

SPEAK EASY

STUDENTS | FACULTY | ALUMNI

C3: Communication Career Council

"By Students, For Students" the Undergraduate Communication Career Council (C3) shows how fulfilling careers begin with Communication Studies.

Rebecca Walker Ph.D. gets Tenure

Associate Professor and performance maven Rebecca Walker celebrates tenure and looks forward to her upcoming show "Hardened."

Alumni Homecoming: Celebrating 80 Years of Excellence

This spring we welcomed alumni back to "the Dale" for our Alumni Homecoming Event March 1-3. Exciting programming featured keynote speakers Kristen Langellier and Eric Peterson, a performance of "Lone Star Feminist" by Andrea Baldwin, and a great show by illusionist David Ranalli.



The Year in Review

This year the Communication Studies Department has much to celebrate. In this edition of the *Speak Easy*, we mark the 80th Anniversary of the Communication Studies Department (formerly Speech Communication) on campus with our Alumni Homecoming Event, share the exciting contributions and growth of our current graduate and undergraduate students and their thriving student organizations C3 and SCO, celebrate the numerous accomplishments of our faculty, and keep up to date with our award-winning alumni around the country.



UNDERGRADS

C₃: The Communication Career Council

C₃ has been hard at work creating and sustaining connections between our faculty, students, and alumni. They first caught our attention by creating a ceremony recognizing graduating seniors at the end of the winter semester. Soon after, they worked on programming for undergraduates during the Communication Studies Alumni Homecoming Event, and at the end of the year they hosted our department-wide picnic to give undergraduates, graduates, and faculty time to network and socialize. Looking forward to fall, C₃ will facilitate a local "Ignite" talk, which will broadcast nationwide. They also plan to organize a system for alumni to help house undergraduate students during the summer to help them afford internship experiences.



For more information about C₃, visit <http://www.siuc3.com> or email craig.engstrom@siu.edu.

CMST Sophomore Coaches Advertising Club to First-Ever Top 5 District Finish at National Competition

Maggie Burke, a sophomore in Communication Studies (Public Relations) from Bettendorf, Iowa, joined the SIUC Advertising Club this past year and made it her goal to take the team from year-after-year last-place finishes at the [National Student Advertising Competition](#) to a top-place finish. They placed fourth this year, ahead of 17 other teams.

She worked with three other Salukis, Kyle Kasner (Journalism), Cheyenne Glagola (Journalism), and Chris Cole (Journalism), all members of the [Advertising Club](#), to create a campaign for Ocean Spray. They pitched their plan to a panel of judges, which included industry professionals. In this competition, teams are given the same information and resources; they then do additional research and develop a plan. An important part of the competition is the presentation of information to the judges, which requires communicating complex information in an intelligible and interesting manner. Maggie used her competitive attitude and ability to motivate a team, which she also does as an NCAA Division I swimmer for the Saluki Swimming & Diving Team, and her public speaking knowledge and skills, learned and sharpened in Communication Studies courses, to push her team to the top.



As she said, “our success is definitely attributable to Communication Studies courses I have taken at SIU. Because of these courses I am comfortable speaking to large, public audiences.” She listed the following courses as being the most helpful: Argumentation and Debate, because it helped improve her research skills during the beginning of the team’s campaign, Public Relations courses, and Business and Professional Communication. “These are courses that absolutely aided in the building of the campaign and creation of the presentation,” Maggie says.

Although the team placed fourth this year, it has its sights set on a first-place finish in the 2019 competition. A first-place win would advance the team to the 2019 semi-finals for an opportunity to advance to the National Competition. Dr. Craig Engstrom, her instructor in the Business and Professional Communication course, says he has no doubt she will get her team to a first-place finish: “When I asked Maggie if they will place first next year and her eyes lit up with what I can I only describe as the *Saluki Spirit*. Without missing a beat, she replied ‘heck yeah.’ Maggie is driven to be successful as a public and interpersonal communicator. She works very hard in my courses and takes feedback well. I have no doubt she can coach her team, using what she is learning in our courses, to finish—not only first place in district competitions, but also regional and national ones as well. Her winning personality is infectious.”

To learn more about Maggie, you can visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or read about her swimming accomplishments [here](#).

Author: Emily McCuiston, CMST Alumna (Class of 2018)

Author Bio: Emily recently graduated SIUC with her Bachelors of Science in Communication Studies (Intercultural Communication). Emily was always a driven and passionate communication student. She interacted with faculty and peers through her Vice President of Membership role for C3. She developed an interest in law over the course of her undergraduate career. She has decided to take the LSAT in September 2018 and aims to get an internship at a local law firm in the fall; she will attend law school in fall of 2019.

Communication Studies Junior and Current USG President to Intern for European Union Public Affairs Department



Emily Buice, a Junior in the Communication Studies department, will be heading to Brussels, Belgium, this summer for an internship with the Public Affairs department of the U.S mission to the EU. During this internship, Buice will be assisting with the planning and execution of public events and social media outreach on behalf of the EU. She will also be conducting research based on transatlantic relationships, participating in meetings, and monitoring media outlets for breaking news and developments relevant to U.S institutions.

When asked how this opportunity might help her in her future career, Buice said, “my ultimate goal is to work in public affairs. This internship will give me insight

into the field, as well as skills needed to work in public affairs.” Buice also said that her dream job is to work in public affairs for the State Department, but she also would love to work for a government official or other governmental program.

This internship is far from Buice’s first experience in the field of public service. Buice is currently the President of SIU’s Undergraduate Student Government. As president, Buice represents the SIU student body to the university administration and community-at-large. She manages the organization’s public presence through increasing campus awareness and involvement, as well as through initiatives and programs developed to better serve the campus and its related stakeholders. Buice has also served as the Events and Communications intern for the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Marketing intern for the City of Auburn’s Parks and Recreation Division.

Other RSOs Buice is currently involved with at SIU include Alpha Gamma Delta, Saluki Ambassadors, Public Relations Student Society of America, and Saluki Service Dawgs. Buice is passionate about helping those around her, “whether it’s helping someone get USG

funding or giving a tour to a prospective student, I'm passionate about making a difference in my community."

Emily has been a mover and a shaker in our Public Relations specialization. Faculty have enjoyed having her in class and look forward to having her share her stories in the fall, as faculty Josh Houston notes, "Emily is a strategic thinker, that also executes flawlessly on the tactical level. She is as talented as she is driven. She has a lot to offer her peers."

Emily credits her successes partly to the Department of Communication Studies: "My experiences with communication studies at SIU have given me the tools I need to succeed from the moment I stepped into speech 101 freshman year."

It is noteworthy that Emily started her academic career as a History major but switched to communication after taking Introduction to Oral Communication. It is stories like Emily's that remind us that communication studies is much more than public speaking.

Author: Jake Boshold, CMST Alumna (Class of 2018)

Author Bio: Jake graduated in May 2018 with a specialization in public relations. While at SIUC, helped raise over \$30K for nonprofits and assisted small businesses with small and large events.

PRSSA: Operation Sergeant Santa

Operation Sergeant Santa is an outreach from the Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) that benefits children of SIU student parents by presenting them with gift cards to buy family holiday presents. On Dec. 6, the student group gave \$100 Kohl's gift cards to 15 children for a special shopping "operation" with Department of Public Safety police officers. The evening included dinner and holiday arts and crafts. The selected children and their families came to operation headquarters at the Student Center, enjoyed a meal and activities. While their families are busy with crafting fun, the children went on a shopping spree to Kohl's to shop for themselves and their families. When they returned to "base," PRSSA members helped them wrap their gifts and present them to their families.

For more information about PRSSA, visit www.facebook.com/SIUCPRSSA/ or email jhouston@siu.edu



GRAD STUDENTS

SCO: Student Communication Organization

The Student Communication Organization's (SCO) mission is to enhance the professional development opportunities for the graduate students in the Communication Studies program at SIUC. SCO's members had an extremely active academic year. Patrick Seick (Treasurer) assisted in the planning and organizing of the Carbondale High School Forensic Tournament held on the campus of SIUC on December 2nd. For the second year in a row, SCO members had the unique opportunity to serve as judges for speech and debate rounds throughout the day. The spring semester began with a bang as SCO served as one of many sponsors for the Communication Studies



Alumni Weekend and Conference in early March. SCO members not only served as volunteers, but also presented their research alongside our esteemed alumni. This past spring, SCO put the "fun" in fundraising with two events. Bolton Morales (Member) organized an all-day dine-in fundraiser with local restaurant Don Sol. Undergraduate and graduate students picked up their forks and knives to help raise nearly \$200 towards the department's bi-annual Speakers' Forum. Emily Vajjala (Vice President) held a bake sale and made over \$200 towards the John T. Warren Scholarship, which honors the memory of Dr. Warren by acknowledging the research of one undergraduate and graduate student each year. The Student Communication Organization executive committee would like to thank this year's officers and dedicated committee members for such a successful year.

Speakers Forum Fall 2018 Speakers' Forum:

By Dianah McGreehan and Lindy Wagner, Speak Easy Student Writer

On April 17th, 2018, the Department of Communication Studies and the Society for Civil Discourse presented the spring 2018 Speakers Forum. The Speakers Forum is a semi-annual event with a new topic each semester. As the campus of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale faced challenges and uncertainty surrounding plans for reorganization, the members of the Speakers Forum Committee, under the guidance of Assistant Introductory Course Director, Lauran Schaefer, formed spring topic S.I. Unity: Campus < > Community Connection.

Nearly 100 students, faculty, and community member we greeted by volunteers of SIUC's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) as they gathered at the Student Center Auditorium. The Spring 2018 Speakers Forum was moderated by Communications Studies doctoral students, Lindy Wagner and Caleb McKinley-Portee. The speakers included three freshmen, two juniors, and one senior from SIUC. Jerry Yao, Anthony Szulczynski, Kiki Hartmann, Samuel McKeehan, Jordan Lawson, and Abi Tochalauski embraced this spring's topic with personal stories and shared personal experiences as students within the greater campus community of Carbondale. Their speeches allowed those in the audience to have a better understanding of the everyday life experiences of an international student, as well as, the struggles of transferring to a four-year university from a junior college. Speakers and audience members addressed suggestions for creating a stronger, community-focused campus through exchanges of inclusive dialogue.

In past Speakers Forums, a question and answer session was offered at the end of the program for audience members to ask questions of the speakers. Although audience participation in this manner is always appreciated, we wanted to take engagement to the next level this year. Before opening the



auditorium doors opening to the public on April 17th, a new and unique element was added to the format of the program. Speakers Forum Committee members, Lindy Wagner and Caleb McKinley-Portee, held an Inclusive Leadership Workshop in late March. This eight hour, certification granting, workshop was held over two days and included ninety-minute practice session.

The workshop facilitators define dialogue as listening deeply enough to be changed by what you learned, even when you disagree. Dialogue is not designed to convince everyone that there is a right side and a wrong side but provides an opportunity to learn more about one another. In preparation for the Spring Speakers Forum, a group of dedicated SIUC students and community members have undergone a lengthy training process conducted by the Sustained Dialogue Institute, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to helping institutions nationally and globally engage in processes of deep listening, conflict resolution, and peace. Here, the students were trained to support a small group dialogue allowing for audience members to engage with one another in response to the speeches presented.

Trained Sustained Dialogue facilitators, consisting of these undergraduate students and communication studies graduate students, meet audience members in group discussion circles immediately outside of the auditorium. Discussion session regarding the six speeches heard sparked continued interest in supporting the variety of students and communities which exist on our college campus.

The Speakers Forum Committee would like to thank Barbara Jane Schwartz for her continuous support and dedication to the bi-annual Speakers Forum. The topic for the Fall 2018 Speakers Forum will be announced during the fall semester after the Speakers Forum Committee reconvenes to beginning planning the next event. Details will be forthcoming soon!

Grad Student Research and Scholarly/Creative Activity Report 2017

Presentations	75
Chair/Respondent at Professional Meetings	9
Offices Held	36
Editorial Activities	7
Review Activities	18
Grants	I
Honors and Awards	30
Articles in Professional Journals	6
Book Chapters/Articles/Reviews/Creative Works	57
Invited Lectures and Performances	34
Other Activities—Campus and Surrounding Area	II

Data compiled by L. Shelley Rawlins



For SIUC students, the greatest barrier to great internships is access to short-term and affordable housing in cities. If you love Salukis in the Dept. of Communication Studies, you can give them access to a new world of possibility. Currently, we're trying to determine under what conditions someone would host a student. Help us design the right kind of program by completing a questionnaire at

<https://www.siuc3.com/host-intern.html>

FACULTY

FACULTY UPDATES:



Craig Gingrich-Philbrook is the incoming editor of the esteemed NCA publication *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Rebecca Walker receives tenure and becomes Associate Professor of Communication Studies.

Jonathan M. Gray's digital prints displayed in "Sleep: The Art of Sleep an Exhibition" in the Cinema and Photography Gallery on Campus.



Nilanjana Bardhan published a book chapter on the representation of the West Africa Ebola crisis by Doctors Without Borders in the book *Global Dialectics in Intercultural Communication*. Last August, she had the honor of being the only academic to serve as a judge for the annual *PR Week Diversity Awards* in New York City. She is currently working on a co-authored book on diversity and inclusion in the PR industry, and serving as the diversity and inclusion subcommittee co-chair for the Plank Center for Leadership in PR. She continues to teach courses in intercultural communication and PR, and serve as the director of graduate studies. She is looking forward to her sabbatical in the fall.

Suzanne Daughton is retiring "young" for health reasons as of July 1, 2018, after vastly enjoying her final year of teaching at SIU, finishing up with classes in Advanced Public Speaking, Rhetorical Criticism, Women's Public Address, and Compassionate Communication. She was also pleased to celebrate the spring 2018 publication of the 4th edition of *Modern Rhetorical Criticism*, her co-authored textbook with Rod Hart and Becky LaVally. Suzanne looks forward to resting, working out, traveling, learning new languages, writing, reading and karaoke in retirement. She plans to continue her practice in Compassionate Communication and is curious about the form that will take in the future. Suzanne is grateful for the many gifts of connection, collaboration, learning and friendship she has received from her 28 years at SIU, and happily anticipates maintaining connection with many former colleagues and students.

Craig Engstrom Craig Engstrom stepped into the role of interim Undergraduate Program Director. Since stepping into this role, he spearheaded an effort to change the curriculum so that it will better serve students and align with current resources. Starting in fall 2019, there will be five required core courses and two specializations (instead of six): Communication Studies and Public Relations. He worked with undergraduate students to establish the Communication Career Council (C3). This organization helps students develop career-ready skills. He developed the 101 online course and reformatted the business and professional communication course into a hybrid format (half online, half live). He published one textbook and five journal articles/book chapters, including "Rhetorical Analysis of Fast-Growth Businesses' Job Advertisements: Implications for Job Search" with department alumni James Petre and Elizabeth Petre in the *Journal of Business and Professional Communication*. Awards and accomplishments include: earning certification as an Associate Talent Development Professional (Association for Talent Development) and receiving the "Rising Star Award" from NCA's Training & Development Division, 2017 Faculty Outstanding Teacher (CMST), College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award (2018), and LinkedIn's 2017 Top Resume Writer.

Jonathan M. Gray stepped back into being the Introductory Course Director in the spring semester, a position he will hold thorough 2018-19. He was also designated the William and Galia Miner Professor of Creative Communication for a second three year term. He is currently the Chair of the Performance Studies Division of NCA. In the last year he has published articles in *QED: A Journal of LGBTQ Worldmaking* and *Rhetoric and Society Quarterly*, and a performance review in *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Nathan Stucky performed the major role of Ellija in *Vanya on the Plains* in September 2017 on the Marion Kleinau Theatre stage; the play, written by Jason Hedrick, had a cast that included graduate and undergraduate students and provided an option for Dr. Stucky to perform alongside retired faculty member Dr. Elyse Pineau. He also presented a paper, "Political Impersonation as Therapy," at the National Communication Association conference and gave a performance there from *The Iliad* by Homer. Dr. Stucky will retire this June, completing twenty-eight years at SIU; the last seventeen years he has served as Chair of the Department of Communication Studies. Over his career he presented over sixty conference papers, published a co-edited book, directed more than two dozen theatrical performances, authored a dozen scripts, published twenty-six peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, directed a dozen masters theses and reports, directed twenty-two doctoral dissertations, and served on over one-hundred twenty-five graduate committees.

Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway to Lead Department



Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Associate Professor, has been selected Interim Chair of the Department of Communication Studies, starting July 1, 2018. Outgoing department chair Dr. Nathan Stucky said he was "pleased and delighted" about Sandy's appointment. "Sandy knows the program and the university and is a highly respected teacher and scholar. I have every confidence that she is the ideal choice and will be a wonderful chair," Stucky said. Dr. Pensoneau-Conway, came to SIU as a graduate student in 1999. After graduate studies she accepted a faculty position at Wayne State University where she taught classes and served as Basic Course Director. When a position in communication pedagogy opened up at SIU she accepted an offer to return as assistant professor. "We were incredibly fortunate to bring Sandy back to our department," said Dr. Bryan Crow, "she has contributed so much to the program." Dr. Pensoneau-Conway served as the Director of the Introductory Course from May 2012 through 2017, has directed numerous dissertations and theses, and served a term as Chair of the College of Liberal Arts Council. She has published articles in a number of scholarly journals including *The International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, *Cultural Studies* <-> *Critical Methodologies*, and *The International Journal of Communication*, published five book chapters, and is co-editor of *Doing Autoethnography*. Her most recent research, during a Spring 2018 semester sabbatical leave, is an ethnographic study of The Rainbow Cafe in Southern Illinois.

ALUMNI

Alumni Homecoming: Celebrating 80 Years of Excellence

Our Alumni Homecoming weekend this spring was a huge success. Opening with a family-style dinner at the Giant City Lodge, we welcomed alumni from all over the country back to Carbondale for fun and food followed by a little frolic at the home of Nathan Stucky and Suzanne Daughton.



Friday afternoon we welcomed esteemed scholars Kristin Langelier and Eric Peterson who shared about the continuing importance of storytelling for the field of performance studies in their keynote address. Later that evening, we were wowed by David Ranalli's humorous illusionist show that drew quite a crowd of our undergraduates offering them the advice to follow their passions toward success. Saturday evening we had the pleasure of audiencing Andrea Baldwin's solo performance "Lone Star Feminist," a one-woman show exploring the intersection of her Black, Feminist, and Texan identities.



Photos courtesy of Gregory Wendt, Laura Borger, and Andrea Baldwin.



We also welcomed presentations by alumni and current students near and far including Nanci Burk, John Buck, Kevin Purcell, D.J. Jeffries, Pamella Ferrell, Jimmy Ellis, Mako Kosugi, Madeline Sopeña, Desiree Smith, Craig Engstrom, Lauren Schaefer, Angela Glunz, Jeremy Omoro, Kaci Huelsmann, Heather A. Abell, Gary Radford, Kristen Langelier, Eric Peterson, Jenn Tuder, Shauna MacDonald, A.B., Shelley Rawlins, Cameron Brewer, Shirlene Holmes, Jason Hedrick, Dianah McGreehan, Gregory Wendt, Nathan Stucky, and Marion Kleinau.

Photos courtesy of Gregory Wendt and Nathan Stucky.

Lindsey Jensen, Named 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year

Lindsey Jensen (formerly Lindsey Presswood), a 2002 graduate of the Department of Speech Communication, was named the 2018 Illinois teacher of the Year. Jensen, who teaches English, drama, Shakespeare, American literature at Dwight Township High School, identified SIU faculty member Dr. Suzanne Daughton as a major influence: "When I look back on some of the most influential women in my life, you are in the top five. You made such an impact on me and my self-worth at such a transitional time in my life, and I just wanted to say thank you." Jensen said she credits her speech classes at SIU, particularly the classes she took from Dr. Daughton: "I am putting my speech communication knowledge to work this year as I travel the state giving speeches on a variety of topics." Jensen took a number of courses from Dr. Daughton during her time at SIU.

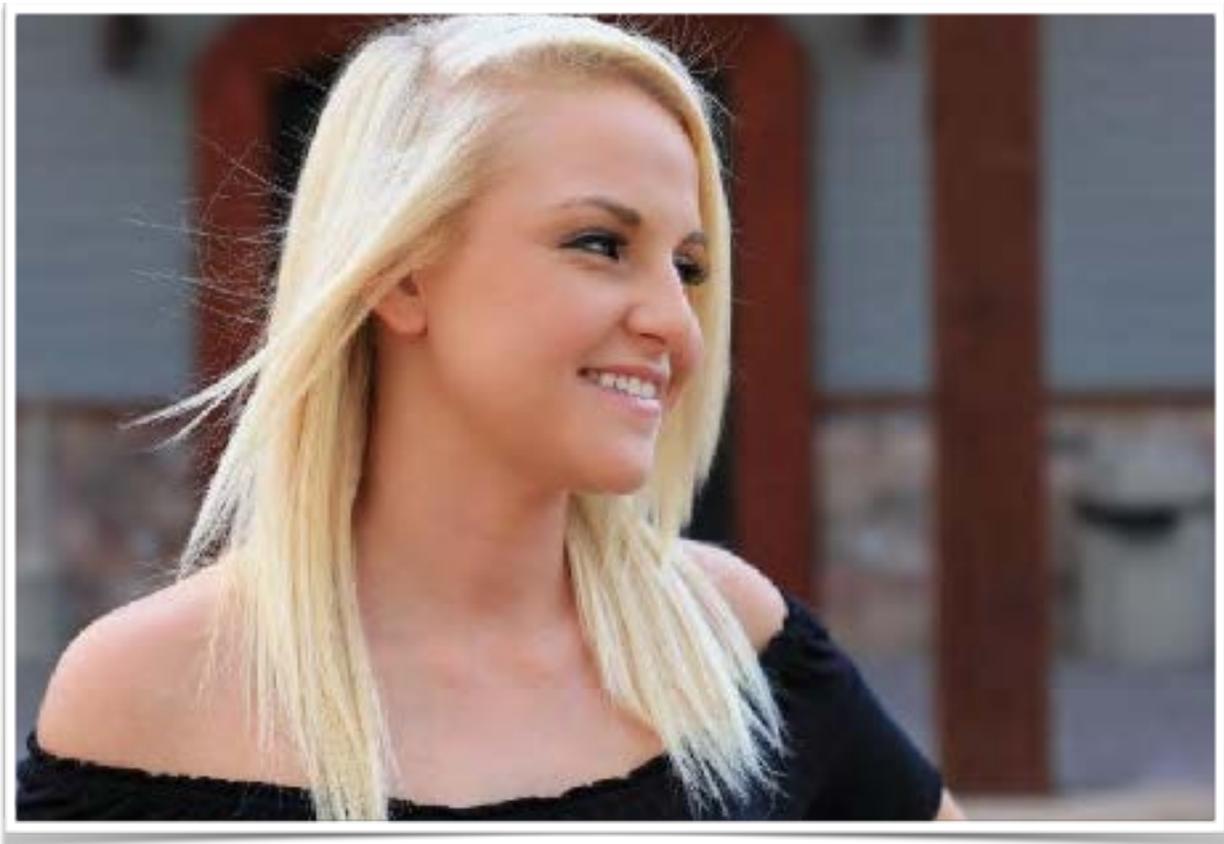
According to an article in the Morris Herald (November 1, 2017), "colleagues and students described Jensen as infusing the best of research-based instructional practices with high expectations and infectious positivity." Jensen has a long list of activities and accomplishments including, helping to redesign the English curriculum and organizing students and faculty in philanthropic events to raise



thousands of dollars for the Special Olympics." The Morris Herald article quotes Jensen's educational philosophy: "I believe education equals empowerment. Teachers are in the business of human beings, and teaching requires becoming part of students' lives and making connections that no other professional experiences."

Dr. Daughton remembered Lindsey as a wonderful student: "Lindsey was a student in my Advanced Public Speaking class in Fall 2003, and then she signed up for two more of my classes the following spring: Speechwriting, and Public Address, which I teach as the History of Women's Movements in the U.S." Because of Lindsey's excellent work as a student, Dr. Daughton invited her to serve as her Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in the Speechwriting class (Spring 2005). Dr. Daughton said that Lindsey's strengths included "her warmth and compassion for others, combined with her intellectual gifts" and that Lindsey was "a delight to teach and learn from."

Ashlyn Kiwala



Since December of 2014, Ashlyn Kiwala has fought one of the most courageous battles against brain cancer that the world has ever seen. On March 18, of 2018, Ashlyn didn't give up, but rather came to terms that it was a battle that she wasn't willing to fight until the end of time. Instead, she chose to enter the gates of heaven, free of pain and suffering where she is rallying with her friends and family. Ashlyn was a Masters' degree recipient hailing from the great Southern Illinois University where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was a graduate assistant for the Public Relations Student Society of America, an organization she loved. Ashlyn dreamed of being a crisis communications director. Life

had another plan for her when she met her husband, Johnathan Kiwala. They got married on August 3, 2012. They adopted their rescue dog, Molly, who became their fur child. Two years after being married, Ashlyn was diagnosed after suffering from debilitating headaches. Showing her amazing strength and courage, Ashlyn underwent radiation and chemo-therapy while working full-time, driving herself to radiation during her lunch break and back to work after. Over the past 4 years, she had 4 brain surgeries and was on several more treatments she completed every one of them with a smile and a polite “thank you” to those treating her.

Born in Hermosa Beach California December 15, 1987, Ashlyn loved to be known as a California Girl. Growing up, Ashlyn’s amazing parents Daniel and Judith Hegg (Kozlowski) raised her to be the kindest, most caring person anyone would ever meet. Her parents were there to help her in every aspect of her life, from parent-teacher conferences, 1st day of school, to taking her to cancer treatments every week. Ashlyn loved everything Disney, animals, smiling, her husband, and spending time with her amazing group of childhood and college friends. She especially loved spending time with her brother Ross Hegg, sister in-law Becky (Slania), and her niece and God daughter Mia and Nephew Mason Hegg. Also, mother in-law Pamela Nelson (Etzel), her brother in-law Michael Braddy, sister in-law Andrea Braddy (Drish), Nephews Harrison and Leo and niece Vivienne Braddy and her grandmother in-law Darlene Etzel (Steen).

Over the course of Ashlyn’s diagnosis, thousands of people prayed for her from all over the world, said sermons, masses, lit candles, and provided support to her. Organizations such as Michael Matters and BrainUp rallied around her to lift her up. Ashlyn is survived by her husband Johnathan Kiwala, who loved her more than all the stars in the universe and more. She would like to thank the doctors from Northshore University Health Systems and especially Doctor Ryan Merrell, who never gave up on Ashlyn.

A GoFundMe has been set up by Ashlyn’s friends to raise funds to pay for end of life preparations. www.gofundme.com/ashlynk. Funds raised outside of need will be donated to the Michael Matters foundation and BrainUp on Ashlyn’s behalf. Pleasant bunny dreams our baby girl.

Graduate Teaching Award Named for Dr. Elyse Lamm Pineau

In honor of her extraordinary career, the department's award for excellence in graduate student teaching has been named for Dr. Elyse Lamm Pineau. Dr. Pineau came to SIU in 1990 and for the next twenty-four years established a reputation as an intensely committed, creative and influential teacher. The Outstanding Teacher Award was previously named for Dr. Thomas Pace, Jr., who felt that it was time to pass that honor along. So, in the department awards ceremony in May 2018, the first two honorees were announced with the new award name, The Elyse Lamm Pineau Award for Outstanding Graduate Teacher. This year the honors went to masters student teacher Crys Lacroix, and doctoral honors student Emily Vajalla. Dr. Pineau's honors include, The Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance, National Communication Association; Outstanding Scholar in Theatre and Performance Studies, Central States Communication Association; and Outstanding Teacher in the SIU Department of Speech Communication. During her career Dr. Pineau taught twenty-five different classes including her groundbreaking work in critical performative pedagogy. The constellation of courses she pioneered included, Teaching as Performance, The Performing Body, and Performing Historical Figures.

Dr. Pineau's scholarship extended the work she did in the classroom to make an impact in the profession. She gave over fifty presentations at regional and national conferences, published twelve

journal articles, and eleven book chapters. Some of her work has been translated into Portuguese (her followers include critical pedagogy scholars in Brazil). Dr. Pineau's teaching and scholarly publications have always been informed by her impeccable artistic work as a performer, script writer and director. Among her most notable works are her stellar adaptations of difficult novels: Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*, Tom Robbins's *Skinny Legs and All*, Katherine Dunn's *Geek Love*, Atwood's *Alias Grace*, and Kaye Gibbons's *A Cure for Dreams*. She also wrote and performed her own solo works including: "Shadowboxing; Myths and Miniatures of Home," and "Nursing Mother."

Dr. Pineau's influence on countless students in many courses includes extensive work as a graduate teacher, advisor and mentor. She served on at least 40 masters and 74 doctoral committees. She directed twenty-four dissertations, theses, and masters reports. The students she mentored include the late John T. Warren (M.A. 1997, Ph.D. 2001), Bryant Alexander (Ph.D. 1998), Derrick Williams (Ph.D. 2009), Subrina Robinson (Ph.D. 2005), and many more. [For a complete list, see Dr. Pineau's CV on the emeritus faculty webpage.] From the very first of her career, Dr. Pineau demonstrated innovation, commitment, and joy in classroom teaching.

Dr. Pineau's teaching resonates with students both in the classroom and beyond. Anna Wilcoxon, who has taken a number of Dr. Pineau's courses and worked with her on the stage testifies, "I consider myself so very lucky to have had Dr. Elyse Pineau as a professor. In my experience, no one embodies the thrill of learning quite like Dr. Pineau; no one has such an astounding ability to transform and transfix their students the way she does. When you step into her classroom, it is like stepping into another world. As a student, I remember the elation I would feel as I provided my thoughts in discussion and she would turn to me with a resounding, full-bodied response. Dr. Pineau not only taught performance, communication, and literature, she also taught her students how to learn, how to teach, how to live and breathe the joy of communication studies."

Jason Hedrick, who studied with Dr. Pineau both for his baccalaureate, masters, and in-progress doctoral degrees had many opportunities to learn from her teaching. He writes, "Elyse Pineau's Storytelling class was a life-changing experience for me, and I know I'm only one among many who share that sentiment. She not only gave me perspective on my own stories, but taught me how to think in complex ways about our roles and responsibilities as storytellers.

Elyse's kinetic engagement with teaching is, dare I say, legendary. She is a fierce pedagogical force who teaches with an intellect that is fully embodied and rooted in performance. Her teaching defines 'pedagogy as performance' in the fullest sense. Taking her courses allowed me to see that there is an art to the design of a course. Her courses are works of art, and I still aspire to create something with that kind of impact in my teaching. Working with her in the Kleinau Theatre has been an invaluable learning experience for me, particularly when it comes to her work with staging and adapting literature. Her influence on the practice of staging literature in our field is tremendous, and the same goes for her work as a writer and performer. Elyse teaches through her work on the stage; those lessons persist in the work of those who have learned from her, and are inseparable from the discipline of performance studies."

Since her retirement as a full-time faculty member in 2014, Dr. Pineau continues to teach in the SIU Honors program. Her specialty is J.R.R. Tolkien, especially *The Lord of the Rings*, which has turned out to be one of the most popular honors classes. Dr. Suzanne Daughton, who joined the department faculty the same year as Dr. Pineau in 1990, said, "Elyse's passion and expertise in teaching are practically legendary. I remember consulting her when I had some challenges with classroom discipline my very first semester, and she shared helpful lessons from her own experience. Twenty-eight years later, I continue to admire and learn from her. In May, I was fortunate enough to

attend a final exam period featuring interactive presentations by students in her honors seminar on the work of J.R.R. Tolkien. It was clear that Elyse had brought her trademark inspiration, creativity and attention to detail to enable each student (most of whom would never have thought of themselves as public speakers or performers) to get so caught up in some aspect of this special topic that they were able to share their research with the public in creative and insightful ways. Each project was unique and designed by the student according to his or her special interests. Many of the class members took on characters and interacted in costume with the audience. The overall result was a richly varied and textured display of individual learning and collective collaboration that was truly beautiful."

Dr. Pineau also has kept up her performing and directing work. She played a major role in the Kleinau Theatre's fall 2017 season opener *Vanya on the Plains*; she played the part of Mother Superior in the Carbondale Stage Company's recent production of *Agnes of God*, and she is directing the Stage Company's production of *The Crucible* in the fall of 2018. Clearly, her work continues to influence students as well as the community. She is turning her "retirement" into an opportunity for creativity. The award in her name continues the tradition of recognizing and celebrating excellence in teaching as it honors the department's long-standing emphasis on the important essential role of teaching in the mission of the department and the university.

A Note from Professor Nathan Stucky, Department Chair, on the Future of Communication Studies at SIU

This past academic year has seen many changes and proposed changes at SIU. Our new chancellor's proposed reorganization has gone through different versions which have not been settled as of June 2018. Initially he proposed eliminating departments by combining existing programs into schools that would have a single director, but no departments or department chairs. The idea of eliminating departments produced substantial resistance; many departments, including ours, voted that retaining departments and department leaders was in the best interest of our students and the university. Department status is important in our discipline—it helps us recruit students and faculty and provides structure and visibility. Our faculty welcome appropriate change and have been involved in discussions that could benefit our program and the university. Communication Studies faculty voted overwhelmingly to support a proposal that would provide a new vision for the future while building on existing strengths. As this issue of *Speak Easy* is being produced, our department has joined a number of other units to propose a newly organized College of Communication, Media and the Arts.

The newly reorganized College of Communication, Media and the Arts (or some similar name) would include the following programs: Department of Communication Studies, Department of Theater, School of Music, School of Art & Design, School of Architecture (including Interior Design and Fashion Design & Merchandising), School of Journalism, Department of Cinema & Photography, Department of Radio/Television and Digital Media. Most important from my perspective, each of the units would continue to exist as Departments or Schools as they currently do including maintaining Chairs of Departments and Directors of Schools.

The rationale in the formal proposal states:

"We propose a newly integrated College that will be comprised of the School of Art and Design, School of Architecture, the School of Music, the Department of Cinema and Photography, the Department of Communication Studies, the School of Journalism, the Department of Theater, and the Department of Radio Television and Digital Media. Our innovative plan places creative and communicative fields of study in the same college to form an integrated unit that builds on the celebrated histories of our programs, directing us to a new level of achievement and national and international recognition for students, faculty, and SIU. The proposed structure will align with industry and tracks for employment as many of these disciplines work side-by-side or in similar project related sequences. This pioneering model will set a precedent, presenting a new paradigm for interdisciplinary education in the state and the region as a whole (currently there are no other such academic configurations that combine such a diverse, and yet related, range of degree offerings and courses). New opportunities will situate SIU as the model for state-of-the-art programing and cross-disciplinary teaching, advancing recruitment and growing our research potential within the college and the university as a whole."



While we do not yet know what organizational arrangement might be established, there is a good deal of energy from faculty and students to move forward with revised campus structures that allow the best of our traditions and programs to continue. Some version of speech and communication study has been part of SIU's history since the founding of the university. The very first faculty,

comprised of 12 members in 1874 included a speech teacher teaching elocution. In 2014 we changed our name from Speech Communication to the Department of Communication Studies; this year we celebrated our 80th anniversary. Over the past we've demonstrated a capacity to change with the times, to look forward to new opportunities, and to maintain the flexibility each era requires to serve our students and carry out our mission. As I step out of the role of Department Chair, after twenty-eight years as a faculty member, the last eighteen of those as Chair, I am pleased to offer my support to, and vote of confidence for, Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Interim Chair (as of July 1, 2018). Dr. Pensoneau-Conway is an excellent, experienced member of the faculty who, with the strong support of colleagues and students, will provide excellent leadership for the future of a very fine and distinguished program.

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For more information please feel welcome to visit our website:

<https://cola.siu.edu/communicationstudies/>
