Kudos and Celebrations

Conferences and Presentations:

On Sept. 13, Jonny Gray presented “Artful Engagement with Environments” to the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club.

Jonny Gray also attended the Gay Spirit Visions (GSV) fall conference in Highlands, NC Sept. 26-30 where he served as an official discussion facilitator and small group leader.


New Doctors:

Congratulations to Dr. Elaine Conrad, the current Community and Educational Programs Coordinator at the Center for International Education SIU and newly minted Ph.D., who successfully defended her dissertation on Sept. 21.

New Doctoral Candidates:

Congratulations to Patrick Seick, who passed his preliminary exams and is now officially a doctoral candidate.

Service and Teaching Here at Home:

Thank you to Craig Engstrom, Lacey Brown, Bolton Morales, and Anna Wilcoxen for representing the department at the first SIU Day, an event that brought hundreds of area high schoolers to campus.

In coordination with Rainbow Café, our department hosted a Gaymer Lounge at the Saluki Comic Con 2018 on Sept. 28 and 29, which saw over 300 visitors. Congratulations and thank you to O.J. Duncan and Jeremy Omori (pictured right with Kevin McCarty), as well as Sandy Pensoneau-Conway and Craig Engstrom for organizing this wonderful event. Thank you also to all those who volunteered.

Important Dates*

- All Month: LGBTQ History Month
- 10/11: Seminar by Claudio Paolucci, Assoc. Prof. of Semiotics, Univ. of Bologna
- 10/20: Men’s Home Football Game
- 10/25-10/27: Hardened (Written, compiled, and directed by Dr. Rebecca Walker)
- 10/26: 2018 Plank Summit on Diversity & Inclusion in PR

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

Congratulations to Todd Graham and the Saluki Debate Team on an excellent Constitution Day Debate. The Debaters made it through their first debate with flying colors!

In the Kleinau:

Congratulations to Angela Duggins, Christos Patelis, Danette Pugh-Patton, Darren Valenta, Colin Whitworth, and Anna Wilcoxen for their performances in the Graduate Student Spotlight Hour on Sept. 8, which included Ozark storytelling alongside compiled and original scripts.

Undergraduates in the News:

Senior Emily Buice was recently elected the Student Board Member on the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She also advanced as the CoLA nominee for the Abraham Lincoln Student Engagement Award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, which honors “leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.”

Junior Savannah Coady, under the guidance of faculty mentor Craig Engstrom, is the face behind CMST’s new social media strategy. In addition to writing the strategic plan, she has been actively involved in keeping our various constituencies engaged and informed.

Thank Yous:

Thank you to Rebecca Walker for organizing the department visit by guest artist, Dr. Brianne Waychoff.

Thank you to Hannah Pineau for organizing a team of people to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Sept. 22 on behalf of our department. Mick Brewer, Alex Davenport, Ashton Madsen, Bolton Morales, Darren Valenta, and Shiner (pictured right) joined Hannah to show their support.