

Department of Communication Studies
Spring 2017 Faculty Activities and Accomplishments Report

David Gracon earned a Fulbright Scholar award to the Ukraine for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 academic year. As a member of Core Fulbright Scholar program, **David** will receive a grant from the U.S. government (U.S. Congress) to teach (media studies, media literacy and cultural studies) and conduct research (make a documentary video on alternative documentary film movements) at Lviv University.

In addition, **David** attended the True/False documentary film festival (screenings and panels) in Columbia, Missouri in March, as well as the Ebertfest film festival (screenings and panels) in Champaign, IL in April. He also programmed the documentary film *Tony Conrad: Completely in the Present and the music of SUNSAT IV* under the umbrella of Hallways Microcinema at The Art Theater-Co-Op in Champaign, Illinois in April.

David accompanied EIU students to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Memphis in Tennessee this past April. He also attended the 9th Annual EIUnity Diversity Conference at EIU in February.

Marita Gronnvoll and **Rich Jones** initiated contact with a university in Sweden for a planned study abroad there during the summer of 2019. **Marita** also used her sabbatical to begin a book project on the theme of evangelical response to Trump administration policies. A chapter of the book will be submitted for consideration to the Rhetoric Society of America's conference to take place in Minneapolis in May of 2018.

Claudia Janssen Danyi completed her online teaching training and received OCDi certification.

Rich Jones piloted the first high school dual credit course that EIU has offered. He worked with collaborating teachers at Arcola High School and Casey Westfield High School to teach a section of CMN 1310G – Introduction to Speech Communication to 26 high school students.

Rich presented the following panels at the Central States Communication Association Conference in Minneapolis, MN in March:

- The Disparagement of Women: From Slut-Shaming to Slams: How Can Women Create a Positive Response to Incidents in the Media, Literature, School, Business and Other Settings?
- Creating and Problematizing Civility in the Communication Classroom
- Creative Opportunities and Innovation in the Honors Basic Communication Course
- Teaching Critical and Creative Thinking Across the Discipline

Rich presented the following panels at the National Basic Course Directors Conference in Normal, IL, in May:

- Administration and Advocacy for the Basic Course: Dual Credit Courses
- Training in the Basic Course: Mentoring Faculty

Rich provided service to the discipline by serving as a submission reviewer for the Basic Course Division of the Central States Communication Association. He continued to serve on the editorial board for *Communication Teacher* and as the chair of the higher education division of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association.

Rich provided service to the community through his continued activity as a member of the board of directors for Charleston Community Theatre (CCT). He also did set design and construction for *Shirley Valentine* and set construction for *Death of a Salesman*, both presented by CCT.

Stephen A. King presented “Identifying an Issue and Making an Action Plan” at EIU’s Enrollment conference in February. He also reviewed for the African American Communication and Culture Division for the upcoming National Communication Association (NCA) conference (November 2017). King also published an encyclopedia entry on blues festivals in Mississippi.

King, S. A. (2017). Blues festivals. In T. Ownby and C. R. Wilson (Eds.), *Mississippi Encyclopedia* (p. 114). Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.

Andrew Robinson was the keynote speaker for the National Residence Hall Honorary National Conference and keynote speaker for the 10th Annual Minority Affairs Awards Reception. He also served as a Faculty Fellow and campus minister liaison to Thomas Hall.

He also served on two thesis committees and 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 degrees. **Andrew** served as Illinois District Chairman to the Apostolic World Christian Fellowship (AWCF) and routinely trains a group of pastors and assistant pastors. He performed a variety of activities from pre-marriage and post-marriage counseling to counseling people regarding relationship, family, crisis, and terminal illness. **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 presented at the AWCF World Congress conference in Evansville, Indiana and was presented with the Eagle Award for his service to the AWCF. He managed and hosted the ACTS Campus Ministry 10th Anniversary events, where numerous alumni and current students joined in a time of celebration and activities.

Andrew also taught 70 faculty from various universities in an Illinois Online Network Course entitled “Instructional Design for Online Learning.”

Works in Progress

David Gracon submitted the manuscript, “Natural’s Not In It: The Transformative Impact of Punk, DIY Media and Critical Pedagogy,” a book chapter for the upcoming anthology entitled *Punk Beyond Rock: Essays on the Continuing Influence of a Radical Cultural Scene* (PM Press).

Angela Jacobs submitted the essay, “The ‘othering’ of suicide: An examination of the discourse surrounding suicide” to the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG) conference.

Claudia Janssen Danyi and **Paul Danyi** (Purdue University) received notification that their essay, “The Comparative Method for Crisis Communication Research: A Bridge among Case Studies, Statistics, and Experiments,” was accepted for presentation at the 2017 National Communication Association (NCA) conference in Dallas, Texas. **Claudia** is also revising an article titled, “Resisting Corporate Apologia: Understanding Gruenenthal’s Failed Mea Culpa to the Victims of Thalidomide” (with **Anne Jenne**). In the area of applied research and consultation, **Claudia** has collected data and is currently analyzing a stakeholder relations survey for EIU’s UPI.

In addition, **Claudia** is revising a grant proposal titled, “Forging a Fossil Fuel-Free Future: Climate Activism, Strategic Communication and Impacts upon Public and Policy Discourses” (with **Julia Johansoozi**, Royal Roads University, Canada), **Birte Faehrich** (Zeppelin University, Germany), **Howard Notthaft** (Lund University, Sweden), **Geo Takach** (Royal Roads University, Canada) **Juana Du** (Royal Roads University, Canada) & **William Dinan** (Sterling University, United Kingdom) to be resubmitted to the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. **Claudia** also submitted a Redden Grant proposal to fund teaching equipment for undergraduate PR classes in the department.

Stephen A. King and **Roger D. Gatchet** (University of West Chester at Pennsylvania) are working on a scholarly project on public memory and Mississippi’s civil rights tourism industry. The first product of this collaboration is an essay on the Mississippi Freedom Trail project. This essay was accepted for presentation at the 2017 NCA conference. **Stephen** and **Roger** are working on a second chapter that examines how Mississippi is promoting the image and memory of Emmett Till.