hands through the seemingly foreign process called writing a book for popular press. Besides, they joke, it's always been their dream to write a book...and their dissertations at the same time! What is in this compost stuff?

**"Trash Talk," continued on page 6**

## PR Students Developing a National Image

Pyramid Public Relations, PRSSA's student-run firm, gained national attention this summer. The agency has applied to be nationally affiliated with the Public Relations Student Society of America, a prestigious status currently held by only eight firms in the country.



Back Row: Eric Welsh, Kelse Schmid, Jim Braibish  
Front Row: Hillary Popejoy, Ashley Gammon

Over the past year, Pyramid has undergone a rebuilding of its infrastructure and operating philosophy in an effort to reinvent itself and become a top-notch agency, thus deeming it worthy of the recognition. Its employment doubled as it took on an expanded and more reputable client base. It also expanded its services to include development, branding, and media planning.

Director/Vice President of Operations Eric Welch said his focus was on pushing Pyramid to do and be something more. "I wanted it to be more than a student organization - I envisioned it as becoming an established business in Southern Illinois known for high quality work and a high level of professionalism, and that's what we have tried to do."

While Welch and many of the student employees recently graduated, newly elected director Kelse Schmid plans to build on Pyramid's new foundation as she develops relationships with new clients as well as PR agencies in the St. Louis area. "I think that Pyramid is now in a position to just keep moving up. I really think it can really become something great," she says with enthusiasm.

### "Valedictorian," continued...

Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, where only one athlete from each university across the nation attends. In the fall of 2007, she was chosen as the SIUC representative for the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate ceremony. In addition to being selected as the SIUC representative, Stein was chosen as the one student-laureate who spoke on behalf of the 2007 class. It should not come as a surprise that she is one of SIU's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. Stein received the R. Paul Hibbs Award, which is given to a graduating Speech Communication major for outstanding scholarship and participation in speech communication activities.

So what's next? Stein will be starting her Master's Program in Sport Management at SIUC in summer 2008. Even with all Stein has accomplished, she says her biggest accomplishment is having met so many wonderful people at SIUC, especially in the Speech Communication Department.

The feeling is mutual. As Josh Houston, Speech communication lecturer and Public Relations Student Society of America coadvisor, notes, "On the softball field and in the classroom, Krystal goes full speed ahead in pursuit of her goals. Thanks to her intelligence, maximum effort and high standards, she is certain to add to the impressive record of achievement she has compiled thus far. She will be dearly missed around the department."



Sandra Calderon (left) and Jesse Stewart (right) take academic life seriously.

## Graduate Student Awards and Productivity

Outstanding Scholar:	<b>Jake Simmons</b>
Outstanding Service:	<b>Shauna MacDonald</b>
Tom Pace Outstanding Teacher (Masters):	<b>Shana Bridges</b>
Tom Pace Outstanding Teacher (Doctoral):	<b>Sabrina Worsham</b>

### 2007 Graduate Student Research & Productivity

International Presentations.....	6
National Presentations.....	33
Regional Presentations.....	50
Invited Performances.....	5
National Honors and Awards.....	5
Book Chapters.....	2
Journal Articles.....	11
Performance Productions.....	39
Grants.....	\$8,881

## New Endowment to Help Speech Communication Students

**Tom Pace** recently established an endowment with the SIUC Foundation to honor his daughter, the late **Patricia Pace**. The Memorial Fund will help provide funding for SIUC faculty and students to participate in the Patricia Pace Performance Festival. Patti was a professor at Georgia Southern University and organized the first performance festival in 2000 before passing away at age 48. Her colleagues in Performance Studies, most of them graduates of this department, named the festival for Patti as a tribute to her dedication and love for performance. Since 2000, the festival has been sponsored by various universities including Georgia Southern and Louisiana State University. SIUC is to host the festival this year, and it will alternate among LSU, GSU and SIUC in years to come.

Patti received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies from this department in 1986 and went on to teach at both LSU and GSU. She attended Southern Illinois University High School until it was dissolved and then graduated from Carbondale Community High School. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Sonoma State University in California and studied at Northwestern graduate school before coming to SIUC.

Tom Pace, who taught at SIUC from 1965-1994 and served as Director of Graduate Studies for 20 years, said, "This department, its graduate program, its students and graduates have been and are a vital part of my ongoing life and quest for knowledge. I have always wanted to do something to perpetuate the department's mission of teaching our graduate students to go out and be knowledgeable scholars and teachers. I chose this endowment to help fulfill my dream for teaching our students and to help fulfill Patti's dream of getting scholars, teachers and students together to learn from each other. I always wanted this department's performance program to participate in this festival and now I believe it will be able to do so. This department was important to Patti from the time she attended high school workshops with **Marion Kleinau**, to the graduate students and faculty she met during my tenure as professor and the contacts she made while doing graduate work with professors and fellow students." Tom goes on to say "my contribution is just a beginning! Anyone wishing to help with the endowment is certainly encouraged."

### Alumni and Friends...

If you would like to make a difference for the students in our department, visit our website: [www.siu.edu/department/cola/spcm](http://www.siu.edu/department/cola/spcm) and click on "Alumni News"

**You may wish to contact the SIUC Foundation**

Phone: 618.453.4900 | website: [www.siu.edu](http://www.siu.edu)

- The Speech Communication Activities Fund supports all the department programs.

# Alumni Updates & News

## Our Amazing Alumni

Whether an alumnus graduated in 1957 or 2007, one thing remains the same: they make our department look good. Our alumni are engaged in a variety of activities from running triathlons (**Tim Collins**) to buying their first home (**Denise Kaye**). They are engaged in a variety of industries ranging from small business ownership, political consulting, and freelance writing, to faculty members, founders of charities, and public relations specialists. Part of maintaining a department's positive image is the type of work that its graduates continue to do. What the biographical updates below attest to is the hard work and dedication of a group of people who make a difference in our world. This year we congratulate **Dorothy (Beck) Webb** with her retirement from Purdue University. But as her update, as well as the update from **Charles H. Bertram** show, even in retirement our alumni continue to work hard and publish. Additionally, the updates reveal just what sort of leverage a degree in speech communication can give a person. Good luck to all of you!

**Julia Pachoud Bennett** (Ph.D. '94) is still a faculty at Augustana College teaching performance curriculum in the Theatre Department. She is entering her 18th year of teaching and looking forward to a 2008-2009 sabbatical. She plans to develop and tour "Metta/stasis" - a one-woman show. In addition, she is focusing her research on improvisation and the liberal arts along with leading a study abroad program to Japan.

**Charles H. Bertram** (B.S. '65) retired in 2001 and is currently living in Florida where he dedicates his time to writing. He wrote the book "Chipped Beef on Toast, S.O.S." and his fourth book "Rusty Son of Tall Elk" was published in January, 2008.

**Jnan Blau** (M.S. '02, Ph.D. '07) and his family will be moving to San Luis Obispo, California, where he has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at California Polytechnic State University. He had two great years at Michigan Tech, but he will be thrilled to be able to be closer to family and friends on the West Coast.

**Katie Bollman** (B.S. '07) is now working as a Research Assistant for Millward Brown, a global marketing research company, in her hometown of Naperville, Illinois.

**Susan (Kiesel) Brydon** (Ph.D. '08) is now a freelance writer in St. Louis working on two books. She also owns her own transcription and editing business called Social Science Scribes.

**John Burk** (M.S. '92, Ph.D. '96) returned from his deployment to Iraq safely. In January, he was appointed Associate Director of the Partnership for Community Development, College of Human Services at Arizona State University.

**Sandra Chevalier** (B.S. '92) is key account manager for Pepsi Bottling Group in the Tennessee Market Unit. She is married with two sons Jeffrey and Jack Michael and two stepdaughters Alexis and Caroline.

**Tim Collins** (B.S. '01) lives in Fort Worth, TX where he is a Regional Sales Manager for LINAK US, Inc. In his spare time he does triathlons and is a triathlon coach for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training.

**Paul Cummins** (B.S. '95, M.S. '00) is currently in his eighth year as Director of Forensics at Southeastern Illinois College. The college's forensics team just celebrated its 20th consecutive year placing in the top five at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament.

**Donald Davenport** (B.S. '72) is a National Associate Director of Congressional Development for the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling from Bethany Theological Seminary. He is publishing a new book that is due to appear in 2008 entitled "7 Healthy Stages in Male and Female Relationships." He is also the director of HarvestLife Ministries, which is a marriage and family counseling ministry.



Tim Collins

**Michael Elkins** (Ph.D. '97) is a faculty at Indiana State University as of August 1, 2007. He received the Texas Speech Communication Association 2007-2008 University Educator of the Year Award in San Antonio. Michael wishes everyone at SIU "Go Salukis."

**Jason Del Gandio** (M.S. '99, Ph.D. '02) is currently a Lecturer at Temple University in the Department of Strategic and Organizational Communication. He recently collaborated on an experimental film with SIU alumnus, Jason Hedrick, exploring the precocity of the creative life. His first book will be coming out this fall: Rhetoric for Radicals: A Handbook for Twenty-First Century Activists.

**Bram Duffee** (B.S. '00, MS '02) recently took a position as a director of admissions with American InterContinental University in Houston, TX.

**Jim Ferris** (Ph.D. '94), after thirteen years in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, has been appointed the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies at the University of Toledo, where he will also be associate professor of communication.

**Lindsay Garrison** (B.S. '08) accepted a position as a Membership Supervisor with YMCA in St. Louis.

**Jodi Golden** (B.S. '01), after completing her bachelors, finished a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) from SIU in 2005. She is currently living in Indianapolis and works for the Indiana State Treasurer as the Executive Director of the Indiana Education Savings Authority, which oversees the CollegeChoice 529 Investment Plan. The CollegeChoice 529 Plan is a tax-advantaged college savings plan. She recently became a member of the M.P.A. Advisory Board as well.

**Eric Haley** (B.S. '03) relocated to Florida where he landed a position with CrossTec Corporation, an enterprise IT software company based out of Boca Raton, FL, as their Public Relations Coordinator for two years. From there, he moved to Palm Beach Media Associates, a marketing firm in Boca Raton, FL, where he headed up their PR department as their Director of Public Relations. He was with Palm Beach Media Associates for a year before he was approached by an emerging organic, eco-friendly restaurant chain out of South Florida called Pizza Fusion to come onboard as their Vice President of Communications & Media Relations. Since coming onboard with Pizza Fusion in January of 2007, they have sold over 70 franchises in 11 states, including Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Illinois, Georgia, and Florida. In addition to Pizza Fusion, he is a regular contributing writer for Miami Living Magazine in South Florida.

**Jason Hedrick** (B.S. '97, M.S. '00) is currently the Director of the Dr. Jerry Weston Mathis Theatre and Assistant Professor of Speech and Humanities at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, IL, where he teaches Speech, Introduction to Theatre, Acting, Performance of Literature, and Film Analysis. He recently had the privilege to speak one-on-one with David Lynch, who told him: "Keep your eye on the donut, not on the hole." He is currently trying to apply this advice.

**Bridget Hoehne** (B.S. '02) upon graduation worked for Tom's of Maine, a natural personal care company. She was promoted to Regional Manager of a key account, Whole Foods Market, for the Mid-West region. After working for four years at Tom's, she moved to Denver and is a broker of specialty foods for a company called Wild Rose Marketing. She is now applying to graduate school to get her MBA at Denver University.

**Beth Hartke** (B.S. '05) is currently working as the Corporate Events Director for the American Heart Association in Southern Illinois, coordinating four fundraising events and AHA initiatives in 12+ Southern Illinois counties. She is extremely happy with her position



Bram Duffee



Jodi Golden

with such a wonderful organization and thankful for her experience in the SIUC Public Relations program. Because of her leadership in the PRSSA - Pyramid firm, she was able to secure this position with AHA. Her advice is that "getting involved in college can really make a phenomenal impact on your career!"

**Penni Jess** (B.S. '05) recently accepted a position as Communications Manager and Event Planning Specialist at Bristol Court Banquets and Legendary Catering in Mount Prospect, IL. She oversees all communication efforts at Bristol Court as well as works with corporate and non-profit clients to plan their events. In addition, she is the Carnival Co-Chair with the Buffalo Grove Days Committee and a volunteer with Glenkirk and the Northwest Suburban United Way.

**Denise Kaye** (Ph.D. '06) bought a house and she is sending her kind regards to the department.

**Ellyse Fisher Kist** (B.S. '74) is currently living in Atlanta, GA. She is currently involved in condo conversion projects and management. She thanks SIUC Speech Communication Department for giving her the "tools to success."

**Kole Kleeman** (B.S. '80, M.S. '83) received the Neely Award for Outstanding Teaching Excellence at the University of Central Oklahoma in August 2007 and a \$1,000 cash award. He is professor in the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

**Aaron Klemz** (B.S. '99, M.S. '00) was recently appointed Acting Chairperson of the newly independent Department of Communication at Century College, after receiving tenure in May 2007. Century College is a comprehensive community and technical college in White Bear Lake, Minnesota with an enrollment of over 12,000 students. He recently received a grant to develop an AA degree with emphasis in Communication at Century College. Aaron is exploring possible Ph.D. programs for a return to graduate school while on sabbatical sometime in the next few years. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Urban Debate League, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has brought policy debate programs back into urban high schools and middle schools in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**H. Paul LeBlanc III** (Ph.D. '00) was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University Of Texas at San Antonio. In addition, he was promoted to graduate advisor of record for the MA Program in Communication at the same university, which is the largest unit in the U.S. system, and the fastest growing public university in the state of Texas.

**Heidi (Carr) Murphy** (B.S. '90) is a communication studies faculty at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After graduating from SIU she pursued her masters and doctorate (M.S. '96, Ph.D. '06) at the University of New Mexico. Her dissertation is entitled "Purpose-driven media literacy: An analysis of the costs and benefits of developing and applying media literacy in everyday life". While a graduate student at UNM she was happy to found a PRSSA chapter and also a student-run PR agency called A+PR, which were both based on models that were used at SIUC while she was an undergraduate student. She is married and has a 4-year old son.

**Shazad Mehta** (B.S. '04) after graduating from SIU spent the following year working for an advertising company which took him to Tampa Bay, Florida. During that time he realized that his true home was back in the Chicago area, specifically in Elmhurst. His family's business of auto repair was expanding and he decided to join his two brothers. He is currently working as the Service/office manager where he does everything except fixing the cars. His specialization in public relations has been of much use to him as he is very active in the Elmhurst community. This year he is serving as the President of the Elmhurst Jaycees and the Spring Road Business Association. He is also active in the Elmhurst Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

**Susan (Gerber) Miceli** (B.S. '87) is event and conference manager for BMO Capital Markets. She has been married to John Paul Miceli for 14 years. While at SIUC she was part of the Student Alumni Council.

**Mike Nadolski** (B.S. '83) is president and CEO of Creative eLMNTs Inc since 2002.



Kole Kleeman: Right

**Lesli Pace** (Ph.D. '05) is an Assistant Professor and the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Communication at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She and her husband, Michael McDonald, are expecting their first baby in June.

**Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** (M.S. '01, Ph.D. '06) is enjoying her position as Assistant Professor and Introductory Course Director in the Department of Communication at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She has opportunities to teach both undergraduate and graduate students. She works on several committees and has a number of upcoming publications coming out with fellow SIUC alum, Satoshi Toyosaki. When not teaching and doing research, Sandy and her partner Chad have recently undertaken their first adventure as organic gardeners and are looking forward to the many activities in and around the Detroit area.



Sandy Pensoneau-Conway

**Sarah Schalmo** (B.S. '06) is currently living in Chicago, working as a Producer at AKA MEDIA, a production company specializing in video projects for global PR firms, to produce and edit behind the scenes video, distribute packages to the media, and monitor publicity on TV broadcasts.

**Belinda (Anderson) Scrogam** (B.S. '00) is the Development Manager for Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois. She and fellow Saluki Jason Scrogam welcomed their first child on November 6, 2007. The parents are loving their life and are already thinking to make their child a future Saluki.

**Tami Spry** (Ph.D. '91) was very excited about the great outcome of the Northern Plains Performance Studies Conference organized at her school where other alumni from SIU came. She is excited to be on the editorial board of the new International Journal of Qualitative Inquiry as well as contributing to its first issue. Dr. Spry mentioned that the new performance space at St. Cloud State University benefits tremendously from the years of incredible experiences that she had in the Calipre/Kleinau Theatre. Her recent writing concentrates on the aesthetic crafting of critical reflection as an ethical imperative for performative autoethnography.

**Dorothy (Beck) Webb** (B.S. '57, M.S. '58) retired from being the chair of the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. She continues to serve as the artistic director of the Bonderman Playwriting for Young Audiences Project which Dorothy founded in 1985, now being under the umbrella of the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Indianapolis. In addition, she continues to serve as the president of the Children's Theatre Association of America and on the Board of Directors of the Fellows of the American Theatre.

**Send us your update: [www.siu.edu/department/cola/spcm](http://www.siu.edu/department/cola/spcm)**

## Graduate Students: A Community of Activists

The Department of Speech Communication puts the community in communication. Graduate student activities over the past year ranged from political activism to community service, from public performances for entertainment to performance protests, and from ritualistic department events (e.g. Speaker's Forum) to first-time projects taken on by a single student. **Derrick Williams**, for example, started a round table group, the Progressive Masculinities Mentors (PMM), which met every Thursday during the academic year in the SIUC Wellness Center, and grew to involve male and female students of various ages. Early in the fall semester, the PMM was coordinating campus-wide talks that drew crowds of up to 150 students to discuss issues like "Does Hip Hop Hate Women?" and "It's Just a Booty Call": Exploring the Dynamics of Sexual Assault." At two of the sessions, graduate students **Jim Petre** and **Craig Engstrom** presented their research on the intersection between masculinity and politics and masculinity and student drinking, respectively. With the help of the more than 40 active members, the PMM coordinated the first-ever Men Against Violence Week at SIUC, which culminated with a session attended by upper-level administrators and nearly 125 men. Additionally, Williams secured a grant for \$5,000 to offer youth groups at the Eurma Hayes Center that follow critical pedagogy

**"Community Activists," continued on page 6**

## Greetings from the Department Chair



Nathan Stucky

Each year we find an array of accomplishments in Speech Communication to celebrate. This issue of *Speak Easy* features some of the many success stories that developed here throughout the year: our National Championship Saluki Debate Team tallied up a string of amazing wins; graduating senior Krystal Stein was the College of Liberal Arts valedictorian and was honored as a prestigious Lincoln Academy Laureate; Ph.D. graduate Nicole Defenbaugh won the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry; performers Alison Fisher and Janet Donoghue, as the performing duo, The Composters, took their show on the road to critical acclaim; and our faculty and students continue to research, publish, and teach the vital discipline of speech communication to literally thousands of students. There is much work to be done in a world sorely in need of reasoned discourse, improved cultural understanding, and thoughtful, compassionate communication. I'm proud of the work of our faculty and students and immensely gratified to learn of the accomplishments of our alumni and friends whose support we cherish. ~ Nathan Stucky

## Faculty News

**Nilanjana Bardhan** continues to teach and do research in the areas of intercultural communication and public relations. She also serves as the faculty advisor for the department's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter and supervises internships. Her piece "Public relations and global firms" appeared in Blackwell Publishing's recent *International Encyclopedia of Communication*. She taught a new graduate course this summer titled "Intercultural Communication and Globalization."

**Bryan Crow** team-taught a new special topic course in Spring 2008 on Irish Culture & Communication, with visiting Irish language teacher Sinéad Ní Mhaolmíchil. He continues to serve as Undergraduate Committee chair and as faculty advisor for the NCA Student Club. He is a presenter for the Illinois Humanities Council "Road Scholar" program, most recently appearing at the public library in Oak Forest, IL.

**Melissa L. Curtin** (see article page 6)

**Suzanne Daughton** presented "Birth Control: Stories of Women's Choices," at NCA in Chicago and continues to serve on the editorial board of *Women's Studies in Communication*. This fall, she developed a new class in Communication, Gender and Sport, and this spring she taught Compassionate Communication not only at SIU, but also at a local grade school.

**Craig Gingrich-Philbrook** helped the NCA Performance Studies Division complete its long-term goal of developing tenure and promotion guidelines this year. He also undertook the position of Chair of the Academic Subcommittee of the Advisory Board for SIU's relatively new GLBTQ Resource Center. His written scholarship this year appeared in *Theatre Annual* and his creative scholarship included sound design for several performances including several pieces for SIU Alum Tracy Shaffer's "The Life and Times of King Kong" at LSU, as well as the preparation and performance of his own show, 'Why Not Rule the World? -or- The Apocalypse of Binky' in SIU's own Kleinau Theatre.

**Todd Graham** continues to develop a distinguished team of debaters. This year the Saluki Debate team won the national parliamentary debate tournament.

**Jonathan Gray** published a praxis essay in *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*. He performed his one man show, 'Trail Mix: A Sojourn on the Muddy Divide between Nature and Culture,' at the National Communication Association national conference in Chicago and at the Petit Jean Performance Festival. He was the guest scholar at the Petit Jean Festival, the theme of which was "Performing Nature." In the past year he attended and presented work at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, *Sedimentations: An Art/Culture/Nature Conference*, NCA, and Central States. He is the current vice chair and conference planner for the Environmental Communication Division at NCA. In the past year he has created and taught two special topics classes: Visual Rhetoric and Performing Nature.

**Rachel Griffin** joined the faculty as Assistant Professor. She completed her dissertation, *White Eyes on Black Bodies: History, Performance, and Resistance at the NBA at the University of Denver* this past summer. She will be teaching intercultural communication courses in the department.

**Josh Houston** continues to offer courses in public relations, sport communication and organizational 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 material.

**Lenore Langsdorf** taught Argumentation, Ethnomethodology, Communication and Gender, and Persuasion during this academic year.

She published "Callicles' Parlor: Revisiting the Gorgias after Dwelling with Gadamer," in *Perspectives on Philosophy of Communication*, ed. Pat Arneson (Purdue UP), "Changing Our Minds: On the Value of Analogies," in *Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Argumentation*, ed. Frans van Eemeren et al. (Dordrecht: Foris), and a review of Andreea Deciu Ritivoi's *Paul Ricoeur: Tradition and Innovation in Rhetorical Theory*, in *Rhetoric Review* 26 (2007) 214-217.

The U.S. Dept. of State selected **Richard L. Lanigan** for their new Senior Fulbright Specialist Program. He was the first specialist to be appointed to Canada. During the Summer 2008, he assisted the Vice President for Research and International Development in the formation of Ph.D. program policy for Brock University (St. Catherines) and delivered 11 faculty development workshops on graduate teaching and research at the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Educational Technologies. He also conducted research at the University of Toronto.

**Denise McCleary** is a new lecturer teaching courses primarily in public relations. Prior to coming to SIU, she was a PR professional specializing in environmental governmental public relations.

**Ronald J. Pelias** is pleased to announce that the second edition of 'Performance Studies: The Interpretation of Aesthetic Texts,' coauthored with Tracy Stephenson Shaffer, is now available from Kendall-Hunt. He had the honor of directing "The Academy," a show examining the struggles and joys of academic life at the National Communication Association in November. His most recent publications include "Jarheads, Girly Men, and the Pleasures of Violence," *Qualitative Inquiry* 13 (October 2007): 945-959 and "Remains: What Is Left, Kept, and Next," *Theatre Annual* 60 (2007): 23-31.

**Elyse Pineau** pursued three performance projects in the past year. She toured her one person show "Shadowboxing: Myths & Miniatures of Home" to Columbia College, Missouri; she directed Alison Aurelia Fisher's script of "Drowning a Diary: Revisioning Virginia Woolf" for the 2007 Kleinau season and she began developing a new solo show, "Navel-Gazing: A Methodological Play." Her ongoing research in critical performative pedagogy resulted in presentations at The International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry in Vancouver, Canada and interactive workshops for the Plains Performance Festival in St. Cloud Minnesota.

**Ross Singer** is a new Assistant Professor teaching in the area of organizational communication. He completed his Ph.D. at Bowling Green State University writing on *The People's Department: A Rhetorical Critique of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's War Identity*.

**Nathan Stucky**, Department Chair, was guest artist in the Theatre Department at Bowling Green State University in the role of The Stage Manager in *Our Town*; he also presented papers at the National Communication Association conference in Chicago, Central States Communication Association, and the International Conference on Qualitative Inquiry.

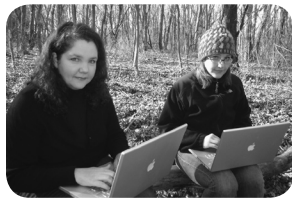
**Satoshi Toyosaki** joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in intercultural communication after three years teaching at the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse. He recently published an article in *The International and Intercultural Communication Journal* on the "Politics of social agency in racialized educational discourse."

**John T. Warren** gave the featured talk at the NCA preconference on ethnography and faith at 2007 annual convention. He recently published essays in *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Basic Communication Course Annual*, and *Text and Performance Quarterly*. He continues his work as Performance and Pedagogy editor for *Liminalities.net* and will assume the duties of the department's Director of the Core Curriculum this fall.

### “Trash Talk,” continued...

This spring was also full as they participated in paper presentations at both Western and Central States Communication conferences.

They continued their performance work by kicking off their spring season at Longbranch (with invited guests), an event that proved to be a successful fundraiser for the Nari Jabon women’s fund (over



Left: Janet Donoghue (aka Mary Mercury) Right: Alison Fisher (aka Glenda Greenhouse)

\$600 was raised). They were also invited guests at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and then at Sauk Valley Community College (thanks to “alum” **Jason Hedrick**) in Dixon, IL. They finished out the year by participating as invited guests in a Communication and Activism seminar led by **Larry Frey**. Visit them on the web at <http://thecomposters.com/>

## Another Great Kleinau Season

Anyone who attended all of the shows in the 2007-2008 Kleinau Season would never have had to say something like “That one seemed similar to...” The writers, directors, and performers undoubtedly staged a diverse program of shows, and did so by taking on various topics from academic life to miner’s lives on the island of Cape Breton and from the struggles of anorexia to consuming Virginia Woolf’s life work. The shows followed more traditional formats to improvisation. Along with the traditional spotlight performances and a visiting lecturer/artist (**Shannon Jackson**) series, here’s a recap of what you either enjoyed or missed:



From “Blood from a Stone,” Left - Right: Susannah LeBaron, Ryan Walsh, Charlotte Hyzy, Charles Parrott, Brian Healy, and Meagan Oestry

- Ichor & The Four Humours Present: Percy Per Se Himself Presenting: Populous! or All is Vanity (Written and directed by **Bennett Whitaker**)
- “The Academy” (Written and directed by **Ron Pelias**; also staged at the 2007 NCA conference, Chicago, IL)
- Drowning a Diary: Revisioning **Virginia Woolf** (Adapted and directed by **Alison Fisher**; Co-directed by **Elyse Pineau**)
- Ana and Mia: A (Dis)ordered Life (Written and directed by **Andrea Wallace**)
- Yes; And... (Improv show directed by **Nicholas Zaunbrecher**)
- Blood from a Stone: Mining Elemental Genealogies (Written and directed by **Shauna MacDonald**)
- Why Not Rule the World (Written by **Craig Gingrich-Philbrook**; Directed by **Sandra Calderon-Garza**)

For 2008-2009 ticket information, which promises to be just as unique and entertaining, please join our Facebook group or contact the Kleinau Box Office Theater at 618.453.2291.

## Melissa Curtin Joins Faculty



Melissa Curtin

**Melissa L. Curtin** (Ph.D., Univ. of New Mexico, 2007; M.A. Indiana Univ., 1998) is a new faculty member in Intercultural Communication. In addition to courses in intercultural communication, she also teaches ethnography. As a critical interpretivist, her scholarly research places special emphasis on the examination of social semiotic processes involved in the discursive construction and ongoing negotiation of group identities. For her doctoral dissertation, she conducted a year-long critical ethnographic study of the “linguistic landscape” in Taipei, Taiwan to investigate the ways in which a diverse array of language scripts used in public signage constitute a contested site of residents’ negotiations of local, regional, and (trans)national identities. Dr. Curtin received the Dissertation of the Year Award, Intercultural and International Communication Division, National Communication Association (to be presented at IICD Business Meeting, NCA Convention in San Diego, CA, November 22, 2008). From her dissertation research she has contributed a chapter to an international volume on linguistic landscape research, “Indexical signs, identities and the linguistic landscape.” Current research projects involve work in Oaxaca, Mexico. She is currently developing a critical theory of “coculturation” in which she argues that there exists in the U.S. a naturalized “ideology of acculturation” that presumes an imaginary host community of a white, monolingual English-speaking America. She then proposes a critically based theoretical framework of coculturation that explicitly re-centers the ongoing process of negotiation of identities with respect to all members of the (trans)national community. In short, she does the kind of work our department is known for and we welcome her to our department.

### “Community Activists,” continued...

methods. For graduate students interested in critical pedagogy, **John Warren** currently offers three classes in this area. In addition to men’s issues, women, no doubt, appreciate the work of **Jamie Huber**, who mobilized many graduate students, including our own, to give women support to enter the Hope Clinic despite protestors trying to block their access.

But gender politics is not the only issue that our students get involved in. When an issue arises that can undermine access to education for underserved populations, for example, our students will rise to the challenge. When the Department of Education sought to cut funding for the McNair Scholars program, **Elena Esquibel** took up the cause and petitioned our legislators to make sure that it didn’t get cut. We are happy to report that the McNair program is funded for at least another four years. For other graduate students who are worried about funding, we are happy that we have **Sabrina Worsham** in our department, who is not only a vocal member of GA United, the graduate assistants’ representative union, but is also the organization’s VP of Communications. For people who can’t get in touch with her because she is a volunteer, along with **Phillip Ho**, for Rainbow Café, a local community center for GLBTQ youths, they can talk with union steward **Cornelius Fair** (who, by the way, is also a PMM). But human rights are not solely our students’ concerns. **Susannah LeBaron**, for example, volunteers for Free Again, a wild animal rescue, and has used her volunteer work to inspire performance installations which have often become an ephemeral part of the communication building’s décor.

Our students have a good time while remaining active. The Student Communication Organization and its members balance social events with community-service events like raising money for the Good Samaritan House. Outgoing President, **Shauna MacDonald**, says that “One of the best qualities of SCO is that it brings together people with diverse activist interests.” While working in a group can make it easier for some to get involved, others like to break out on their own. **Jim** and **Elizabeth Petre** have traveled throughout the Midwest working tirelessly for the Obama campaign, and were chosen in a highly competitive application process by the campaign to be Obama Organizing Fellows. **Jay Brower** and **Shana Bridges** also had fun organizing campus-wide voter drives and meeting SIUC students. **David Hanley-Tejeda** and **Joe Hassert** organized an artists’ summer workshop series in four parts called “Incubator,” that was free and open to the public. Each workshop was led by an expert (**Jonny Gray**, **Craig Gingrich-Philbrook**, **Ron Coulter**, and **Violet Juno**). **Nic Zaunbrecher**, an active improv artist, has organized improv events for the greater community at Longbranch coffee house, bringing awareness to this confidence- building activity. **Heather Hull**, **Jamie Huber**, **Aubrey Huber**, and **Sabrina Worsham** co-directed the SIUC annual Vagina Monologues performance. Other performers from our department included: **Anna Wilcoxin**, **Krishna Pattisapu**, **Andi Wallace**, **Charlie Hope Dorsey** and **Naida Zukic**. With all of this great work, there is no doubt that the department continues to make a difference. We look forward to another year of active engagement with our community.



Derrick Williams teaches a young mentee how to spin.

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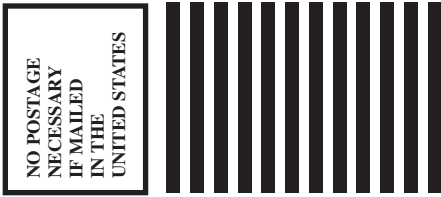
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