

Department of Communication Studies
Spring 2016 Faculty Activities and Accomplishments Report
January 1 to May 1

Mike Bradd has been named as a finalist for the 2016 Illinois Broadcasters Association Silver Dome Award for Best Small Market Radio Play-by-Play for his broadcast of Eastern Illinois basketball. Bradd has won the award three times including two years in a row.

Elizabeth Gill worked with the Making Excellence Inclusive committee and co-curricular subcommittee to develop a workshop on managing conflict in a diverse social world. The workshop will be piloted in all University Foundations courses in the fall and will be developed into a multi-workshop program for faculty, staff, and students in the coming semesters.

Claudia Janssen Danyi served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and the National Communication Association's (NCA) Public Relations Division.

Claudia has been a member of the FundEIU organizer team, which was named Person of the Year by the *Daily Eastern News* (DEN) (with Austin Meydrich, Jack Cruikshank, Catie Witt, Frida Arellano, Kate Klipp, Paul Janssen Danyi, and Michael Kuo).

David Gracon earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

David screened works from the Ordinary Video Series at the Squeaky Wheel Film and Media Art Center's 30th Anniversary Exhibition at the Birchfield Penny Art Center, Buffalo, New York. The event marked Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center's 30th year as a pioneering cultural presence in Buffalo and beyond. The 30th Anniversary Exhibition celebrates the past, present and future of this acclaimed, grassroots media art center.

In February, **David** screened several shorts from the Ordinary Video Series at the Faculty Recital Series ("Electronic Music Night") at the Doudna Fine Arts Theater. In March, he presented his retrospective film and video program, "Amateur versus Professional: Experimental and Documentary Film and Video Works by David Gracon 1997-2015" at the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association (ACA/PCA) conference in Seattle, Washington. In April, he conducted a talk/video presentation, "Smartphone Video, Experimental Documentary and the Ordinary Video Series" at the What is Media? conference. The conference is affiliated with the University of Oregon. During the same month, he screened a condensed program of the Ordinary Video Series with filmmaker Julie Perini (Portland State University faculty) at a Portland, Oregon microcinema called Compliance Division. The microcinema event was titled "Exploring Nothing: Video Observations of the Everyday."

In the area of community service, **David** hosted Dr. Gary Fritz and his documentary film "Piedra Roja" for the Hallways Microcinema event #17 called "Contra." This microcinema event was held in Champaign, Illinois.

Rich Jones was named EIU's Faculty Laureate for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Rich presented on a panel titled "Revisiting Important Conversations and Making Plans to Move Forward" at the National Basic Course Directors Conference in Chantilly, Virginia.

Rich presented on the following panels at the Central States Communication Association Conference (CSCA) in Grand Rapids, Michigan:

- Critical Communication Pedagogy: Remembering our Foundations and Theorizing the Future
- GELO, not JELLO: Firming up General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO) of Oral Communication Across the Curriculum
- Emerging Basic Course Directors and Scholars: Sustaining and Strengthening Our Foundational Course

Additionally, a panel that **Rich** organized and presented at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association Conference in September 2015 was chosen as a spotlight panel by the State's Advisory Council of the CSCA and was presented at the 2016 conference. The panel was titled "Meeting Students in the Middle: Social Emotional Learning as a Pedagogical Tool in the Communication Classroom."

Rich also presented a faculty brown bag discussion for the department titled "Working With Challenging Students and Student Challenges."

Rich also participated in EIU's SEE (Social Emotional Excellence) Day Experience, presenting on a panel titled "Because We Care: Social Emotional Learning In and Out of the Classroom."

Rich provided service to the discipline by serving as a member of the guest editorial board for a special issue of the journal *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research* titled, "Cultivating Promise and Possibility: Black Feminist Thought as an Innovative, Interdisciplinary, and International Framework." He also reviewed a manuscript for Rowman & Littlefield press titled *Master Class: Teaching Advice for Journalism and Mass Communication Professors*. Additionally, he continued to serve as chair of the Higher Education Commission on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association.

In the area of community service, **Rich** serves as the Vice Chair for the nonprofit organization Bridging Voices in Our Community. He also serves on the board of directors for Charleston Community Theatre and performed in their winter show *Laughs*.

Stephen A. King presented the keynote address, "Another Trail, Another Tourism Tale: Blues and Civil Rights Tourism," at the Delta Symposium conference at Arkansas State

University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. **Stephen** also presented “The Internship: The Importance of Experience and Future Opportunities” at Communication Day.

Andrew Robinson was nominated for the Faculty Laureate Award. He also served on two graduate thesis committees for the College of Student Affairs and advised an internship for a Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) major. **Andrew** taught over 60 faculty from various universities in an Illinois Online Network Course entitled “Instructional Design for Online Learning.”

Andrew presented on the topic of religious diversity and sensitivity to all residence halls’ staff as well as to a minority group at an alumni conference on Financial Freedom. **Andrew** also presented “Understanding the Godhead” to the Elogeme Adolphi Christian Sorority and served as faculty mentor for a FCS student’s commencement speech. In addition, **Andrew** authored and designed four graduate courses for Christ Ministries School of Divinity, where he voluntarily teaches and trains ministers toward ordination and receiving their graduate degree.

Andrew continues to serve as Volunteer Pastor and Faculty Advisor to ACTS Campus Ministry, where he teaches weekly Bible studies and preaches weekly sermons and has been highly effective in building bridges across racial and cultural divides. He expanded the ACTS Campus Ministry to the University of Southern Indiana in January and installed a husband and wife team as pastors for the work. **Andrew** planned, coordinated, and hosted ACTS’ end-of-semester Pack the House celebration in Buzzard Auditorium enabling minority students to express their spiritual passion through their combined talents. He was interviewed for a Verge feature about ACTS in the DEN. **Andrew** served as a Faculty Fellow and campus minister liaison to Thomas Hall. He also performed two marriage ceremonies, pre-marriage and post-marriage counseling for several student couples, and baptisms. He routinely counsels students regarding relationship, family, crisis, and terminal illness. Finally, **Andrew** began remodeling a house he purchased in Mattoon, which he intends to provide as a home for two ACTS Campus Ministry assistant pastors.

T. M. Linda Scholz published an article in the journal *Communication Theory*:

Scholz, T. M. L. (2016). Beyond ‘roaring Like lions’: Comadrismo, counternarratives, and the construction of a Latin American transnational subjectivity of feminism. *Communication Theory*, 26(1): 82-101.

Samantha Szczur earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Chigozirim Utah presented “In Search of Curiosity: Rediscovering the Disposition to Critically Wonder” at a department brown bag in April. In addition, **Chigozirim** served on three MA thesis committees and reviewed papers for NCA’s Organizational Communication Division.

A.J. Walsh won EIU's Study Abroad Faculty of the Year Award.

Scott Walus' essay, "Get Smart and Start Shooting: Fannish Producers and the Alternative History of Professional Wrestling," won the top paper award from the Media Studies Interest Group at CSCA. **Scott** was also invited to join the editorial board of the *Iowa Journal of Communication*.

In the area of creative activities, **Scott** engineered and produced a vinyl LP (*Real Live Human Beings*) for a Murfreesboro, Tennessee gypsy folk punk band called the Apathy Wizards. He also launched an all-ages music space at the Vault Arts Collective in Tuscola, Illinois called the Sound Bank. **Scott** also consulted in brand development and live sound reinforcement.